

## Separated twins

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of the twins, are eagerly waiting back in Bangladesh for the day when they hope they will be flown to Melbourne to see their daughters.

Lovely said Moira Kelly, the Australian legal guardian of Trishna and Krishna, phoned her on Saturday to ask if they want to see their daughters, reports our correspondent in Khulna.

"I promptly expressed my eagerness and urged her to see if arrangements could be made to take us to Australia so that we can see our daughters," Lovely said while talking to The Daily Star at her Khulna residence yesterday.

Moira Kelly is the founder of Children First Foundation charity that made arrangement to take the conjoined twins to Melbourne two years ago.

Trishna and Krishna were joined at the top of their heads and shared brain tissues and blood vessels and the success of the 32-hour complicated surgery at the Royal Children's Hospital in Melbourne to separate the babies hit world news headlines.

The biological parents who had put their newborns up for adoption said they want to maintain contacts with their daughters.

"It is our fervent appeal to the authorities of the charity to allow us to keep contact with our daughters," Lovely and Kartik told The Daily Star.

Lovely, 25, a final year student of diploma in agricult-

## BCL men

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and Sumon, his classmate, as Saiful was taking photo of the scene of beating Zahurul Haq Halli unit Shibir leader Ahmed Al Jobaer around 5:00pm.

Injured Sumon was admitted at DU medical centre while Saiful received first aid from the centre.

The victims, both third year students of mass communication and journalism department, claimed BCL activists snatched Saiful's camera in presence of BCL leaders and around 20 police-rebels.

DU sources said the authorities arranged Jobaer's examination -- a honours final year student of Sanskrit department -- at Curzon hall instead of Art's Faculty following his request fearing the BCL men might attack him there.

Campus sources said around 50 BCL men beat up Jobaer, entering a toilet when he took a break in the exam and went to toilet. Saiful and his classmate Sumon were taking photo of the scene at that time.

Asked why policemen did not stop the act, Officer-in-charge of Shahbagh police station Rezaul Karim said he can tell the reason after talking to the officer concerned.

DU Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said attack on a reporter during his professional work is unexpected. He affirmed that action would be taken against the culprits.

Dhaka University Journalists' Association strongly condemned and protested the attack and demanded punishment.

## Govt alert

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reporters responding to a report published in Indian daily Ananda Bazar over Hasina's security.

Sahara who chaired an inter-ministerial meeting on law and order said law-enforcement agencies, people and Awami League workers are active to thwart any such attempt.

About the assassination of Bangabandhu and most of his family members, Sahara said the stigma will not be erased until the Supreme Court's 19th November verdict is implemented.

The meeting also discussed ways to ensure peaceful celebrations of the coming Eid-ul-Azha, the Victory Day and Christmas Day.

Meanwhile, the chief state counsel Anisul Huq yesterday asked the Amnesty International (AI) to refrain from making request for commuting the death sentence on the former army officers convicted of the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Following the November 19 verdict, the UK-based human rights watchdog in a statement urged Bangladesh government not to execute the condemned convicts.

The chief state counsel, however, questioned the merit of such request and said the killers do not deserve remission of capital punishment, as their offence was dreadful.

ture at Shaheed Flight Lieutenant Masud Memorial College at Keshabpur in Jessor, gave birth to the conjoined twins on December 22, 2006.

Lovely said they had taken the heartbreaking decision to put their daughters in an orphanage in Dhaka because of their poor financial condition. "We are too poor to maintain the huge costs needed for taking care of my daughters for their survival," she said.

"We had no alternative to giving Nirmal Shishu Bhaban an undertaking in writing that we would not claim the babies in the future. Trishna and Krishna remained there for 17 days," said Lovely.

The Children First Foundation, which took the twins to Australia for surgery, said it would support their further treatment in Australia for at least next two years.

"Each and every moment of my life is now filled with the thrill and emotion of the prospect of having a glimpse of my daughters. I am counting days for the moment when I'll see my daughters and hold them to my bosom and kiss them," she said.

The twins' conjoined condition was detected in an ultrasound at a private clinic at Jorhat in Khulna, said Dr Girindra Nath Kundu, who owns the clinic and also performed the caesarean section on Lovely.

"The babies had been under treatment in my clinic for 16 days. Later, I sent them to Mother Teresa Nirmala Shishu Bhaban for further treatment as the parents had no means to bear the huge expenses here," Dr Kundu said.

**Pak troops repulse attack, kill 11**

AFP, Khar

Pakistani troops yesterday repulsed an attack by militants on one of their posts in a lawless tribal region, killing 11 rebels, officials said.

Armed with heavy weapons, a group of 30-40 militants launched the attack on an army post in Rashakai area in the Bajaur region which borders Afghanistan, senior local administration official Adalat Khan told AFP.

"Troops effectively repulsed the attack, killing 11 militants," Khan said, adding that two soldiers were wounded in the exchange of fire.

Another security official in the area confirmed the incident and said the remaining militants fled leaving behind their weapons.

Elsewhere, fighter jets bombed militant hideouts in Mamoud area of Bajaur on Sunday, killing five rebels.

**Two Jubo League**

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The robbers broke open the door of the house and searched for the Jubo Dal worker.

At one stage, the miscreants tied the family members at gunpoint and looted valuables. They also gang-raped his younger sister, 13, a madrasa student.

The dacoits left the scene leaving the girl in serious condition. She was admitted to Noakhali General Hospital with the help of local people on the following day (Tuesday).

Resident medical officer (RMO) of the hospital Dr Abdul Motaleb said they had to give the girl three bags of blood and she needed five stitches. Her condition improved slightly yesterday, he said.

Motaleb said lawmaker from Noakhali-4 constituency Ekramul Karim Chowdhury visited the girl at the hospital.

The victim's mother has filed a case with the police station accusing Jubo League leader Zahir and his associate Hedayet and 4/5 other persons in connection with the dacoity and rape.

Local sources said those involved in the dacoity and rape are involved in the politics of Jubo League and Chhatra League.

ASP Abdur Razzaq said, "The barbaric attack on was tragic. Whenever we asked her about the incident she lost her consciousness while describing it. Police have taken the incident seriously and are investigating it accordingly."

Upazila unit Awami League organisational secretary and Kabirhat municipal mayor Al Baksh Titu said the persons arrested in connection with the incidents of dacoity and rape may be supporters or workers of their organisation. "But the incident should not be seen from a political angle. It should be seen as a crime and the criminals should be punished," he said.

"We have one month more in hand but the decision would be finalised on the basis of consultation between the chairperson and standing committee," he said.

The venue of the national council is also to be finalised yet.

## Afghan war

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Court yesterday.

DB police said they had arrested Motaleb following information from detained Pakistani nationals Mohammad Monwar, Mohammad Ashraf Ali Zahid and Syed Abdul Kalyum alias Sufian, who are suspected to be operatives of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

SM Rafiqul Islam assistant commissioner (AC) of DB said Abu Motaleb, who is a Bangladeshi national, took part in Afghan war from 1987 to 1990.

Motaleb is an explosives expert, the AC said adding, he had recruited many Bangladeshis and arranged their training in Pakistan before sending them to Afghanistan.

The AC also added that the recruited Bangladeshi nationals also had been sent to some other countries to carry out subversive activities.

However detective police could not ascertain the number of Bangladeshi men recruited by Abu Motaleb and the time when they were sent to Afghanistan.

And they are yet to know from where the Bangladeshi nationals were recruited and also what their present addresses were.

Earlier on November 4, DB arrested Mufti Harun Izahar, Shahidul Islam and Al Amin alias Saiful for their suspected link with a plot to attack the US embassy and Indian high commission in Dhaka.

Detective police so far detained seven alleged operatives of LeT in this connection. Three of them are Pakistani nationals.

Of the arrestees, six were sent to jail after grilling each in two spells of remand.

Meanwhile, DB police yesterday re-arrested three suspected Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) members when they came out of Dhaka Central Jail 18 days of their arrest from Chittagong in connection with the US embassy and Indian high commission attack plot.

Sources said a DB team arrested Mufti Harun Izahar, son of Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) faction chief Mufti Izaharul Islam Chowdhury, and his associates Shahidul Islam and Al Amin alias Saiful soon after they were freed from the jail around 7:30pm.

When contacted, duty officer of Chawkbar Police Station confirmed the arrest but Assistant Commissioner Sanwar Hossain of DB who led the first arrest of the three in Chittagong said they were not informed of the matter.

Another security official in the area confirmed the incident and said the remaining militants fled leaving behind their weapons.

Elsewhere, fighter jets bombed militant hideouts in Mamoud area of Bajaur on Sunday, killing five rebels.

**Confusion**

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formed for the national council of BNP.

In a written statement at the press briefing, Rizvi alleged that ruling party activists foiled BNP councils in many areas including Sathkhira, Kishoreganj, Narail, Naogaon, Feni, Habiganj, Lalmonirhat, Faridpur and Rajon in Chittagong.

And local administration imposed section 144 in many areas that foiled the scheduled councils of BNP units, he said. But they will complete local unit councils timely to hold the national council as scheduled, he added.

A senior BNP leader wishing anonymity said yesterday, "We have received many verbal and written requests from different district units to defer the national council. But everything will depend on the party chairperson's decision."

He also said the chairperson, general secretary and other senior leaders of the party have been informed about the suggestions. No discussion in this regard was held as yet among the top leaders.

Party insiders mentioned the chairperson is still to give her final decision regarding the national council. Different sub-committees formed for the council are already working.

But the international affairs sub-committee could not start sending invitation cards to foreign guests and delegates as the chairperson has not finalised the council date, the insiders pointed out.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, party's standing committee member Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman said the committee had earlier fixed December 8 for the party council but can consider the date, the insiders pointed out.

The DIG said no lawyer of any convict has yet visited their clients in the jail.

The Supreme Court on Thursday upheld the High Court decision in the case. The High Court earlier upheld the death sentences of 12 of the original 15 convicts, acquitting the other three.

Six condemned convicts in the case are currently absconding, they are Lt Col Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col Shariful Haque Dalim, Lt Col SHMB Nur Chowdhury, Lt

## PM for controlled

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briefed newsmen after the meeting.

"People must not be allowed to haphazardly extract sand from rivers. Such practices are terribly harming the country's bio-diversity and environment," the PM said.

She said the massive river dredging project being implemented by the government will also be hampered if this chaotic and unsystematic sand extraction is not stopped immediately.

"Before going for sand extraction, it has to be known that from which part of a particular river and how many sands from that will be extracted. If a discipline can be ensured, river dredging and sand extraction can be run simultaneously."

Hasina also asked the ministries and departments concerned for ensuring better coordination between giving permission for sand extraction and other official procedures in this regard.

The premier further asked the authorities for taking punitive actions against those who will not abide by the rules and regulations regarding extraction of sands from the rivers.

About cleaning up the riverbeds, Hasina said the government will give all financial and logistic supports to the departments concerned for removing the river garbage.

There are 53 waterways in the country of which 50 will be dredged by 2018. Six dredgers out of 16 have already started to work through the Garai River.

About the Garai River dredging, she said this river is very important for sound environment of the coastal areas.

If it loses its natural navigability, salinity will increase in the areas bringing down crop production in the region.

When salinity is increased, habitation and breeding of wild animals in the Sundarbans, particularly the Royal Bengal Tigers, will be

## MONEY LAUNDERING Mamun again denied bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT  
A Dhaka court rejected yesterday a bail petition of businessman Giasuddin Al Mamun in connection with a money laundering case.

Judge ANM Bashir Ullah of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Mamun's lawyers filed a bail petition against a rejection order of the lower court on November 8.

Moving the bail petition, Mamun's lawyers told the court that their client was implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him as he was earlier sued for amassing wealth illegally and convicted.

Hasina said the climate change, particularly in the countries like Bangladesh, is severely harming food production, threatening the government's target to attain food security.

She laid emphasis on intensive studies and research works for inventing salinity- and drought-tolerant crop varieties for attaining sustainable food security.

The premier reiterated her call for ensuring a separate fund for the most vulnerable countries to enable them to face the challenges of climate change.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury, Planning Minister AK Khondoker, Land Minister Reajul Karim Hira, Water Resources Minister Ramesh Chandra Sen, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan, PM's Advisers HT Imam and Mashru Rahman, State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasanul Karim, and Adalat Khan told the operation to arrest the unscrupulous government officer.

"ACC filed the case on October 26 against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's elder son Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

The case statement said Tarique and Mamun laundered Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore between 2003 and 2007.

The joint forces arrested Mamun from his Banani house at DOHS on March 26, 2007 in connection with an arms case.

Later, police seized a 22 bore pistol and eight bullets from his house.

Mamun is accused in a dozen cases of extortion.

He was sentenced to 23 years' imprisonment in separate cases on charge of possessing firearms and ammunition, not submitting his wealth statement, and amassing wealth illegally.

They assured the premier of putting in their best efforts to help the government implement its river dredging project.

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