



## BIRD FLU ALARM

Indian eggs to play havoc on Bangladesh's poultry

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## CHAT WITH DHRUBO

He does his job for the love of it, the cover artist says

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## FRENCH POLLS

Nicolas Sarkozy loses the first round of his re-election fight

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## Hartal again today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition BNP and its allies enforce another dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal today, demanding that the government trace its leader M Ilias Ali and his driver, who went missing around midnight of April 17.

"Our movement will gradually get tougher until Ilias [a former lawmaker and now BNP organising secretary] and his driver are found," party's acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir made a vow at a press briefing after yesterday's

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TODAY'S HSC EXAMS POSTPONED PAGE 3

## Ilias picked up by govt

### BNP says nothing is to negotiate his release; Rab, police still clueless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has outright dismissed rumours that the main opposition party is negotiating with the government for "getting back" its missing leader M Ilias Ali.

"There is nothing to negotiate. It's now obvious that the government's men picked up Ilias and his driver [Ansar Ali]. So it's the liability of the government to return them to their families," BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir told a press briefing at the party's Nayapalton office in the capital yesterday.

Rumours of a parley between the government and the opposition for Ilias Ali's "release" spread soon after Saturday's failed rescue operation by police and Rapid Action Battalion at Pubail in Gazipur.

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## Lawmen failing to function

### Worried TIB asks political leadership to wake up

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The law enforcement agencies are failing to function with "professional integrity and transparency" because of political influence, corruption and dominance of black money, alleges Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB).

Expressing concern over the increased shortcomings of the agencies in protecting peoples' fundamental rights, enshrined in the constitution, the anti-graft body

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## Black money too tough to control

### Finance bosses find democratic govt system too compromising; budget likely on June 7

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The finance minister and the finance secretary yesterday blamed the democratic system of government for the compromise over whitening black money (untaxed money) that is too tough to control.

They made the observation at a pre-budget discussion with the Economic

Reporters' Forum (ERF) at the finance ministry in the capital.

"The democratic government is proficient in the art of compromise," Finance Minister AMA Muhith said on giving the chance to whiten black money by successive governments.

He said a chance was given to whiten

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## Qatar emir to visit Dhaka soon

### Hasina urges investment, import

UNB, Doha

A new horizon in the relations between Bangladesh and Qatar is going to open up as the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, looks to visit Dhaka as soon as possible.

The emir expressed his intention at a meeting with Prime Minister

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PHOTO ON PAGE 20

## 'Disappearances' go unanswered

### Law enforcers seen to be law-breakers

KAILASH SARKAR

Twenty-two people have so far disappeared this year, raising concern as people suspect law enforcers' involvement, said rights organisation Ain O Salish Kendra.

Of them, no-one was found -- dead or alive.

As many as 51 people went missing last year while the number was 30 in the year before. Of them, 21 were found dead

either by law enforcers or other people. In 2009, only two people went missing.

The people disappeared include activists or members of both ruling and opposition parties as well as people with no political affiliation.

Rights bodies Odhikar and Ain O Salish Kendra in their reports largely blame police, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and intelligence agencies for the disappearances.

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## AL asks BNP to help govt find Ilias

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday directed its leaders and workers to be present on streets today to tackle if BNP creates anarchy in the name of a nationwide hartal.

AL leaders also called on the government to go tough on the opposition if it tries to create chaos in the name of antigovernment movement.

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Mother reaches out for Maisha at Khilgaon Police Station. The seven-month-old was abducted on Saturday night and found in Mirpur yesterday.

## Baby returns to where she belongs

### Kidnappers set her free

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A seven-month-old baby reunites with parents as kidnapers change their minds.

Maisha, abducted Saturday night, was found inside the gate of a house at Mirpur Paikpara in the capital, ending a 16-hour anxious wait of the family.

She was wearing a white vest, on which was a handwritten note. Along with the mobile phone number of her uncle, it read "Take the baby to Khilgaon Police Station."

The kidnappers also left with her a feeding bottle half-filled

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## Caught with body of wife in carton

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Feni police on Saturday night arrested a man for killing his wife and cutting the body into four pieces.

Saiful Islam, a diploma engineer who used to work in a ship breaking yard in Chittagong, confessed to the police that he killed his wife Farzana Mili, 30.

He strangled Mili at their rented residence in New Mooring Residential Area under Bandar Police Station in

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## Woman's body found in MP Hostel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The decomposed body of an unidentified woman was found at a lawmakers' hostel on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises yesterday.

Police recovered the body tucked away around a staircase of the hostel's Block-6.

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Saiful Islam



14<sup>TH</sup> DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF SHAZNEEN TASNIM RAHMAN

## CHANGE OF MILAD TIMING

The Milad Mehfil scheduled to be held after Asr prayers, will now be held after Maghrib prayers (6:30 pm) today, April 23, 2012 at the same venue: House No. NE(J)-4, Road No. 83, Gulshan-2, Dhaka.

Latifur Rahman, Shahnaz Rahman and family

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## GRAMEEN BANK 90pc concerns unapproved

### Says Muhith, wants to form commission

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said that over 90 percent of Grameen Bank's 54 associated companies and organisations were running without its board's approval and that a commission would be formed to look into their affairs.

He said this while talking to reporters at a pre-budget discussion at the finance ministry.

The commission will see how the companies and organisations could now be regulated, Muhith said.

There are 54 associated organisations of Grameen Bank, of which only four to five got approval of Grameen Bank Board. "Prof Muhammad Yunus (founder of the

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