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Will also deal with Petraeus' sex scandal
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BOY FREED 3 DAYS INTO ABDUCTION Confusion over ransom

Family gives no figure; Rab speaks of Tk 50 lakh; IGP differs
KAILASH SARKAR

A day after abducted kindergarten student Parag Mondol was found in Keraniganj, conflicting stories have emerged surrounding the ransom. According to Rab intelligence and other sources, a ransom of more than Tk 1 crore was paid to a gang led by a listed criminal who recently came out of jail on bail in an abduction and arms case. "We had all the information regarding the deal between Parag's family and abductors. But we didn't intervene considering the boy's safety and that is how the criminals escaped after taking the ransom money," said Lt Col Ziaul Ahsan, director of Rab's Intelligence Wing. "We have specific information that Parag's family paid a ransom of Tk 50 lakh in cash for his release. This was not made known to us by the family, though." Also, several sources insist that the actual ransom amount was more than Tk 1 crore. But Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood



Bullet-hit Parag's mother, middle, was admitted at another hospital but she moved to Square Hospitals in the capital yesterday so that she could be beside the six year old, who was abducted Sunday morning and abandoned by the kidnappers early yesterday.

Parag sedated heavily

Suffered physical, mental abuse in abduction
SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Despite the rescue of six-year-old Parag Mondol, the victim is still facing various kinds of trouble -- both physical and psychological. Parag was admitted to Square Hospital's ICU unit at 1:00am yesterday, and later declared "out of danger" by doctors. He was initially feeling very drowsy, and had injury marks in his legs, wrists and arms, according to Dr Md Masudur Rahman at the hospital. Further tests showed some abnormalities in his kidney and cardiac systems, while urine tests indicated that he had been given a large dosage of sedatives. Parag's mother, Lipi Rani Mondol, was overjoyed at getting back her only son. She received the news while recovering from a broken collarbone injury she had received as the kidnappers shot at her while abducting Parag. She was shot in the chest and leg. According to Parag's great aunt Asha Barman, who had been nursing Lipi at the National Institute of Diseases of the Chest and Hospital (NIDCH) yesterday, Parag's father called Lipi at 12:30am

RELIGION-BASED POLITICS

It created problem already

PM tells Sangsad
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in parliament yesterday that religion-based politics had already created a political problem in the country. "It is only natural that the seed of communalism embedded in religious fanaticism will raise its ugly head," Hasina said in a scripted reply in the House. She said her government would not spare anyone who was involved in the heinous attacks on Buddhist temples and homes in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong. "A total of 270 people were arrested after 19 cases were filed with different police stations in Cox's Bazar and Chittagong in connection

PRESIDENTIAL PARDON

Zillur too merciful

RASHIDUL HASAN

President Zillur Rahman in the three years from 2009 granted clemency to 21 persons sentenced to death in different cases, Home Minister Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir told parliament yesterday. Four others awarded death penalty in different cases got presidential mercy during the period 1972 to 2008, he said replying to lawmakers' queries. The minister, however, did not name the presidents who had pardoned these

four. The incumbent president pardoned one convict on death row in 2009, 18 in 2010 and two in 2011, the minister said. In 2008, the then president granted clemency to one death row convict and two others in 2005. Another condemned person got presidential pardon in 1987. Article 49 of the constitution says, "The president shall have power to grant pardons, reprieves and respites and to remit, suspend or commute any



Not sympathy, but special care

Roundtable urges private companies to introduce job quota for challenged women
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Private companies should introduce a quota system for recruiting physically challenged women, opening a door to them to show their potential in the corporate sector, social activists said at a discussion yesterday. Given proper financial support and training, they can also thrive and be entrepreneurs, the speakers said at the roundtable on "Mainstreaming of women entrepreneurs with disabilities and our responsibilities". The programme was jointly organised by Disabled

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ATTACK ON COPS Jamaat out with one purpose

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
No fewer than 200 policemen were injured across the country in the last nine days of violent demonstrations by Jamaat-Shibir men. Interestingly, the law enforcers were apparently the target of

Jamaat mayhem again in Dec?

Finds intelligence
STAR REPORT

Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Chhatra Shibir are likely to intensify violent activities across the country in December as they think the international crimes tribunals would deliver verdicts against a few Jamaat leaders then, sources said. According to sources, including intelligence agency personnel, Jamaat-Shibir men would disengage from

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DHAKA
AT BANGLA ACADEMY
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Hay comes to Dhaka

Imagine the world at the 'Woodstock of the mind'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
The Hay Festival Dhaka begins tonight for the second time at Bangla Academy. The extravaganza is open for all. Some 100 eminent Bangladeshi and 30 international writers will be engaged here in 30 different panels for over two days exchanging ideas, sharing work and discussing the journey of world



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