

14-month-old

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They took 14-month-old Zunayed Hasan, the couple's adopted son, as they fled the crime scene.
Superintendent of Police Jobaidur Rahman of Nilphamari yesterday told journalists that three of the men involved tried to take cover with the child at their relative Abdur Rashid's place at Harirampur of Rangpur.
But Rashid became suspicious and with the help of locals he captured Rashedul Islam, 20, Mukul Beg, 20, and Anwar Hossain, 27, and handed them over to Rangpur police around 2:30pm yesterday.

According to Jobaidur, the criminals were relatives of the couple. They lived close by and had even visited their home several times.
During interrogation, they confessed to raping and killing Sumi because she had recognised who they were, the SP said.
He also said the criminals had kidnapped the child for ransom.
The child's parent Mirza said the criminals had demanded ransom and he after talking to police yesterday sent Tk 12,000 via mobile money transfer.
Nilphamari police arrested Al-Mamun, 18, son of Sirajul Islam, near Mirza's home in the afternoon following information gleaned from the three arrestees.
The child was handed over to his parents.

Outlaw

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commander of company-1 at the Barisal headquarters of Rab-8, said a Rab team led by Deputy Assistant Director Abdur Rahman was patrolling Silundia area around 4:20pm when they marked a suspicious gathering.
When challenged, the suspects opened fire on the Rab men, he said. The Rab team fired back. The exchange of fire lasted almost 10 minutes, during which the criminals fled.
A body -- identified by locals as Abdul Jalil alias Kana Jalil -- was found afterwards. The Rab team also recovered two pistols, seven bullets, two shells of used ammunition and two sharp weapons.
Rab's microbus was damaged during the "shootout", Rab sources said.
The body was handed over to Babuganj Police Station, Capt Bashar said.
Officer-in-Charge Shah Alam of the police station said the police had sent the body to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla National College morgue for autopsy.
Kana Jalil was a wanted accused in at least eight cases of murder, extortion, robbery, and bombing with Babuganj, Shariatpur, and Madaripur police stations, police sources said. He was also convicted in two cases with Shariatpur and Madaripur police stations.

Switzerland as "suicide tourists" from 2008 to 2012 -- all but four of whom had visited the Dignitas clinic.
"Their ages ranged from 23 to 97, with the average being 69," said a press statement.
Nearly 60 percent were women.
Most of the deaths were caused by the drug sodium pentobarbital, known as the "peaceful pill".
Four people inhaled helium in 2008, and died deaths that were described as "excruciating" in the media -- possibly the reason for a dip in visitors from 123 in 2008 to 86 the following year, the researchers said.

Shahabuddin

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The Paris-based Bangladeshi artist has been conferred with "Chevalier De L'ordre Des Arts Et Des Lettres" (Knight in the Order of Fine Arts and Humanities) by the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and Communication of France.
"I was informed of winning the title by the ministry on July 6 this year. The formal ceremony will take place in Paris, France, the next month [September]. It is really a matter of great joy for me. I, along with my family, carry Bangladeshi passports. I hope the award will enhance the image of my country and inspire Bangladeshi people living across the world," said an elated Shahabuddin over the phone to this correspondent.
Shahabuddin Ahmed is the second Bangladeshi to receive the title.
Globally famed mime maestro and film actor Partha Pratim Majumder first received the award in 2011.
Bold strokes, vibrant colours and figurative expressions are the hallmark of freedom fighter Shahabuddin's works. The conscience and the indomitable spirit of the Liberation War have frequently appeared as prominent connotations on his canvases.
Shahabuddin was born on September 11, 1950 and studied at the Academy of Fine Arts in Dhaka. He obtained scholarship to study at Ecole des beaux-arts de Paris. He was one of the fifty master painters of contemporary arts, and had been bestowed with an award at the Olympiad of Arts, Barcelona, in 1992.
He also received the Shadhinata Padak in 2000 and Bangla Academy Award in 1974.
His paintings delve into contemporary life and times. He is an optimist and this is evidently expressed in his paintings. This optimism was firmly embedded in Shahabuddin when he took part in the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971.
In their dynamism, his paintings depict fearless human figures that cut through the difficulties of life, which provide one the reason to live. The vibrancy and force of his brushwork highlight this aspect.
Shahabuddin's works are displayed in many prestigious galleries around the globe.

Japan to get exclusive zone

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destinations for Japanese investment.
Tofail said, "During the meeting, we also discussed the country's largest ever power plant project in Matarbari."
Japan has given Bangladesh \$1.18 billion in loans for the Matarbari coal-fired power plant and four other projects as the Asian economic giant seeks to deepen its ties with Bangladesh.
Of the amount, \$406 million will be spent only on building the power plant, part of a \$4.4 billion project on Matarbari Island in Cox's Bazar.
The Japan International Cooperation Agency will lend Bangladesh over \$3 billion in phases for the mega project.
"We also have a plan to offer a separate economic zone for Chinese investors as they are coming to Bangladesh," the minister said.
He said Bangladesh had been enjoying zero duty benefit in Japanese market. As a result, Bangladesh has been grabbing a substantial share of the \$35 billion annual Japanese apparel market.
During her visit to Japan in May this year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina offered 40 industrial plots in export processing zones to Japanese entrepreneurs.
Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) will reserve industrial plots at the Ishwardi, Mongla and Uttara EPZs for the Japanese investors.
Bepza will also allocate factory buildings for the Japanese investors in the Adamjee and Comilla EPZs, where there are no vacant plots now, according to a Bepza statement.
Investment proposals from Japan worth \$1.2 billion are pending with the Board of Investment in Bangladesh for a long time, according to an official of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO).
Many Japanese investors of automobiles, garments and fabrics, electronics and fast moving consumer goods sec-

tors have been showing interest in Bangladesh, the official said.
At least 181 Japanese companies have operations in Bangladesh, the official said in May.
In fiscal year 2012-13, Bangladesh exported goods worth \$750.27 million to Japan, compared to \$600.52 million the previous year, data from the Export Promotion Bureau says.
In 2012-13, Bangladesh imported goods worth \$1.19 billion from Japan, compared to \$1.45 billion the previous year, according to Bangladesh Bank.
There are 35 Japanese enterprises with an investment of \$291.05 million in the EPZs alone. Twenty-five of them are operational and 10 are being set up, a Bepza statement said.
A total of 11,203 Bangladeshis, 78 Japanese and 55 from other countries are working in these enterprises.
ECONOMIC DIALOGUE
The first Bangladesh-Japan Public-Private Economic Dialogue was held in the city yesterday giving emphasis on more engagements between the two countries based on mutual trust, respect, interests and equitable sharing of benefits, reports BSS.
The Bangladesh government convened the dialogue. Both sides at the dialogue reflected on deepening economic and commercial cooperation and overall economic scenario prevailing in the respective countries, an official release said.
Both sides exchanged views on wide-ranging areas of mutual economic interest, including current investment climate, development of infrastructure and industrial base, and development of special economic zones.
Japan will convene the second round of the dialogue next year.
The Bangladesh delegation was led by Abul Kalam Azad, senior secretary at the Prime Minister's Office.

pay their dues before the party council. The party ensures that this is being done. We would urge you to refrain from such motivated and distorted news story.
OUR REPLY
The report was prepared on the basis of a list prepared by the BNP's Naya Paltan central office on the collection of monthly fees between January 1, 2010 and March 31, 2014.
Our report is also consistent with the BNP's Audit Report-2013, submitted by its Joint Secretary General Rizvi Ahmed to the Election Commission on August 14.
The rejoinder mentions that the party chairperson has no outstanding monthly fees as per the audit report submitted to the Election Commission. The Daily Star had a chance to go through the audit report and found no mention of any individual contribution in it. The audit report had an aggregate figure of outstanding monthly fees at Tk 37 lakh as of December, 2013. We put the figure at Tk 40 lakh since the estimate was updated till March this year. This is fairly consistent with the audit report.
We also talked with a number of senior BNP leaders and an adviser to Khaleda Zia to ensure authenticity of the information and none of them differed. However, we did not disclose the names of our sources on ethical and professional grounds.
The BNP rejoinder did not contest other contents of the news item. So, we stand by our report.

Rejoinder, our reply

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item is fabricated baseless and is politically motivated. It is aimed at maligning the image of three times elected prime minister of Bangladesh.
The news items failed to provide its source and we are surprised that a newspaper of the standing of 'Daily Star' should find it fit to publish it.
The claim in the news story that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has not paid single penny to her party fund since 2010, according to a recent list prepared by BNP's Central Office is totally untrue and fictitious. The truth of the matter is that party Chairperson's monthly contribution is up to date, as per the Audit report submitted recently to the Election Commission.
As a major political party, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party-BNP has been conducting its activities since 1st September 1978 as per its approved constitution.
The activities of the party are being met by itself contribution of its members and from donation from well wishers. There are regularly being reported, as needed under law. Besides, members also voluntarily fund for various political activities from their own sources.
Collection of regular contribution is a continuous process. Any member who defaults or delays his or her monthly contribution is routinely asked to keep their contribution updated.
As a matter of custom and party discipline, all members are expected to

ACC sues AL MP

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If found guilty, the accused could face up to seven years, fines of unlimited amount and confiscation of their properties for the offence.
According to the case statement, lawmaker Abdur Rahman Bodi from Cox's Bazar-4 informed the ACC on March 20 that he along with his wife and children owned movable and immovable properties worth Tk 5.20 crore.
But his income tax return showed that the properties were worth Tk 16.06 crore till June 30 last year.
The lawmaker and his family members had only Tk 49 lakh in 2008 as per his wealth statement submitted to the Election Commission that year.
In his wealth statement submitted to the ACC, Bodi stated import business as his source of income, but he failed to produce any documents showing profit and loss of his business.
The case statement against ex-state minister Abdur Mannan Khan said he concealed information of his property worth Tk 4.59 lakh and he could not produce documents in favour of his income of Tk 75 lakh.
According to the income tax returns and other related documents of Mannan, he has movable properties worth Tk 96.89 lakh. But his wealth statement submitted to the ACC on March 9 stated that he owned movable properties worth Tk 92.30 lakh.
Former state minister for water resources Mahubur Rahman, also an incumbent MP, amassed movable and immovable properties worth Tk 5.19

Hannan

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Communist Party of Bangladesh was carried out in the capital's Paltan Maidan on January 21, 2001.
Judge KM Imrul Kayes also set September 4 for hearing on charge framing against the 13 Huji men in connection with the second case.
Of the accused, Mufti Hannan, Mufti Mainuddin Sheikh, Arif Hassan Sumon, Maulana Sabbir Ahmed, Maulana Shawkat Osman and Md Moshir Rahman are currently behind bars while Mufti Abdul Hai, Shafiqur Rahman, Jahangir Alam Badar, Md Nur Islam, Mohibul Mustakin, Anisur Rahman and Rafiqul Alam Miraj have been absconding ever since the incident took place.
During the investigation, in his confessional statement, Mainuddin admitted his involvement in carrying out the attack, and said Mufti Hannan and several others were involved in this as well.
According to the charge sheets, the accused carried out the blasts on the pretext that the CPB members in the rally were "atheists".
Soon after the blasts, police arrested 12 people but the CID, in its final investigation report submitted on December 17, 2003, cleared the arrestees of the charges as no "correct, impartial and reliable" evidence was found against them.
Later the home ministry ordered a reinvestigation into the incident following an application submitted by the CID in 2005.
Recently, Hannan and seven other Huji members were sentenced to death for killing 10 people in another bomb attack on Pahela Baishakh celebrations at Ramna Batamul in 2001.

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in many countries, a study said yesterday.
German and UK citizens were the bulk of visitors, and the reasons most often cited were neurological conditions like paralysis, motor neurone disease, Parkinson's and multiple sclerosis.
There are four right-to-die organisations in Switzerland that allow nationals from other countries to use their services, according to a study published online in the Journal of Medical Ethics.
It is a phenomenon unique to Switzerland.
Records showed that 611 people from 31 countries had come to

Israeli strikes

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the Egyptian-led peace track hit a dead end.
"The urgency today was to respond to the fact that the talks appear to be breaking down and there has been a resumption of hostilities, and it was important for the Security Council to respond to that," said British Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, whose country holds the council presidency.
Palestinian representative to the United Nations Riyad Mansour said his side was ready to return to the negotiations in Cairo.
"We want a sustainable negotiated peace. We want to stop dying. We want the violence to end. In order to do that, Israel must cease its aggression and agree to a deal," Mansour told reporters at UN headquarters in New York.
The armed wing of Gaza's Islamist rulers Hamas warned foreign airlines against flying into Tel Aviv on Wednesday and declared the Cairo talks over.
Aside from the 27 people killed in the air strikes, rescue workers also found the body of a child under the rubble who had been killed on Tuesday and a man died of his injuries sustained earlier in the conflict, emergency services spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said.
Their deaths raised the overall toll in Gaza to 2,083, with more than 10,310 wounded, he said. Of that number, 58 have been killed since violence resumed following the collapse of a truce agreement on Tuesday afternoon.

Imran Khan

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The former cricket star has demanded Sharif resign and call new elections and yesterday repeated his insistence the PM must quit before talks.
"The talks with the government are over. How can these talks proceed when we first want resignation of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif?" Khan said.
"I want to tell you Nawaz Sharif that I will not leave this place until you step down."
Between them, the protest rallies of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf and Qadri's Pakistan Awami Tehreek have drawn tens of thousands of supporters this week.
But as Khan made his address from the top of a shipping container outside parliament yesterday, there were barely a few thousand supporters scattered over the protest site.
PAT has said it wants "meaningful dialogue" and the powerful army has called for a negotiated end to the showdown.
The head of the Islamabad police was unexpectedly replaced yesterday, officials said. Qadri said this was because he refused to open fire on the protesters.
Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif denied suggestions a crackdown on the protests was imminent.
"We have let them come for the past eight-nine days -- why would we crack down now?" he told reporters in parliament.
"We did not stop them in Lahore we did not stop them in Aapbara," he said. Aapbara is an area of Islamabad where the protesters first rallied.

Contempt charge

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contempt proceedings initiated against David Bergman, a Dhaka-based British journalist, for allegedly demeaning the tribunal.
Following a contempt petition, the tribunal on April 17 started the proceedings and asked Bergman to explain why he should not be punished for making "derogatory comments" about the court through his three write-ups posted in his personal blog.
Bergman submitted his reply on July 8 and his counsel yesterday told the court that his client will contest the case.
During yesterday's proceedings, Mizan Syyed, lawyer for petitioner Abul Kalam Azad, said Bergman through his write-ups posted on November 11, 2011 and January 28, 2013 maligned the dignity of the tribunal and tended it and its members into public hatred.
Mizan said Bergman in his post of November 11 had made relentless efforts to justify that the tribunal was absolutely wrong in saying that three million people were killed and two lakh women raped during the Liberation War in 1971.
The International Crimes Tribunal-1 on October 3, 2011 in its indictment order in the case against Jamaat leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee mentioned the figures.
The figures were historical facts and a matter of common knowledge, which was also linked to public emotion, said Mizan, adding, "For whose interest did he [Bergman] try to raise question about the figures even after more than 40 years?"
On Bergman's argument that his write-ups fell under the purview of fair

criticism and he did it for public interest, Mizan commented, "If it is fair criticism, then what is unfair one?"
About Bergman's reply, Mizan said he had regretted some parts of his write-ups and tried to justify other parts, making his stance "conflicting". Mizan added, "He has to either regret or justify his write-ups. He can't take a dual stance simultaneously."
After his incomplete submission, Bergman's counsel Mustafizur Rahman Khan said the petitioner did not mention which specific parts of his client's write-ups were contemptuous.
Upon receiving a contempt notice and following his advice, his client had removed two words of the write-up and regretted for it, said Mustafizur adding that had the applicant mentioned which specific part allegedly constituted contempt, it would have been better to take defence and advice his client.
On the applicant's arguments that Bergman was a "habitual contemptor" and that a tribunal had earlier cautioned him seriously for one of his write-ups, Mustafizur said his client was cautioned for his "inaccurate statement."
But in this case, the applicant did not allege that his client had made an inaccurate statement but tried to establish it through arguments, said Mustafizur, who would give further submission on Monday.
The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Obaidul Hassan with members Justice Md Mozibur Rahman Miah and Justice Md Shahinur Islam adjourned the proceeding following Mustafizur's time prayer.
Bergman was present at the courtroom yesterday.

'Suicide tourism'

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diplomat's name was altogether dropped from the suit yesterday.
"Though the summons was cancelled immediately, we are extremely displeased with this erroneous and inconsiderate action of the court which violates the Vienna Convention," the ambassador, Lee Yun-young, told The Daily Star.
A senior foreign ministry official said he had never heard of any such incident in his long diplomatic career because diplomats were immune from criminal charges.
The Korean envoy was made an accused in a case filed in September 2011 by Abdul Kader Faruk, managing director of RN Spinning Mills Ltd in East Rampura. The main accused of the case were two top officials of Dayeung Industries Inc in South Korea.
Faruk demanded \$1.38 lakh (Tk 97,10,679) from the Korean company in the case and the then judge, Mohiuddin Khan, accepted the case.
In the suit, the plaintiff requested the court to take necessary steps to realise the money.
The court issued the summons on the Korean envoy upon a petition on July 17 this year by the plaintiff.
Till July 24, however, the ambassador was unaware that he was an accused in the case. He could not first believe it when he received the summons that day from the first court of joint district judge, embassy sources said.
In the summons, Judge Fazley Elahee Bhuiyan asked him to appear before the court in person at 9:00am on September 10 to provide answers regarding the claim for the final disposal of the suit.
"... You must be prepared to produce on the day all the witnesses upon whose evidence and all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence," the judge wrote.
Following the summons, the Korean envoy sent an urgent letter to the Bangladesh foreign secretary on August 4.
"I am writing to inform you with deepest disappointment and anger that the 1st Court of Joint District Judge in Dhaka has issued a notice of summons to me.
"I am extremely displeased by the fact that the summons was issued without any justifiable and reasonable explanation or background," the letter reads.
He mentioned that the summons was a clear violation of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and that he had never known the plaintiff or had any relations with him.

Ambassador at a loss

"It looks unclear whether it is just an administrative mistake or the summons was based on a malicious and groundless claim."
The ambassador further noted that such an imprudent and impolite action may hinder the normal activities of the Korean embassy in Dhaka and damage relations between the two countries.
Following the letter, the foreign ministry promptly wrote to the law secretary for urgent steps since the court had no jurisdiction to issue such summons as per Vienna Convention, which has given immunity to foreign diplomats in some areas.
Contacted, Law Secretary ASSM Zahirul Haque said there was no legal bar in issuing the summons, as the court wanted to know from the ambassador about the case.
But the court, he said, withdrew the order on its own.
Asked whether the court could issue any such summons, a senior official at the foreign ministry said diplomats were immune from criminal charges only but civil suits like non-compliance of house rent and salary of local staff could be brought against them.
Another diplomat categorically said the Korean ambassador could not be a party in the case as the persons and company accused in the case were private individuals. The court can ask the foreign ministry to inform the mission concerned to take appropriate steps.
In his order to withdraw the summons on August 7, Judge Fazley Elahee said, "As per diplomatic norms Ambassadors/High Commissioners get immunity in most areas and enjoy VVIP status."
Besides, he said, the court had issued a show cause notice asking the plaintiff to reply within seven days why the ambassador was included on the defendants' list.
According to a foreign ministry official, the court might have passed the order unknowingly.
Yesterday, the court dropped the ambassador's name from the suit.
"I think that the Ambassador of the Republic of South Korea is an unnecessary party of this suit," said Elahee in the order.
A competent source at the Korean embassy said the mission had received the order from the court yesterday.
"This is a rare incident... very surprising... it will send a wrong signal abroad," a Bangladeshi diplomat posted abroad told this correspondent by phone yesterday.