



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

Showbiz



'SANGKHACHIL' TO FLY IN APRIL

The Prosenjit-Kusum starrer, an Indo-Bangla joint production, to release on Bangla New Year

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REBUILDING FRIENDSHIP

Nepal PM starts first official visit to India, aims to repair strained bilateral ties

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Malaysia halts recruitment from abroad

Plans to arrest, deport undocumented foreign workers before fresh hiring

PORIMOL PALMA

In nothing less than a dramatic flip-flop, Malaysia yesterday announced suspending recruitment of foreign workers from all countries, including Bangladesh, a day after Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur signed a deal over hiring workers.

More shockingly, it said all undocumented foreign workers in Malaysia would be arrested and deported -- a statement that is very significant for Bangladesh as an estimated 2 lakh of the 6 lakh Bangladeshis in Malaysia are believed to be without valid papers.

On Thursday, Malaysian Human Resources Minister Richard Riot and Bangladesh Expatriates' Welfare Minister Nurul Islam signed a memorandum of understanding on recruiting 1.5 million Bangladeshi workers through G2G Plus mechanism over the next three years.

Besides, there were reports earlier this month that Malaysia would start regularising Bangladeshi workers soon.

On February 11, Shahidul Islam, the Bangladesh high commissioner to Malaysia, told The Daily Star that the legalisation process of the undocumented Bangladeshis would "start on February 15".

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PROBABLE REASONS

- ▶ Economic slowdown
- ▶ Opposition from trade bodies, rights groups, lawmakers
- ▶ Labour market already flooded with migrants
- ▶ Foreign workers affecting its domestic wages



Fine Arts students of Dhaka University painting alpana -- decorative motifs -- at the foot of the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday ahead of the International Mother Language Day tomorrow. On this day, the nation will remember those who laid down their lives in 1952 to establish Bangla as the state language. The Pakistani government had unilaterally wanted to declare Urdu as the state language ignoring the majority Bangalis and their language. Several students were shot dead on February 21 when they came out in processions to protest the attempt.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Another day, another body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Police yesterday recovered the body of a first-grader from Koroitoli in Narayanganj, hours after he had gone missing.

Pranab Basu was the son of Ram Basu and a student of Syedpur Bangabandhu High School.

The boy went outside his home in the noon. As he did not return home soon, the family started searching him. Later, they spotted the body near the school around 5:00pm and informed the police, his father said.

There were injury marks in the face and nose, said Ram, alleging it was a murder.

But Narayanganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-charge Abdul Malek claimed that they did not find any bruises.

7 people were on killing mission

Police say quoting 'confessional statement of arrestee in Habiganj child killing

MINTU DESHWARA, back from Bahubal, Habiganj

The four children, killed in a Habiganj village on February 12, were first made unconscious and then strangled before being buried in a sand extraction area.

And a power struggle between two groups of the local panchayat (village arbitration) led to the brutal murders in Sundrateki village of Bahubal upazila, said Joydev Kumar Bhadra, superintendent of Habiganj police.

"Rubel and Arju, who have been arrested [in connection with the incident], confessed it before a [judicial magistrate's] court around 7:00pm today," he said at a press briefing yesterday evening.

"Five more people were involved in the killing mission," said the SP. They are Rubel Miah, 17, Arju Miah, 20, Shahed, 22, Ustar, 23, and Helal.

"They killed the children on orders from Abdul Ali."

It was Ali and a CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver named Bachchu who planned the killing, he added.

Bodies of the children -- Monir Miah, 7, Zakaria Shuvo, 8, Mohammad Tajel Mia, 10, and Ismail Miah, 10 -- were recovered from underneath sand

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Rise in child killings

37 killed in one and a half months; frequent incidents of torture of children raise alarm

STAR REPORT

Incidents of killing, torture and abuse of children are on the rise across the country with brutalities against kids reaching a whole new level.

Though there has been a huge public outcry following a series of gruesome murders of children recently, kids mostly belonging to the poor section of society are being targeted, tortured and killed.

According to experts, children become easy prey for criminals who want to get ransoms or have other malicious intentions.

They say some of the major reasons behind the recurrence of such crimes include improper handling of lawsuits relating to violence against kids and delay in disposal of such cases.

A total of 37 children were killed from January to mid-February this year, according to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum, a platform of child rights



Saddam Hossain, tortured in Mymensingh

bodies. At least 292 children were murdered across the country last year. The number was 366 in 2014, it said.

Yesterday, a schoolboy was beaten mercilessly as he went to a house to retrieve a cricket ball at Purba Thanapara in Lalmonirhat town.

Besides, a 12-year-old boy was tortured allegedly by an Awami League leader and his men for "stealing a mobile phone" in Patgudam bus stop area of Mymensingh on

Wednesday.

On Friday, Zahid, a class-X student at Bagsara High School, and Emon, an orphan, were tortured by a group of people, including a soldier and a Rab member, at Chowbaria village of Rajshahi on suspicion of stealing a mobile phone.

Last year, the country saw a number of incidents of mindless brutality against children.

On July 8, 13-year-old Samiul Alam Rajon was

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JOY ON FACEBOOK

'This is not an attack on media'

STAR REPORT

Sajeeb Wazed Joy yesterday claimed that the recent lawsuits filed against The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam were not "an attack on the media".



"This is not an attack on the media. It is also not even criminal litigation. It is civil litigation. This is what happens in all countries with a modern legal system. If you cause someone harm, the aggrieved party has every right to sue you for damages," Joy, son of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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Cop injured during raid on 'militant den' in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An inspector of the Detective Branch of police was injured in an attack allegedly by militants during a raid on a flat at Uttar Badda in the capital last night.

The flat was being used as a militant den by members of banned militant outfit Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), detectives claimed.

Two members of the outfit were arrested during the raid, DIG Monirul Islam, chief of Counter-Terrorism and Transnational Crime unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, told reporters last night.

However, their identities were not disclosed immediately.

The injured policeman is Baharuddin Faruqui, 45. With injuries in his hand and head, he was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to a private hospital.

Monirul said on information that three ABT members were staying at a

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Paramchan Bibi mourns the death of her grandson Shubho at her village home in Bahubal upazila of Habiganj yesterday. Top right, Monir's mother Salema Begum mourns holding her son's clothes. Bottom right, Ismail's mother Minara Khatun wails in disbelief at her son's murder. Shubho, Monir and Ismail are among the four kids who were killed on February 12 over a power struggle between two groups of the village panchayat. Their bodies were found five days later.

PHOTO: MINTU DESHWARA

One shot dead as Rab 'foils bank robbery attempt'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

An alleged robber was killed in a "gunfight" with members of Rapid Action Battalion as the special force claimed to have foiled a robbery attempt at a Sonali Bank branch in Dhamrai of Dhaka early yesterday.

The dead is Mohammad Masuk, 45. He was a motorcycle mechanic in the capital's Dholaikhal area and lived with his family in Bangshal, said his family members.

Rab also arrested five others at a flat on the second floor of Hazi Riaz Uddin Plaza. The state-owned bank's branch is located on the first floor of the building.

The arrestees are Sabuj, 62, Badsha Mia Dewan, 35, Riazul Islam, 33, Romena Begum, 25, and Shila, 28. Romena's son, Sakib, 10, was also picked up by Rab from the spot.

According to Rab and the building owner, the "gang members" had rented the flat two months ago. They also claimed to be garment factory workers.

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