



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
STAR WEEKEND

'DON'T COME TO EUROPE'
 EU chief Donald Tusk warns economic migrants as crisis worsens
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GANGULY TALKS TO STAR
 Says cricket and entertainment are totally different, as he hails Tigers' progress
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A claim hard to believe

Rab says concern over future of 2 kids drove mother to kill them; husband sues her for murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

SIBLINGS MURDER



The two Banasree siblings were killed by their own mother out of her "concerns about their future", Rab claimed yesterday, citing primary interrogation.
 "She [the mother] feared her kids had no future," said a press statement by the force.
 Mahfuza Malek Jasmine first strangled her daughter Nusrat and then son Alvi at their apartment in the capital on Monday afternoon, Rab Media Wing Director Commander Mufti Mahmud Khan told a press briefing at the force's headquarters.
 The mother used her daughter's scarf to strangle them, after the female tutor of one child left the flat around 5:10pm, said Mufti.
 He claimed to have gleaned the information from the mother during primary interrogation when the father was also present.
 However, further investigations will reveal if there were any other motives, he

added.
 Meanwhile, the kids' father filed a murder case against Jasmine last night. The case statement is identical with the Rab version.
 However, the statement added that Jasmine never spoke with him of her "worries" about the future of the kids. And after killing them, she tried to commit suicide.
 Relatives and experts on social behaviour, however, said the Rab version was unbelievable and that there might be some other motive.
 Relatives claimed both the kids were meritorious and had been studying at reputed schools. In addition, the family was financially solvent. So there is no apparent reason for the mother to be worried about their future.
 The house owner said the couple always paid their rent on time while neighbours said they had no knowledge that the family



A rickshaw-van with schoolchildren on the wrong side of the street in front of the InterContinental Dhaka hotel in the capital yesterday afternoon. Many are indifferent to the risks of travelling against traffic although accidents happen quite frequently.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Why such cruelty against children?

Weakening familial bonds and poor social interactions key reasons, say experts

AKRAM HOSEN and TAMANNA KHAN

KIDS KILLED

366 in 2014, 41 by parents
292 in 2015, 40 by parents
56 till February this year, nine by parents

SOURCE: BSAF

Weakening familial bonds and poor social interactions could be the main reasons for the spike in violence and cruelty against children, even within the supposedly safe protection of their homes.
 Psychologists, sociologists and child rights activists came up with the view yesterday while talking about the recent spate of violence against children including murders committed by parents.
 Some 56 children were killed across the country in the last two months. 29 of them were killed in January while 27 in February. Nine of the 56 children were killed either by their biological parents or by step-parents, according to Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) data.
 Also, 40 of the 292 children killed last year and 41 of 366 victims in 2014 were

murdered by their parents.
 These incidents have raised questions over the state of society, especially so following the alleged murder of two siblings by their mother in the capital's Banasree on Monday, a newborn being thrown from the fourth-floor of a building by its teenage mother in Dhaka on February 1, and a woman hacking her five-month-old daughter to death in Mymensingh on December 29 last year.
 "The interpersonal relations between parents and children are deteriorating," says BSAF Chairperson Md Emranul Huq Chowdhury. "We have become more individualists."
 People are having problems in keeping pace with the consumerism-based economic growth in which earning more and more money is the main focus. This results in the deterioration of social values and

Robbers loot Tk 1.74cr meant for ATM booth

OUR CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted Tk 1.74 crore before the money was to be loaded into automated teller machines (ATM) of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited in Gazipur yesterday.
 The incident took place at Harinhat in Kaliakoir upazila beside the Dhaka-Tangail highway around 2:30am while employees of Money Plant, a security company, were loading money into ATMs at a booth of the bank, police said.
 Law enforcers later recovered two empty trunks used to carry cash by the company staff from Fulbaria of Mymensingh.
 A group of 10-12 robbers entered the booth after the staff of Money Plant loaded 22 lakh into one ATM and were about to load three other ATMs inside the same booth, said Abdul Motaleb Mia, officer-in-charge of Kaliakoir police.
 With sticks and sharp weapons, they then injured security guard Liakat and snatched away the trunks carrying the remaining amount from the company staff, he said.
 The OC, however, added that police

'We can stun India in final'

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh national team cricketers enjoyed a well-deserved day off yesterday. It was the least that the team management could do after the players pulled off a stunning victory against Pakistan and booked themselves a spot in the final.
 And so it wasn't a surprise to witness a completely different scenario at the team hotel yesterday.
 With the pads and bats stored away and the gym sessions on hold, the players seemed a lot more relaxed. At the hotel, some of them spent time at the pool, while others preferred sitting in their rooms and watching TV.
 A majority of the players though, those based in Dhaka, left the hotel and decided to visit their families. With the schedule for the last few months packed with tours and training sessions, a number of the players have barely found time to spend quality time at their homes.
 Soumya Sarkar and Taskin Ahmed left the hotel with smiles on their faces and it was obvious that they were looking forward to the day-long break.
 It was the same in the case of the senior players. From Mashrafe Bin Mortaza to Mahmudullah Riyad, there seemed to be a sense of relief amongst them all.
 The Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) was so adamant to keep the players away from any sort of cricketing activities that they had even asked each of the players not to speak to the media. It was only after repeated requests that the management decided to let Taskin Ahmed speak to reporters.
 The press conference was arranged in an impromptu fashion and took place at Taskin's home. The youngster, who was a good host, welcomed more than a dozen journalists, both from Bangladesh and abroad.



TOP QUOTE

"Great win by @BCBTigers. Skills, courage and belief. Deserved to be in the finals. Congrats to Hathu [Chandika Hathurusingha] and his team."

EX-SRI LANKA CRICKET CAPTAIN KUMAR SANGAKKARA TWEETS AFTER BANGLADESH'S WIN AGAINST PAKISTAN.



Colleagues of two Shibganj police officials, ran over and killed by a truck carrying phensidyl bottles in Kansat of Chapainawabganj early yesterday, cry after the bodies were taken to the station later in the day.

PHOTO: BANGLAR CHOKH

Drug-carrying truck kills two cops

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two police officials were crushed to death by a truck carrying phensidyl in Kansat of Shibganj upazila early yesterday.
 Sergeant Ataul Islam, 27, of Sutiht village in Joypurhat, and Sub-Inspector Sadekul Islam, 32, of Rajarampur village in Dinajpur's Fulbari upazila, were of Shibganj

Police Station.
 Moinul Islam, officer-in-charge of the police station, said Ataul and Sadekul were patrolling on a motorcycle on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid Land Port highway around 5:30am.
 Acting on a tip-off that a truck loaded with drugs was crossing Kansat, the two

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