



The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION



REGD. NO. DA 781 | VOL. XXVII No. 43 | FALGUN 13, 1423 BS | JAMADUL AWAL 27, 1438 HJRI

www.thedailystar.net
Your Right to Know

PLUS 48-PAGE 26TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
16 PAGES PLUS SHOWBIZ PRICE: Tk 12.00

WITH TODAY'S ISSUE
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WAIT, WHAT?
White House asked FBI to discredit reports of Russia links
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O'KEEFE SMOKES INDIA
The Aussie spinner takes 6 wickets to bundle India out for 105 in the first Test
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Fugitive on paper, jailed in reality

Double murder accused languishing in jail for 12 years while prosecution says he has been on the run for 6 years

CHAITANYA CHANDRA HALDER and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

He is in jail and he is a fugitive -- all at the same time.

Strange, right?

But the man we are talking about is no illusionist. He is Kamol Khan, a prisoner as per the Dhaka Central Jail records and a fugitive in case documents.

In a report that the jail authorities submitted to the Supreme Court Legal Aid Office (SCLAO) in December last year, Kamol's name came up among 71 under-trial prisoners languishing in jails for 10 years and beyond.

And in response to a query made by this newspaper, the jail authorities confirmed that Kamol, arrested in 2004 in a double-murder case in Dhaka, is still in jail.

But the prosecution dealing with the case

said he has been absconding for the last six years.

Case documents show Kamol got bail in 2011 but he did not appear before the court on two consecutive dates prompting it to cancel his bail and show him as a fugitive.

The Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court in Dhaka has appointed a state defence counsel for Kamol and he has been facing trial in absentia. Its latest order on February 15 mentions him as a fugitive.

On Monday, Jailer of Dhaka Central Jail Mahbulul Islam told The Daily Star that Kamol was accused in five cases.

He got bail in three cases, including two for murder and another related to arms, but he is in jail in connection with the other two cases, including the one for a 2002 double murder.

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SHITALAKKHYA IN PERIL

People cross the polluted pitch black water of the Shitalakkhya in Bandar area of Narayanganj. Untreated chemical waste from factories and industrial units along the river is released in the water causing the severe pollution. Weak enforcement of anti-pollution laws make it easy for polluters to continue the pollution. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



ANNOUNCEMENT

BUILDING BLOCKS OF TOMORROW
The third part of our 5-segment special supplement series, titled **FROM EDUCATION TO EMPLOYMENT** is out today.

Make sure you get your copy of this supplement free of charge from your hawkker. Stay tuned for **ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION** which comes out tomorrow.

Shots fired at Bangladesh embassy in Tripoli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladeshi Charge d'affaires in Libya Muhammad Muzammel Haque narrowly escaped a gun attack at the Bangladesh Embassy in Tripoli, the Libyan capital, yesterday evening.

Three bullets hit the wall of the embassy when the mission was holding the second day's programme on the occasion of Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day. Muzammel later told The Daily Star by phone.

It was not immediately clear who shot the fire or why.

Gas price hike sparks protest

Hartal called for Feb 28; minister hints at power tariff hike

WASIM BIN HABIB

The news of gas price hike caught Amanul Karim by surprise. It took him some time to grasp the details of the news report on the television on Thursday night.

Switching off the TV, he then told his wife about the government decision, and the couple discussed how to pay the extra bill with his limited income.

"We are now paying Tk 650 in gas bill for a double burner. But the pressure in gas supply remains low from morning till noon, making it very difficult for my wife to cook during that time," said Amanul who works at a private firm in the capital's Agargaon area.

With a monthly income of around Tk 25,000, he is struggling to cope with the rising prices of essentials and other necessary items. He lives with his wife and six-year-old son in a rented two-room house at Agargaon.

The latest gas price hike came as a blow to him.

On Thursday, Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC) raised gas prices for all consumers by

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IS car bomb kills 51 in Syria's Al-Bab

Iraq air force strikes IS targets in Syria for first time; peace talks open amid fragile ceasefire

AGENCIES

An Islamic State car bomb killed 51 people yesterday in a rebel-held village near the Syrian town of Al-Bab, sources in the region and a war monitor said, a day after the jihadist group was driven from its last stronghold in the area.

The blast devastated the twin command posts and also seriously wounded a large number of fighters in the village of Susian, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The observatory had earlier said that 42 people, mainly rebels, had died, but later clarified to say the majority of those killed were civilians.

The Turkey-backed rebels had on Thursday driven Islamic State from Al-Bab and two smaller towns nearby after weeks of streetfighting. Susian is behind the rebel lines about eight km (five miles) northwest of Al-

Bab, reported Reuters.

"(Abu Bakr) al-Baghdadi's dogs could not bear their huge loss, and their suicide bombers have begun to take revenge," said field commander Abu Jaafar of the Mutaseem Brigades.

He said rebel fighters, Turkish soldiers, and civilians from Al-Bab had called a meeting in Susian "to organise a security apparatus and set a plan for rebuilding al-Bab."

"This information reached the (IS) sleeper cells, which prepared a car bomb" that detonated at Susian around 0800 am (0600 GMT), he told AFP.

Abu Jaafar, who was near Susian at the time of the attack, said hospitals in the area were full of wounded.

Meanwhile, Turkey said yesterday

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Remembering the Pilkhana victims



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The morning started just like any other day. Children were heading for school, commuters hurrying along the road to go to work and others staying at home either sleeping or preparing to go outside.

Around 9:00am, some traders were opening their shops on the Satmasjid Road in the capital's Dhanmondi. Suddenly, they heard some gunshots that pierced through the cacophony of traffic.

The gunshots baffled the neighbourhood. Initially,

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Back from hospital and rehabilitation, Khadiza Begum Nargis flanked by her father and elder brother pauses for a moment for the press at her Sylhet home yesterday. The 23-year-old college student was hacked by Badrul Alam, a student at Shahjalal University of Science and Technology, on October 3 last year when he was snubbed by her. Story on page 16.

PHOTO: STAR

25th February

Hamidur Rahman Sinha
In Remembrance of our Founder

Always dazzling in our memories

With profound sadness and grief, we embrace the memory of 25th February, the 23rd death anniversary of Late Hamidur Rahman Sinha, Founder of The ACME Laboratories Ltd. who left behind his bemoaned family members, a host of relatives and friends for his heavenly abode. Although he is not amongst us but his intelligence, wide knowledge, prudence and positive approach still influence our mission towards the excellence. We are also engrossed by the memory of Late Noorjahan Sinha, his beloved wife, who with her constant inspiration and by lighting a beacon of hope made the foundation possible in 1954.

May Allah rest their souls in eternal peace in heaven. We also pray for the salvation and eternal peace for all the departed souls to be endowed with the divine blessings of Almighty.

To mark the day, Doa & Milad Mahfil will be held on 26th February 2017, Sunday after Zohr Prayer at Corporate Office, Court de la ACME, 1/4 Kallayanpur, Mirpur Road, Dhaka including all Sales Centres throughout the country and 27th February 2017, Monday at Dhamrai Factory. All relatives and well wishers are cordially requested to attend the Doa Mahfil.



All members of ACME Family

lotto
ITALIAN BRAND

Let's RUN