

4 JMB men arrested

Grenade shells, explosives seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested four Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadres and recovered 5kg power gel and 15 shells of high power hand grenade Tuesday night from Bajitpur of the district.

The arrestees are Deen Islam, 50, an Imam of Satura Jame-Masjid, Harun, 21, Abdul Hannan, 22, and Mohammad Hossain, 25. All are residents of Satura village of Bajitpur upazila.

On information given by JMB cadre Rakib, arrested on Thursday night from Mymensingh, a Rab-9 team led by Lieutenant

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5 of a family killed in gas cylinder blast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Five members of a family were killed and four others injured in a fire caused by a gas cylinder explosion at a tin-roofed bamboo made house at Jagannathpur upazila headquarters under Sunamganj district on Tuesday night.

The dead are Kripesh Das, 45, owner of a hardware shop, his

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Prayer Timing

July 19

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Mother of a schoolgirl becomes unconscious yesterday as six schoolgirls (four out of frame) of Adarsha High School in Rupganj upazila of Narayanganj are being taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in an ambulance.

DEEP-SEA PORT
Shipping ministry goes for Sonadia
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The shipping ministry today places its recommendations to the advisers' committee on economic affairs for building the country's first deep-sea port at Sonadia island.

The ministry backed Sonadia Island after Japanese consultancy firm Pacific Consultants International (PCI) recommended the island as the most suitable site.

Eight other possible sites PCI surveyed were Potenga, Middle Island, Kutubdia Point, Kutubdia Channel, Moheshkhali Channel, Elephant Point, Saint Martins Island and Akram Point.

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Draft policy on
shipbreaking
aims to protect
environment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has prepared a draft policy on shipbreaking, aiming to protect the environment and prevent accidents during shipbreaking that claim many workers' lives every year.

A high official in the shipping ministry said the policy would be placed before the advisory council soon for the final go-ahead.

The shipping ministry will hold an inter-ministerial meeting today (Thursday) where representatives of different ministries and stakeholders will place their recommendations before the draft is finalised.

Sources said the policy would suggest the government to form a permanent advisory committee

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200 feared killed in
Brazilian air crash

AFP, Sao Paulo

A Brazilian passenger jet skidded off the runway after landing in driving rain, skidded across a crowded avenue, slammed into the company's three-storey offices and exploded in flames.

"The plane accelerated when it reached the end of the runway and tried to take off again to avoid the avenue, but it crashed into the building and exploded," salesmen Junior Matos told AFP after witnessing the disaster.

The flight from the southern city of Porto Alegre was landing at Sao Paulo's Congonhas airport.

The airport -- the busiest in Brazil

-- is notorious for its short and often slippery runway, and its proximity to the nearby city center.

Early yesterday, 56 bodies had been retrieved from the burning site, while another two people died after being taken to hospital.

Sixteen of the confirmed fatalities were on the ground when the plane crashed into the office building.

"There's 200 killed over there," Manuel Antonio da Silva Araujo, a colonel in Sao Paulo's fire department said, according to the online

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17 troops among 34
killed in Pak battles
Suicide attack kills 15 at judge's rally

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani soldiers yesterday fought fierce gun battles with militants after two separate ambushes near the Afghan border, leaving 17 troops dead and at least the same number of rebels, the army said.

"Seventeen soldiers were martyred and more than a dozen miscreants were also killed when troops returned fire," Arshad told AFP.

"Initial reports say that the fighting was heavy," a senior security official based in the area said.

The mountainous area where the ambush took place is near where Pakistani forces earlier this year erected the first 35-kilometre (20-mile) stretch of a controversial anti-Taliban fence along the border with Afghanistan.

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Anti-reformists want to destroy party unity

Say BNP reformists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Reformist leaders of BNP yesterday said the ones against reforms would not last in politics in the long run.

Hinting at the party chairperson Khaleda Zia, they also said anti-reform elements in the party want to destroy the unity of the party.

"The ones who do not believe in reforms will not last in politics," said ZA Khan, adviser to BNP chairperson.

Khan also said they are working toward implementing the reform proposal as it aims to make the party more democratic.

The pro-reform leaders, wishing to hold a party council by August, claimed that majority of BNP activists as well as the councillors have spontaneously joined

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