

## Handcuffed JMB man blasts grenade at press meet

Cops, journos among 13 hurt in the attack at Gazipur SP's office; 7 grenades, huge bomb-making materials, CDs, books on jihad seized; 7 militants held

KAILASH SARKAR

A Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) man in handcuffs detonated a grenade at the police superintendent's office in Gazipur yesterday, injuring at least a dozen people, mostly police and journalists.

The blast took place at around 4:30pm as four JMB operatives, three of them women, were being paraded with seized grenades and explosives on display for the media.

Superintendent of Police in Gazipur Abdul Baten said Mamun alias Zahid, the male arrestee, dived



JMB militants Mamunur Rashid, Mina, Noor Jahan and Marzia at the press conference before the grenade was detonated. Right, the seized grenades, bomb-making materials and books on jihad.



PHOTO: STAR

on the grenades kept on a table and managed to pull the pin out of one.

Earlier in the morning, police captured the four and recovered five grenades and a huge cache of bomb-making materials at a house in Tongi.

Besides Zahid, nine policemen and three journalists were injured in the freak incident.

The wounded cops include Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Joydevpur Police Station Abdur Rashid, OC Abdul Hanif of Detective Branch in Gazipur, sub-inspectors (SI) Omar

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*Trained female JMB militants appear on scene for first time*

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

Noor Jahan, one of the females arrested at the JMB den at Ghortail in Gazipur, took off the SIM of a cellphone and broke it to pieces with her teeth in the blink of an eye when police raided the place.

Sub-inspector (SI) of Tongi Police Station Sirajul Islam, who was present during the arrest, said, "I strongly believe Noor Jahan and the other two women arrestees are JMB members."

He came to the conclusion seeing the activities of the women. They acted like trained Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) members.

He said the women not

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## Sheer neglect let it happen

*Law enforcers didn't defuse grenades even after 6 hrs of seizure*

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

The violent attack by an arrested Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) cadre at a press briefing in Gazipur SP office yesterday could be made due to callousness of police.

Although recovery of explosives and holding of such press briefings became a routine over the last three years, yesterday's incident is an unprecedented one as an arrestee detonated a seized grenade.

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) officials admitted the incident occurred as the press briefing was arranged without defusing the five improvised grenades seized from a Gazipur village.

A Rab official mentioned that in the last three years, they arranged press briefings displaying seized bombs and grenades after those were defused.

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## Five of a Ctg family burnt to death

22 hurt in shopping mall fire in Dhaka; 25 shops gutted

STAR REPORT

Five members of a family were burnt alive in a fire at a house in Sitakunda upazila early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abul Bashar, 45, son of Md Abdullah Mia, Bashar's wife Selina Begum, 35, their three sons Shourav, 14, Sabuj, 10 and Sajib, 3.

Meanwhile, at least 20 garment workers and two firemen suffered injuries in a fire that gutted around 25 shops at a market on the Elephant Road in the capital.

Fire Service and police said the fire broke out at the tin-shed house of Bashar, a candle supplier, at Doajipara of Sitakunda upazila at around 1:20am.

Sources said the fire might have originated from an electrical

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## Nation pays homage to Ekushey martyrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Flowers as a symbol of love from deep in the heart, great respect for supreme sacrifices for mother tongue and humming of 'Amar bhaiyer rokte rangano Ekushey February' will be the expression of homage to the Language Movement martyrs today.

The president and the prime minister will place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar to pay tribute to the gallant Bangalees who laid down their lives 57 years ago to uphold the honour of Bangla language.

President Zillur Rahman will first place wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar followed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her cabinet colleagues, and BNP Chairperson and leader of the opposition Khaleda Zia.

The speaker and the deputy speaker in the parliament, the Dhaka city corporation mayor, leaders of the Sector Commanders' Forum and the vice chancellor of Dhaka

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PHOTO: STAR

Students of Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University paint graffiti on walls near the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday ahead of the Amar Ekushey observance.

## PM for change in politics, economy

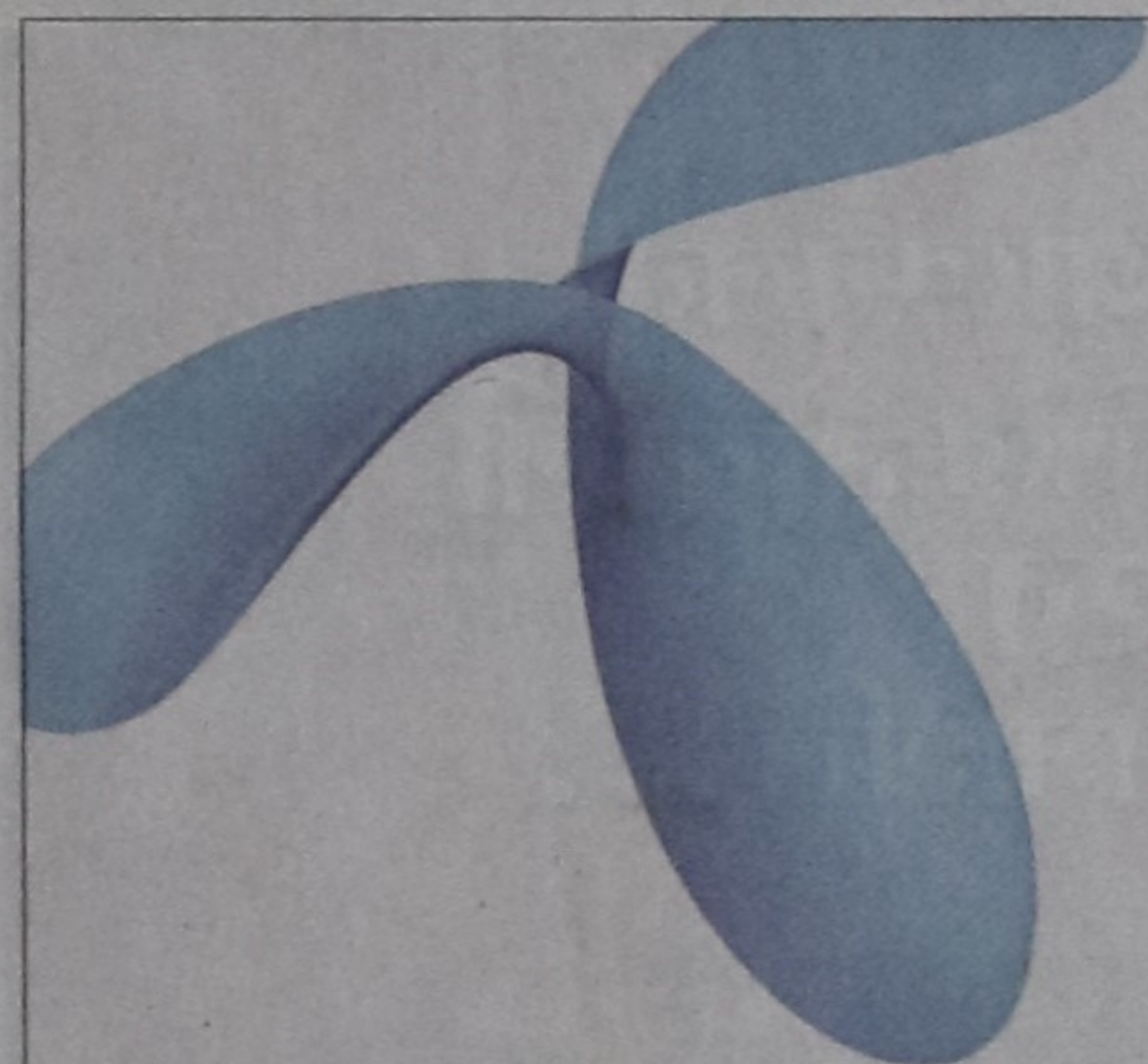
*Hands Ekushey Padak to 13*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

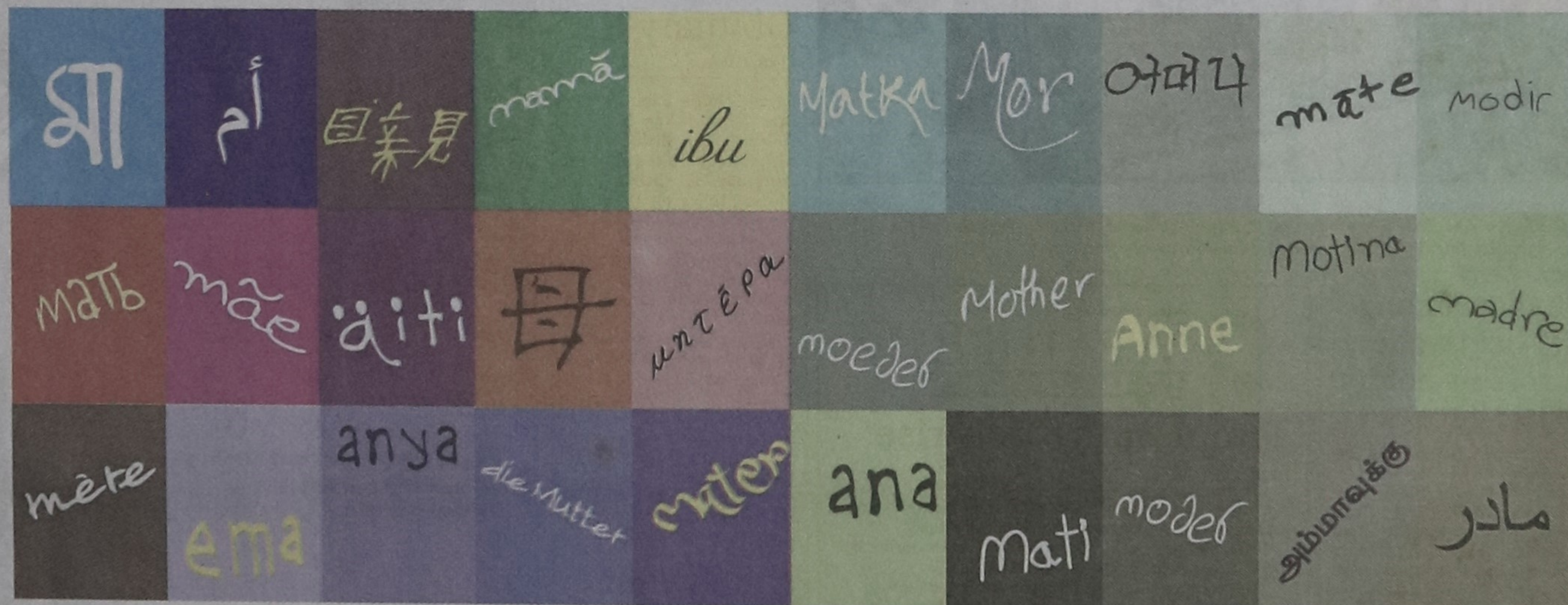
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said it has become imperative to bring changes to the country's politics and economy, and to the outlook of the people as well, to ensure democracy.

"A change is necessary in politics and economy. People should have respect for all forms of work, and a change in people's outlook is also a must for that to happen," Sheikh

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## মায়ের ভাষায় ডাকি মা



তোমাদের রক্তের বিনিময়ে অর্জিত হয়েছিল বাংলা মায়ের ভাষা। তাই আজ ২১-এ তোমরা আছো সকল মায়ের ভাষায়, চির অম্লান।