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## More JMB grenades, explosives seized

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives arrested seven more operatives of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) from Gazipur, Jamalpur, and Nilphamari districts yesterday morning and Friday night.

They also recovered three grenades and a large amount of other explosives from the possession of the arrestees.

Gazipur police arrested four of the activists of the banned militant Islamist outfit, including a woman, with grenades and other explosives in their possession during a raid on a one-storey house in East Kalomeshwar of Sadar upazila early yesterday.

The arrests and weapons recovery in  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Rab personnel examine one of the three grenades recovered from East Kalomeshwar Master Para at Tongi Board Bazar yesterday. Inset, the other two grenades.

PHOTO STAR

Govt calls for all-party, 'civic body' to root out terror

UNB, Dhaka

Government authorities have ordered the law-enforcing agencies to ensure the highest level of security across the country following Friday's grenade blast by a handcuffed Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) operative in Gazipur police super's office.

Immediately after the incident that left at least 12 people wounded, including journalists and policemen, a crackdown began to round up the militants of the banned Islamist outfit JMB.

Meantime, Home Minister Advocate Sahara Khatun  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## JMB now small, but menacingly poised

Half a dozen veterans led revival of the banned outfit; Rab-police row upsets anti-militancy drive

JULFIKAR ALI MANIK

More than half a dozen key players behind the near-simultaneous countrywide blasts in 2005 are still at large and regrouping banned Islamist outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

Sleuths involved in the hunt for the militants for over last three years told The Daily Star yesterday that the outlawed group is not as big now as it was a few years back, but it surely poses serious threats to national security.

They said many of them thought execution of six JMB top brass including its supreme Shaikh Abdur Rahman and operations commander Siddiqui Islam alias Bangla Bhai in March 2007 would leave the outfit in ruins. But soon they found to their dismay that the mili-

tant remnants had been working relentlessly to gain the lost ground.

Meanwhile, sources in the law enforcement community said ego clashes between the police and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) intensified during the caretaker regime, slowing down the anti-militancy drive.

The law enforcers could not yet hunt down JMB veterans like Hatkata Mahfuz of Pabna, Boma Mizan of Jamalpur, Fakhruddin Razi of Satkhira and Mustafiz of Gazipur who had played a leading part in pulling off the almost synchronised blasts over three years back.

Besides, they also could not trace Moulana Sayeed and Sayem, both identified by JMB ehsar (full-time member) Hanif as involved in the efforts to reorganise the militant forces.  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## CBA leaders get gala reception

800 people join feast, fun at Bakhrabad Gas Field

A CORRESPONDENT, from Deviduar, Comilla

Twenty-five minibuses, 12 private cars and a bus carried the newly elected CBA leaders of Bangladesh Gas Field and their families to a highly sensitive area of Bakhrabad Gas Field (BGF) for a feast on Friday night.

The area is generally off-limits to the public on security grounds.

A few hundred local people joined the eight hundred CBA leaders and members at the grand feast and cultural programme held at a staggering cost of Tk 10 lakh -- allegedly collected as subscription from the gas field workers.

The event, held at the state-run gas field at Muradnagar in Comilla, was organised by local CBA leaders to accord a  
SEE PAGE 12 COL 1

Khaleda denied due protocol in Ekushey fixture

Claims BNP; DU says order changed for her late arrival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP claimed that its Chairperson Khaleda Zia did not get the due protocol for placing floral wreaths at the Central Shaheed Minar early yesterday.

Khaleda also expressed resentment at this and alleged that Dhaka University was not neutral in conducting the wreath-placing ceremony at the Shaheed Minar on Amar Ekushey.  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## JS may see end to seat row

BNPPP sits today with positive mindset

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP Parliamentary Party (BNPPP) sits today to decide whether to join the House proceedings or continue its boycott over seat row with the treasury bench.

Some of the party's lawmakers have hinted that the latest initiative of the Speaker to resolve the seat arrangement row might bring the opposition front back to the House.

"The Speaker's latest initiative seems a positive gesture as he has assured us to resolve the issue in a respectable way," a senior BNP lawmaker told The Daily Star last night.

"There is some move from the treasury bench on the issue that may prompt us to return to parliament proceedings," he said wishing not to be identified.  
SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Bid to stop torture by law-enforcers

Private members' bill placed with JS Secretariat

SHAKHAWAT LITON

A private members' bill has been submitted to the Parliament Secretariat for being placed in the House, proposing enactment of a law against torture, and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the hands of law enforcement agencies or government officials.

Submitted last week, the bill also proposes stringent punishments, including life term imprisonment and suspension from the services during investigation of charges against an offender, regardless of whether the offender is a  
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### BILL AT A GLANCE

- \* Non-bailable offence
- \* No excuse for torture
- \* Torture not even during war or emergency
- \* Suspension from job during probe into charges
- \* Termination immediately after conviction
- \* Maximum life term jail
- \* Trial to complete in six months
- \* Appeal to be adjudicated in 12 months



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