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SHAH CEMENT

'NEO JMB'
'First' operation
Hussaini Dalan
Investigators say aim was to create Shia-Sunni tension

SHARIFUL ISLAM and AKRAM HOSEN

Jahid Hasan Rana with two other militants entered the Hussaini Dalan premises at the dead of night. They waited by the pond at the rear of the building for half an hour as the crowd for Tazia procession was yet to be big enough.

At 1:49am, when a large number of people already thronged the Shia centre, Jahid threw five handmade grenades -- one after another -- at those standing in the graveyard on the premises. Four of the bombs exploded.

"Nobody noticed me. Transfixed with horror, people only stared at the spots where the bombs exploded. I completed my assignment hurling the bombs in quick succession," an investigator quoted Jahid as saying.

The blasts on the Shia congregation, on October 24 last year, left two people killed and over a hundred injured.

The attack was the first strike by "Neo JMB", an offshoot of the banned militant outfit Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), investigators said.

It was aimed at creating tensions between Shia and Sunni Muslims, announce the existence of the new group and project Bangladesh as a "militant state" before the international community, they added.

The two sects have been living in Bangladesh for centuries in peace and harmony.

A large number of Sunnis and even non-Muslims participate in the Shia congregation to observe the Holy Ashura, commemorating the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain

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A policeman frisking children before they go into Hussaini Dalan yesterday. The law enforcers beefed up security measures yesterday ahead of the Ashura. During Ashura last year, a bomb attack left two people killed.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SLAIN 'MILITANTS'
Law enforcers identify five

STAR REPORT

Law enforcement agencies yesterday confirmed the identities of five out of the 12 suspected militants, including a "Neo JMB financier", who were killed in separate raids in Gazipur, Tangail and Ashulia on Saturday.

Gazipur police revealed identities of three of the seven alleged militants killed during a police raid in Patartek area.

The Rapid Action Battalion disclosed identities of two out of the four suspected militants killed in separate Rab raids in Gazipur's Leubagan and Tangail town areas.

Harun-or-Rashid, superintendent of police in Gazipur, said based on information from two police stations and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), they identified the three Patartek militant suspects as Saifur Rahman alias Bablu of Sylhet's Chhatak upazila, Ibrahim Khalil of Old Dhaka and Faridul Islam Akash of

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Samsung kills off Note 7

GSMARENA.COM

Samsung has announced that it is ending the production of the Galaxy Note7 and permanently discontinuing it worldwide.

The decision comes immediately after the company issued a press release asking users to power down all original and replaced Note7 units, and for retailers and career partners to stop sales and exchanges of the smartphone.

"We remain committed to working diligently with appropriate regulatory authorities to take all necessary steps to resolve the situation," said Samsung in a statement yesterday.

The decision to end the Note7 production is the final step in a rather tumultuous journey. After being announced back in August and being met with generally

MORE ON B2

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Tension between West and Russia soars

Putin shuns Paris visit after France accuses Moscow of committing 'war crimes' in Syria

AFP, Paris

Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday cancelled a visit to France in a furious row over Moscow's role in the Syrian conflict -- the latest episode in deteriorating relations between Moscow and the West.

The announcement from the Kremlin came a day after French President Francois Hollande said Syrian forces had committed a "war crime" in the battered city of Aleppo with the support of Russian air strikes.

Putin had been due in Paris on October 19 to inaugurate a new Russian Orthodox church near the Eiffel Tower, but Hollande had insisted his Russian counterpart also took part in talks with him about Syria.

Russia has been waging an aerial bombing campaign in Syria more than a year in support of President Bashar al-Assad's forces, part of a multi-front war that has claimed some 300,000 lives and seen Moscow further estranged from the West.

The French president had admitted he was agonising over whether to meet Putin, but the Kremlin yesterday called off the visit.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Putin was "ready to visit when it is comfortable for President Hollande", adding that Moscow would "wait for when that comfortable time comes".

Hollande responded that he was prepared to meet Putin "at any time... to further peace".

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Farooki plans film on Holey Artisan attack

STAR REPORT

Filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki has revealed plans for his next film based on the terror attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery, the once popular upscale eatery in the capital's Gulshan area.

"Holey Bakery will be a one-shot film. It will be intimate and intense," Farooki told a news portal, Variety.com in Busan, South Korea, where he is

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'World's tallest' tower construction begins in Dubai

AFP, Dubai

Dubai began construction work Monday on a tower that will stand higher than its Burj Khalifa, which is currently the world's tallest skyscraper.

The Gulf emirate's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, marked the groundbreaking of The Tower at Dubai Creek Harbour as construction workers laid foundations for the

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Retd teacher found killed in Banani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former teacher of Eden Mohila College was found dead with his body tied up by adhesive tape at his office in Banani DOHS yesterday morning.

Prof Ali Hossain Malik, 65, was the general manager of Syed Group and hailed

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PRAYER TIMING OCTOBER 12

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-45 12-45 4-15 5-45 7-15
JAMAAT 5-20 1-15 4-30 5-50 7-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Gloomy and threatening skies hung over Chittagong's Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium, the venue for today's third and series-deciding ODI between Bangladesh and England, forcing the likes of Mushfiqur Rahim, inset, to practice indoors yesterday. If the rain does relent and allow the day-nighter to take place, a different kind of storm with emotions running high in both camps could hit the port city.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

5 of a family die in fire

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Five of a family were burnt to death when their house caught fire after a live electric line severed and fell on their tin-roofed house early yesterday at Jangaon village in Pirganj upazila in the district.

The victims were identified as Khoresh Chandra Roy, 42, a police constable of Dinajpur Kotwali Police Station, who was at home for Durga Puja, his wife Tiya Rani Roy, 35, daughter Nice Roy, 10, son Nirjoy Roy, 8, and his sister-in-law Shondha Rani Roy, 22.

Anisur Rahman, assistant director of

Thakurgaon Fire Service and Civil Defence, said the snapped live electrical wire ignited the fire as soon as it fell on the tin roof and several flammable items -- including a heap of raw jute and a motorbike -- in the house apparently catalysed the fire.

The fire incident was reported to the fire service at approximately 5:15am and fire units reached the scene at around 5:35am, he added.

However, deputy general manager of local Rural Electrification Board (REB) AKM Masudur Rahman denied claim, saying that a severed wire would trip the electrical

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Low forms over Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country's four maritime ports have been asked to hoist local cautionary signal number three as a deep convection is taking place over the North Bay of Bengal.

Squally weather may affect the maritime ports, North Bay and adjoining coastal areas of Bangladesh, according to a Met office bulletin.

All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution till further notice.

Met office sources say light to moderate rain or

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BANK ASIA: INTERRUPTION OF ATM TRANSACTIONS AND INTERNET BANKING SERVICES

ATM transactions and Internet banking services will be interrupted from 10:00 PM on Thursday October 13, 2016 to 06:00 PM on Friday October 14, 2016 due to system upgradation to ensure better service to the customers.

Apologies for this temporary inconvenience.

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