

BSRM
Innovating safety

Perfect Combination: **Xtreme & Maxima**
MAKE YOUR STRUCTURES **STRONG FROM WITHIN**

SHAH CEMENT

PROUD CONSTRUCTION PARTNER OF PADMA BRIDGE

JHENIDAH HIDEOUT

'Neo JMB' made bombs there

Police claim as operation 'Southpaw' ends

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and AZIBOR RAHMAN

The Jhenidah den that counterterrorism officials busted on Friday was a "Neo JMB" bomb-making factory from where explosives were supplied to other dens of the militant group, officials say.

Top "Neo JMB" leaders used to visit the factory, a two-room tin-shed house in the district's Porahati village. Key militants like Maynul Islam Musa, Sohel Mahfuz and Hasidur Rahman Sagor often held operational meetings there, according to investigators.

Musa is suspected to have been killed in a recent drive by law enforcers in Sylhet while two others are still at large.

Sohel is a former member of Majlis-e-Shura of mainstream JMB and Sagor is also an ex-leader of the outfit. The duo played an important role in supplying grenades and firearms to the offshoot -- "Neo JMB" as called by law enforcers -- for carrying out the Gulshan café attack last year.

Besides, Sohel is an uncle of top militant Nurul Islam Marzan and Sagor is Marzan's brother-in-law, investigators added.

Allegedly the operational commander of the Gulshan attack, Marzan was killed in a "shootout" on January 6 this year.

"Police detected the den after analysing communication devices recovered from the outfit's Chittagong hideout busted last month" Proloy Kumar Joarder, deputy commissioner of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of DMP, told The Daily Star.

"But the militants managed to flee before the operation."

Proloy said it was the "biggest" bomb-making factory they have ever busted.

From there, they recovered a large number of handmade detonators, a pressure cooker bomb and a 7.65mm pistol along with papers related to its purchase.

Police also found 20 containers each having capacity of 30 litres -- all full of hydrogen peroxide.

The pressure cooker bomb was defused, said an official, adding its manufacturing technique was unique and it could be used as a time bomb.

Sanowar Hossain, additional deputy commissioner of the bomb disposal unit of CTTC unit, told this newspaper that 500 to 1,000 bombs the size of a grenade could be manufactured with the seized chemical.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 1



A fisherman taking a bucket of spawn to a nearby hatchery after collecting them from the Halda river, the country's lone natural spawning ground for freshwater carps, in Chittagong's Hathazari yesterday. Earlier in the day, fish started to release eggs, *bottom*, in the river.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

Smiles at Halda

Mother fish spawn in rain

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Spawn collectors were all smiles as indigenous freshwater fish released eggs in the Halda river yesterday.

Heavy rain accompanied by thunderbolt since Friday morning and strong current in the river had created a favourable atmosphere for mother fish to release spawn.

The Halda is the country's largest natural breeding ground for indigenous carp, including ruhi, katol, mrigel and kalbaush.

The carps usually release eggs at different spots in the river during full moon or the dark fortnight. Though it was neither full moon nor the dark fortnight yesterday, the fish released a good amount of eggs as the

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2



Social Islami Bank Limited

Prayer Timing April 23

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
4-25	12-45	4-45	6-27	8-00
JAMAAT	5-00	1-15	5-00	6-31
				8-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Shazneen's 19th death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 19th death anniversary of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman.

On this day 19 years ago, 15-year-old Shazneen was brutally murdered after rape in a planned way at her house in the capital's Gulshan area.

Shazneen was a class-IX student of Scholastica School when she was murdered on the night of April 23, 1998. People from all walks of life were dumbfounded by the incident.

Four years later, a Special Tribunal for Prevention of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

France votes today as far-right surges

Security tightened; terror attack to boost Le Pen as focus shifts from jobs and economy

AFP, Paris

France was on edge yesterday on the eve of its most unpredictable presidential election in decades, which will take place under heightened security after the jihadist killing of a policeman giving a boost to far-right camp.

The Islamic State-claimed slaying of the officer on Paris's Champs Elysees avenue thrust questions of security to the fore of campaigning after nine months of relative calm.

Nearly a quarter of voters are still undecided, and surveys showed until now the French to be more concerned about jobs and the economy than terrorism. But analysts warned Thursday's shooting could change that.

The top two vote getters in today's tight, four-way contest will head to a run-off on May 7.

Authorities in Paris have offered additional guards for hundreds of polling stations in the capital, which will come on top of an already major security plan across the country.

"An extra guard or reinforcement of staff will be provided to any polling station that needs it," Paris town hall official Colombe Brosselet said.

Around 50,000 police and 7,000 soldiers will be deployed today to protect voters around France.

Voters headed to the polls yesterday in many of France's overseas territories like Martinique and Guadeloupe in the Caribbean, as well as in the US.

France was still shaken two days after 39-year-old gunman Karim Cheurfi shot dead a police officer and wounded two others before being killed, in an attack that sent tourists on the Champs Elysees rushing for cover.

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen moved quickly to present herself as the strongest defender against Islamist radicals in a country under a state of emergency since a string of terror attacks that began in 2015, which have

MORE ON PAGE 8

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Confusion, anger over death in hills

STAR REPORT

The death of an indigenous HSC examinee on Wednesday has sparked protests in the hill tracts as well as in the capital.

Romel Chakma, 20, was a student of Naniarchar College in Rangamati and general secretary of Pahari Chhatra Parishad's (PCP) Rangamati unit.

It remains unclear how the visually impaired youth died after army picked him up on the morning of April 5 from Naniarchar Bazar.

The circumstances of his funeral also remain shrouded in mystery, as different organisations, including PCP and several leftist student bodies continue to demonstrate in the capital and Rangamati.

Romel was picked up by the army in connection with two cases filed over torching a truck and looting two buses, Lt Col Mohammad Rashidul Hasan, director of ISPR, told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

They handed Romel over to the Naniarchar police the same day, said the Inter Service Public Relations Directorate (ISPR) official, adding that the young man died on April 19 at Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he was being treated in police custody.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



Romel Chakma

Court dismisses case no one understands



AFP, New Delhi

Anyone dealing with India's overburdened legal system knows that the wheels of justice move slowly.

But in one case, they have ground to a halt completely after Supreme Court judges said they were throwing out a lawsuit that used so much jargon it was incomprehensible.

"We will have to set it aside because one cannot understand this," the Hindustan Times daily quoted MB Lokur and Deepak Gupta as saying on Wednesday.

Even the lawyers representing the two sides in the row between a landlord and his tenant said they were unable to understand the original order issued by a lower court.

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6



Shakib to lead Tigers in T20Is

SPORTS REPORTER

Ace all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan has been named Bangladesh's T20 captain following Mashrafe Bin Mortaza's retirement from the shortest format of the game, Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) president Nazmul Hassan announced yesterday.

This will be the 30-year-old's second stint as a full-time captain. At 22, he became the youngest player to captain Bangladesh when he was handed the responsibility in July 2009, but he was relieved of his duties in August 2011.

The decision to reappoint

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Heartiest congratulations to Goodwill Ambassadors of BNCC
Prof. Dr. Habibe Millat MP, Momotaz Begom MP
Prof. Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah and young politician Rasheq Rahman

We promise to build the Sonar Bangla, Free from drug & terror with the inspiration, wisdom & guidance of the honourable Goodwill Ambassadors of BNCC



Professor Dr. Mi. habibe Millat MP
Senior Cardiothoracic Surgeon



Momotaz Begom MP
Bangla Folk Queen



Professor Dr. Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah
Pro Vice Chancellor
Bangladesh University of Professionals (BUP)



Mr. Rasheq Rahman
Young Politician & TV Personality

GD-848