

## GOODBYE, VINOD KHANNA

The Bollywood actor dies of cancer at the age of 70

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## BREXIT 'ILLUSIONS'

Poll suggests Britons regret decision to leave EU

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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE



# Four killed in militant den

*They blow themselves up as SWAT wraps up Operation Eagle Hunt in C'nawabganj; woman, child brought alive out of den*

STAR REPORT

The 12-hour raid on a terror den in Chapainawabganj ended yesterday evening, as four militant suspects holed up there blew themselves up.

Rafiqul Islam alias Abu, an operative of militant outfit "Neo JMB", was among the dead. The terror outfit had given Abu, also known as Abul Kalam, the responsibility for providing shelter to its members, said police.

The other three, believed to be Abu's accomplices, were yet to be identified.

Nearly an hour before the drive codenamed "Eagle Hunt" ended around 6:30pm, members of SWAT (Special Weapons And Tactics) entered the den -- a one-storey house inside a mango orchard in

Shibganj upazila's Shibnagar area.

They brought Abu's pregnant wife Sumaiya Begum and their six-year-old daughter Khadiza out of the house.

Sumaiya suffered a bullet wound in one leg while Khadiza was rescued unhurt. The two were whisked off to Chapainawabganj Sadar Hospital.

Police immediately couldn't say exactly when the four militant suspects were killed in suicide blasts. They found the bodies after entering the house around 5:30pm.

Wishing anonymity, a high official of Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said, "We suspect that three of the militants were killed in suicide blasts on

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Members of Special Weapons And Tactics (SWAT) and fire service near a suspected militant den in Chapainawabganj's Shibganj upazila. Four "militants" were found dead at the end of a 12-hour drive, codenamed operation "Eagle Hunt", on the hideout yesterday. Police claimed all of them were killed in suicide blasts.

## Maheshkhali declared 'digital island'

STAR REPORT

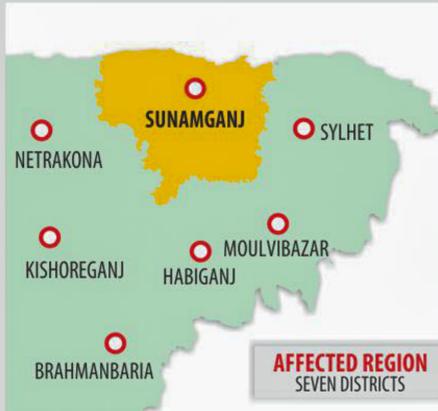
The government yesterday declared Maheshkhali, one of the remotest islands of the country, a "Digital Island", targeting to make it a model for the world in five years.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the declaration while inaugurating a project titled "Digital Island Maheshkhali" that connected the upazila of Cox's Bazar to high-speed internet, reports BSS.

A 22-kilometre fiber-optic cable has been installed in the island. With the introduction of the digital system, the island which can hugely contribute to the national economy has been digitally connected to

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## ONSLAUGHT OF FLASHFLOODS IN HAORS



CROP LOSS

- ▶ Affected crop land 4.5 lakh hectares
- ▶ Crops destroyed on 2 lakh hectares
- ▶ Crop loss estimated to be over 8 lakh tonnes

### FLASHFLOODS HIT THE REGION FROM MARCH 27 TO APRIL 23

Number of haors flooded **175** (approx)

Population in haor areas **61** lakh  
 People affected at least **25** lakh



### WORST-HIT DISTRICT SUNAMGANJ

- ▶ No haor survived the flashflood
- ▶ Boro cultivated in 165 haors out of 266 in the district
- ▶ Boro crops in 1.44 lakh hectares out of 1.66 lakh hectares submerged, damaged extensively

- ▶ Over 6 lakh tonnes out of expected 9.3 lakh tonnes of Boro output lost

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND RELIEF, DAE, DISTRICT ADMINISTRATIONS

### LOSS OF FISH, LIVESTOCK

- ▶ **1,246** tonnes of fish worth Tk 41 cr
- ▶ **3,844** ducks
- ▶ **6** buffalos, **2** cows



## Bangladeshi girl born with 3 legs can now walk

Aussie doctors perform miracles

ABC NEWS ONLINE

A team of Melbourne surgeons has performed a rare reconstruction of a Bangladeshi toddler's lower body and internal organs, after she was born with three legs.

Choity Khatun was born in a village in Bangladesh with a condition called cordial twinning, which meant she had part of a twin develop in her perineum.

Head of surgery at Monash Children's Hospital Prof Chris Kimber said it was amazing she had survived her first two years.

"This is very rare. Many of these children die in the womb, or they die soon

## LIGHTNING CASUALTIES

# Govt to focus on forecast

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Even a few years ago, metal objects in the shapes of tridents, crescents, stars and roosters could be seen on the roofs of buildings. They are hardly seen anymore.

The tridents or stars on top of buildings were part of the grounding system installed for protection against lightning strikes.

Even though many modern buildings have specially designed objects, how many of those really have proper grounding remains a point to ponder.

Last year, Bangladesh witnessed a record rise in the number of deaths from lightning strikes. Lightning strikes occur the most between March and May.

According to data of the disaster management and relief ministry, 217 people were killed in lightning strikes last year, beating

all previous records in the country. The number was 160 in 2015, 170 in 2014, 185 in 2013, 201 in 2012 and 179 in 2011. At least 22 people have been killed so far in lightning strikes this year.

The number of people injured by lightning strikes is not known.

However, data collected by a private organisation showed the number of casualties was higher than the one provided by the government.

According to Bangladesh Disaster Forum, 350 people died after being struck by lightning last year, while the number was 274 the previous year.

The government declared lightning strikes as one of the natural disasters only last year.

Tree plantation and proper grounding in buildings with metal objects on the roofs could help reduce lightning-related deaths, said experts.

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### DEATHS IN THUNDERBOLT

Year	Child	Women	Men	Total
2016	79	51	220	350
2015	54	36	184	274
2014	39	28	143	210
2013	55	53	177	285
2012	61	50	190	301
2011	31	28	120	179
2010	18	20	85	123

SOURCES: BANGLADESH DISASTER FORUM

## Shab-e-Barat on May 11

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The holy Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and forgiveness, will be observed across the country on May 11 with due religious fervor as the Shaban moon was sighted in the sky yesterday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee made the decision at a meeting at the Islamic Foundation office at Baitul Mukarram in the evening, said an Islamic Foundation hand-out.

Joint Secretary of the religious affairs ministry ABM Amin Ullah chaired the meeting where respective government officials were present.

On receiving information from different deputy commissioners, met office, SPARSO (Space Research and Remote Sensing Organization), the meeting

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## Cameron sees 3 challenges

Quality democracy, fighting extremism, corruption

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Former British Prime Minister David Cameron has called upon all to unite to battle the violent ideology of terrorism, a key challenge facing the world today.

Speaking at a programme in Dhaka, he also stressed the need for maintaining high-quality democracy and fighting corruption -- two other major global challenges -- to reach the next stage of development.

"It's not just a fight against violent people, it's a fight against violent ideology," Cameron said, adding, "We only win if we unite against this ideology and then we can succeed and grow."

He termed Bangladesh a "shining example" of progress in the world and laid importance on addressing the three key challenges. "We must face these challenges together."

He lauded Bangladesh's growth of over 6.5 percent for the past few years and the progress made in other areas.

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## TOP QUOTE

"It is unfortunate that guardians are now busy thinking how to get leaked question papers for their children. It is shattering their children's morale."

EDUCATION MINISTER  
**NURUL ISLAM NAHID**  
 WHILE TALKING ABOUT GOVERNMENT STEPS TO CHECK QUESTION LEAK

## Cuffed man tortured

Video goes viral

MINHAJ UDDIN, Chittagong

A video clip in which a former Jubo League leader is seen being tortured has gone viral on social media with his family members pointing the finger at police in Chittagong' Sandwip.

However, the law enforcers in question claimed they did not know anything about the incident of torture.

At the start of the 2.01-minute clip, Mohammad Jafar, 38, a former president of Sandwip Municipality Ward-5 Jubo League, is seen in handcuffs and lying on

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## Textbooks for class 9, 10 to be made simpler

Govt also working to cut the number of books to ease pressure: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government decided to modify 12 textbooks of class nine and ten in order to make those easier for students to learn, Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid yesterday said.

Committees under the guidance of the country's noted educationists and experts have been working to this end. Students will get the new versions of the textbooks next year, Nahid said.

The subjects are Bangla Literature, English for Today, Bangladesh and Global Studies, Bangladesh and World Civilisation, mathematics, higher mathematics, general science, physics, chemistry, biology, economics and accounting.

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