

EARTHQUAKES DON'T KILL PEOPLE,
BUILDINGS DO! BUILD SAFE!PROUD
CONSTRUCTION
PARTNER OF
PADMA BRIDGE

Breaking the barrier

Chapainawabganj girls find confidence and success in karate

RABIUL HASAN with ANDREW EAGLE

A first-year student of philosophy at Chapainawabganj Government College, Farida Khatun believes that in Bangladeshi culture, females are too readily thought of as representatives of the moral values held by their family. "If I do anything contrary to social norms," says the confident young woman, "it will reflect badly on my relatives." It's an issue she has had to face head on, for the simple reason that, along with around seventy other girls in the town, Farida practices karate.

"My father died four years ago," she explains. "Yet I am fortunate because my mother eventually understood the importance of physical activity to my health. Nowadays she encourages me. I am poor but mentally strong. One day I will win national and international medals in the sport."

Most of Farida's karate classmates have similar stories of discouragement to tell. Commonly the girls are warned that if they pursue karate it will be impossible for them to find husbands later.

"Martial arts teach me discipline and patience which I can use in my life," says Saima Zaman, a tenth-grade student at Kamaluddin Girls High School who practices both karate and judo. "It's about much more than learning how to throw a punch. Martial arts are stoking a fire within, to build a full and meaningful future, to succeed."

In the past three years, Saima has won three gold medals

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Girls along with boys learning martial arts at the Chapainawabganj Stadium recently.

PHOTO: RABIUL HASAN

AL to serve
show-cause
notice on
MP Enamur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League yesterday decided to issue a show-cause notice upon lawmaker Enamur Rahman of Dhaka-19 for his recent remarks on "crossfire".

"We have received complaints and criticisms from different quarters regarding an interview of our lawmaker Enamur Rahman. We have taken the issue seriously," said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader.

Quader, also the minister for roads, highways and bridges, was briefing reporters after a meeting of AL secretaries at the party president's Dhanmondi office yesterday.

Enamur received flak for his interview to Bengali daily Manabzamin on July 18 in which he had said there were many cadres and goons in his area but all had become silent. No one dares to do anything as five people had been killed in crossfire

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Ex-MP's son
shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Gazipur

Unidentified criminals shot dead the son of a former BNP lawmaker in Kaliganj upazila of Gazipur last night.

Faisal, 28, was the son of late Mukhlesur Rahman Jitu, an ex-MP of Gazipur-5 constituency during Ziaur Rahman's regime.

Officer-in-Charge Alom Chand of Kaliganj Police Station said the criminals attacked him while he was returning to his home in Bhatgati village. When he got near a banana orchard,

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Innovative protest against bad roads



NDTV ONLINE

After their online campaign to protest against a stretch of road being dug up in Hyderabad failed to attract the attention of tech-savvy IT minister KT Rama Rao and the municipal administration department, a group of techies have taken up an innovative method to register their protest - ride horses to work.

The Financial District Road is said to be one of the best in the city, and IT professionals say it would not have required any maintenance for the next three to four years. Despite that, they say the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation or

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SIBL Foundation Hospital
& Diagnostic Center

PRAYER TIMING JULY 31

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 4-20 12-45 5-00 6-50 8-15

JAMAT 4-55 1-15 5-15 6-55 8-45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Australia thwarts plane attack plot

Police suspect 'Islamist-inspired' terrorism; four arrested in raids across Sydney

AFP, Sydney

Australia has foiled an Islamist-inspired terrorist plot to bring down an aircraft with an improvised explosive device, authorities said yesterday, after four people were arrested in raids across Sydney.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said the plot appeared to be "elaborate" rather than planned by a lone wolf, as security was strengthened at major domestic and international airports across the nation.

"I can report last night that there has been a major joint counter-terrorism operation to disrupt a terrorist plot to bring down an airplane," Turnbull told reporters.

"The threat of terrorism is very real. The disruption operation, the efforts overnight have been very effective but there's more work to do."

Officials did not specify if the alleged plot involved domestic or international flight, but Sydney's Daily Telegraph reported that a local route had been the objective.

Australian Federal Police Commissioner Andrew Colvin described the plot as "Islamic-inspired" and said four men had been arrested in a series of raids across Sydney on Saturday.

"We do believe it is Islamic-inspired terrorism. Exactly what is behind this is something we need to investigate fully," he said.

Colvin added that local authorities had received "credible information from partner agencies" about the claims but would not elaborate further or say if the men had been on any watch list.

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The flood in Moulvibazar has left many roads in an appalling state. Vehicles often breakdown and get stuck in large potholes. The photo was taken in TND area on the Kulaura-Baralekha Road yesterday.

PHOTO:
MINTU DESWARA