



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES
ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420
BSRM ULTIMA BARS



HIGHEST SELLING
CEMENT for more than 12 years



Fire kills all 8 of a family

Four children among dead as tragedy strikes Joypurhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A fire killed all eight of a family, including four children, in Joypurhat town on Wednesday night.

Sirajul Islam, inspector of fire service and civil defence in Joypurhat, said the fire originated from an electric short circuit.

The victims are Dulal Hossain, 71, his wife Momena Begum, 62, their son Abdul Momin, 48, his wife Parina Begum, 38, and their four children -- Bristi, 14, twins Hasi, Khushi, 12, and one-and-a-half-year-old Taimul Islam Noor. They were residents of Armannagar area.

Bristi sat for this year's Junior School Certificate examinations, and the twins were class-VII students.

Joypurhat police, and fire service and civil defence office said the fire broke out at the tin-roofed house of Abdul Momin, a chicken trader, around 9:30pm.

As the entry gate to the house was locked from inside, none of the family members could come out of the house. Three people -- Momin, Bristi and Momena -- were burnt to death inside the house, said Selim Hossain, a neighbour.

On information, firefighters and rescue response team of fire service and civil defence rushed to the spot and rescued five injured by cutting the window grilles and admitted them to Joypurhat Modern Hospital.

The flame was doused around 1:00am yesterday and then the charred bodies were brought out from the house, said Dulal's younger brother Zakir Hossain.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 6



A mother tries to speak to her son in a prison van as police take him along with other arrestees, mostly BNP men, to jail after producing him before a Dhaka court yesterday. The party alleged that 2,200 of its leaders and activists were held across the country in the last three days. Related story on page 1.

PHOTO:
RASHED SHUMON

BLASPHEMY CASE Asia Bibi freed from Pak jail

REUTERS, *Islamabad*

A Pakistani Christian woman has been freed from prison yesterday a week after the Supreme Court overturned her conviction and death sentence for blasphemy against Islam, and she is at a secure location in the country, officials said.

Officials dismissed some media reports that the woman, Asia Bibi, had been flown abroad, which would enrage hardline Islamists who have been protesting against her release and calling for her to be banned from leaving.

The release overnight of the mother of five prompted immediate anger from an Islamist party that has threatened to paralyse the country with street protests if her acquittal is not reversed.

Bibi, 53, was convicted of blasphemy in 2010 over allegations she made derogatory remarks about Islam after neighbours objected to her drinking water from

SEE PAGE 17 COL 1

MALAYSIA-BOUND ROHINGYAS 33 rescued from trawler in Bay

Six alleged traffickers held

AFP, *Cox's Bazar*

Bangladesh's coast guard rescued 33 Rohingya and detained six alleged human traffickers from a fishing trawler headed for Malaysia in the Bay of Bengal, an official said Wednesday.

The rescued included 14 men, 10 women and nine children who had been living in refugee camps in the southeastern Bangladesh district of Cox's Bazar, according to Fayeul Islam Mondol, coast guard commander in the southeastern coastal town of Teknaf.

"We have captured six traffickers as well. All of them are Bangladeshis," he told AFP.

Some 720,000 refugees of the persecuted Myanmar minority have taken shelter in Bangladesh camps since August last year.

They fled what the UN has described as ethnic cleansing in Buddhist-majority Myanmar's western Rakhine state, and have joined some 300,000 refugees already living in camps in Cox's Bazar.

People smugglers in recent years have sent tens of thousands of Rohingya from the Bangladesh camps to Malaysia, before

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2

In the name of serving people

*Militants operating in guise of
NGO workers busted in capital*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit yesterday claimed to have busted a militant gang whose members in the guise of NGO workers had long been spreading terror propaganda among Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

The NGO, Small Kindness Bangladesh (SKB), was being operated by the followers of banned militant outfit -- Ansar Al Islam -- in a five-storey building on Road-9 in DOHS of Pallabi, said CTTC officials.

Acting on a tip-off, a CTTC team raided the NGO office early yesterday and arrested eight members of Ansar Al Islam, Mohibul Islam, deputy commissioner of CTTC unit, told The Daily Star.

The arrestees are Saf Wanur Rahman, Sultan Mahmud, Nazrul Islam, Abu Taher, Ilias Mridha, Ashraful Alam, Hasnain, and Md Kamrul. They are aged between 24 and 38.

The team also seized Tk 14 lakh, one laptop, eight CPUs, cheque books of eight banks and 10 cell phones from the office, he said.

Mohibul added that a case was filed with Pallabi Police Station, and they would seek remand for the arrestees after producing them before a court today.

"The NGO got its registration in 2016 and it has eight directors and all of them are followers of Ansar Al Islam," a CTTC high official told this correspondent, requesting anonymity.

The NGO's chairman is believed to be hiding in the Philippines, and the NGO is mainly involved in terror financing, he said.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

235 promoted to police super

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has promoted 235 additional superintendents of police to superintendents of police.

Of them, 230 were promoted to as many supernumerary or in-situ posts created recently amid police officers' demands for promotion. The rest were promoted to regular posts.

Dhananjoy Kumar Das, deputy secretary of the public security division of the home ministry, issued separate circulars in this regard on Wednesday night.

The promotions came a day after four deputy inspectors general were promoted to additional inspectors general of police and 13 additional DIGs to DIGs.

On July 4, the police headquarters sent a proposal to the home ministry for promoting 495 superintendents to additional

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4

Oldest figurative painting found



AFP, *Tokyo*

A painting of an animal in an Indonesian cave dates from at least 40,000 years ago, making it the world's oldest piece of figurative art, new research has shown.

The painting in Borneo, possibly depicting a native type of wild cattle, is among thousands of artworks discovered decades ago in the remote region.

But it was only using technology called uranium series analysis that researchers have finally been able to work out just when they were painted.

The discovery adds to a growing body of evidence that cave painting did not emerge only in Europe, as was once thought.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 3

Schoolgirl 'gang-raped' in Tangail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Tangail*

Father of a schoolgirl accused 16 young men of gang-raping his daughter in a case filed nearly two weeks after the alleged incident in Tangail's Dhanbari upazila.

Seven of the accused are students of Dhanbari Government Nawab Institution High School, three of Dhanbari Collegiate Model School and one of Dhanbari Government College.

They have also allegedly threatened to spread video

SEE PAGE 17 COL 2



PRAYER TIMING NOVEMBER 9

Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-00 12-30 3-45 5-25 7-00

JAMAAT 5-35 1-15 4-00 5-30 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Donning the shades of sunset

MOSTAFA SHABUIJ, *Bogura*

Owing its name to the beautiful shade of golden-orange splashed on their feathered bodies, the Orange-headed Thrush, scientifically known as *Zoothera citrina*, are commonly known in the country as Komola Dama, Komolaphuli, Komola Doyel, or Komola Bou.

These little birds began spreading their population from northern India along the Himalayas to eastern Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Java Island in Indonesia and northern Burma.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 5



An Orange-headed Thrush rests on a bamboo in Gandogram village of Bogura's Shajahanpur upazila recently.

PHOTO: MOSTAFA SHABUIJ

ANOTHER MASS SHOOTING IN US 12 killed in music bar

*Ex-Marine opens fire on 'students' in
California; dozen more wounded*

AFP, *Thousand Oaks*

A 28-year-old former Marine opened fire in a California country music bar packed with college students, killing 12 people including a police officer as dozens of terrified youngsters stampeded towards the door, authorities said yesterday.

The gunman -- who apparently killed himself -- stepped into the Borderline Bar and Grill around 11:20 pm Wednesday and coolly began shooting, witnesses said, unleashing pandemonium as terrified patrons scrambled to escape.

"He had perfect form," bar patron Teylor Whittler told Fox News. "He looked like he knew what he was doing, he had practiced."

Ventura County Sheriff Geoff Dean told a news conference the suspect had been identified as Ian David Long, a veteran of the US Marine Corps.

He was found dead at the bar in Thousand Oaks, California, an upscale city northwest of Los Angeles.

Dean said authorities so far had no indication of a motive, or of any connection to terrorism. He said the victims were apparently targeted at random.

"We believe he shot himself," said Dean, who earlier described it as a "horrific scene."

Dean said his department had "several contacts" with Long over the years, for minor incidents including a traffic collision, and in 2015 when he was beaten up at a local bar.

SEE PAGE 17 COL 4