

**2 killed, 50 injured in cop firing**

BDNEWS, C/nawabganj

At least two people were killed and 50 others injured when police opened fire on the subscribers of Palli Biddyt Samity at Kansat under Shibganj upazila of Chapainawabganj yesterday afternoon.

Although police did not admit the deaths initially, Assistant Police

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**JMB THREAT LETTER**

**Sedition case filed against lawyer**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

The Satkhira Bar Association general secretary filed a sedition case against a lawyer yesterday accusing him of sending threat letters to other lawyers using the name of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).

According to the first information

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**HAIJ FLIGHT CHAOS**

**JS body asks for stern action against culprits**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday expressed dissatisfaction over gross mismanagement of hajj flights and asked the civil aviation ministry to take stern action against those responsible for the crisis.

The parliamentary standing

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**Hannan gets lawyer after 93 days into his arrest**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Ninety-three days after Mufti Abdul Hannan's arrest, an assistant public prosecutor (APP) yesterday stood to defend the operations commander of the banned Harkatul Jihad's (Huji) in connection with an August

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Prayer Timing		
January 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-27	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

**Graft, poor FDI dealing plague energy sector**

**BEA dialogue asks energy adviser not to misinform people about energy situation**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Corruption and improper handling of foreign direct investment (FDI) are two prime plagues afflicting the energy sector, said the keynote paper of a dialogue in the city yesterday.

Energy experts and economists at the dialogue blasted the government for what they said was misleading people about the power and energy situation in the country, and for escalation of corruption and lack of transparency in the sector.

The Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources has not seen a full minister in the last eight

years, reflecting the government's lack of commitment to resolving the problems of the sector, they noted.

Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) organised the dialogue on 'Current Situation of Power and Energy in Bangladesh' at the Jatiya Press Club, with BEA President Prof Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad in the chair.

In his keynote paper, Prof M Nurul Islam of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) presented a comprehensive overview of the dismal energy situation.

He said the numerous loopholes in the deals with foreign oil companies show a critical lack of participation of legal experts in the negotiations.

Prof Islam named improper handling of FDI, corruption and inadequate funding of the Bapex programmes as some of the main barriers to implementing the national energy policy.

He also urged the government to enact a law prohibiting gas export.

In his turn, Prof Kholiquzzaman

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**Illegal Ctg salt factory razed**

Diagnostic centres raided

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday demolished an illegal salt factory that burnt one lakh 15 thousand Cft of stolen gas a day from Bakharabad Gas Systems Limited (BGSL) in the city yesterday.

The unregistered Genuine Salt Factory at Yeakub Nagar of Firingee Bazar under Kotwali thana, produced and marketed salt under

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**Criminal killed in 'crossfire'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A listed criminal was killed in 'crossfire' during a shootout between his gang and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Demra in the capital early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abul Kalam Khan alias Kalam.

Tipped off, Rab-3 members raided Khadun village of Ruppaj in Narayanganj on Tuesday and arrested three accomplices of Kalam with two firearms and a homemade bomb, a Rab press

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**Fourth whale shark killed in a month**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Local fishermen netted another whale shark yesterday in the Bay of Bengal, the fourth catch since December 17.

The 29-foot-long sea giant entangled itself in the drift net of a fishing trawler. The shark with a five-foot-wide snout weighs just under five tonnes.

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PHOTO: STAR

Yet another whale shark, the fourth since December 17, died yesterday after getting entangled in fishing net in the Bay near the Cox's Bazar coast.

**Trial of Piren killing in a quagmire**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Two years into the killing of indigenous leader Piren Slan in Modhupur, there has not been any meaningful progress in the trial for the murder case.

Hearing on a naraji (no confidence) petition filed by Piren's father, scheduled for yesterday, was not held and the court fixed March 1 as the eighth hearing date.

Piren Slan died and at least 25 indigenous people, including women and children, were bullet-hit on January 3, 2004 when police

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**200 feared dead in Indonesia landslide**

**Rescuers call off search for safety concerns after retrieving 16 bodies**

AFP, Java

A landslide unleashed by heavy rains in Indonesia's Central Java yesterday killed 16 people but hundreds were feared dead as rescuers called off a search for survivors amid safety concerns.

A torrent of mud slammed into dozens of homes in Sijeruk village, 370 kilometres east of Jakarta, in the second disaster to hit Java island this week caused by mon-

soon rains and, activists charged, deforestation.

"We suspect there are about 200 people in 120 houses buried in the mud," local chief of police operations Budi said, adding that about 150 police and soldiers were involved in rescue operations.

A district welfare official, Umar Yulianto, said the toll stood at 16.

He said about 570 people lived in the area, with one section where

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PHOTO: STAR

The century-old 20-foot-high idol of Buddha reigning over the Misripara Rakhine temple in Kalapara of Patuakhali district.

**A temple of neglect**

EMRAN HOSSAIN EMON, from Misripara, Patuakhali

A 120-year-old Rakhine temple in Patuakhali is on the brink of collapse after years of neglect by the local administration, hindering the poverty-stricken indigenous community from performing religious rites and rituals.

The temple located in Misripara in Kalapara of Patuakhali is too small to accommodate a century-old 20-foot idol of Lord Buddha. The true colours of the concrete-and-stone-made idol have long ago faded out due to lack of preservation.

Lack of renovation has created several large holes on the roof of the tin shed temple through which water drips inside during the rains and the sun burns the idol during summer.

The altar on which the idol was put up wears an awful look as it has already lost all its decorations. The inscriptions, believed to be written in Burmese language 120 years ago describing its history, can hardly be recognised.

Most of the windows of the temple have been broken and are tied with strings to keep them

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