

# Tk 10cr gas burnt away in Tengratila

Probe report submitted; Niko blamed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

One billion cubic feet of gas, valued at approximately Tk 10 crore, was burned away in the Tengratila gas explosion accident in Sunamganj on January 8.

A high-powered probe committee, formed by the seven-member government, yesterday submitted a report observing that the loss caused by the fire will have a lasting

negative impact on the country's total gas reserves.

Ehsan W Fattah, the chairman of the committee, submitted the report to the state minister for energy and mineral resources, A KM Mosharraf Hossain. The minister declined to disclose the contents of the report, but sources say the committee blames the Canadian company Niko for the accident that caused huge flames to burn for several days

in Tengratila.

"We just received the report, and necessary steps will be taken after examining the report," said Mosharraf Hossain while talking to journalists after the submission of the report.

According to sources, the report also blamed Bapex, the public sector gas exploration company, for irresponsibility in this regard.

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## Biman accused of ill treatment to mentally challenged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Biman Bangladesh Airlines crew allegedly mistreated a mentally challenged minor on a flight from London to Sylhet last year.

Dhaka based international humanitarian organisation Action on Disability and Development (ADD) at a press conference yesterday raised the allegations. They demanded the Biman authorities explain the incident and apologise for the alleged misbehaviour to the aggrieved, Aminul Huq, a 16-year-old British citizen of Bangladeshi descent.

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PHOTO: STAR

Asma Kibria addresses a rally in front of her house yesterday after leaders and activists of the Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh arrived there in a silent procession to condemn the killing of her husband and former finance minister SAMS Kibria.

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## Govt grilled for farm loan irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ruling BNP lawmakers in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday came down heavily on the government for irregularities in disbursing agricultural loans to farmers.

During the question-answer session, a number of BNP lawmakers alleged that bank officials take bribes from farmers at the rate of Tk 2000 to Tk 3000 against loans of Tk 10,000.

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## Ashura on Feb 20

UNB, Dhaka

The holy ashura will be observed in the country on February 20 as the moon of the first Hijri month Moharram was sighted yesterday.

The National Moon Sighting Committee took the decision in a meeting at the Islamic Foundation

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## DEVALUATION OF TAKA Saifur passes the buck on inflated import, fuel price

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A high import cost of fuel and increased volume of imports led to the recent rise in exchange rate of US dollar with taka, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

In a written statement, he admitted that in recent days taka has witnessed a devaluation against dollar, contrary to the world-market trend where the greenback took a beating to euro and pound sterling.

State Minister for Finance Shah M Abul Hossain read out the statement in absence of Saifur, who had left for Jeddah earlier yesterday.

Hossain said the government

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PHOTO: STAR

Mayor of Dhaka Sadeque Hossain Khoka shakes hands with Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil at the installation ceremony of the new executive body of Dhaka Reporters' Unity yesterday at the Jatiya Press Club.

## Dr Kamal for immediate arrest of Bangla Bhai

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday demanded immediate arrest of 'Bangla Bhai', the self-styled commander of Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh.

"It is very unfortunate for the nation that even the prime minister's orders to arrest Bangla Bhai go unheeded," said Dr Kamal while speaking at the thana representative council of Jatiyo Oikyamancha in the city yesterday.

Dr Kamal, also president of Jatiyo Oikyamancha, said he is ready to help the government to i m p l e m e n t

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## 12 killed, 50 hurt in road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Twelve people died and 50 others were injured in road accidents in the capital and three districts yesterday and on Wednesday night.

In the capital, four people, including a constable, died in a road accident yesterday and on Wednesday night.

An autorickshaw ran over Shuvo, 12, son of Asgar Ali, a rickshawpuller, in front of the Malibagh Community Centre at 1:30pm yesterday.

He was taken to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

Police constable, Asaduzzaman, 38, was critically injured when a

truck hit him on Biswa Road near Mugda at 11.00pm on Wednesday. He succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH early yesterday.

A rickshawpuller named Mohammad Shajahan Mian, 48, was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Shyampur on Wednesday.

Parvez, 14, son of Shajahan of Sector 10, was run over by a vehicle at Uttara at 8.00pm on Wednesday. He was taken to the DMCH where the doctors declared him dead.

Our Chittagong correspondent reported that four people were killed when a speeding truck ran over them at Sholok Bahar under Panchlaish Police Station on

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## Uneasy calm at PMO over show-cause

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An uneasy calm is prevailing at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) over a show-cause notice on an assistant private secretary (APS) to the prime minister for abuse of power and massive corruption.

Sources said the contents of the show-cause notice on APS Shamsul Alam have become a

hearsay at the PMO since the major national dailies carried the news on Wednesday and follow-up reports yesterday.

A section of the PMO staff, who are less controversial and do not have any major allegation of corruption against them, have become vocal about it. They are asking top

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## Maoists launch major offensive against king

Police post, govt building attacked; 5 soldiers killed

AFP, Kathmandu

Five soldiers and at least one rebel were killed when Maoists launched their first major offensive since King Gyanendra seized power, attacking police posts and government buildings while human rights activists staged a protest.

At least 10 Nepalese human rights activists were arrested in central Kathmandu yesterday when

they tried to stage an anti-monarchy protest in defiance of a ban on rallies.

A large group of police armed with wooden clubs had been deployed at the Singha Durbar, the seat of government and parliament, where the Human Rights and Peace Society (HURPES) had announced it would stage the protest. They u s e d

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## EX-AL MP MURDER

## Main accused shot dead

UNB, Natore

Abdur Rashid, the main accused in former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Momtaz Uddin murder case, was shot dead by unidentified assailants in Lalpur upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said Rashid and his associate, Minto, were going to the house of Faraz, a friend of Rashid, near North Bengal Sugar Mills on a motorbike in the afternoon. When they reached Baora, a gang of eight on three motorbikes blocked their way and opened fire, leaving R a s h i d ,

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Prayer Timing		
February 11		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-15	1-15
Asr	4-15	4-30
Maghrib	5-52	5-56
Esha	7-15	7-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		