

**NBCP cadre killed in 'crossfire'**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushtha*

A cadre of outlawed New Biplabi Communist Party (NBCP) was killed in a 'shootout' between his accomplices and police at village Dhuliarchar in Pangsha upazila under Rajbari district early yesterday.

Three police personnel including a sub-inspector (SI) were also injured in the incident.

The killed NBCP cadre Aiyub Ali alias tiger Ali, 38, was also second-in-command of a local gang called 'Buro Bahini' and accused in 10 cases including 4 of murder.

A team of Pangsha police raided the Dhuliarchar field of the village when

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**MOULVIBAZAR FIELD**

**Unocal to start gas production April 5**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, *Sylhet*

US company Unocal will start gas production in its Moulvibazar gas field on April 5, official sources said. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate gas supply from the gas plant set up at a nearby area for processing unrefined gas from the wells, sources said.

Unocal is now performing different tests on its well no. 2 and well

no. 3 drilled at Kalapur area in Srimangal upazila of Moulvibazar district two kilometres off the Magurchhara site. The final flare test on the wells will be performed on Friday while pressure and leakage tests on the 24-kilometre long pipeline began yesterday.

The inauguration was earlier scheduled for March. But reasons like delay in the process of land acquisition for the pipeline from the

gas plant to the national grid at Muchhai of Habiganj, excessive rain in September last, and others delayed the work.

The US company also faced problems with the Department of Forest as the forest officials refused to allow Unocal to lay pipeline and construct the 2.7-kilometre road through the reserve forest in the Lawachhara National Park near the

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Members of a *bede* (river gypsy) community show a cobra spreading its hood at a human chain rally jointly organised by the community and Grambangla Unnayan Committee at Shahbag in the city yesterday. The rally was held to press home the demand of education for gypsies' children.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

**RESERVED SEATS IN JS**

**Dr Kamal for direct election of women**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyo Oikya Mancha President Dr Kamal Hossain said direct election to the reserved seats for women in the parliament is necessary for ensuring their political rights.

"Indirect election to the 45 reserved seats in the parliament will not reflect the true representation of women," Dr Kamal said while speaking as chief guest at a discussion meeting organised by Jatiyo Nari Oikyo Mancha at city's Mukhtangon to mark the International Women Day.

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, said women's rights is still unrecognised although they are contributing to the country's economy and different social sectors.

Referring to the provision of indirect election to the reserved seats for women, he said women who are loyal to particular political parties would be chosen for those seats.

The Oikyo Mancha president also said women have to be united to establish their political, social and economic rights.

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**HR, democracy best tools to counter terrorism**

Hasina tells Madrid summit

BDNEWS, *Dhaka*

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said human rights and democracy are the best tools in hand for any success in the counter-terrorism measure and to confront global terrorism.

"Terrorism is anti-thesis to both human rights and democracy, as by its very nature, terrorists acts are often indiscriminate targeting innocent civilians and violates rights," she said.

Sheikh Hasina, who is also the

Awami league president, was addressing as special guest at a four-day international summit on "Democracy, Terrorism and Security" in Madrid, Spain, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Arranged by Club de Madrid, Spain's King Juan Carlos formally inaugurated the summit of former heads of the states and governments yesterday, in which more than 200 participants from 52 countries from across the globe are taking part.

In her speech, Hasina said terrorism has lately become a buzzword for the governments around the world, but they are far from gaining any grip on it. "It is mainly because of the way terrorism have always been approached by the international community where there were more divisions than unity."

"Even disregarding statements like one's terrorist is other's freedom fighter, the fact differing and narrow national interests have failed to

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**Ban on rally on JS compound violated**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Violating a government ban on any programme on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises during a session, Ministry of Women Affairs yesterday held a rally on the South Plaza of parliament.

Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar gave the permission to hold the programme on the occasion of International Women's Day, despite

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**Two infants found dead**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered bodies of two infants, including a newborn, from two places at Khilgaon and Dhanmondi within 18 hours since Monday afternoon.

On information Khilgaon police recovered the body of a girl aged around eight months from a soil-pile of an empty plot at 219/Cha/1 Meradia, Bhuiyapara, yesterday at 10:00am.

The body was covered in clay

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**JMJB threatens ex-JP MP with death**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former lawmaker of Rajshahi-3 constituency Sarder Amzad Hossain on March 1 received a letter from the recently banned Islamist militant outfit Jagrata Muslim Janata Bangladesh (JMJB) threatening him with death.

The letter dated February 24 termed Amzad Hossain an anti-Muslim Murtaad (one deviated from Islam) and a foreign agent, and said so his death will be enforced according to Muslim Shariah (law), if Allah permits.

The JMJB in the letter also said it has decided to punish Fazle Hossain

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**Hartal a thing of past**

Says UNDP resident chief before launch of report on general strike

UNB, *Dhaka*

A United Nations executive said here yesterday that hartal is a thing of the past and counterproductive for the present times.

"Hartal is a good idea for the past era, but today it is a bad habit. It is counterproductive," UNDP

Resident Representative Jorgen Lissnersaid.

Talking to the news agency before the March 10 launch of an extensive research report on implications of hartal on Bangladesh economy and society, he said such strike costs huge on the country's

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**Firoz Rashid ditches BJP for Ershad**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kazi Firoz Rashid, secretary-general of the ruling four-party coalition partner Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP), rejoined the Ershad-led Jatiya Party (JP) yesterday.

Along with him, two other BJP presidium members, Fakrul Imam and Golam Sarwar Milon, returned to the organisation that they once belonged to.

JP Chairman HM Ershad at a

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Prayer Timing		
March 9		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-20	5-55
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-03	6-07
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

