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## 'Outlaw' killed in 'shootout'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

A regional leader of outlawed Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddha) was killed in a 'shootout' between his cohorts and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Garamara village in Jhenidah Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead was identified as Abdul Kuddus alias Boma Kuddus, 35, son of Montaj Uddin alias Kune Mondol of Ashwasthali village in the upazila.

Kuddus, the regional chief of the banned outfit, was wanted in eight cases, including murders, police said.

According to Assistant

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# Limit crossed

### Extra-judicial killings overshadow crime-busting feat of law enforcers

EMRAN HOSSAIN

Fuelled by ideas and shaken by law and order slide, the then state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar in 2002 sat with top police officials and proposed formation of a special force comprising members from different armed and security forces.

Babar's worries, recall officials attending that meeting, were rising crime in the capital and southeastern region, and the police alone, he was quoted as saying, were "unable to contain it".

The police were not much interested. The department had several identical proposals for a special police-only force shelved since 1996.

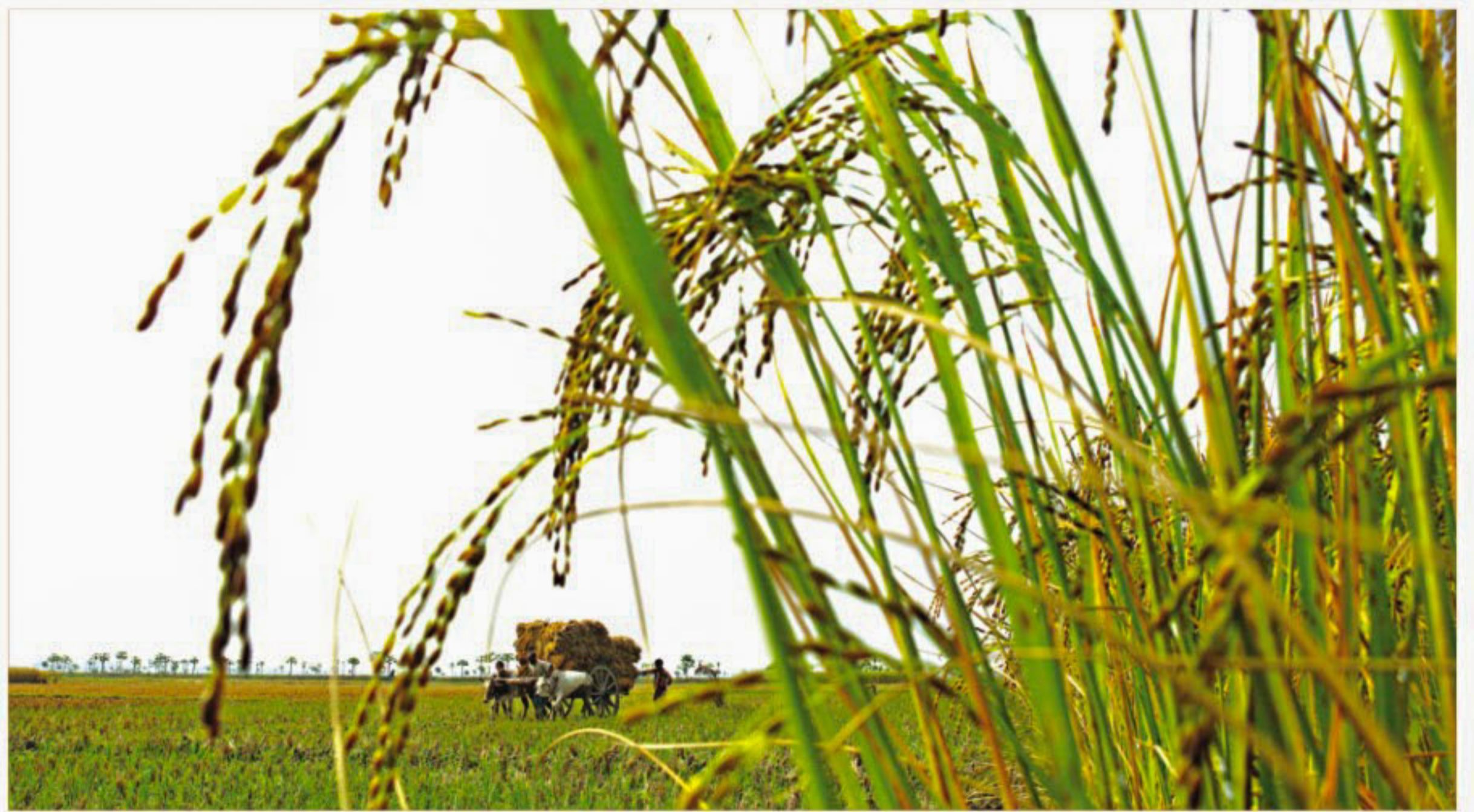


But Babar was persistent. He sat with the armed forces' chiefs, who, to his dismay, also rejected the idea citing shortage of troops.

A relentless Babar in April 2003 formed a committee and instructed it to put things together to form a composite force. The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) was finally launched on March 26 in 2004, bringing some amendments to the Armed Police Battalions Ordinance.

The concept behind forming the force was to develop an independent elite force on its own capacity to assist the police under special circumstances. The force was supposed to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Farmers in the southwest district of Jessore start reaping paddy at the advent of Aman harvesting season. Delayed monsoon and less-than-average rainfall cast some doubts over the prospect of a good output, which sent early alert to the food ministry. The ministry is now preparing to replenish granaries with quick imports.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Shock offered to media

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The organisers of a press conference of former officers of the armed forces yesterday tried to offer journalists money at the programme in the name of pocket money and transport fare.

The journalists, however, refused to accept the money.

More than 100 ex-officers of the armed forces were present at the press conference in the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

## Muhith for new LDC strategy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The least developed countries lack a strategy for finding an effective way out of the categorisation, said Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday.

LDCs should formulate the strategies according to the newer challenges they are facing now -- a fragile global economy, global warming, and internal political conflicts, he added.

"It's very frustrating that we still belong to the LDC list, long after entering that category in 1974. Which means that the union lacks strategies to find an effective way out," he said.

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## Keep armed forces above controversy

Ex-army officers urge parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 100 former military officers yesterday urged the leaders of all political parties to keep the armed forces out of controversies and keep its image intact.

They also protested against

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## Let economy grow

### Plead businesses, want law against hartal, ask for alternative to 'such destructive activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top business leaders may propose passing a law banning hartal to put an end to its detrimental effects on trade, business and other economic activities.

Stressing that political unrest is greatly hampering investment and economic growth, the businessmen urged the political parties to find an alternative to hartal or 'similar destruc-

tive activities'.

Political programmes like hartal virtually stand in the way of the country achieving its potential double-digit growth, they said at a discussion meeting organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry in the capital.

"This (hartal) is even more unacceptable when the country is on track of vigorous

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## Hartal, agitation

Khaleda wants city leaders to be on streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night directed her party leaders of Dhaka unit to be on the streets to make their protest programme, especially the hartal on November 30, a success.

The six-day protest programme starts from today.

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