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**in Short**

**4 outlaws held with arms, bombs**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A joint team of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police arrested four activists of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) and recovered firearms and bombs from them in Meherpur early yesterday. The arrestees were identified as Munnaf Hossain, 22, of Devipur; Milon Hossain, 21, of

**Banker held for money embezzlement**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Agrani Bank authorities have handed over one of its officials to police on charge of misappropriating Tk 11.53 crore from the bank. Abdul Malek Mandal, who served as the manager of the state-owned bank's Hatkhola Branch in capital's Sutrapur, was handed to Sutrapur police around 11:00pm on Thursday, police said.

**Driver stabbed, car hijacked**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hijackers in the guise of passengers took away a rented car stabbing its driver on the Dhaka-Mawa highway early yesterday. Driver Nur Morshed, 30, with severe injuries was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Two youths around 4:30am hired the car from Airport to Mawa

**PRAYER TIMING** February 5

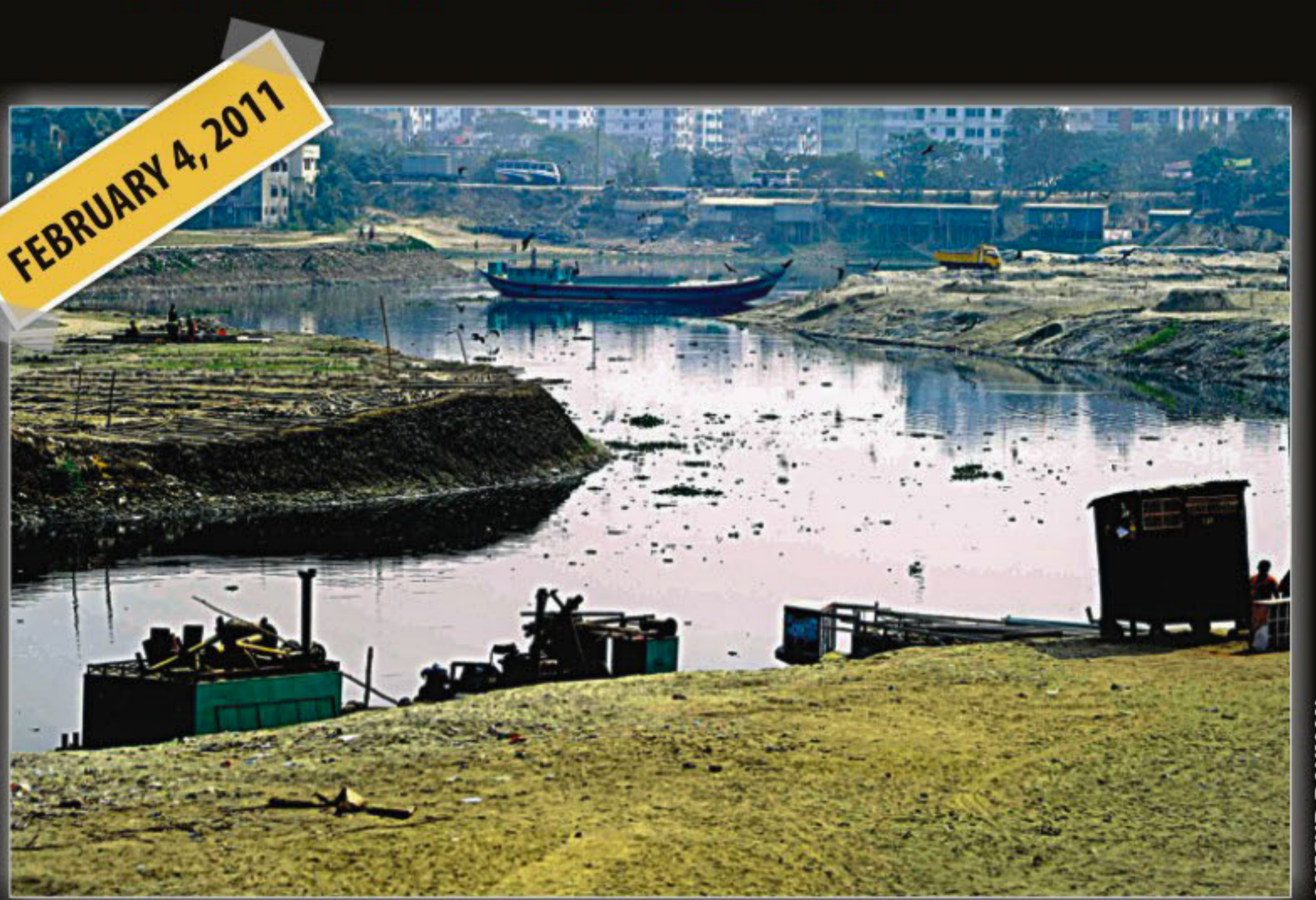
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:30	6:05
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	4:15	4:30
Maghrib	5:52	5:56
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

**RIVER-GRABBING THEN & NOW**



FILE PHOTO



ANISUR RAHMAN

The May 20, 2009 photo shows how land grabbers and sand traders turned the once raging Turag into almost a canal near the Biswa Ijtema ground in Tongi. The photo on the right taken yesterday makes it very difficult to fathom what the government has done to stop river encroachment in the last 20 months.

**Heart patients in agony**

*No supply of free drugs and medical equipment to govt cardiac hospital; treatment costs double in six months*

MAHBUBA ZANNAT

Sixty-year-old Abdul Khaleq, a retired health ministry official, was admitted to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) on December 29th last year. Doctors advised him to go for stenting, a treatment for coronary artery blockages. "Intensive lobbying earned me free rings, but the procedure costing more than Tk 1 lakh has been deferred for four times. And still I am in the dark

about the timing while my treatment expenditure is going beyond my capacity," said the worried patient on Saturday (January 22). Though the government allocated a block amount (Tk 4 crore) for the hospital this year, suffering of the patients has escalated during the last six months as the authorities failed to supply emergency drugs and other medical equipment free of cost.

The 370-bed specialised public hospital gets almost the same allotment as that of the 1250-bed Dhaka Medical College Hospital, noted doctors. The treatment costs at the country's largest cardiac hospital, however, have more than doubled. Patients are made to buy oxygenator, valves, syringe, cannula and expensive drugs on their own,

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**Agreement on Akhaura-Agartala rail link soon**

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh and India will soon sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to establish direct rail link between Akhaura railway station in Bangladesh and Agartala, capital of Indian state of Tripura. The rail connectivity is taking place as per the agreement between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Dr Manmohan Singh during her visit to India on January 10-13, 2010. According to the joint communiqué, it was agreed that the construction of the Akhaura-Agartala railway link be financed by grant from India. Official sources said that the communications ministries of both the countries have approved the alignment

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**Criminal killed in 'shootout'**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An alleged criminal was killed in a 'gunfight' between police and his cohorts early yesterday at the city's National Botanical Garden in Mirpur. The deceased Nurul Islam Sumon, alias Pankha Sumon, 30, received bullet in the neck. He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him

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**UTTARA 3RD PHASE, PURBACHAL Plot handover starts this month**

HELEMUL ALAM

After missing at least four previous deadlines, Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha is set to hand over plots from the end of this month among allottees of Uttara Model Town 3rd phase and Purbachal New Town project plots. Chairman of Rajuk Nurul Huda said they have completed the development work in some sectors of both the projects and will start distributing plots. Rajuk will start handing over around 1,100 plots of Purbachal sectors 4 and 17, said the executive engineer of the project. The plots of sector 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 11, 12, 13 and 14 will be handed over in the second phase in June if everything goes smoothly, he added. Another official said eviction is necessary for constructing roads in some sectors and once completed, they would be able to hand over the rest of the plots.

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PHOTO: AFP

Anti-government protesters pray at Tahrir Square in Cairo yesterday during "departure day" demonstrations to force President Hosni Mubarak to quit.

**ONLINE POLL**

Do you support BNP's dawn-to-dusk hartal on February 7?

Yes (33.8%)  
No (63.4%)  
No Comments (2.8%)

TOTAL VOTES : 532

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think BNP should withdraw Monday's hartal following the PM's announcement that the new airport will not be built in Arial Beel area?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)



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