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This week's Star Weekend Magazine says adios to the year '96 with an extended volume of 48-page. Read the sharp and dispassionate reviews on major issues that kept making headlines. Also read the chronology of events and their analysis. Star's cover story on the Man-of-the-Year Award is dedicated to those innumerable unknown and unsung heroes of our independence THE UNKNOWN MUKTIJU DDHAS. Don't miss the collectors issue.

### - Inside Today -

### Raging of Storm in Financial Sector—Bangladesh

Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim Page 4

### **Focus**

society; Mean-streets saviours spread the word of hope Page 5

### International

Netanyahu sets condition for meeting Arafat

### Business

Govt contemplating national plan to combat

## DSE MARKET

DSE price index Market capital Tk Transactions in volume

CSE MARKET

CSE price index Market capital Tk Transactions in volume Transactions in value Tk 6594422.50

# **NEWS BRIEFS**

# LGED HQs today

will preside over the inaugural function, says a press release.

### IU reopens

authorities and student leaders.

### 7 die in Indian house collapse

NEW DELHI, Jan 1: Seven people died when their house collapsed early today in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, the United News of India said. The news agency said five of those buried alive were children who died along with their parents in the state's

### Foreign liquor seized: one held

Police seized 24 bottles of foreign liquor and 192 cans of bear, and arrested one person in this connection from the city's Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue on Tuesday night. Acting on a tip-Mohammad Siraj from in front of Ahmed Complex and recov ered the liquor from his possession, said a DMP press release yesterday reports UNB

# Thousands gather on the banks of Padma

# Slight rise in water level

RAJSHAHI. Jan 1: The historic 30-year long water treaty signed on December 12 between Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart HD Deve Gowda came into effect today as the quantum of water stipulated in the agreement was released from Farakka point in India

for Bangladesh, reports BSS. Hydrology Department of Bangladesh Water Development Board said the water level of River Padma increased by seven centimetre at Rajshahi point and 57 centimetre at Hardinge Bridge point at 6am today. The sources said the water

Bangabandhu Cup

Friends, Bargh

Shiraj clubs

win matches

Sports Reporter

Bargh Shiraj Football Club of

Iran won their respective

matches of the Bangabandhu

Cup Silver Jubilee of Indepe-

ndence Football Tournament

held at the Dhaka Stadium yes-

In the day's first engage-ment, Friends Club defeated

East Bengal Club of Calcutta by

a solitary goal in Group B while

Bargh Shiraj Club edged past

All Star Football Club of

Thailand with the same margin

in a Group C encounter. For Friends Club defender

Sunil Sutradhar scored the all

important goal at the stroke of the final whistle while forward

See Page 12 Col 4

for Bargh Shiraj in the 29th

Nepal's Friends Club and

creased to 11.77 metre against 10.78 metre on the same day in 1996 and the water level at Hardinge Bridge point increased to 7.25 metre against 6.78 metre on January one in 1996.

11-20 in the lean period.

Padma in different parts of the district to watch the flow of Ganges water.

However, the curious people were not satisfied as the Padma flow was not heavy.

Superintending Engineer of Water Development Board here said it would take two to three days for the augmented Ganges flow to roll down the waterscant district.

The entire northern region had been subject to severe water crisis in dry months because of soever since 1988.

Our Staff Correspondent in Dhaka adds: Joint monitoring of the Ganges water began today at three points near the Farakka Barrage, according to official sources.

Talking to The Daily Star, Water Resources Secretary Dr Shamsul Huda said they received information that Bangladesh and Indian engineers today started recording and observing the Ganges flow from Farakka Barrage.

Dr Huda, however, said no figures were available and the team of Bangladesh monitors See Page 12 col 5

### True history being revealed: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave away prizes among the winners of an essay competition participated by school children on their visit to the 'Bangabandhu Museum' at Dhanmondi, reports

Children in large numbers came with their parents and sat on the lush green field of the official residence of the Prime Minister at Ganabhaban to receive the prizes from the daughter of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The function jointly organ-ised by Grassroot Communication and Beg Rim industries, also marked the formal See Page 12 Col 6

### Removal of SEC members: File submitted to PM

Star Report

The Finance Ministry yes-terday consulted the law ministry about any 'legal gaps' in the procedure of the planned removal of two members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

It also finalised drafting of termination of their contract according to a highly placed source in the law ministry.

See Page 12 Col 3

# Malaysia set for crackdown on illegal foreign workers

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 1: Malaysia was today preparing to deploy 3,000 security personnel on a nationwide sweep for an estimated 1.2 million illegal immigrants, following the midnight expiry of a sixmonth amnesty on Tuesday, reports AFP.

SHABAN 21 1417 HIJRI

The personnel, including 1,000 soldiers, will carry out door-to door checks of homes, offices and night markets, sealing off certain parts of the

Malaysia-Thailand border. Illegal workers will face expulsion, and employers have also been threatened with stiff punishments.

"A force of more than 3,000

men is on standby, awaiting the order to go into action." Syed Abdul Zahid Syed Ibrahim, an official at the Department of Internal Security and Public Order, was reported saying in the New Straits Times.

There are about 450,000 legal foreign workers, but more than one million illegal labourers in the country. mainly from Indonesia, Bangladesh, The Philippines, Thailand, Pakistan, India and Myanmar, according to official estimates.

The government at mid-year offered the illegal workers six months to come forward, and about 300,000 have so far been

registered by 17,000 employers. according to the immigration department.

But there are those who have not (registered) and it is time they face the music, Syed Abdul Zahid said.

Malaysia's rapid economic growth, averaging more than eight per cent per year since 1987, has resulted in a labour crunch in the agricultural and construction sectors.

Foreign workers have also been blamed for social problems and outbreaks of communicable diseases amid crowded housing conditions.

Under the nationwide See Page 12 Col 1

### High handedness of admn alleged

# **Kader Siddiky renounces** BU award in protest

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League MP Abdul Kader Siddiky has renounced his Liberation War gallantry award 'Bir Uttam' in protest against what he said high handedness of the administration and victimisation of freedom fighters. He made the announcement

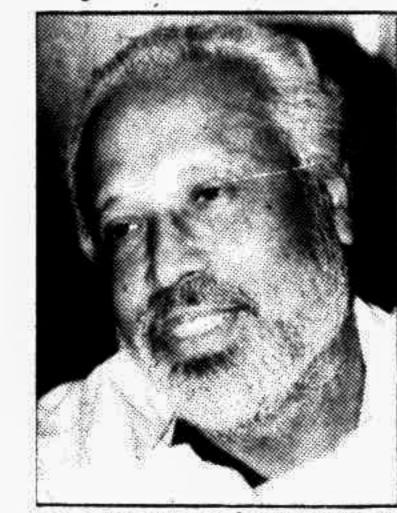
at a crowded press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday

Kader Siddiky also reiterated his demand for dismissal of the home minister.

"The home minister is now in the grip of anti-liberation forces," he said adding, the 'jail revolts' last month and continued deterioration of law and order speak of his failure and incompetence, he alleged. Turning to trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujibur Rahman, he asserted 'names of those who were in the cabinet of Khondaker Mushtaque Ahmed must not be dropped from the list of ac-Siddiky went on 'those who

had joined Mushtaque's cabinet after the killing of Bangabandhu, also wanted to join the Sheikh Hasina's government, but they considered



me a hurdle in implementing their design.'

About the reported conflict between him and Abdul Mannan. MP from Tangail and former minister in the cabinet of Bangabandhu and also under Mushtaque, he said 'the conflict is political and not per-

Siddiky said that he could enjoy lot of privileges under all the governments in the past had See Page 12 Col 7

### 1000 Bangladeshis in Malaysian detention camps

By Staff Correspondent Uncertainty and the threat

of deportation still stalk the fate of thousands of Bangladeshi workers staying in Malaysia without valid documents as the amnesty deadline expired on Tuesday. Officials of the Foreign

Ministry, when asked, said that they had no information about the extension of the deadline or any decision of the Malaysian government concerning the status of overseas workers staying there without valid permits.

It is learnt that nearly 1000 Bangladeshis were lodged in different Malaysian detention See Page 12 Col 3

### Sea coaster with fertiliser sinks in Karnaphuli

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 1: A sea coaster sank in the Karnaphuli river after a head-on collision with a ship last night, port sources said

The 16 crew members of the coaster jumped into the river during the accident at around 11 pm. They were later rescued by two vessels of the port. The mishap occurred when

See Page 12 Col 7

# Trade, water issues to dominate Hasina-Deve Gowda talks

By M Anwarul Haq

Trade expansion and water resources development will be among the major issues to figure prominently at talks during the two-day state visit of Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda who arrives on January 6.

The Indian premier is paying the visit at the invitation of his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina, who visited India from Dec 10 to 12.

The visit is being considered very significant in strengthening bilateral relations between the two neighbours as it is taking place in the backdrop of the recently concluded Ganges water sharing accord. Sheikh Hasina will receive

BNP senior Vice-Chairman

and Deputy Leader of the Oppo-

sition in the Jatiya Sangsad Dr

AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury

yesterday issued a warning to

spiracy against democracy and

independence and sovereignty

of the country or to face a

Ramadan, we will build up re-

sistance at field level against

He was addressing as special

guest a rally in front of Jatiya

Press Club marking the 18th

founding anniversary of BNP's

student wing. Jatiyatabadi

of the Opposition in the House

Begum Khaleda Zia formally

inaugurated the function at 7

pm Begum Zia did not speak at

A regional conference of

boards of investment of the

countries of Asia and the

Pacific will be held in Dhaka in

April this year to explore scope

for Foreign Direct Investment

BNP chairperson and Leader

wrongdoings of the govern-

"After the holy month of

movement"

ment," he said.

Chhatra Dal (JCD)

the government to stop "con-

the Indian Prime Minister at

Bangladesh Air Force jets will escort the special plane after it enters the country's

guest house Jamuna where the distinguished visitor would be

bilateral relations with special

the function. This was her first

appearance in any public

meeting after her return from

Saudi Arabia. She is recovering

its front organisations ad-

dressed the big rally that

stretched upto Paltan crossing

and continued for long seven

hours starting at two in the af

ternoon. The speakers included

BNP Secretary General Abdul

Mannan Bhuiyan, Moudud

Ahmed, Nazmul Huda and lead-

ers of the city unit of BNP. Jubo

Dal. JCD and JASAS. The rally

was chaired by JCD president

Shahiduddin Chowdhury

was abstaining from attending

the Jatiya Sangsad session as

opposition lawmakers' right to

speak was snatched. He, how-

See Page 12 Col 1

Badruddoza alleged that BNP

Some 50 leaders of BNP and

from a knee operation.

Ramadan: B Chy

By Staff Correspondent

Anney

emphasis on expanding of trade links between the two neighbours. Talks on ways and means of reducing the huge trade deficit with India will figprominently. The Bangladesh side will also seek early repatriation of the Chakma refugees. Other outstanding bilateral issues including facilitation of trading measures, boundary demarcation and security matters and regional and international is-

Talks will also be held on the progress of operative aspect of the water sharing agreement. See Page 12 Col 4

### Tk 3.15 lakh snatched in city

Muggers snatched Tk 3.15 lakh from a businessman in Motijheel commercial area in the city vesterday.

According to police, a gang of four muggers outwitted FM Monirul Islam, owner of Sohrab Vegetable Oil Mills, by scattering some currency notes on the road near the Janata Bank Corporate branch at about 12:45 pm. They told Islam, who was in a car, that some of his money had fallen from his vehicle.

driver got off the car, the muggers took away the briefcase in which Tk 3 15 lakh was kept. said police.

Islam reportedly withdraw the money from the bank. Police arrested one person in

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# Announcement

# Article

Experience Column: Currents and

Towards a new kind of

Militants blow-up railway bridge in Guwahati

Page 8

### 95-point rise in DSE price index Pages 6, 7

2395.25 17320.07 cr 105677 4.55 cr Transactions in value Tk

> 1162.30 14217.05 cr

# PM inaugurates

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally open the newly constructed building of LGED headquarters at Agargaon in city at 10 am today. Minister for LGRD and Co-operatives Md Zillur Rahman and State Minister for LGRD and Co-operatives Al-Haj Abul Hossain will be present at the opening ceremony as special guests. Hasnat Abdul Hye, Secretary, Local Government Division

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Jan 1: The Islamic University (IU) reopened today after 12 days winter vacation. All the three residential halls were reopened yesterday. But the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) did not enter the halls. According to university sources, the ban on student politics on the campus may be withdrawn tomorrow after a meeting between the IU

Singodha village reports AFP

(FDI) and relocation of industries, according to sources in the Board of Investment (BOI) off. Teigaon police arrested one Chief executives of boards of investment of 11 countries are likely to participate in the 5 day conference beginning on April 5. The 10 other countries are China, India, Malaysia

# level of the Padma today in-

POUSH 19 1403 BS.

UNB, quoting sources, said Bangladesh today received 79.041 cusec water of the

Bangladesh will get a maximum 67.516 cusec water between January 1 and 10 and minimum 27,633 cusec during April

gathered on both banks of the

According to the treaty,

Thousands of people today

unilateral withdrawal of the water of the common river by India at the Farakka Barrage in absence of any agreement what-

Rival booters lock in an aerial tussle for the possession of the ball during a Group C match of the Bangabandhu Cup Latron Find Club of Napal and East Rongal of India at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. The Nepalese won - Star photo

the Zia International Airport when he arrives by a special aircraft.

After the airport formalities Deve Gowda, accompanied by Sheikh Hasina, will drive in a ceremonial motorcade to state

staying. The official talks between the two prime ministers will be held the same day at 6 pm. It will cover the entire gamut of

sues of common concern will

also be discussed.

# Tougher programme after

By Staff Correspondent

As soon as Islam and his

this connection.

# Regional meet in Apr in quest of FDI, relocation of industries By Rafiq Hasan

Indonesia South Korea, Nepal Pakistan the Philippine. Thailand and Vietnam The conference, the first of its kind in Bangladesh is being

sponsored jointly by the BOI

and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia Pacific (ESCAP) The Dhaka conference is the follow-up of two sub regional conferences of the boards of investment of those countries

held in Manila and Karachi in

1994 and 1995 respectively.

conference is to establish a regional network of boards of investment to promote FDI and relocation of industries in the region through exchange of ideas, information and other collaborative activities, the sources said The Bangladesh BOI is making hectic preparations for

The prime objective of the

the conference and a high official of the ESCAP recently visited Dhaka and discussed with See Page 12 Col 8

CREATING TOGETHER