

**Govt to award gas blocks on basis of PSC guideline**

The government will award the gas blocks soon on the basis of Production Sharing Contract (PSC) guideline, reports BSS. State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Prof. Rafiqul Islam said this while addressing the officers and staff of Titas Gas at its head office in the city yesterday. He said the government has strengthened the PSC to protect national interest. Prof. Islam asked the Titas and Petrobangla authorities to control the system-loss and bring back discipline in all spheres without giving up to any undue pressure. He warned that any negligence in this regard will be severely dealt with. The State Minister said legal actions would be taken against those dishonest officials, contractors and customers involved in pilferage of gas in the name of system loss. Later, he said this in separate meetings with the staff union and officers' welfare associations.

**2 killed, 25 hurt as rival groups clash in Natore**

NATORE, Jan 9: Two people were killed and 25 others injured in a clash between two rival groups of extortionists at Bamihai Bazar in Shingra thana of Chalan Beel area here last week, reports UNB. The clash ensued following a dispute over the sharing of toll money collected from the bazars in Chalan Beel area. The two rival groups turned violent against each other over their shares. The clash that lasted for several hours left Abdul Mannan (35) and Hashem Ali (32) dead and 25 others of both the groups were injured. Ten of the seriously injured were rushed to the Natore sadar hospital and Rashahi Medical College Hospital. Shingra police on information rushed to the spot and arrested three people identified as Zillur Rahman, Shahadat Hossain and Tipoo. Police also recovered two pistols and several rounds of bullets from their possessions. A case was filed with the police.

**Health hazard due to arsenic contamination in Bianibazar**

SYLHET, Jan 9: Arsenic contamination in an alarming proportion in underground water is causing a serious hazard to health in Bianibazar area, reports APB. A health mission detected existence of high level of arsenic contamination in six out of 40 tubewells it tested in 11 unions of Bianibazar between December 24 and 28. Three unions which have been identified as arsenic positive areas containing a 0.5 mg ratio in tubewell water are Dubag, Tilpara and Charkhai, according to the study conducted by a joint testing mission of BRAC and UNICEF. On the basis of the BRAC report, Public Health Engineering Department (PHED) warned the local people about the risk of taking arsenic contaminated water. They also sealed off all the six tubewells. In another test conducted between December 29 and January 5, the BRAC team did not find any arsenic in 59 tubewells in several unions under Golapganj thana. PHED officials have said all tubewells in the area would be brought under a comprehensive test programme to ensure supply of safe drinking water. Local Member of Parliament Nurul Islam Nahid expressed concern over the incidence of arsenic contamination in his constituency and urged the authorities to take immediate measures against the hazard.

**Govt giving priority to health sector**

TANGAIL, Jan 9: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said here today that necessary directives had been given to strengthen the monitoring of the on going repair and reconstruction of roads damaged in the recent devastating flood, an official handout said, reports BSS. The minister was addressing a meeting of the health development committee of the district held in the conference room of Tangail Sadar Hospital. Yusuf said that the present government has been giving priority to the development of the health sector. He said the country would not be able to attain health for all by the year 2000 unless required development in the health sector took place. The Health Minister directed the administration to ensure improved health services to the door steps of the people in distress as the government was fully committed to serve the people at the grass-root levels. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury and Abdul Latif Siddique. Concerned officials were present on the occasion. Earlier the Minister visited Tangail Sadar Hospital and went round different wards and talked to the patients about their welfare.

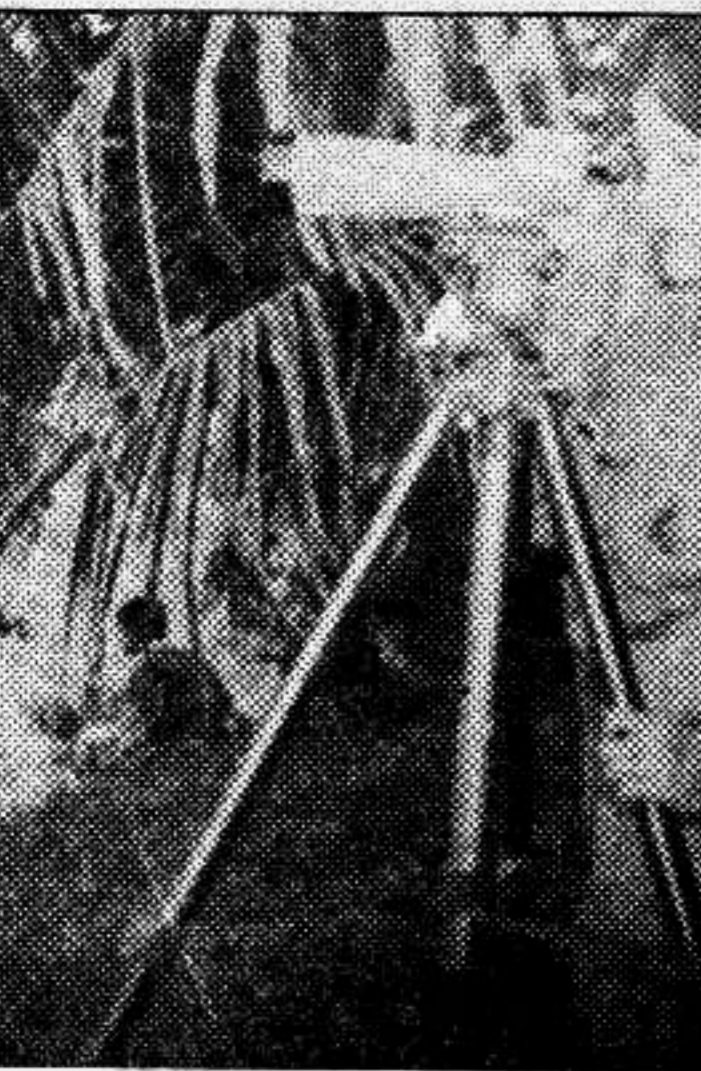
**Country losing migratory birds**

Hundreds of bird watchers at Utsav Island and adjacent areas in the National Zoological Gardens at Mirpur yesterday became frustrated when they observed much lesser than expected number of migratory birds chirping on the zoo lakes, reports agencies. Volunteers of the country office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN-Bangladesh) said that according to the preliminary count on Thursday, more than 500 birds belonged to three migratory species were found in Dhaka (Mirpur) Zoo Lakes but the number has radically decreased and hardly 350 winter birds are left on the lakes yesterday. Amateur ornithologists said the scarcity of foodgrains in the neighbouring areas, severe noise pollution and unauthorised fishing in the zoo lakes at night are largely responsible for dwindling number of migratory birds inside Mirpur Zoo campus. IUCN bird watchers said the identified guest birds which took refuge at Mirpur Zoo Lakes belong to three migratory species. They are—Tufted Duck (*Kthropasaas*), Northern Shoveler (*Pantamukhi*) and Pintail (*Lenji haas*) and one native (non-migratory) group of lesser Whistling Teal (*Sarali haas*). Zoo publicity officer Dr

Lalita Barman said less biting winter is more or less responsible for dwindling number of guest birds. Zoo Officer (Bird Section) Dr SM Mosaddequr Rahman said the National Zoo authorities will serve foods for the guest birds on floating rafts. "It is a regular practice and the zoo officers and employees are ready to welcome more winter guests," he added. IUCN sources said 9,585 guest birds of 14 migratory species were counted on the National Zoo Lakes in 1992 while 9,721 winter birds of 9 species landed here in 1996 and the total number of guest birds were approximately 1,500 of 8 species in 1997. Meanwhile, 13th Asian Waderfowl Census (AWC-1999), organised by the IUCN and Nature Conservation Management (NACOM), formally begun in Bangladesh after a brief discussion at Utsav Island in the zoo campus yesterday. Environment and Forest Secretary Syed Margub Mursheed opened the census programme while Dr Ainun Nishat, IUCN country representative was present as special guest at the function. Anisuzzaman Khan, IUCN programme officer read out a paper on the occasion presided over by Zoo curator Dr Mohammed Mahbubur Rahman.

Speakers stressed the need for implementation of Ramsar Convention initiated in Iran in 1972 and Bio-diversity Conservation conventions signed at Rio de Janeiro in 1992. Bangladesh ratified both the conventions for conserving wetlands and protecting bio-diversity. Replying to a question, Anisuzzaman said the census is based on direct observation through telescope and binocular. Five telescopes and 10 binoculars were found in counting the waterfowls in the North Lake of the Zoo. Many enthusiastic people and bird watchers assembled at the Bijoy Utsav valley near the lake to enjoy the bird watching. Migrating birds are usually come to Bangladesh from Himalayas region, Siberia, North Asia and Europe in the month of December to mid January. So far identified, there are 35 places in coastal areas while 15 inland areas where migratory birds are taking shelter for feeding and resting. Tagaur "Haor" and Pasaya "Beel" of Taherpur thana in Sunamganj district are areas where a large number of migratory birds come, said Anisuzzaman adding over one lakh water birds of 50 to 60 species are usually found in the Pasaya beel.

Enthusiasts watching and counting migratory birds through telescopes and binoculars at Dhaka Zoo in the city yesterday.



Enthusiasts watching and counting migratory birds through telescopes and binoculars at Dhaka Zoo in the city yesterday.

**What's on today . . .**

**Scholarship awarding ceremony:** Sandwip Youth Council has organised a programme to give away scholarship among meritorious students. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3 pm.

**Rotary Club meet:** The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka will be held. Venue: Officers' Club, Baily Road. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Documentary on tigers**

**UK firm working at Sundarbans**

Cicada Films, a UK-based firm which supply documentaries to the satellite TV channel Discovery, is now working in the deep forests of Sundarbans to make a documentary on world famous Royal Bengal Tiger, reports BSS. A full shooting unit led by a renowned zoologist and film director Tessa is working in "Katra" range, popularly known as the "Tiger point" of the world's largest mangrove forest. Sundarbans to film the activities of tigers, one of the country's leading tiger experts and journalist Khasru Chowdhury told BSS. The team of Cicada Film arrived at the Sundarbans in the last week of November and they will be there till February. The film is, however, expected to be broadcast by the Discovery Channel some time later this year, he said. Chowdhury, quoting the shooting unit, said Tessa's team has managed to film some rare movement of tigers and the encounters between man and tigers. Meanwhile, Bangladesh recently has decided to be a member of the World Tiger Forum to protect the Royal Bengal Tigers.

**5 frauds held in Sylhet**

SYLHET, Jan 9: Detective police arrested the leader of a notorious gang of frauds along with his four accomplices from Golapganj in last two days, reports APB. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ataur Rahman alias Karus Mia, the alleged leader of the gang, from a house at Senpara in the town on Wednesday. On the basis of his confessional statement, police later picked up four others—Mohammed Hanif, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Mohammed Faruq and Abu Syed Mia. Police also seized a microbus from their possession, they allegedly used the vehicle for cheating people they offered lift. The cheats would offer the passengers food or cigarettes mixed with poisonous substances that made them unconscious before looting their belongings on the way.

**Ramna Taxi, Microbus Chalak Samity**

Ramna Taxi and Microbus Chalak Samity held a discussion in observance of the historic home-coming day of Bangabandhu at the office of Noor Hossain Sangsad at Gুলিস্তান, reports BSS. Presided over by the president of the committee, Shahjahan Miah, the meeting was addressed, among others, by elder son of BD Habibullah and former managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Amanullah, and general manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank MA Yusuf, advocate Fakhrul Islam, advocate Nizamul Haque Nasim, Advocate Abdur Rab Munshi, Advocate Soflar Rahman and advocate Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal.

**BD Habibullah Smrity Sangsad**

A 21-member convening committee of BD Habibullah Smrity Sangsad was formed recently with Commissioner of Taxation ASM Abdul Aziz as convenor and Syed Haroon-Rashid as member-secretary, reports BSS. General Manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank MA Yusuf and advocate Fakhrul Islam were elected as joint convenors. A meeting was held recently at a local restaurant with ASM Abdul Aziz in the chair to form the sangsad. The meeting was addressed, among others, by elder son of BD Habibullah and former managing director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Amanullah, and general manager of Bangladesh Krishi Bank MA Yusuf, advocate Fakhrul Islam, advocate Nizamul Haque Nasim, Advocate Abdur Rab Munshi, Advocate Soflar Rahman and advocate Golam Mohammad Chowdhury Alal.

**HERE and THERE**

Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad. Bangabandhu Ainjibi Parishad yesterday paid glowing tributes to the memory of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and described him as the architect of the War of Liberation, reports BSS. The members of the parishad at a discussion, held at the Supreme Court Bar Hall in observance of Bangabandhu's home-coming day, recalled his (Bangabandhu's) contribution for emancipation of the country from colonial exploitation and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. Presided over by presidium member of the parishad Sudangshu Shekar Haldar, the meeting was addressed, among others, by General Secretary Laikuzzaman, Deputy Attorney General Barrister Nikhilesh Duttia, Amjad Hossain, Barrister Shaunsur Rahman, advocate Sirajul Islam Khan and Barrister Shamsuddin Chowdhury Mank. The parishad in a resolution decided to place wreaths at the portrait of Sheikh Mujib at the Bangabandhu Bhaban at 7:45 am today.

**Compilation of Talim Hossain's works published**

The publication ceremony of the "Kavita Samagra", the 500-page complete works of poet Talim Hussain, was held in the city yesterday with participants paying respects to the elderly poet who has been suffering from various ailments for quite a long time, reports BSS. Litterateur Mafura Chowdhury, who is also the president of the "Poet Talim Hussain Trust", edited the compilation. Held in the National Museum Auditorium in the morning yesterday, the publication ceremony was addressed, among others, by Prof. Ashraf Siddique, Prof. Anisuzzaman, Prof. Muniruzzaman, Shahed Ali, Siddiqui Rahman, Prof. Abdul Mannan Syed and Mafura Chowdhury. The participants observed that poet Talim Hussain now in his eighties, started writing in the late thirties and recognised as a creative genius he is also a great humanist. He also said that though the poet held a different socio-political view and devoted his pen to reflect his beliefs, he had changed his beliefs with the changing need of time like many great people did. The "Kavita Samagra" of Talim Hussain includes all his poems and most of his songs. The meeting was told that the complete prose collection of Talim Hussain will also be published soon.

**3 held with counterfeit notes in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: Kotwali police seized 43 counterfeit five hundred Taka notes and arrested three people in this connection from a hotel room at Station Road today, reports BSS. Police on suspicion raided the room of one Iqbal boarding at Station Road, searched three other boarders and found the counterfeit notes. Police also recovered a small quantity of heroin from the room. Cases have been filed with Kotwali police against those arrested.

**CUTA reports BSS call on VC**

CHITTAGONG, Jan 9: The newly elected office bearers of the Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) today called on Vice-Chancellor of the university Prof Abdul Mannan at the latter's office, a university press release said, reports BSS.

**One crushed under wheels of truck**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: A man was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Kaddiamore on the link road in the western side of Bangabandhu Bridge here today, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Motiul Islam (40) of Khoksara village in Sadar thana and an employee of Roads and Highways Department office here. Police said a speedy truck crushed Motiul at about 10:30 am when he was waiting for bus. He was rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and died there at about 12 noon. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

**Head of Iraqi intelligence in E Europe defects?**

CAIRO, Jan 9: An Arabic newspaper says the head of Iraqi intelligence in eastern Europe has defected to a West European country, reports AP. Jaber Salim, 43, who was officially a consul in the Iraqi Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic, has asked for political asylum—possibly in Germany or Britain, the independent newspaper Azzaman reported in its early Saturday edition. The report could not be confirmed. Spokesmen of the German foreign and interior ministries in Bonn said late Friday they knew nothing about an Iraqi defector. A spokesman for the British Foreign office in London said it was not policy to comment on intelligence matters. The London-published Azzaman quoted diplomatic sources in Prague as saying that Salim—who ran Iraqi intelligence in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia—could have defected with Iraqi code ciphers. "Salim was responsible for the code ciphers of the Iraqi embassies and their secret documents, and information indicates he has taken (the code ciphers) to the country to which he fled," the paper said. A copy of the report was faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo.

**Death anniversary of AMR Kabir today**

The 3rd death anniversary of former inspector general of police and adviser to the non-party interim government and a prominent social worker Alamgir MA Kabir will be observed today, says a press release. Prayers and *fateha* will be offered in graveyards of Begum Tahera Kabir and Alamgir MA Kabir at 3 in the afternoon. A discussion meeting and a *milad ma'jidi* has been arranged in the central office of the Association for Correction and Social Reclamation at 2/B North East Darus Salam Road, Mirpur (Near Section-1), Dhaka. Kabir was the President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, ACSR, Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Association for Mentally Retarded Children and president of many other organisations and institutions.

**5 frauds held in Sylhet**

SYLHET, Jan 9: Detective police arrested the leader of a notorious gang of frauds along with his four accomplices from Golapganj in last two days, reports APB. Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Ataur Rahman alias Karus Mia, the alleged leader of the gang, from a house at Senpara in the town on Wednesday. On the basis of his confessional statement, police later picked up four others—Mohammed Hanif, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Mohammed Faruq and Abu Syed Mia. Police also seized a microbus from their possession, they allegedly used the vehicle for cheating people they offered lift. The cheats would offer the passengers food or cigarettes mixed with poisonous substances that made them unconscious before looting their belongings on the way.



Hawkers brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting their eviction from Farm Gate area.

**Govt giving priority to health sector**

TANGAIL, Jan 9: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said here today that necessary directives had been given to strengthen the monitoring of the on going repair and reconstruction of roads damaged in the recent devastating flood, an official handout said, reports BSS. The minister was addressing a meeting of the health development committee of the district held in the conference room of Tangail Sadar Hospital. Yusuf said that the present government has been giving priority to the development of the health sector. He said the country would not be able to attain health for all by the year 2000 unless required development in the health sector took place. The Health Minister directed the administration to ensure improved health services to the door steps of the people in distress as the government was fully committed to serve the people at the grass-root levels. The meeting was also addressed, among others, by State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury and Abdul Latif Siddique. Concerned officials were present on the occasion. Earlier the Minister visited Tangail Sadar Hospital and went round different wards and talked to the patients about their welfare.

**Birth anniversaries of Jasimuddin, Zainul Abedin celebrated**

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday told the children to imbibe the spirit of patriotism and build the country utilising their talents, spirit and creativity, reports BSS. Speaking at a prize distribution ceremony on the occasion of the 84th birth anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin and 96th birth anniversary of poet Jasimuddin, Prof Sayeed asked the future generation of the country to project Bangladesh properly before the world. The state minister congratulated the winners of the painting and recitation competitions organised by Kendrio Kanchi Kanchar Mela. He went around to see the paintings displayed on the occasion. Prof Sayeed then distributed prizes among the winners of the competitions. Presided over by Director General of Bangla Academy Dr Syed Anwar Hossain the function was also addressed by Rakanuzzaman Khan (Dada Bhai).

RANGPUR, Jan 9: Five districts of greater Rangpur region have been gripped by severe cold wave for the past few days paralysing normal life. Mercury dipped below 11.2 degree Celsius in Rangpur while it was below 10 degree Celsius in Gaibandha, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Nilphamari districts. Deep fogs covered the entire region, particularly the situation becomes worse at night. The sky remained overcast. River craft and motorised vehicles were plying in the day keeping their head lights on and at night vehicular movements virtually come to a standstill due to deep fogs. The shivering cold brought untold suffering to the poor and people of low income group in particular as they hardly could go out of their houses in search of jobs. District administration already distributed warm clothes including blankets among the destitute. Deputy Commissioner of Rangpur Moazzem Hossain told BSS that huge quantity of relief materials have been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

**Cold wave grips greater Rangpur region**

opportunity to their higher studies here. The minister said the present government is striving hard to establish the country's economy on firm footings through developing the lot of the downtrodden. The main objective of the present government is to develop the lot of elderly, distressed, unemployed and floating people," he said. Tofail Ahmed blasted some opposition political parties saying while in power they not only adopted unfair means in elections but also plundered the money sanctioned for development activities. The Commerce Minister said distribution of VGF cards among 4.8 million families after the devastating flood, introduction of elderly allowance and allowances for distressed women, disbursement of agricultural and house building loans, and the Asrayan project have created a ray hope among the country's toiling masses. District AL leaders Fazlul Quader Monju, Abdul Monim Tulu, Ehsanur Rahman Mollah and Abul Quasem, were among others, attended the meetings.

**Haksar remembered as a friend of Bangladesh**

PN Haksar, the Indian lawyer-turned-diplomat, who played an important role during Bangladesh's Liberation War as a close aide of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, was remembered yesterday at a memorial meeting, reports BSS. Haksar died recently in New Delhi of Cancer at 85. He had also lost his eye sight due to failing health in his last years. The speakers at the meeting were unanimous that Haksar, who was closely associated with the policy planning matters of Indian government as regards to Bangladesh's Liberation War, was a genuine friend of the country and his contribution to the successful culmination of Bangladesh's Liberation War was simply invaluable. Organised by the "Centre for Research on the Liberation War", the discussion was chaired by Dr Khan Sarwar Mursheed and speakers included Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak Gono, former chief and former foreign minister Dr Kamal Hossain, National Awami Party President Professor Muzaffar Ahmed, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Ziaul Huq Tulu and Monaem Sarker.

**Compilation of Talim Hossain's works published**

Small boys, escorted by their mother, go through a selection of *Eid* cards to buy something for their friends. Exchange of cards during *Eid* is a quite popular trend these days. —Star photo

**One crushed under wheels of truck**

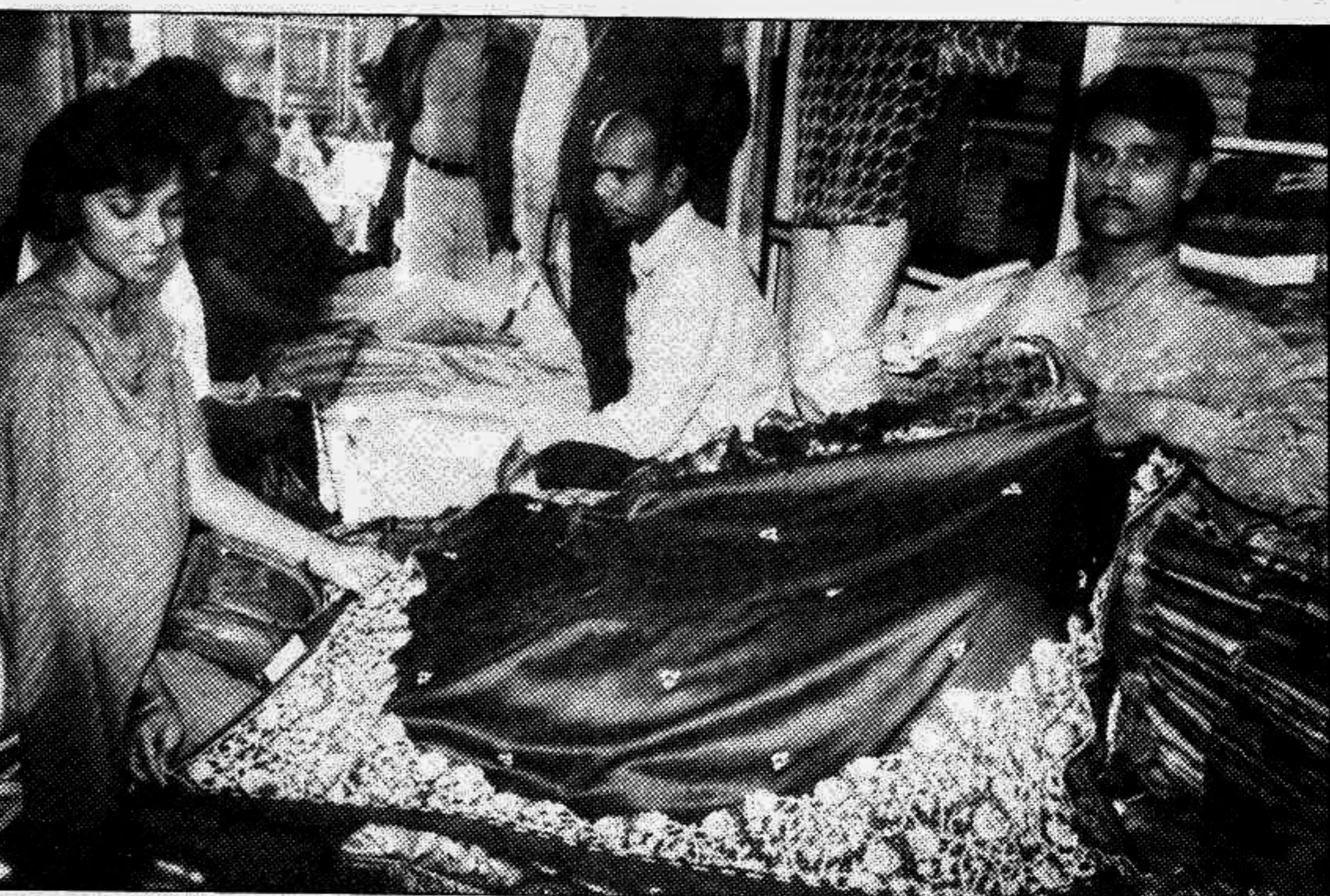
SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: A man was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Kaddiamore on the link road in the western side of Bangabandhu Bridge here today, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Motiul Islam (40) of Khoksara village in Sadar thana and an employee of Roads and Highways Department office here. Police said a speedy truck crushed Motiul at about 10:30 am when he was waiting for bus. He was rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and died there at about 12 noon. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

**Head of Iraqi intelligence in E Europe defects?**

CAIRO, Jan 9: An Arabic newspaper says the head of Iraqi intelligence in eastern Europe has defected to a West European country, reports AP. Jaber Salim, 43, who was officially a consul in the Iraqi Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic, has asked for political asylum—possibly in Germany or Britain, the independent newspaper Azzaman reported in its early Saturday edition. The report could not be confirmed. Spokesmen of the German foreign and interior ministries in Bonn said late Friday they knew nothing about an Iraqi defector. A spokesman for the British Foreign office in London said it was not policy to comment on intelligence matters. The London-published Azzaman quoted diplomatic sources in Prague as saying that Salim—who ran Iraqi intelligence in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia—could have defected with Iraqi code ciphers. "Salim was responsible for the code ciphers of the Iraqi embassies and their secret documents, and information indicates he has taken (the code ciphers) to the country to which he fled," the paper said. A copy of the report was faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo.

**Death anniversary of AMR Kabir today**

The 3rd death anniversary of former inspector general of police and adviser to the non-party interim government and a prominent social worker Alamgir MA Kabir will be observed today, says a press release. Prayers and *fateha* will be offered in graveyards of Begum Tahera Kabir and Alamgir MA Kabir at 3 in the afternoon. A discussion meeting and a *milad ma'jidi* has been arranged in the central office of the Association for Correction and Social Reclamation at 2/B North East Darus Salam Road, Mirpur (Near Section-1), Dhaka. Kabir was the President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, ACSR, Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Association for Mentally Retarded Children and president of many other organisations and institutions.



Eid shopping gaining momentum as a large number of prospective buyers crowding city markets even though prices are often out of their reach. A salesman at a shop in New Market seen here displaying a silk embroidered saree to prospective buyers. —Star photo

**People urged to remain alert Opposition out to grab power thru' conspiracy: Tofail**

BHOLA, Jan 9: Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed called upon the people to remain alert against the conspiracy being hatched by the opposition parties, reports UNB. While the world leaders are appreciating the development activities of the government, the opposition parties are out to grab power through conspiracy," said the minister in separate public meetings here today. Tofail Ahmed inaugurated an ideal village at Shantirhat and Bankerhat Cooperative School and College at Bheruria, and laid foundation stone of a road at Bapta. Fifty landless families, who lost homesteads in river erosion, got homesteads at the Shantirhat ideal village. About 600 landless families have so far been rehabilitated in the district under the 'Ideal Village Project'. Besides, 2,000 more families will be rehabilitated in different thanas under Asrayan and Ideal Village projects, the minister said. After completion of the college at a cost of Tk 39 lakh, students of the school would get

**2 killed, 10 hurt in accidents in Mymensingh**

MYMENSINGH, Jan 9: Two people were killed and another 10 injured in separate accidents in the district today, reports UNB. The victims were identified as Shafig (30) and Hamid Ali (30). Hamid was killed and nine others injured on a head-on collision between a truck and a tempo at Lengra Bazar on Mymensingh-Tangail road today at around 1.00 pm. All the injured were travelling on board the three-wheeler, popularly known as a tempo. Meanwhile, a construction worker was killed and another one injured when they fell under the debris of an old building at Kalbari road in the town today. Police said they fall under the debris when a group of workers, including the victims, were demolishing the old building. Seriously injured Shafig (30) was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

**For Tk 6 only Desperate muggers stalk a vendor for just taka six in the city's Pikhana area yesterday, reports APB.**

Hospital sources said two snatchers waylaid Abdur Rahim, a poor vendor, in front of Pikhana BDR Gate No. 2 while he was going to Azimpur with his wares by a rickshaw at about 2 pm. Presuming that Rahim was carrying a good amount of money, the snatchers stopped him but were enraged as they found only Taka six after searching his body. The miscreants then knifed him and snatched the money before disappearing. The vendor was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

**Rwandan justice minister resigns, leaves country**

KIGALI, Rwanda, Jan 9: Rwanda's justice minister, Faustin Ntezayayo, has resigned and left the country, the second Hutu Cabinet member to do so in a month. Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigema said Friday, reports AP. In a resignation letter, Ntezayayo said he left for North Carolina in the United States to "pursue his studies." Recently, influential groups of Tutsi genocide survivors have accused Ntezayayo of protecting those Hutus imprisoned on charges of taking part in a 1994 massacre. The Tutsis say Ntezayayo deliberately misplaced files of the accused in an effort to derail their prosecutions. More than 500,000 minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutu were slaughtered by former Hutu soldiers and militiamen.

**One crushed under wheels of truck**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: A man was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Kaddiamore on the link road in the western side of Bangabandhu Bridge here today, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Motiul Islam (40) of Khoksara village in Sadar thana and an employee of Roads and Highways Department office here. Police said a speedy truck crushed Motiul at about 10:30 am when he was waiting for bus. He was rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and died there at about 12 noon. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

**Head of Iraqi intelligence in E Europe defects?**

CAIRO, Jan 9: An Arabic newspaper says the head of Iraqi intelligence in eastern Europe has defected to a West European country, reports AP. Jaber Salim, 43, who was officially a consul in the Iraqi Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic, has asked for political asylum—possibly in Germany or Britain, the independent newspaper Azzaman reported in its early Saturday edition. The report could not be confirmed. Spokesmen of the German foreign and interior ministries in Bonn said late Friday they knew nothing about an Iraqi defector. A spokesman for the British Foreign office in London said it was not policy to comment on intelligence matters. The London-published Azzaman quoted diplomatic sources in Prague as saying that Salim—who ran Iraqi intelligence in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia—could have defected with Iraqi code ciphers. "Salim was responsible for the code ciphers of the Iraqi embassies and their secret documents, and information indicates he has taken (the code ciphers) to the country to which he fled," the paper said. A copy of the report was faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo.

**Death anniversary of AMR Kabir today**

The 3rd death anniversary of former inspector general of police and adviser to the non-party interim government and a prominent social worker Alamgir MA Kabir will be observed today, says a press release. Prayers and *fateha* will be offered in graveyards of Begum Tahera Kabir and Alamgir MA Kabir at 3 in the afternoon. A discussion meeting and a *milad ma'jidi* has been arranged in the central office of the Association for Correction and Social Reclamation at 2/B North East Darus Salam Road, Mirpur (Near Section-1), Dhaka. Kabir was the President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, ACSR, Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Association for Mentally Retarded Children and president of many other organisations and institutions.

**2 killed, 10 hurt in accidents in Mymensingh**

MYMENSINGH, Jan 9: Two people were killed and another 10 injured in separate accidents in the district today, reports UNB. The victims were identified as Shafig (30) and Hamid Ali (30). Hamid was killed and nine others injured on a head-on collision between a truck and a tempo at Lengra Bazar on Mymensingh-Tangail road today at around 1.00 pm. All the injured were travelling on board the three-wheeler, popularly known as a tempo. Meanwhile, a construction worker was killed and another one injured when they fell under the debris of an old building at Kalbari road in the town today. Police said they fall under the debris when a group of workers, including the victims, were demolishing the old building. Seriously injured Shafig (30) was rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

**For Tk 6 only**

Desperate muggers stalk a vendor for just taka six in the city's Pikhana area yesterday, reports APB. Hospital sources said two snatchers waylaid Abdur Rahim, a poor vendor, in front of Pikhana BDR Gate No. 2 while he was going to Azimpur with his wares by a rickshaw at about 2 pm. Presuming that Rahim was carrying a good amount of money, the snatchers stopped him but were enraged as they found only Taka six after searching his body. The miscreants then knifed him and snatched the money before disappearing. The vendor was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

**Rwandan justice minister resigns, leaves country**

KIGALI, Rwanda, Jan 9: Rwanda's justice minister, Faustin Ntezayayo, has resigned and left the country, the second Hutu Cabinet member to do so in a month. Prime Minister Pierre Celestin Rwigema said Friday, reports AP. In a resignation letter, Ntezayayo said he left for North Carolina in the United States to "pursue his studies." Recently, influential groups of Tutsi genocide survivors have accused Ntezayayo of protecting those Hutus imprisoned on charges of taking part in a 1994 massacre. The Tutsis say Ntezayayo deliberately misplaced files of the accused in an effort to derail their prosecutions. More than 500,000 minority Tutsis and politically moderate Hutu were slaughtered by former Hutu soldiers and militiamen.

**One crushed under wheels of truck**

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 9: A man was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Kaddiamore on the link road in the western side of Bangabandhu Bridge here today, reports UNB. The victim was identified as Motiul Islam (40) of Khoksara village in Sadar thana and an employee of Roads and Highways Department office here. Police said a speedy truck crushed Motiul at about 10:30 am when he was waiting for bus. He was rushed to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital and died there at about 12 noon. A case was filed with the police in this connection.

**Head of Iraqi intelligence in E Europe defects?**

CAIRO, Jan 9: An Arabic newspaper says the head of Iraqi intelligence in eastern Europe has defected to a West European country, reports AP. Jaber Salim, 43, who was officially a consul in the Iraqi Embassy in Prague, Czech Republic, has asked for political asylum—possibly in Germany or Britain, the independent newspaper Azzaman reported in its early Saturday edition. The report could not be confirmed. Spokesmen of the German foreign and interior ministries in Bonn said late Friday they knew nothing about an Iraqi defector. A spokesman for the British Foreign office in London said it was not policy to comment on intelligence matters. The London-published Azzaman quoted diplomatic sources in Prague as saying that Salim—who ran Iraqi intelligence in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia—could have defected with Iraqi code ciphers. "Salim was responsible for the code ciphers of the Iraqi embassies and their secret documents, and information indicates he has taken (the code ciphers) to the country to which he fled," the paper said. A copy of the report was faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo.

**Death anniversary of AMR Kabir today**

The 3rd death anniversary of former inspector general of police and adviser to the non-party interim government and a prominent social worker Alamgir MA Kabir will be observed today, says a press release. Prayers and *fateha* will be offered in graveyards of Begum Tahera Kabir and Alamgir MA Kabir at 3 in the afternoon. A discussion meeting and a *milad ma'jidi* has been arranged in the central office of the Association for Correction and Social Reclamation at 2/B North East Darus Salam Road, Mirpur (Near Section-1), Dhaka. Kabir was the President of Bangladesh Diabetic Association, ACSR, Bangladesh Family Planning Association, Association for Mentally Retarded Children and president of many other organisations and institutions.