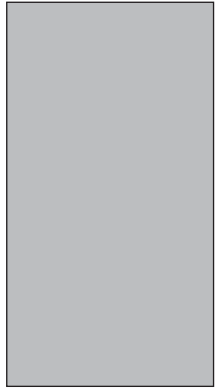


## Star Magazine



Eleven years ago, a small group of people decided to undertake a mission. The group members were frustrated by the western media's apathetic portrayal of Bangladesh as a 'land of disasters' with no redeeming features. Drik Picture Library was founded with the goal to redefine the image of Bangladesh through responsible photojournalism. This week's cover story focuses on Drik's remarkable journey into the world of photojournalism.

## BCL activist shot dead in Laxmipur

LAXIMIPUR, Jan 10: A BCL activist was gunned down by armed assailants at North Joypur in Sadar upazila on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Zahidul Islam Selim, 20, a student of Chittagong Commerce College and Literature Secretary of the college students union.

Police said the assailants opened fire on Selim while he was returning home from a bazar at about 8 pm.

Leaders and workers of Awami League and Chhatra League brought out a procession in the town today demanding immediate arrest of the killers.

At a press conference in the afternoon, district Awami League president AKM Shahjahan Kamal demanded arrest of the assailants by January 31. He announced that party activists would submit a memorandum and lay siege to the offices of Deputy Commissioner and Police Super on January 14.

## Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex opens

TUNGIPARA, Jan 10: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here today opened Bangabandhu Mausoleum Complex, reports UNB.

"The killers of the father of the nation wanted to erase his name from the history of Bangladesh. But he lives in the minds of the people," she said in an emotion-choked voice while addressing a gathering at an amphitheater (open-air theater) built in the complex.

The complex constructed on 38.30 acres of land at a cost of Tk 17.88 crore includes a 46-foot high white-stone tomb on the grave of Bangabandhu and a public plaza named the public court at a distance of 500 yards.

The public court houses the amphitheater, a research centre, library, mosque, cafeteria, and a big open square for the public. The two squares were connected with a stone built road with trees and flower plants.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed had laid the foundation of the com-

plex on Bangabandhu's birthday on March 17 in 1999.

"The mausoleum of the father of the nation will inspire generations after generations to fight all injustices and build a strong nation" said Hasina.

The Prime Minister reached her ancestral home at about 10.15 am and unveiled the plaque of the mausoleum complex at its main gate marking Bangabandhu's Homecoming Day today. She also joined a munajat on the occasion.

Hasina then placed wreath on the grave of Bangabandhu and stood in solemn silence for some time.

A contingent drawn from three forces presented armed salute while army bugles were played. A munajat was also offered there for salvation of the departed soul of Bangabandhu and peace and progress of the country.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, chiefs of the three services, political leaders and people from different walks of life were present on the occasion.

Referring to the historic homecoming day, she said after nine months of captivity in Pakistani jail Bangabandhu returned home on this day and presented a guideline to the nation in his speech at historic Suhrawardy Udyan.

Hasina thanked all concerned for completing the work of the complex in time and for making a beautiful complex surrounding the mazar of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

State Minister for Culture and Sports Obaidul Qader and the newly appointed chief of army staff Lt Gen Harunur Rashid also addressed the function. Engineering Chief Maj Gen Hafiz Molliq briefed the Prime Minister on the project, which was completed under the supervision of Military Engineers Services of Bangladesh Army.



More than 100 shanties were gutted in a fire at a slum at Kallarbagh in the city's Lalbagh area yesterday.

## Death threat to Kazi Farooq: Charge framed against Amini

By Court Correspondent

The Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday framed charges against Maulana Fazlul Haq Amini, secretary general of Islami Oikya Jote, in a criminal case.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abul Kashem framed charges under Section 500/506 of the Penal Code and fixed February 28 for cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses in the case.

The accused pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after hearing the charges brought against him.

Moulana Amini at a meeting at Brahmanbaria on April 19, 2000 had declared that Dr Kazi Farooq Ahmed of Proshika and other staff of the organisation would be killed at night.

See page 11 col 8

## Indo-Bangla JRC meet tomorrow

Indian Minister for Water Resources Arjun Charan Sethi will arrive in Dhaka today, leading a 13-member delegation to take part in the 34th meeting of Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission, reports BSS.

Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak will receive the delegation at Zia International Airport.

Official talks between the two sides will begin tomorrow at the State Guest House, Meghna.

The Secretaries of Water Resources Ministries of the two countries will assist their respective ministers in the talks.

The last JRC meeting was held in India in 1999.

## Businessman shot dead, another killed in shoot-out with police

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were murdered in the city yesterday.

A gang of five unidentified gunmen shot dead a businessman and injured a college student at Mosque Lane in front of Mina House near Arjatpara Jam-e-Mosque under Mohakhali police station at around 11 am, hospital sources quoting witnesses said.

The deceased was identified as Aminul Islam Chumnu, 40, of 75 Arjatpara at Mohakhali. The injured Dipu, 27, is a final year student of Management of Dhaka College was released from DMCH after first aid.

A case was filed with Tejgaon police station in this regard but none was arrested till filing of this report last night.

In another incident, an alleged criminal was killed in a shoot-out with police at Matidanga Manikdi in the city's Cantonment area in the early hours of yesterday.

## Four-yr-old boy chargesheeted in criminal case

NILPHAMARI, Jan 10: A four-year-old boy, under warrant of arrest in a criminal case, was granted bail by a magistrate when his father took him to the court today, reports UNB.

The boy, Lebu Mia, and eight others were sued by Kechua Mahmud, an influential person, of village Kachukata under sadar upazila, in November.

Police sub-inspector Ekabbar Ali submitted the chargesheet against all nine accused without spot investigation and secured warrant for their arrest from the court.

Atiar Rahman, father of the boy, was worried that his son may be arrested any day. So he took Lebu and appeared before the court this morning and prayed for his bail.

The magistrate and the lawyers in the court were surprised and wondered how police could show such a minor boy as an accused in the case.

Eight other accused in the case had earlier secured bail from the court.

It was not known if the magistrate has taken any action against the police officer for filing chargesheet against the minor boy in a criminal case and securing the warrant for his arrest.

## Arsenic mitigation programme Screening at 28 upazilas with local initiative

By Naimul Haq

The Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Co-operatives has initiated a new programme to screen arsenic patients, detect affected tube-wells and create community awareness about the deadly consequences of arsenic contamination.

The first such comprehensive arsenic programme, launched early December last year, aims at implementing screening activities with local initiatives covering each of the 28 selected upazilas. It will be followed by mitigation activities towards ensuring safe drinking water to the affected community. Twelve more upazilas would come under the screening programme as soon as the first phase is completed.

The International Development Agency (IDA) envisages active involvement of the union parishad, ward commissions, upazila administration and health officials, and also the Department of Public Health and Engineering (DPHE). DPHE engineers would be in charge

of monitoring the supervisory activities at various levels.

According to the latest figures, around 9,000 people with severe arsenic-related ailments including cancer have been identified in 500 villages since 1997. More than one-third of tube-wells surveyed by the Dhaka Community Hospital in

association with Jadavpur University of Calcutta in 59 districts was found contaminated with arsenic.

Water extracted from some of those tube-wells contained 300 to 400 times more than the level consumable by human.

See page 11 col 3

## AAPP confce in Phnom Penh from Jan 22

A five-day-long conference of the Asian parliamentarians will begin in Cambodia on January 22, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the founder-President of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), will attend the conference in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh.

The King of Cambodia, Preah Bat Samdech Preah Norodom Sihanouk, is expected to inaugurate the conference entitled "Building Sustainable Peace and Democracy for the New Millennium: A Challenge for Parliamentarians".

Some 22 countries have, so far, confirmed their participation in the meet of the lawmakers from both

ruling and opposition sides.

Briefing newsmen at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday afternoon, Secretary General of the AAPP Kazi Muhammad Munzur-i-Mowla said five other non-member countries Bhutan, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Japan are expected to join the general assembly of the forum.

A four-member delegation which includes three parliament members and the Secretary General of AAPP is expected to attend the meeting from Bangladesh.

The AAPP was formally launched on September 4, 1999 after delegates attending the

See page 11 col 6

## Series of tremors in Tanzania: 140 houses collapse

DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania, Jan 10: A series of earthquakes that continue to rock southwestern Tanzania have destroyed at least 140 houses and left scores of people homeless, officials said Wednesday, reports AP.

No one was killed in the earthquakes that have occurred over the past several weeks around volcanic Mount Rungwe, 600 kilometres (372 miles) southwest of Dar es Salaam, said district commissioner Abedi Mwinymisa. But residents now sleep outside their homes, fearing for their safety after walls made of concrete blocks and baked mud bricks have crumbled and crashed down.

Others living in the rural farming region have moved in with relatives and friends living in safe areas, he said.

The magnitude of the earthquakes has not been measured, indicating they have not been strong enough to cause severe damage. An earthquake with a magnitude of 6 or

more can cause severe damage.

"The tremors have been continuing over the past month, growing in strength with the passage of time and causing a state of insecurity among residents," Mwinymisa told The Associated Press in a telephone interview.

Authorities are now assessing the damage and the need for emergency relief in the area, regional commissioner Matteo Qaresi said.

Six villages close to the dormant volcanic mountain have borne the brunt of the tremors, Qaresi said from Mbeya, 625 kilometres (388 miles) southwest of Dar es Salaam.

"The area is within the Rift Valley where seismic activity is common over a wide area, mostly unnoticed by residents," he said.

The Rift Valley, part of the most extensive rift on the Earth's surface, extends 6,400 kilometres south from Jordan along the eastern edge of Africa to Mozambique.

Tremor

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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