

One dies in Ctg road accident

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A meritorious student of Motijheel Government High School of Dhaka was killed in a road mishap at Sitakunda upazila in Chittagong on Saturday evening.

The victim Md Ashrafal Alam Jewel, 14, was a class nine student of science group and the first boy of his class, sources said.

According to family sources, Ashrafal was standing beside Dhaka-Chittagong Road in front of RR Textile Mills at Sitakunda when a Chittagong-bound inter-city passenger bus knocked him at around 6.00pm.

Ashrafal, son of Md Shah Alam of Durgapur under Mirer Sarai upazila, died on way to hospital, sources added.

Meanwhile, another youth was electrocuted while preserving foods in a refrigerator of a fast food shop on Saturday midnight at Olonker area under Pahartoli thana in the city.

The victim Monir Hossain, 20, was an employee of the shop, sources said.



Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain offers prayers after inaugurating the 'National Institute of Kidney Diseases and Urology' at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

Nat'l Institute of Kidney Diseases inaugurated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Institute of kidney Diseases and Urology, an educational institute and hospital, was inaugurated at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday.

The specialised hospital, first of its kind in the country, will perform about 120 kidney transplants a year and 2,500 urological operations.

The 116-bed hospital will also offer outdoor consultation services to around 300 patients every day. It has also the facilities for dialysis.

Inaugurating the Institute, Health Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said it would be built up as an academic institution of international standard and if necessary the ministry may consider turning it into an autonomous body.

State Minister for Health Mizanur Rahman Sinha, Health Secretary A F M Sarwar Kamal, Vice-Chancellor of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Prof. MA Hadi, Director General of Health Dr Mizanur Rahman, Bangladesh Medical Association Secretary General Dr A Z M Zahid Hossain and Director of the institute Dr Md Jahangir Kabir also spoke.

BUET admission test results published

UNB, Dhaka

Results of the admission test of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) for 2003-04 session was published yesterday.

Out of 3,774 candidates, 1,497 were selected for admission.

The successful students have to undergo medical test.

The admission process will begin on January 6 and end on January 22.

Hasina visits houses of army officers killed in plane crash

UNB, Dhaka

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited the houses of Lt. Col. SM Shamsul Arefin, Capt. M Raqibul Hasan and Capt. M Abdul Mabud who died in an air crash in Benin.

The Awami League president met the family members of the late valiant officers and expressed deep sympathies for their bereaved family members.

Hasina spent some time with the family members of the army personnel and prayed for the salvation of their departed souls. During her visit, she offered Maghreb prayers at the residence of Capt. Mabud.

Maj. Gen. (ret'd) Tareq Ahmed Siddiqui and assistant secretary of sub-committee Khalid Mahmud Chowdhury accompanied the AL President.

Fifteen Bangladeshi peacekeepers killed on Thursday when a plane, carrying 161 people, crashed off the West African nation of Benin. The Bangladeshi peacekeepers, including a lieutenant colonel, six majors, seven captains and one senior warrant officer, were returning home on leave.

New Year's Eve party at hotel Sonargaon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

RainbowForest presents a Countdown and Happy New Year's Eve Party at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel on December 31.

The DJ Group of Japan will perform at the party which will continue till 5.00am of first January starting from 9.00pm of December 31.

The DJ's line up includes Kei, Masa and Tom of Japan and M A Salam, a Bangladeshi who has been living in Japan for last 15 years.

Some other DJs are also expected to take part in the events that include dance and ambient, progressive, techno, trance and mix music.

Tickets are available at Sonargaon Lobby, Jazz Café at Navana Tower in Gulshan-1, and different outlets of Hallmarks in the city.

Navy to be made 3-dimensional force: Khaleda

UNB, Chittagong

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday pledged to turn the navy into a three-dimensional force equipping it with modern equipment.

She was addressing the President's Parade at the Bangladesh Naval Academy at Patenga, marking the commissioning of the Alfa batch of midshipmen of Bangladesh Navy.

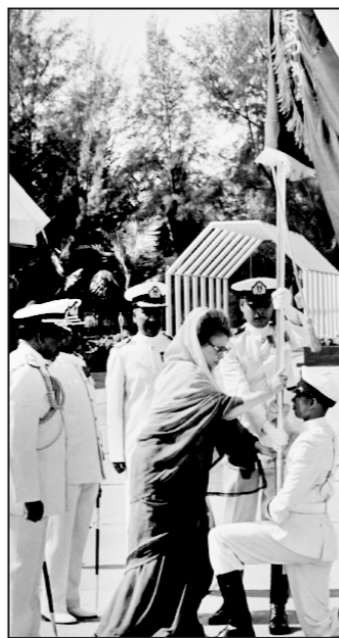
A total of 13 midshipmen and two midshipwomen were commissioned yesterday.

Khaleda appreciated and welcomed the women cadets who have come forward to take the challenging job of serving the armed forces.

She reminded the graduating cadets that they would have to safeguard the country's independence and sovereignty even at the cost of their blood.

To perform the responsibility, she said: "Patriotism, devotion, honesty and sincerity have to be reflected in all their activities."

Khaleda appreciated the Navy's role in guarding the country's maritime boundary, checking illegal fishing and smuggling in



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presents the National Standard to the Bangladesh Naval Academy at Patenga yesterday.

Bangladesh waters, and curbing terrorism.

She said the "Fisheries Week 2003 Gold Medal" awarded to the Navy and the success of the force in UN Missions had enhanced the prestige of the force.

She mentioned that the navy has got two OPV boats in the last two years and assured it of providing three more OPVs, two tug boats and two PKM boats for its modernisation and infrastructural development.

Other modern equipment would also be procured in keeping with the demand of time to enhance the efficiency of navy.

She also emphasised the need for modern training to groom skilled cadets and officers and said the Naval Academy is playing a very important role in this regard.

The prime minister expressed her deep shock at the tragic death of 15 officers and a junior commissioned officer of Bangladesh Army in a plane crash in West Africa on Thursday last.

Earlier, the prime minister reviewed a smartly turned out parade and took salute at the

impressive march past.

She also distributed trophies and medals among the outstanding midshipmen.

Midshipman Jubayer Ahmed was awarded the Coveted Sword of Honour as the best all-round midshipman. He also clinched the Osmani Gold Medal for his outstanding performance in academic subjects.

Midshipman Mohiuddin Mojumder received the gold medal of the Chief of Naval Staff for his feat in professional subjects.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Shah Iqbal Mujtaba received the prime minister on her arrival at the parade ground in a ceremonial motorcade.

The prime minister also presented National Standard to the Bangladesh Naval Academy in recognition of its invaluable services to the nation by producing naval officers of high professional competence.

Ministers, MPs, diplomats, senior civil and military officials, eminent educationists, local elite and guardians of the cadets attended the ceremony.

Constant dialogue important to remove misunderstanding

FM tells Indian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner-designate to Bangladesh Veena Sikri paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan at his office yesterday.

The foreign minister extended hearty welcome to the new Indian envoy and assured her of all cooperation during her tenure in Bangladesh.

He said Bangladesh and India are two friendly neighbouring countries and have many areas of common concern for cooperation.

He particularly mentioned enhancement of trade and cooper-

ation in the alleviation of poverty and said, "We must help each other to bring benefits to our peoples by further strengthening bilateral relations."

Morshed Khan said constant dialogue is very important to remove any misunderstanding. He assured to work together with Delhi on areas of common interests in regional and international fora.

The new Indian envoy thanked the foreign minister for warmly receiving her and his assurance of cooperation. She appreciated the sentiment for further deepening bilateral relations between the two countries.

Acting High Commissioner of India Dilip Sinha was present on the occasion.

Comilla Journalists Forum meets

The Dhaka-based Greater Comilla Journalists Forum approved its constitution with amendments at a meeting on Friday, with its President Syed Akhtar Yusuf, chief reporter of the Ittefaq, in the chair, says a press release.

The meeting discussed the preparations for reunion of the journalists hailing from greater Comilla to be held at the National Press Club on January 8.

65,932 tonnes of rice procured

UNB, Dhaka

Some 65,932 metric tons of rice and 5,678 tons of aman paddy have so far been procured by the government since the internal procurement began on November 15 across the country.

The procurement target had been set at 1.5 lakh tons of rice and 73,000 tons of paddy from the farmers at an incentive price of Tk 12.80 for rice and Tk8.40 for paddy per kilogram.

The procurement will continue till the end of February.

Reviewing the progress of procurement at a meeting with food officials at Mymensingh on Friday, Food Minister Abdullah Al Noman asked them for ensuring the incentive price to the growers and strictly maintaining quality of grains and reducing the goodowns loss.