

Plea to raise manpower of Narcotics Control Dept

Bangladesh Narcotics Inspectors' Welfare Association yesterday urged the government to increase the manpower of the Narcotics Control Department for controlling the use of narcotics, a press release said, reports BSS.

At a meeting the association demanded to set up 64 sub-zones in 64 districts and 460 circle offices in 460 thanas by increasing adequate manpower.

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Khaleda hosts iftar party for professionals

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday hosted an iftar party for the professionals at her official residence at 29 Minto Road here, reports BSS.

A large number of professionals including doctors, engineers, agriculturists and university teachers attended the party.

Following the iftar, the leaders of professional bodies held a meeting with Begum Zia and discussed various issues including election of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), activities of the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) and the problems of the agriculturists.

Those who attended the iftar included Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, Dr Aftabuddin Ahmed, Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Dr Shahjahan, Dr M A Majed, Abu Hena, Dr Nurul Islam, M A Samad, Javed Iqbal and Dr Shah Mohammad Faruque.

BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Mirza Abbas and Sadeq Hossain Khoka were also present.

17 hurt as buses collide head-on on Dhaka-Ctg road

CHITTAGONG, Dec 26: At least 17 persons were injured, seven of them critically in an accident between two passenger buses at Barabkunda under Sitakunda thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway today, reports BSS.

According to police and eye-witnesses, the accident occurred when a Chittagong-bound passenger bus from Luximpur reached Barabkunda, suddenly it collided head-on with another passenger bus coming from opposite direction. The front parts of both the vehicles were damaged.

Of the injured, seven passengers were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The condition of three passengers was stated to be critical by CMCH sources. Other injured were given treatment at Sitakunda Thana Health Complex.

Following the accident, road communications between Chittagong and Dhaka was disrupted for about two hours from 10 am today as workers of Ajax Jute Mills put a barricade on the road, reports BSS.

Two arrested with firearms

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested two people and recovered two revolvers from their possession in separate incident in the city on Friday.

They were identified as Jahangir Alam, 22 and Lablu, 27.

Acting on a tip-off, DB police conducted a raid on Three Star hotel at Maghbazar and arrested Jahangir.

In another drive Sutrapur police arrested Lablu from a tea stall at Sarat Gupta Road.

The arrested were engaged in different kinds of crimes like mugging and toll collection, police said.

Bikrampur Welfare Assoc holds iftar party

Bikrampur Welfare Association in Juraini hosted an iftar party yesterday, reports BSS.

Some 200 members of the association participated in the iftar mahfil in the house of president of the association Tozzel Hosseini (Lal Mia) and joined in the munajat for peace and prosperity of the country. Former Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam attended the party as chief guest.

Islam in his brief address said every one should try to enhance their relations with the people in the grassroots level and they should share the pains and sufferings of the common people through frequent visits to their localities.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party for the professionals at her official residence at Minto Road yesterday.

— Star photo

Inter-hall debate competition begins

By DU Correspondent

The six-day-long third Inter-Hall Debate Competition '98 began at the seminar room of Teacher and Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University yesterday.

Organised by Dhaka University Debating Society (DUDS), the event was inaugurated by Dr Shahid Uddin Ahmed, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the university.

Presided over by Mohammad Hazrat Ali Khan, the inaugural was addressed by Prof Mostafizur Rahman, Selina Chowdhury, Sheikh Mohammad Ali Rumi, Prasanta Bhushan Barua and Tariqul Islam Liton.

On the first day, Jagannath Hall, Poet Jashimuddin Hall, Ziaur Rahman Hall, Fazil Haq Hall and Haji Muhammad Moshin Hall participated in the competition.

Barricade on Jessore-Khulna highway

KHULNA, Dec 26: Plying of vehicles on Jessore-Khulna highway here remained suspended for about two hours from 10 am today as workers of Ajax Jute Mills put a barricade on the road, reports BSS.

The workshop was organised under the Project of Gender Issue (Discrimination) Guidance and Reproductive Health Education Programme for the Youth through youth clubs. UNFPA is sponsoring the project.

Members of some 400 youth organisations in 298 thanas

'Youth can play key role in ensuring reproductive health'

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader yesterday said the youth in the country will be able to play a pioneering role on issues relating to gender discrimination and ensure reproductive health if they are properly trained, reports BSS.

The present government has taken massive endeavours for development of women and breaking all past records establishing equal opportunities for both men and women in the workplace by empowering the women, he said.

The state minister was inaugurating a workshop titled 'Reproductive Health and Elimination of Gender Discrimination' in the conference hall of Juba Bhaban in the city.

Members of Bangladesh Rover Scouts and Girls Guides attended the workshop.

Director General of the Directorate for Youth Development Mohammad Fazil Haq and Project Director Capt (retd) M M Firoze also addressed the session.

The workshop was organised under the Project of Gender Issue (Discrimination) Guidance and Reproductive Health Education Programme for the Youth through youth clubs. UNFPA is sponsoring the project.

Members of some 400 youth organisations in 298 thanas

across 64 districts in the country would be trained about reproductive health and gender issues under this project in next four years.

According to project profiles, the women members of the selected youth clubs will be participating in health service, sanitation, environment conservation and community development activities.

BGMEA election Sammilita parishad office opens

The office of the Sammilita Parishad (combined council) was opened in the city yesterday on the eve of BGMEA election '99, reports APB.

Owners of over 200 export-oriented readymade garment factories gathered on the occasion at the Sonargaon road office, said a press release.

Second vice president of BGMEA Nurul Haq Sikder, vice president Tipu Munshi, vice president (Finance) KM Zaman Romel and other office-bearers Col (retd) Shahidullah, Kazi Mohammad Azizul Haq, Engineer Moyeen, Nazrul Islam Swapan, Hassan Abdullah, Mahiuddin and Mohammad Hatem Ali were present among others.

Khaleda-Ershad alliance interesting: Sayeed

State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed yesterday expressed his surprise at a statement made by Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia who said that she did not have any information whether Jatiya Party chairman Hussain Muhammad Ershad is a killer of President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

Giving his reaction to the statement of Begum Zia made at an iftar party launched for the journalists at her official residence at Minto Road on Thursday, the State Minister said that "her senses are not working and she has failed to recognise the killers of her husband as a part of her heinous strategy to go to power."

The State Minister said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a recent discussion with the members of the Overseas Correspondents Association of Bangladesh (OCAB) said that "it is greatly interesting to observe that Begum Zia, who earlier alleged that Ershad was the killer of Zia, has forged an alliance with Ershad to carry out anti-government movement."

Prof Sayeed said Begum Zia was making an evil effort to befool the people again through her traditional politics of double standard while refuting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's statement.

He said Begum Zia must have remembered that in the sixth death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman in 1987 she said "proper trial to the killing of Zia was not held - but the people know who were the beneficiaries of Zia killing".

The State Minister said "even after this when Begum Zia says there is no information to her knowledge whether Ershad is the killers of Zia — a natural question arises in the mind of people — for what mysterious invisible reasons Begum Zia does not want the trial of killing of Zia and why she wants to veil the killers."

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Sara Zaker, Subarna Mustafa and Shimul Yusuf have been awarded Lok Natyakarmi Padak 98. — Star photo

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