The Daily Star

Road accidents kill 5 in 3 dists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five people, including a college teacher, were killed and four others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh, Jhenidah and Feni vesterday. Of them, two were killed in

Mymensingh and Jhenidah each while one was killed in Feni

Our Mymensingh Correspondent reports: Two persons were killed and four others injured in a road accident at Mehrabri in Bhaluka upazila on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the early hours of vesterday.

Police said, the accident took place at around 1 am when a Dhaka-bound truck from Jamalpur fell into a road side ditch amid dense fog, killing two small traders on the spot and injuring four others. The truck was carrying vegetables.

The dead were identified as Faruk Hossain, 36, and Jamal Uddin, 50, both hailed from Jamalpur.

The injured people were given first aid. Police seized the truck, but its driver fled the scene.

Our Correspondent from Jhenidah adds: Two persons were

Hasina thanks govt of S Leone for making Bangla official language

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina vesterday thanked the government of Sierra Leone for declaring Bangla as one of the official languages.

"Certainly, Bangalee nation feels proud of this," she said in a message vesterday.

The former prime minister said the 21st February was declared as the International Mother Language Day by the United Nations for the initiative of Awami League government

"This international recognition created a scope for Bangla to attain more prestige and dignity," she added

Hasina said participation of the Bangladesh armed forces in the UN peacekeeping mission has helped earn fame for the country and brighten its image abroad.

She congratulated the members of the armed forces working for rebuilding Sierra Leone, the warravaged African country.

ADAB Sandwip polls FROM PAGE 1

killed in a road mishap near

Mobarakganj Sugar Mill in Kaliganj upazila yesterday afternoon. According to police and witnesses, the victims -- Ali Hossain, 28, and Subdul Ali, 30, were crushed under the wheels of a Jessore-bound speeding bus while crossing the road.

The bodies were sent to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital for autopsy. In Feni, a college teacher was killed in a road accident on Feni-

Parashuram road yesterday, according to BSS. Noor Mohammad, 34, a lecturer of Accounting Department of Hasanpur Shah Alam Chowdhury School and College, received serious injuries when a Parashuram-bound passenger bus

hit him on the road. He was crossing the road in front of the college campus at about 11 am The young teacher was taken to Feni hospital where he succumbed

to his injuries at noon. Victim Noor Mohammad, son of Suruj Miah, was a resident of Banspadua village under Parashuram upazila.

A case was lodged with the local police station in this connection. Driver of the vehicle fled the scene.

Emperor Akihito has prostate cancer: Report AFP, Tokyo

Doctors have discovered cancer cells in Japanese Emperor Akihito's prostate following a medical checkup, the news agency Jiji Press reported yesterday.

Akihito, who turned 69 last Monday, was hospitalised for one night for the checkup at the Imperial Household Agency hospital on his birthday and Tuesday.

Graft case FROM PAGE 12

Bazar and contractor Shahabuddin. The case was filed with the Cox's Bazar Sadar Police Station yester-The case in brief is that in 2000,

the six officials of the DPHE manipuated a tender for installing 870 deep tube wells in Cox's Bazar under a project financed by the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). All of them were then working at the DPHE Cox's Bazar office.

Through manipulation, they awarded the contract to a contractor of their choice. As a result, the government had incurred a loss of Tk 30.90 lakh

SUST students will stage demonstration on campus today

UNB, Sylhet

Students of the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) will stage a demonstration on the campus today protesting the class boycott programme by the teachers.

Sources said SUST Teachers Association has been observing the programme from December 15 to realise their three-point demand including appointment and promotion of teachers and remuneration for examination duties.

At a press conference at the Sylhet Press Club yesterday, the teachers urged the university authorities to fulfil their three-point demand. The teachers will also stage a sit-in demonstration on the campus today.

Talking to newsmen SUST Pro-VC Prof Musleh Uddin said former VC Habibur Rahman gave appointments to 63 teachers just before expiry of his tenure without getting permission from the University Grant Commission

least 55 people died.

FROM PAGE 12

date

assault groups to go to the region,

defence officials said. The orders, sent

in the last two days, require the Navy to

have the vessels ready to sail to the

seas around Irag within 96 hours after

a certain date in January, the officials

said, speaking on the condition of

anonymity. They did not specify that

of the carriers will be the USS George

Washington. The ship just arrived

home to Norfolk, Virginia, from the

Persian Gulf region and has remained

ready to return. The Navy has not yet

decided on the second carrier, but

officials said it will either be the Everett,

Wash.-based USS Abraham Lincoln,

which is currently in port at Perth,

Australia, having just left the Persian

Gulf region, or the USS Kitty Hawk,

includes six to eight surface escorts,

including cruisers, destroyers, frigates

and other vessels, dozens of strike

and support aircraft and about 7,500

An aircraft carrier battle group

currently in port in Japan.

has about 2.200 Marines.

The Navy has determined that one

He said these appointments created severe budget deficit to the university

After the incident, UGC imposed ban on appointing new teachers of the university.

He said Finance and Planing Minister M Saifur Rahman has sanctioned Tk one crore for development of the university and assured of allocating Tk one crore to meet the budget deficit

Nasim

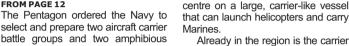
FROM PAGE 1 secretary - are yet to be announced.

The 26 central committee members whose names were announced yesterday are Mohammad Hanif, Mohammad Nasim, MP, Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Abu Sayeed, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, Abdul Latif Siddiqui, Shudangshu Shekhar Haldar, Mohammed Hanif, Rajiuddin Ahmed Razu, MP, AKM

Jahangir Hossain, MP, Monnuzan Sufian, Mirza Sultan Raza, Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury, Mosharraf Hossain, ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Talukdar Abdul Khaleq, MP, Mostafa Rashidi Suja, Mostafa Kamal Lotus, Md. Omar Ali, Md. Rahmatullah, Habibur Rahman Mollah, Fazle Rabbi Habibur Rahman Khan, Sharfuddin Ahmed Jhantu, Mostafizur Rahman

Fizer and Khairuzzaman Liton. Though many fresh faces were inducted in the new central working committee, some of the hopeful former student leaders failed to get into it. Of the former student leaders

who had worked in the anti-FROM PAGE 1 autocracy movement in 1980s, only that their workers are apparently Ashim Kumar Ukil and BM demoralised due to the party's Mozammel Hug could make it to the



US military buildup

NEWS

USS Constellation and the amphibious assault ship USS Nassau, and their escorts, officials said. The Nassau group carries another 2,200 Marines

A picture grabbed from Russian NTV television channel shows rescue workers at the scene of the destroyed

Chechen's pro-Russian administration headquarters in Grozny yesterday after a suicide bomb attack in which at

A fourth carrier group, centred on the USS Harry S. Truman, is in the Mediterranean Sea. In addition, the US Navy hospital

ship Comfort is expected to put to sea from its home port in Baltimore next week and prepare for action, military officials said Friday. It will be headed to Diego Garcia, a British island in the Indian Ocean where the United States bases numerous military aircraft, to support any potential conflict with Iraq. The 1,000-bed floating hospital will

initially sail with a crew of 61 civilian mariners and 225 Navy personnel, including enough doctors to support two operating rooms, said Marge Holtz, spokeswoman for the Navy's Military Sealift Command. Hundreds more will be flown to the ship as needed. she said.

Air Force officials said units from five U.S.-based combat wings have received orders to prepare to deploy. They include F-15 fighters from

Air Force Base, N.C.; B-1B bombers from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D.; rescue helicopters and Predator drones from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev.; and C-130 cargo planes and

possibly more rescue helicopters from Moody Air Force Base, Ga Air tankers and transport aircraft are also expected to take part, officials

said. Dozens of fighters already based in the Persian Gulf fly daily patrols over most of Iraq.

The size of the Army deployment was not clear, but it included infantry as well as support units, officials said. The Army also keeps air defence units in the region.

was expected to deploy troops from the 1st Armoured Division and 1st Infantry Division, both based in Germany, as well as an air mobile unit.

The main Marine Corps contingent is likely to be the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, based at Camp Pendleton, Calif. The 1st MEF's headquarters unit already has moved to Kuwait to prepare for combat opera-

A Coast Guard unit, based in Tacoma, Wash., that operates six small patrol boats has been deployed to the Persian Gulf, according to the

Chinese leadership reshuffle set for Mar

Communist Party and parliament is a mere rubber-stamp body.

Jiang is still calling the shots

Jiang has packed the party's all-

despite yielding the top party post to

powerful Politburo Standing

ommittee with allies and proteges

He also kept the top military post, the chairmanship of the party's

Central Military Commission

Analysts are divided over

whether Jiang would remain CMC

chairman only until the parliament

meeting next March, for two years

like his late mentor Deng Xiaoping

Jiang rose to the pinnacle of

(CMC).

REUTERS, Beijing

China will elect a new president premier and parliament chief in a sweeping reshuffle of the country's Xinhua news agency said on yes-

will also elect the country's top enary session which convenes on March 5, Xinhua said. It did not say week

and analysts have said parliament would elect outgoing Vice President Hu Jintao as president in place of Jiang Zemin, who must step down after the maximum two five-year terms.

Hu, who turns 60 this month succeeded Jiang, 76, as general secretary of the Communist Party in a generational change in the party leadership at its 16th congress in November -- the first orderly succession since the Communists swept to power in 1949.

been decided by the omnipotent

Defence deal'

FROM PAGE 1 meal defence cooperation involving various ministries and departments.

The minister categorically said that there was neither conflict nor clash of interests in the accord.

Asked if Bangladesh considers signing of SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) earlier proposed by the United States, he said this government did not get any such request.

About Bangladesh-India relationship, Morshed said Dhaka unilaterally continued its policy of cooperation with New Delhi although it was impeded at times. "India has now realised the need for cooperation." he said, referring to the planned meetings of some joint aroups of the two countries in different sectors.

"It's an economic compulsion not political for which the two closest neighbours should pursue the policy of cooperation," he said. "By and large, India has realised it now."

In an oblique reference to recent comments by India against Bangladesh, the minister said "Political statements don't always reflect the reality. We don't know if those utterances were made to

nearest province to Bangladesh, and Dhaka is also "under active consideration". Under the economic and technical cooperation. Bangladesh and China would interact more to remove trade imbalance, now heavily tilted towards China, he

Export expansion

FROM PAGE 12 The product diversification programme would also be taken in

the export promotion houses in India. On the other hand, the com-

Last week, officials said the Army

presidential system."

office of Sen. Patty Murray

sailors. An amphibious ready group The defence officials said the amphibious assault groups have not Langley Air Force Base, Va.; F-15E yet been selected. Those groups Strike Eagles from Sevmour Johnson DHAKA SUNDAY DECEMBER 29, 2002

leadership at the annual session of parliament next March, the official terday

The National People's Congress judge and prosecutor at its first when the meeting would end but previous sessions lasted for about a

or the full five years until the next Chinese and foreign sources party congress in 2007. power after the army crushed student-led demonstrations for democracy in Beijing's Tiananmen

Square on June 4, 1989, with heavy loss of life Hong Kong media have said Jiang's closest ally, Zeng Qinghong, 63, would be elected vice president. Another Jiang ally, Wu Bangguo, 61, is expected to be elected parlia ment chief, replacing Li Peng, who s reviled by critics for stamping out the Tiananmen protests and is

The personnel changes have retiring at 74.

resolve their internal problems." He also reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to work together with other neighbours including

Myanmar Earlier, the minister described other aspects of the prime minister's

China visit, which he said would also expand economic cooperation. When queried, the minister, who accompanied Khaleda to China,

said efforts would be made to form a growth guadrangle encompassing the Chinese province of Yunnan Myanmar, seven northeastern states of India and Bangladesh under the Kunming Initiative. He said a direct air link between

Yunnan and Dhaka or Chittagong

would be established "soon" to have

a greater access to the Chinese

market. A road link between

Kunming, the capital of China's

FROM PAGE 12

could exercise their franchise freely. Besides, army personnel will assist the law-enforcing agencies.

The meeting asked the lawenforcing agencies to take stern action against the violators of election rules and arrangements to protect the life and property of the voters before and after the election.

The election of the Sandwip Pourasava will be held on January 7, 2003. Ten candidates are running for chairman while 54 are vying for the posts of commissioner.

The total number of voters of the Sandwip Pourasava are 26,759 including 13,657 female voters.

Hadith bldg **FROM PAGE 12** the foundation mosque, was miss-

ing since the incident. They also said an influential BNP leader in league with the local police was behind the occupation of the building which occurred in the presence of Dr. Asadullah Al Galib, a local leader of Ahle Hadith Foundation, Bangladesh. Galib was recently dismissed from his post of director of the foundation.

Principal Majibur Rahman, member secretary of the foundation, told journalists yesterday evening that a case will be filed soon in this regard.

Tarajuddin murder FROM PAGE 12

influenced by some unknown political people, submitted the chargesheet against Dipu and the two others to harass them politically though no witness was found to prove any allegation against them.

He also said that he was "forced" to give his signature in a naraji petition and vokalatnama prepared by "police-appointed" lawyers to include the names of Dipu and the two others though those were dropped from an earlier chargesheet submitted on July 9 last year.

After submission of that naraji petition, the court on April 22 ordered further investigation into the murder without hearing his statement, the complainant said in his affidavit.

Of the accused, Dipu Chowdhury and 21 others are now in jail custody while Khorshed is still at large.

Advocate Shamsud Ahmed Nilu moved the petition on behalf of the complainant.

pendence of NGOs. He (Abed) had showed a positive attitude, but later he along with some NGOs resigned from ADAB, the statement said. Since his resignation, the NNCC

has been engaged in making "false, fabricated and motivated" statements to tarnish the image of ADAB and to destroy it, it alleged. It claimed that only 32 organisa-

tions out of 1501 have so far resigned from ADAB, which is only two percent of its total members. Despite their "anti-NGO activities and conspiracy against ADAB", no action has yet been taken against them. Rather, the ADAB continued its efforts to reach an understanding.

ABAD hopes that good sense would prevail upon the "dissident" NGOs and they would refrain from "anti-NGO activities", the statement said.

Tinni's killer FROM PAGE 12

He was shown an arrestee in the murder case on December 24. The CID yesterday pleaded with the First Class Magistrate's Court to place him on a seven-day remand. However, a hearing on the remand prayer is slated for December 30.

Meanwhile, lawyers for Tinni's husband Shafkat Hossain Piyal yesterday appealed for his bail to the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka. The court fixed

January 1 for a hearing. Piyal has been rejected bail five times since he surrendered to the police on November 16. The appeal was made against the rejection of his bail prayer by the First Class Magistrate's Court.

Keraniganj police recovered Tinni's body bearing injury marks from under the Buriganga Bridge on November 11. Four days later, still unclaimed, the body was handed over to the Anjuman Mufidul Islam, a charity, for burial.

The murder came to light when Tinni's family members identified the body seeing her photograph in newspapers. Keraniganj police handed over the case to the CID on November 23. The CID exhumed Tinni's body from Jurain graveyard in the city on November 25 for a second autopsy.

Police have so far interrogated 17 people, including film star Manna and actor Tamalika Karmakar according to a list of 80. The list includes 24 models -- all somehow or other acquainted with Tinni and Ovi

new committee. Other hopefuls including Shafi Ahmed (currently in iail), Ahmed Hossain, SM Kamal Hossain. Shahe Alam were left out

in the cold. Yesterday's adjourned meeting of the AL presidium, though scheduled to be held at the Bangabandhu Avenue party headquarters, was shifted to Dhanmondi office at the

last moment to avoid crowd. Unawares, a large number of party men crowded the AL headquarters since early yesterday afternoon to know the names of the new leaders of the party's central committee.

Manpower

FROM PAGE 1 own ministries However, the government deci-

sion to recruit would not be easy in the face of constant pressure from the donors to downsize the government, according to sources.

Also, a government appointed commission on public expenditure recently recommended cutting down the size of the government, adding that there are many government departments which do not have any function and therefore, the officials and employees there are already redundant.

Earlier, the Public Administration Reforms Commission formed during the Awami League regime pointed out that although the government is overstaffed, there are some important positions and departments where the government has to recruit more people

LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Law Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Industries Minister MKAnwar, Posts and

Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haque, Housing and Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Liberation War Affairs Redwan Ahmed, among others, attended the meeting.

Octane use

FROM PAGE 12 Technology, said, "We tend to import the cheapest equipment from abroad to reduce the cost. If the engines get damaged due to CNG use, there must be some reasons.'

The drivers in India, Sri Lanka and China use CNG for autorickshaws as well and are not facing any problem.

election debacle last year and political persecution by the ruling coalition.

The AL stalwart said this government has no commitment to the people as the alliance components do not believe in independence and sovereignty of the country. "This government symbolises an evil

power. He alleged that by resorting to repression, harassment, killing, looting, extortion and rape, the present rulers have led the country to a situation where there is no social and personal security. People are being haunted by a nightmare and they are struggling to survive amid so many adversities. "We are hopeful of using the people's senti-

ruling and the opposition parties on various national issues, the AL general secretary said his party is democratic one and 'it always believes in understanding on common.

Jalil sets sight on toppling govt

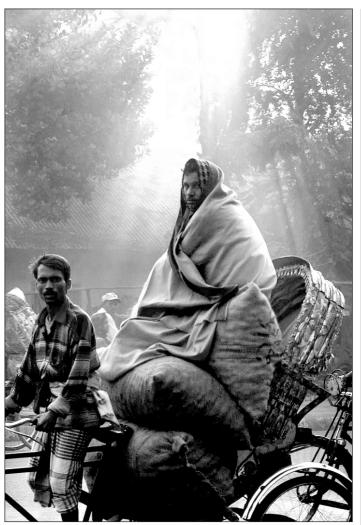
ment to dislodge the ruling coali-

Asked whether there is any

possibility of consensus among the

But he said there is a lack of tolerance in the ruling combine and a sound political atmosphere for understanding is now absent. "It is the ruling party which should initiate a process of understanding and should be reciprocal in its attitude, he said. "But this is not the case with this government." He said the BNP still does not

believe in parliamentary form of government. "We shall resist any move to take the country back to



A man in warm clothes sits on vegetable sacks as he travels by rickshaw in the city yesterday. Winter with its cold and fog is making its presence felt across the country.

ted that his party could not capitalise on many of the issues during the last 15 months of "misrule". Despite the government's repression on the opposition activists, his party workers have done a lot. "These movements have made this government isolated from the people.'

In reply to a question about anti-

government movement. Jalil admit-

Asked about his plans to revitalise the party, he said the just-ended council gave a boost to the AL workers' morale, making them determined to come forward to save the nation from the misrule of this government. "In this process, we would take a series of programme to rejuvenate the party and rebuild the country.

"Firstly, I shall take up the cases of party workers down to the grassroots level who have been subjected to political persecution by the coalition government and cannot stay at their homes," the AL leader said.

He would utilise the wisdom of the elderly and energy of the youths to revitalise the party, he added.

Jalil noted that changes made in the party manifesto and organisational structure would make the party leaders more accountable to the central working committee. This committee, he said, is a combination of the elderly and the young leaders. "I hope it will work with more dynamism."

It may be mentioned that this time there has been a provision of seven organising secretaries of the party instead of one previously. They will be given responsibilities for six organising divisions on rotation.

The organising secretaries will prepare their respective achievement reports and submit those to the general secretary. Thus, the organising secretaries would be accountable to the general secretary, who would be accountable to the central working committee

Asked whether the AL is bringing back the party leaders who had left earlier or were expelled, he said, "We have no plan to bring back the leaders who were involved in anti-party activities.

Regarding the opposition's role in parliament, Jalil singled out that if the opposition lawmakers were barred from speaking out, they would go by the convention and practices. "And if finally, the chair does not allow us to speak on the floor of the House, we would implement our decision already taken." Earlier, the party had decided to resign from the parliament.

He said, "If needed, as the general secretary of the main opposition party, I would request the Speaker to ensure that such a situation does not arise. Even, I would have discussions with the ruling party top leaders."

other sectors, sources said.

The main thrust in the agroprocessing sector would be to add more value to export items. On the other hand, bicycle and spare parts manufacturing would get emphasis under the light engineering sector.

Around Tk 200 crore is earned annually through export of fresh fruits and vegetables. The earning ogy could be several times higher i proper value addition is done, EPB

officials observed. On the other hand, the government thinks that around \$50 million could be earned annually through export of bicycle. During last fiscal, the earning was around \$30 million.

The business promotion councils would conduct regular market surveys and collect market information to help the exporters. They would also help develop ecommerce in the country and organise trade fairs abroad.

The councils would be set up in collaboration with major chamber bodies. They would be registered with the joint stock and function as non- profitable trusts, said a high official of the ministry.

The ministry sources further said the government is also thinking of opening up offices in some major cities in India to increase export there and minimise the trade gap. The country's trade gap with India is around \$1 billion annually.

The government is, however, yet to decide on the exact locations of

Biman FROM PAGE 1

In the meeting, he was informed that D-check of F-28 planes used to be done abroad earlier. But at present, it is done at the hanger here, saving Tk 7 crore for each D-check.

The state minister said haii fliahts of 2002 were operated properly by the engineers, and Bangladesh Biman carrying 21,000 pilgrims by its own flights saved a lot of money last year.

Bangladesh Biman will also operate hajj flights this year with its own aircraft and carry 25,000 pilgrims.

Earlier, he held talks with senior officials of civil aviation authority and asked the authorities concerned to complete the work of ongoing development projects

within the stipulated period. Civil aviation authority chairman Zahid Quddus, managing director of Bangladesh Biman Lutfor Rahman and other senior officials concerned were present.

merce ministry is also conducting a study on the fate of garments industries after the phasing-out of the multi-fibre arrangement (MFA) in 2004.

There is another project under UNDP assistance to help the local leather industries develop new designs and adopt latest technol-

According to sources, the main objective of the project is to familiarise the local industries with the world market.

"We are trying to link up some local industries in the leather sector with world famous companies in Europe to develop their products," the source said.

Greens in blues FROM PAGE 1

The five-kilometre walkways of the park are in a mess as some of them are either potholed or half-done. Moreover, most of the lights of the park are out of order and as a result a blanket of darkness covers the entire park at night. Even policemen do not

dare to venture into the park at night. The south corner of the park is a safe haven for muggers. Some vagrants of the park said the drugaddled youths, mostly squatting at the High Court Mazaar, mug the passers-by, who take the walkways for a shortcut to the Engineers Institution-end gate. The policemen deployed in the park area are often accused of conniving with them.

With darkness creeping in, floating sex workers roam inside and sideways of the park in pursuit of customers. "At least 100 male and female sex workers are active there, some even in the daytime," said Rana, a twig picker.

Art show

FROM PAGE 12

The winners are Rokeva Sultana (Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Award), Dilara Begum Joly (Bengal Foundation Award). Sudipto Mallick Sweden (Arab Bangladesh Bank Award), Kanak Chanpa Chakma (Basundhara Award), Abdus Shakur (Pacific Group Gold Medal) and Mohammad Jasim Uddin (Deepa Hug Award).

Three artists were named in the list of honourable mention: Ranajit Das, Faruk Ahmed and Dewan Mizan.

The exhibition will remain open to visitors from 11.00am to 7.00pm every day until January 27.