

## Mystery shrouds death of polytech student

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka Polytechnic Institute died mysteriously at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

Shakawat Hossain, 24, a fifth year student of Auto-Mobile Engineering of the institute, was brought to the hospital in an unconscious state by some youths on Monday evening.

The youths, who told the doctors on-duty that Shakawat had taken a tablet and become senseless, left the scene just after getting him admitted to the hospital.

Firoza, a niece of the deceased, has alleged that his friends are

responsible for his death.

She said Shakawat, who lived in a mess at Tejgaon industrial area, went to Ekushe Boi Mela along with some of his friends on that day and told her over cell phone that he would come to their house on Friday.

Though Shakawat was admitted to the hospital at around 6:00pm on Monday, they got the news of his admission in the early hours of yesterday through an anonymous phone call, she added.

No body knows where and how the incident was happened, Firoza said. DMCH sources said it was a poisoning case.

The body was sent to the DMC morgue for autopsy.



## Intra-regional trade expansion to benefit people

CA tells Pak envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Pakistan High Commissioner Alamgir Babar paid a courtesy call on Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrudin Ahmed at his office yesterday and discussed various bilateral and regional issues.

During the meeting, the Chief Advisor said Bangladesh and Pakistan are enjoying old relations as South Asian neighbours.

He said intra-regional trade has been expanding in South Asia, which ultimately brings benefit to the people of the region.

"Bangladesh is keen to expand trade relations bilaterally and regionally," he told the envoy. He stressed removal of regional trade barriers for harnessing the business potential in South Asia.

Endorsing fully the views of CA, Babar said his country is very much committed to Saarc and SAFTA for strengthening regional cooperation and expansion of trade.

He said Pakistan has got South Asia Special Fund and provides logistic support to Bangladesh from it.

Referring to Pakistan's experience in National ID card, Babar offered to extend assistance in preparing voter ID card if Bangladesh seeks the help.

The envoy apprised that Prime Minister Shawkat Aziz will attend the forthcoming 14th Saarc Summit in New Delhi.

Fakhrudin said he is looking forward to meeting the Pak prime minister during the summit.

## WOMEN MIGRANT WORKERS

### 'Apply CEDAW to protect rights'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a meeting yesterday called for using the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as guidelines for establishing women's rights.

As a huge number of women go abroad as migrant workers, the country could apply relevant articles of the CEDAW in order to protect their rights, they added.

Bangladesh is a signatory to the CEDAW but it is yet to ratify the charter.

Management and Resources Development Initiative (MRDI) organised the consultative meeting on CEDAW with women journalists. The meeting was part of a project titled 'Strengthening media capacity in promoting rights of female migrant workers' being implemented by MRDI with the

support of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), Bangladesh.

The CEDAW is a comprehensive treaty and it focuses on ideologies, structures and systems and bridges the gap between civil and political rights, social and economic rights, said Naheed M Ahmed, national programme manager of Unifem Bangladesh.

Although the number of women migrant workers has increased, the exact figure could not be known as many of them are undocumented, she said.

She also called for lifting all the restrictions on migration of women workers.

Terming migration as an important issue, Executive Director of MRDI Hasibur Rahman said in-house training for reporters could play an important role in ensuring safe migration.



PHOTO: STAR  
Carrying flags of different countries, members of Bangladesh Sangskritik Karmi Sangha march in a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday to mark the International Mother Language Day.

## RESTRICTIONS ON FUNCTIONS AT RU Vow to hold Ekushey programmes

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers, students and different organisations of Rajshahi University yesterday strongly protested the decision of imposing restrictions on holding all sorts cultural programmes on the campus to mark Amar Ekushey and International Mother Language Day today.

Rajshahi University Progressive Teachers Society, backed by Awami League, yesterday met with the vice-chancellor professor Altaf Hossain at his residence office and urged the authorities to withdraw the restriction, campus sources said.

They announced to stage their scheduled programmes on the campus under their society banner, the sources said.

Central Cultural Alliance, RU unit, also announced that they would organise their scheduled three-day long cultural programmes on Shaheed Miner premises violating the restriction,

Progressive Student Alliance, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra League in separate statements protested the restriction.

Proctor Enamul Haque, however, asked the cultural organisations to follow the university rules, otherwise actions will be taken against the violators.

## Admission test at Cuet today

CU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test for first year BSc engineering courses of 2006-2007 session at Chittagong University of Engineering and Technology (Cuet) will be held at 9:30am tomorrow, says a press release.

Further information about the admission test would be available at the university notice board or at its website [www.cuet.ac.bd](http://www.cuet.ac.bd)