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Plane crash kills 2 pilots

BAF training aircraft smashes into a tree near Barisal Airport; reasons still unknown

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Two air force pilots were killed as the aircraft they were flying crashed near Barisal Airport yesterday. Squadron leaders Ashraf Ibne Ahmed and Mahmudul Haque were on a PT-6 training aircraft of Bangladesh Air Force. It went down at about 2:18pm to the west of Barisal Airport, an Inter-Service Public Relations (ISPR) press release said. The pilots died on the spot. A chopper took the bodies to air force base in Jessore after autopsies at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital. The cause of the plane wreck was still unknown. Lt Col Manirul Huq of Rab, who was supervising the rescue, quoted air force sources as saying eight pilots on four planes took off from Jessore Airport at about 1:35pm.

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The wreckage of PT-6 aircraft that crashed near Barisal Airport yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

PM pledges e-governance to speed up development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government is working sincerely to introduce e-governance in public sectors to speed up development works, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said. "We want to use the information communication technology to speed up development works," she said at the inauguration of the first reunion of National Defence College at Mirpur Cantonment in the capital. The prime minister said the government has been working to build a "digital" and prosperous Bangladesh by 2021. She said banking, tender process and exam results, among others, have already gone online and web portals of

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Graft alleged in fire equipment purchase

JS probe body suggests fresh bidding to avoid Tk 25cr loss

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary sub-committee has recently revealed anomalies and corruption of the fire department in awarding international tenders for buying fire-fighting equipment. The sub-committee on home ministry in its report on November 28 alleged that the director general (DG) of Fire Service and Civil Defence and the members of tender evaluation team

unlawfully awarded tenders to two companies causing a huge loss. The fire service authorities floated international tenders on November 10, 2009, January 28 and April 8 of 2010 for purchasing nine fire engines and rescue vehicles and 1,578 sets of fire-fighter suits at a cost of around Tk25 crore. The sub-committee found that the fire department authorities bought low quality fireman

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DSE stocks bounce back

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka stocks bounced back yesterday, after a steep fall on Sunday, with the key indices logging a healthy gain. The rise came on the back of some regulatory decisions taken on Sunday when the market shed the highest ever 551 points. The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange shot up by 304 points, or 4 percent, to 7,959 yesterday. MORE IN STAR BUSINESS

Tapping coal for clean, low-cost electricity

Australian firm proposes to generate 400MW power from Bangladesh's unmineable coal by 2015

SHARIER KHAN

An Australian company with expertise in underground coal gasification (UCG) technology has proposed to produce 400 megawatts of clean coal power from Bangladesh's unmineable coal within five years at a very low cost. Making a presentation to Petrobangla last week, Mitchell Group of Australia said it could undertake a pilot project at its own cost in the

deeper part of Barapukuria coal mine or in Jamalganj. The first phase delivery of 10 to 40 MW power from the pilot project is possible within two years -- 2011-12. By 2015, the company will be able to deliver 400 MW power. Sources present at the presentation said it is very lucrative as power generated from such a plant will be as cheap as that produced by using gas. SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Here comes Airtel

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bharti Airtel Ltd yesterday announced its new-look brand in Bangladesh with a promise of providing better services to customers. Airtel is a leading global telecommunications company with operations in 19 countries. The mobile operator, under the Airtel Bangladesh brand, announced the launch of its services in the growing

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