2006 Announced as 'Technology Book Year'

Build knowledge-based nation

Khaleda tells Dhaka Book Fair inaugural function

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia urged all to read and learn more to overcome the country's shortcomings in resources, capacity and knowledge to build an enlightened

With this end in view, she announced 2006 as 'Technology Book Year' as a fresh bookpromotion measure in the new year that began yesterday and also awarded the writers who made outstanding contribution to this pursuit of grooming a knowledgebased society and nation.

BOOKS FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT

১-১৮ জানুয়ারি ২০০৬ • 1-18 JANUARY 11 6

function of the 12th Dhaka Book Fair 2006 in the city yesterday.

Shaukat Osman's

birth anniversary

The 89th birth anniversary of

Shaukat Osman, an eminent writer, will be celebrated today,

chalked out a two-day programme

As per the programme, wreaths will be placed at Martyred Intellectuals Graveyard at Mirpur

A discussion on the life and works of the writer will be held at

World Literature Centre at 6:30pm

Rahman and Editor of the Jugantor Abed Khan will attend the discus-

sion as chief guest and special

Nasir Ahmed, artists Rafiqun Nabi

and Hashem Khan, Bulbul Osman

and architect Yeafesh Osman will

reminisce their memories with the

BNP, Jamaat

Besides, poets Hasan Hafiz and

Editor of the Sangbad Bazlur

Shaukat Smriti Bidyalaya has

today

says a press release.

in the city at 9:30am.

to mark the day.

on January 9.

guest respectively.

She made the call while inaugurating the 12th Dhaka Book Fair 2006 yesterday. The National Book $Centre\ under\ the\ Cultural\ Ministry$ organised the fortnight book fair on the Shilpakala Academy premises with the theme 'Books for Peace and Development'.

The book fair will remain open to all everyday from 2.30pm to 8.30pm and 11:00am to 8.30pm on

"Apart from our endeavor for poverty alleviation and overall development, we, on various occasions, have articulated our vows to build a more knowledge-

মান্তি 3 ইর্মানিত্ বিন্য প্রি শুভ উদ্বোধন অনুষ্ঠান:
প্রধান অতিথি: বেগম খালেদা জিয়া, মাননীয়

12 DHAKA BOOK FAIR

based nation," Khaleda told the inaugural function.

She said the government laid emphasis on both formal and nonformal education. So the government has taken uninterrupted initiatives for easy availability of and increasing propensity for reading book in the nation.

"Whatever initiative taken by the government or nongovernment sector is nothing else but to ignite a torch, but the duty to keep the torch alit and remove the darkness is yours," the Prime Minister urged the readers, writers, publishers and the learned people.

"Our government has celebrated its last four years in flourishing, publicising and expanding of books through different programmes," Khaleda said. And this thrust should be maintained.

While announcing this year as Technology Book Year, she expressed her desire that more and more technology-based books would be published this year laying emphasis on information technology and biotechnology.

Book will be the tool of peace and development if the educated people concentrate on book reading and involve themselves with social welfare through applying their knowledge.

"Let's get in touch with welfare process, gain knowledge, feel peace and widen the development process," Khaleda said. Earlier, she gave away "Science

Book Year-2005 Award" to five science writers

The award carries a gold medal, a certificate and Tk 50,000.

The recipients are Prof Nurul Islam (Medical Science), Prof AM Harunur Rashid (Physical Science), Prof Kazi Zakir Hossain (Zoology), Dr Mamunur Rashid (Agricultural Science) and Prof M Qamrul Islam (Engineering).

She also awarded 12 students who got talent-pool scholarship in primary and junior scholarship examinations

Presided over by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman, the inaugural function was also addressed by Acting Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry ATM Ataur Rahman and book publisher M Liakatulla.

Ministers, MPs, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman, politicians, diplomats, poets, writers and publishers were

5 killed, 21 injured

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 21injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj and Jessore

Winners of the Science Book Year-2005 Award pose for photograph with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at the inaugural

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj reports, three people were killed and another was injured in three road accidents in the district yesterday.

An unidentified man aged about 55 was crushed under the wheels of a Dhaka-bound silk city train from Rajshahi at Codda Sananandapur railway station area at 10:30am, police and wit-

One person was killed when a Bogra-bound passenger bus hit a rickshaw from behind on a bridge at Kazipur intersection in Sirajganj municipality.

Meanwhile, motorbike rider Abdur Rahman, 35, of Kashiahata village in Sadar upazila died on the spot and his companion was injured seriously when a truck hit their bike from behind at Pachila Bazar on the Sirajganj Hati Kumrul road. The injured was rushed to the Sadar hospital.

OUR Jessore CORRESPONDENT says, two people were killed and at least 20 others injured in a road accident at Malanchi on Jessore -Benapole Road early yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Golam Mostafa,30,of Teghori village under Sadar upazila in Jessore and Ismail Hossain, 27,of Kalaroa upazila in Satkhira.

6:00pm today

The accident occurred at

Dry weather likely

temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

in Celsius

Max

27.0

28.2

26.3

26.8

28.8

27.7

and lowest 7.8 degree Celsius at Srimongal

cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature

Dhaka

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Cox's Bazar

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till

during early morning, said Met Office in a forecast predicting that night

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country

Highest temperature 28.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet

The sun sets in the capital at 5:23pm today and rises at 6:42am tomor-

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major

percentage

Min

14.5

13.2

11.4

12.5

11.2

13.7

15.0

Humidity in

Morning

68

75

72

Evening

58

74

70

85

62

around 5:30am when the driver of the bus carrying 25 traders from Satkhira lost control over the steering and dashed a roadside tree leaving Galam Mostaf killed

Of them, Ismail succumbed to his injuries in the Jessore General Hospital while 12 others are undergoing treatment in the hospital.

on the spot and injuring 20 oth-

DHÂKA

Medical conference

Bangladesh Medical Association will hold '18th Medical Conference and Annual General Meeting' with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia as chief guest. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 10:00am.

Conference

North South University organises first international conference on 'Next Generation Wireless System'. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, Time: 3:00pm.

Seminar

Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) organises a seminar on 'Large dams in North East India: Implications for Bangladesh' with Dr Md Khaleguzzaman. professor, Lock Haven University, USA, as keynote speaker. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm.

Nasreen to be buried today

Shahidur,

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The namaz-e-janaza of Petrobangla Director (Planning) Kazi Shahidur Rahman and his wife Nasreen Shahid killed in a road accident on Friday will be held at the Petrobangla Centre at Karwan Bazar in the city at 11:00am

They will be buried at the Mirpur Martyred Intellectuals' e-janaza at the Kakrail mosque after Johr prayers.

The bodies of Shahidur and Nasreen will be taken to the Banani house of his elder brother from the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) before namaz-e-janaza.

Shahidur's daughter settled in London was scheduled to come to Bangladesh.

Their Qulkhawni will be held at the residence of Shahidur's elder brother at Banani after Maghrib prayers tomorrow.

Shahidur, Nasreen, former managing director of the Bapex and senior general manager of the Petrobangla MA Baset and his wife Mahfuja Baset were killed in a road accident near Narsingdi on their way to Sylhet.

Their two sons Amit and Nahin are now under treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital in the capital with serious injuries. Baset and his wife Mahfuja were

buried at the Banani Graveyard on Saturday.

Qulkhwani of Baset and his wife will be held at his residence Baily Heights, Flat no. E-1, 18th Floor in the city after Maghrib prayers

Obituary

Bss, Dhaka

M Abu Taher, a freedom fighter and former principal of Nalitabari College in Sherpur, passed away due to cancer on Saturday at his Nalitabari residence at the age of

He left behind his four sons, wife and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. He was buried on Nalitabari

Jame Mosque premises after Namaz-e-Janaza at the mosque.

Information Secretary Muhammad Haider Ali expressed deep shock at the death of Taher.

Oulkhwani

Bss, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Abdus Sultan Mullick, a former section officer, will be held at his 6 Avoy Das Lane residence at Tikatuly in the city, after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the gulkhwani.

Mullick passed away due to oldage complications at his residence on Friday at the age of 91.

SC to deal with new voter-list preparation today

UNB, Dhaka

The Supreme Court will reopen today after a fortnight winter vacation and deal on the first day with the most contentious political issue of the time regarding new voter-list preparation, which already got off across the country yesterday amid massive opposition protests.

As the court sits in the morning, a couple of writ petitions challenging the "unilateral" decision of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) to prepare a fresh electoral roll ahead of next general election will come up to be adjudicated by High Court division of the SC.

On December 15, the High Court deferred the admissibility hearings of the two Public Interest Litigation (PIL) writs till the reopening of the court on January 2, a day after the enumeration of voters was sched-

And the nationwide drive for voter-information collection began yesterday as per the schedule, amid the Awami League-led opposition

The cause shown for holding back the hearings was that the copies were not served to the CEC and the Election Commission (EC) secretariat for reply.

Awami League General Secretary Abdul Jalil MP filed one of the writ petitions while his party lawmakers Advocate Rahmat Ali and Asaduzzaman Noor moved another to wage a double-pronged legal battle.

The CEC has been made respondent while Election Commissioners AK Mohammad Ali and M Munsef Ali pro-forma respondents in the

The AL lawmakers also challenged the validity of "controversial" appointments of over three lakh enumerators, supervisors, assistant registration officers, registration officers and upazila election officers by the EC secretariat for accomplishing the task.

The EC yesterday kicked off collecting voter information at grassroots level with a target to publish the final voter list on June 1,2006.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam and Barrister Rokanuddun Mahmud will appear for the petitioners while Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed MP stand for the CEC and the EC



Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mohammad Motaharul Haque, a father of three children, is suffering from liver cirrhosis.

Doctors said his treatment would cost around Tk 7 lakh which he cannot afford to pay.

Now lying in bed at his house at Dhania (No 1522) under Shyampur in Dhaka, he has appealed for financial help for his treatment.

Contributions can be sent to Mohammad Motaharul Haque, Mudaraba Savings Account no 02032065, Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited, Jatrabari Branch, Dhaka.

'Unite in the fight against terrorism'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a rally yesterday called upon the members of political parties and civil society to unite in the fight against terrorism and fundamental isminthe country.

The rally was organised by Anti-Terrorism Peace Movement (ATPM) at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capitalyesterday.

The speakers accused the government of mocking the nation by terming numerous bomb blasts over the years as 'separate incidents'.

They alleged that the government measures with regard to attempt on main opposition leader's life, assassination of a former finance minister, harassment of Ahmadiyyas and abduction of many businessmen were simply eye wash and devoid of sincer-

Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, former vice-chairman of Bar Council, called on all to unite against the government's attempt to treat some with impunity while letting militants and kidnappers roamfree.

ATPM member-secretary Syed Ahmed, M Mohsin Rashid and Abdur Rahman also spoke at the rally Secretary of the Supreme Court Bar

Association Enayetur Rahim and Tax's Bar Association President MA Salam Talukdar were present on the occa-

The rally was held following a procession participated by members of human rights groups, various professional associations and lawyers.

The slogan of the procession was Stand up against terrorism in



Jubilant students of Dhaka University throng the Aparajeya Bangla on the campus at midnight on Saturday to wel-

'Ethnic minorities yet to get constitutional recognition'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prof Serajul Islam Chowdhury, a noted academic, yesterday said the fascist aspect of the country is apparent through its failure to provide constitutional recognition to its ethnic minorities.

" Using the word 'indigenous' we are pushing backward the ethnic minorities who are the marginal population and living faraway from the centre," he said while speaking at the launching ceremony of the books published by the Society for Environment and Human Development (SEHD) at the National Press Club.

SEHD launched six books on human rights, environment, ethnic minorities and reporting recently.

These included: Sex-Workers in Bangladesh-Livelihood: At What Price, Bangladesher Biponno Bon (Stolen forests of Bangladesh), Bon, Bonbinash O Bonobasir Sangram (Forest, its destruction and struggle of the forest people) and Reporting

Prof Islam said human rights violation of the marginal people is revealed through the books and it would let us know the fact that is always suppressed by the govern-

On the issue of sex work he said it is not a work or profession at all. It is the worst and primitive form of exploitation of women in the society. Legal health care are not enough for the women involved in selling sex, he

"The newspapers should present featurised report more and more as we are getting tired of going through hard news," said Prof Ahaduzzaman

Mohammad Ali while discussing the book on Reporting Guide.

Prof Imtiaz Ahmed criticised the books 'Critiques of Politics and Practices', 'The Case of Forests, Ethnic Communities and Tea Workers of Bangladesh' and 'Shrimp Fry Collection and Its Trade' where attempts were made to create credibility through statistics as well as

But the game of numbers is a politics itself, he said, adding that the research should furnish the alternative ways for the oppressed to overcome the hindrances

Presided over by Prof Sakhawat Ali Khan, the function was also addressed by Prof Firdous Azim and ProfKhondker Mokaddem Hossain.

18th BCS Forum AGM Jan 27

The Annual General Meeting and reunion of the 18th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) forum will be held at the Institute of Engineers Bangladesh (IEB) in the city on January 27, says a press release.

Over 300 officials representing 19 cadres are expected to attend

The interested officials have been requested to contact Nur (Economic) 0171884169, Mahmood (Information) 0152352765, Selim (admin) 0175130597), Alim (Health) 0171528367, Nasir (Judiciary) 0187120144, Sarwar (Education) 011883881 for registration and other necessary information or visit forum's website www.geocities.com/bcs18bd.

MMC Survey 2005

3 journos killed, 370 tortured, 164 get death threats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three journalists were killed and 370 others were injured in 165 incidents of torture on journalists across the country last year, according to a survey by Mass-line Media Centre (MMC).

Besides, 11 journalists were arrested, warrant of arrest issued against seven and cases were filed against 17 journalists, said the report.

Journalists across the country had to carry out their works amidst grave panic as police failed to arrest

or trace the killers, it said A total of 370 journalists fell

Bombers killed Sheikh Belal Uddin, chief of the daily Sangram's Khulna bureau, assailants slaugh-tered Golam Mahfuz, editor of the daily Comilla Muktakantha, and Faridpur Bureau Chief of daily Samakal Goutam Das was brutally

killed at his office-cum-house. 133 journalists were attacked. 164 received death threats and 36 others were also threatened.

victims of 165 torture incidents last

31st Night

Port city wears curfew-like atmosphere

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An unprecedented curfew-like situation gripped the port city on the Thirty First night as law enforcers took to the streets in a combative mood to ward off what they said any 'unpleasant scene' centring the New Year's celebrations.

Members of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP), Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and Armed Police Battalion (APBN) took positions on the city thoroughfares from evening on December 31, intercepted all mechanised mode of vehicles, especially the private cars, searched them and forced the people inside to go back home.

The law enforcers were found particularly ironhanded in dealing with private cars, auto-rickshaws microbuses and motorbikes leading to the Patenga Sea Beach. Neither transport nor people was allowed to go the beach area after 6:00pm. Heavy contingent of police, Rab and APBN put up barricades at Barik Building Intersection at Agrabad and Saltgola Crossing at Chittagong Port to bar vehicular movement

towards Patenga. The law enforcers didn't even spare, at some places, rickshaw passengers and pedestrians.

The CMP earlier declared an unofficial ban on the movement of people and transports after 9:00pm on Thirty First night and asked shopowners, announcing through loud-

speakers, to close down shutters. Some citizens alleged that law enforcers in some occasions '8committed excess' and misbehaved with people in the name of security and maintaining law and order.

"Under what authority or law, police stopped my car on city road and ordered me to go back home after 9:00pm? This is really disgusting," fumed an anonymous businessman, calling to newspaper office yesterday.

Shawkat, a departmental store owner at city's Panchlaish area, said, "I was really shocked in the evening on Thirty First when cops ordered me in a rude voice not to

keep the shop open after 9:00pm. CMP and Rab officials, however, denied the accusation of overstepping and misbehaviour saying that the measures were taken for the greater interest of the citizens.

9th Buet convocation tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

The 9th convocation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet) will be held on the campus tomorrow.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, also chancellor of the university, is expected to preside over the occasion.



Leaders of Communist Party of Bangladesh place wreaths at the Sanghati Stambha in the city yesterday. The Stambha was set up in memory of the two Chhatra Union leaders who were killed in 1973 during an anti-imperialism demonstration in the capital.

leaders force one to sign deal **OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra** Local BNP and Jamaat leaders of

Sherpur upazila of Bogra allegedly forced a man to sign a deed of Tk 75,000 in fine on Saturday night. BNP activist Fazlu, who arranged an arbitration meeting to realise the money, earlier threat-

ened the victim, Mokhlesur

Rahman of Bishalpur, but local

BNP leaders did not let him go to Mokhlesur said he had arguments with Fazlu of nearby Kandua village a few months ago over

buying paddy. Fazlu filed a false case against Mokhlesur for not giving him paddy despite taking Tk 80,000 and went to Mokhlesur's house several

days for the money. Mokhlesur took the matter to a local BNP leader.

Local BNP and Jamaat leaders arranged an arbitration meeting at upazila BNP office Saturday night and forced Mokhlesur to sign the deed of Tk 75,000 fine.

Local BNP and Jamaat leaders were not available for their com-

in road accidents