



Semanti Wahed sings a song at a cultural evening at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

## Groom youths with modern technical knowledge

President tells Asiatic Society meet

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the scholars and learned to come forward to contribute to the development and advancement of the youths and nation building.

"The tomorrow's world will be dominated by technological know-how. Our next generation should be groomed with modern technical knowledge to cope with the challenges ahead," he said while he was inaugurating the 11th biennial general meeting of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh at Sheraton Hotel in the city.

Society President Prof Emajuddin Ahmed presided over the inaugural session.

"Asiatic Society of Bangladesh has an excellent track record as a leading learned organisation in the country," said the President, also the

chief patron of the Society.

Its publications bear witness to this, he said and mentioned the National Encyclopedia of Bangladesh, three volumes of History of Bangladesh (1704-1971), Bangladesh on the threshold of the 21st Century, Administration of Justice in Bangladesh, A trilogy of Archaeological Sites, Golden Jubilee Volume (1952-2002), Sharia Law, and Sea Level Changes in Bangladesh.

He said the Society, since its inception in 1952, has made a tremendous contribution towards the advancement of knowledge in the country and projection of positive image of Bangladesh to outside world.

The Society has been maintaining its tradition and commitment to disseminating and promoting learning and knowledge during the last 50

years, "a laudable phenomenon in our intellectual advancement," he said.

Asiatic Society has been preminent in the publication of research books and journals of high standard and organisation of learned talks, symposia and seminars, he added.

He said the government is very much aware of creating congenial atmosphere in the field of education and research. "Under the patronage of the then Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, it received Tk 30 lakh from her as grant in 1994 for the National Fellowship for Advancement Research programme of the Society."

The government has also recently enhanced the grant-in-aid of the Society to facilitate its research works more actively and vigorously, he said.

Iajuddin said, "Research needs more investment and time for finding actual facts and outcome. But developing countries can't afford to invest sufficient amount in the field of research due their financial constraint."

"To face these problems, developing countries may work unitedly for their respective interest with a view to unearthing potential research fields," he said.

The President said the Asiatic Society is a learned institution, which needs generous support and help from the affluent section of the society as well as the government to carry out research and scholarly studies.

Calling upon the patrons to invest in the scholarly works of the Society, he said, "Their return will be more than the money and they can boast that they have spent in spreading knowledge and learning in the country."

Society General Secretary Prof SM Mahfuzur Rahman presented the Biennial Report for 2004-2005 at the session, while ASB secretary Prof Najma Khan Majlis gave the vote of thanks.

## Australian support for survey on fisheries sought

BSS, Dhaka

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al Noman yesterday sought support of the Australian government in conducting a survey on fisheries resources in the Bay.

He also sought help in the fields of Hilsha management, cattle fattening, Black Bengal goat farming and development of human resources.

The minister made the call when Minister for Agriculture and Forest of Western Australia, Kim Chance and his five-member entourage called on him at his secretariat office in the city.

Noman briefed the delegation on the recent progress of Bangladesh in the fisheries and livestock sector.

The Australian minister urged Noman to send an expert to a five-day international workshop on "Animal Health and Bio-security"

to be held in Australia next month and present a concept paper regarding the feasible cooperation between the two countries in this field.

The delegation includes Principal Policy Advisor of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forest of Western Australia Jhon Dagostino, Food and Trade Promotion Manager of the Agriculture Department Besalet Tribull, Executive Director Henry Strengiessor and Deputy High Commissioner of Australia Richard Rodgers.

Joint Secretary Rokeya Sultana, joint-chief Dr M Golam Sarwar and Director General of the Livestock Department Dr Salehuddin Mahmud were present.

## Prof Lutfor new VC of BSMRAU

BSS, Gazipur

Prof Dr Lutfor Rahman Khan was appointed Vice-chancellor of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Agricultural University (BSMRAU), Gazipur.

President and Chancellor of the university has appointed Dr Lutfor as Vice-chancellor on January 9 for the period of four years as per the University Act.

Prof Lutfor was born in 1950 in the village Dargerbond at Shibpur upazila in Narsingdi. He obtained his B Sc Agril Eng (Irrigation and Water Management) degree in 1972 from Bangladesh Agricultural University, Mymensingh (BAU) securing 1st class second position and M Engg (Water Resources Development) in 1976 from ATI, Thailand.

He obtained his Ph D from University of New Castle Upon Tyne, UK on groundwater engineering in January 1983.

## 'Ratify CMS convention to conserve birds'

Survey on endangered migratory bird begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An international team of ornithologists begins a survey on an endangered migratory bird named Spoon-billed Sandpiper in the coastal areas of the country today.

Speakers at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday said an expert group from Russia, Germany and the UK would conduct the survey on this globally endangered species along with local biologists and bird lovers.

The survey will continue at Bhola-Patuakhali, Laksmipur-Noakhali and Cox's Bazar-Teknaf coasts till January 25.

The 17-centimeter-long shorebird with a spoon-like bill inhabits the coastal areas of Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and a few other neighbouring countries in winter.

But its number has been declining for the last few years for

unknown reasons and has reduced to mere 300 breeding pairs at present.

The survey aims at finding out the reasons behind its decline and the present condition of this bird in the country, the speakers said.

## RU classes resume today

RU Correspondent

The classes of Rajshahi University will resume today after an

11-day vacation on the occasion Eid-ul-Azha.

Sources said, departments would also take scheduled examinations today.

Administrative activities will also start today.

The residential students are already back to dormitories.

Chairman of Wildlife of Bangladesh Enayetullah Khan said of the country's 700 species of birds, about 300 are migrants and they face multitude of threats during migration.

Bangladesh is a signatory to the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species (CMS) as well as the Convention on Biological Diversity. But it is yet to ratify them while many other countries have already ratified them, he added.

The speakers urged the government to ratify the conventions soon to reassure political and social commitment of the country to conserve the birds and all other life forms.

Team leader Dr Christopher Zockler, National Coordinator of Waterfowl Census in Bangladesh Enam Ul Haque and UNB Chairman Amanullah Khan also spoke at the press conference organised by Bangladesh Birds Club and Wildlife Trust of Bangladesh.

## Elder brother beats younger to death over land dispute

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

An elder brother beat his younger brother to death at a village in Chandanaish upazila of the district on Sunday night over a dispute centring land property.

Police said the incident occurred at around 8:00pm at village Abbaspara of Kanchanabad union when two brothers Mohammad Nasir, 38, and Mohammad Badsha, 32, locked in an altercation.

At one stage Nasir beat Badsha indiscriminately with wood and bamboostick. Badsha died on the spot.

The elder brother later poured poison in the mouth of dead Badsha.

Rosy Akhtar, the victim's wife, filed a case in this connection with the Chandanaish Police Station yesterday.

## One killed in road accident

Ali Ahmed, 60, of village Chakolgram, Noyarhat, Savar died in a road accident on January 12 at Nabinagar in Dhaka-Aricha Highway, says a press release.

Ali, an employee of Bangladesh Express Company Ltd., left behind four brothers and three sisters. He was buried at his village.



Visitors look at 3-dimensional books at a stall at the 12th Dhaka Book Fair-2006 at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. The book fair that began on January 1 ends tomorrow.

PHOTO: STAR

## ILLEGAL CONNECTIONS

## Wasa drive resumes next month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) will resume its drive against illegal water connections and bill defaulters in the first week of next month, officials said.

The drive has been suspended since January 5. In the meantime, the Wasa has given a deadline of January 31 for all concerned to regularise unauthorised water connections to residences and commercial establishments.

The state-run utility agency started the drive in the capital on August 23 last year to realise outstanding bills and snap illegal water connections.

In an advertisement published recently, it gave the deadline and

urged the people who have been using illegal connections in its six zones in the capital and one in Narayanganj to apply for the regularisation of water connections.

"The drive will resume after January 31 to realise outstanding bills and disconnect illegal connections," said a Wasa official.

Different private commercial organisations and house owners owe Tk 180 crore in outstanding bills to Wasa while the government organisations owe Tk 20 crore, sources said.

According to Wasa, there are about one lakh unauthorised water connections in the city while the number of authorised connections is 2.2 lakh. People are using the illegal connections in connivance with a section of dishonest employees.



Building Construction Workers' Union stages a demonstration at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday to press for their 12-point demand, including benefits as per labour law.

PHOTO: STAR