SAIDABAD POWER PLANT

arrive Ullapara by helicopter at first

to lay the foundation stone of the

academic building of the college. Education Engineering

Department, Sirajganj will con-

PM to lay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A devastating fire gutted two bakeries in the city causing damage to properties worth Tk 50 lakh yester-

nated from an electric short circuit at Tata Food Products at about 3:30am and rapidly spread to nearby Novelty Biscuit and Food

and brought the flame under control after about three hours and extinguished it at about 9:00am.

Kibria murder case sent to Sylhet **Speedy Tribunal**

The case of the killing of former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria was sent to the Sylhet Speedy Trial Tribunal from the Habiganj District

be produced in the trial court on February 7. Two other accused have been at large since Kibria was killed in a grenade attack at Habiganj on January 27 last year.

A special contingent of police carried 49 evidence, recovered from the place of attack just after the incident, to the tribunal from

ters, cover of the grenade, parts of

The murder case was filed with the Habiganj Sadar Police Station and later it was transferred to the CID. After investigations, ASP

Among the prime accused, Abdul Quayum has been detained in Moulvibazar district jail and Jainal Abedin Momin in Sylhet Central Jail. The six other accused - Jamir Ali, Shahed Ali, Jainal Abedin Jalal, Tajul Islam, Selim Ahmed and Ayat Ali -- are in Habiganj district jail. The absconding accused are Muhibur Rahman

BDNEWS adds: Asma Kibria, wife of Shah AMS Kibria, yesterday rejected the transfer of the murder trial to the Speedy Trial Tribunal of

struct the building at an estimated cost of Tk 30.60 lakh. She will address a public meeting to be arranged by local unit of BNP at the college ground. Later, the prime minister is likely to arrive Saidabad to lay the foundation stone of the Tk 1000-crore 450MW power plant to be constructed by Power Development Board (PDR). She

DU ADMISSION TEST

ing at the project site.

Development Board (PDB). She

will address another public meet-

833 applications under Gha unit cancelled

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University authorities have cancelled 833 applications of the Gha unit, as the applicants did not fulfil the minimum criteria for appearing at the admission test.

A DU press release said the applicants whose applications were cancelled would not be eligible to sit for the test, scheduled to be held on February 10 at 10:00 am.

Applications of students from

Applications of students from science group, who did not get at least GPA seven points, from humanities and business studies groups who did not get GPA six points in HSC and SSC examinations and who did not get minimum six points in Bangla and English in the HSC, were cancelled according to the rule of admission test.

A total of 32,573 application forms were submitted.

The list of cancelled applications was pasted on the notice board of Social Science Faculty and is also available at the DU website at www.univdhaka.edu.

Hasina goes to Sylhet tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina goes to Sylhet tomorrow to address a grand rally of the AL-led 14-party opposition combine there.

Hasina will offer fateha at the majar of Shah Jalal (RA), Shah Paran (RA) and Shah Gazi Borhan Uddin at Sylhet and return to Dhaka later in the day after addressing the grand rally.

On Thursday, the AL chief will go to Tungipara and offer fateha at the majar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She is scheduled to return to Dhaka from Tungipara the following

Contribution of 23 lawyers recalled

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) yesterday organised a meeting in memory of its 23 members who died recently

Presided over by SCBA President Advocate Mahbubey Alam the meeting held at its south hall was addressed by Secretary Advocate M Enayetur Rahim Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Advocate Abdur Razzak Khan, Advocate AFM Mesbauddin, Advocate MA Jalil, Advocate KM Saifuddin Ahmed and Advocate Mushfiquddin Bakhtier.

The speakers at the meeting recalled the contributions of the lawyers in the legal profession.

A one-minute's silence was observed and prayers offered for salvation of the departed souls.

The lawyers are: Justice Maksum-ul Hakim, Md Siddiqur Rahman Hazra, Mohammad Korban Ali, AN Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury, Abidur Reza Khan, Shahjahan Chowdhury, Alimuzzaman Chowdhury, AK Shamsuddin Ahmed, KM Yusuf, SM Mostafa Hamid Chowdhury, Md Abdul Khalek Miah, Abdul Latif, Syed Abdul Wahed, Abul Hashem Talukder, Mohammad Azizullah Bhuiyan, ATM Masud Chowdhury, Md Khorshed Alam, Md Golam Mostafa, Jagadish Chandra Sarkar, SMA Razzak,

Justice NK Chakrabarty and Satish

Chandra Borma.



Dhaka Sheraton

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks at the inaugural ceremony of 'The 33rd Session of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea' at Sheraton Hotel

PM for global exchange of weather information

Opens int'l anti-disaster working session

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday called for international cooperation in global exchange of weather information for worldwide disaster mitigation, as meteorological activities do not obey any political or geographical boundaries. "Although it is not possible to prevent natural disasters, disaster

mitigation is possible through accurate and timely forecasts and warnings, and adequate preparedness," she said while inaugurating the 33rd session of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)-Escap Panel on Tropical Cyclones for the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Theme of this year's session is "Early Warning Systems and Disaster Management of all Meteorological and Hydrological Hazards in the Panel Region"

The WMO-Escap Panel on Tropical Cyclones was formed in 1972 by joint initiative of World Meteorological Organisation and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific aiming to reduce damage caused due to tropical cyclones in the countries ashore of the Bay of Bengal and the

Eight countries--Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Oman, the Maldives, Myanmar and Thailand--are members of the anti-disaster forum.

The working sessions of the weeklong meet will have important discussions on professional training and research as well as formulate a plan of action for the next one

Tokiyoshi Toya, WMO regional director for Asia and the Southwest Pacific, Defence Secretary Mesbah Uddin Ahmed and Md Akram Hossain, director of Bangladesh Meteorological Department, also spoke on the occasion.

Escap Director Ti Le Huu read out the message of Kim Hak-Su. UN under-secretary general and executive secretary of Escap, ministers, representatives from WMO, Escap, other international organisations and panel countries, diplo-mats, and senior civil and military officials were present. Khaleda said WMO-Escap Panel

platform, promoting and coordi-nating such activities in the panel area, and "we are already getting some benefit out of it". "We have to ensure proper application of latest technology with our conventional system for upgrading existing early warning

on Tropical Cyclones is a regional

and disaster unitigation arrange-ments," she told the function. Bangladesh has already associated with many international initiatives for the development of tsunami

earlywarningsystem, she said. At the same time, the govern-

upgrade the capacity of the country's meteorological department for better performance through sharing data, information, forecast and early warnings of disaster.

Khaleda said the north Indian Ocean consisting of the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea is one of the most cyclone-prone zone of the world. More than 300 million people, their livelihood and property are therefore at risk along the vulnerable coastal zone from Oman to Thailand.

Due to its unique geographica location in South Asia, Bangladesh is visited frequently by various natural disasters like cyclones, tidal surges, floods, droughts, tornadoes and landslides.

The 1970 and 1991 tropical cyclones in Bangladesh are well known worldwide for their devastation and casualties, she men tioned, informing that around 30 to normally flooded every monsoon But the devastating floods in 1988 and 1998 submerged two-thirds of

"Our vulnerability is also increasing with rapid population growth and changing cleaner pattern," she said, adding that the government has taken a number of steps during the last couples of years to establish an institutional arrangement from national to union levels for effective and sys ment has undertaken projects to tematic disaster management.

Sunny, Awal on fresh remand

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Abdul Awal, son-in-law of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) chief Abdur Rahman, was placed on a fresh seven-day remand in an August 17 blasts case

Meanwhile, Ataur Rahman Sunny, military commander of JMB, was also placed on a sevenday remand yesterday in connection with another blast case filed with Demra Police Station.

Sunny was produced before the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM), Dhaka on completion of his 10-day remand in connection with a August 17 blast case which was filed with Tejgaon Police Station.

The court had earlier remanded him for seven days in the case filed with Demra Police Station.

Five courts in the city had placed him on remand for 119 days in 17 cases filed with different police stations. Sunny is being placed on remand for those cases.

Awal was placed on remand for the 11th time. He has been on remand for 68 days since his arrest on November 18 last year.

The Detective Branch (DB) of police accompanied by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) produced Awal before the CMM court on completion of his six-day remand in a case filed for the blast at Palashi Crossing in the capital on August 17

In the forwarding report, the investigation officer (IO) said the information obtained from Awal is being verified.

Seeking another nine-day remand, DB Inspector Hassan Ali, the IO of the blast case, filed with Lalbagh Police Station, said Awal was directly involved with the August 17 blasts, including the one at Palashi Crossing.

He needs to be interrogated

further to find out vital clues of the case and the whereabouts of his accomplices, he said in the for-

Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Alam placed Awal on a seven-day remand for interroga-JMB Rajshahi regional chief

Awal is a member of the outfit's highest tier Majlish-e-Shura. He was captured from a Dinajpur bound bus at Thakurgaon

Unite to realise demands

DUJ meet urges journos

The biennial general meeting of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) urged the journalists to get united to realise their demands.

Elderly journalist Kamal Lohani spoke at the meeting as the chief guest at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday with DUJ President Altaf

Speakers at the meeting said the country is now passing through a critical juncture where journalists

are increasingly being subjected to torture. Laws are underway to control

the newspapers. Journalists should not tolerate the blueprint intended to gag the press. Bangladesh Federal Union of

Journalists (BFUJ) President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and DUJ General Secretary Shah Alamgir also spoke.

Referring to the roles of the DUI in anti-autocratic movements, he said, "We had earned our freedom by shedding our blood but the national flag of Bangladesh is seen flying on the car of Nizami who had opposed our War of Liberation.

Posing a question he said, "How many journalists will have to embrace death like Manik Shaha, Dipankar and Goutam?" We have to fight for our rights, he added.

Stressing the need for undivided union Iqbal Sobhan said the undivided union would play a pivotal role in realising our demands and

Baddipur village in Manda upazila died on the spot. Police rescued the establishing our dignity. The voting will begin at 9:00am today at the same venue where

about 1700 voters are expected to cast their votes.

DHAKA

Reception

Amader Somoy, a national vemacular

daily, will accord a reception to leading poet of Bangla language Shamsui Rahman. Novelist of West Bengal Sunil Ganguly and Poet Al Mahmud will attend the function as honourable guests. Venue: Somoy office, Bangla Motor. Time: 4:00pm.

Supreme Court Bar Association

View exchange

organises a view exchange meeting on 'Democracy and free election: Our role in the present context'. Venue: Association hall. Time: 4:00pm.

organises a seminar on 'Bengali literature in the context of contemporary world literature', Venue: Siddeshwary campus. Time: 11:00am.

Girl burnt alive, 87 houses gutted

A girl was burnt alive and 87 houses were gutted in a fire near Sitakunda rail station on Sunday night. The dead was identified as

Parveen Akther, 10, daughter of Sobhan Majee. Sources said the fire originated

from the kitchen of Sobhan Majee at about 10:30pm and burnt Parveen to death. The other members of the family managed to come out of the burning house. The fire soon spread in the area and damaged 87 houses.

Witnesses said the fire fighters from Chittagong extinguished the blaze after four hours' frantic effort.

on election today BDNEWS, Dhaka

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) will hold a view exchange meeting on "Democracy and Free, Fair and Transparent Election: Present Situation and Future Action" at the SCBA's south hall at 4:00pm today. Former judges, legal experts and

representatives of different professional organisations will participate in the meeting with SCBA President Advocate Mahbubey Alam in the

SCBA Secretary Advocate M Enayetur Rahim told BDNEWS yesterday that the SCBA has organised the meeting to extract suggestions on how the people's faith and trust can be brought back on the Election Commission (EC). "The Chief Election

Commissioner (CEC) has made the EC a 'political organisation'. The EC will have to be made neutral, transparent and nonpartisan for holding free and fair elections in the country. Following the discussion, propos als, opinions and recommenda tions of the meeting, the SCBA will take next course of action," he said.

SCBA view exchange meet

truck to free the highway. were injured when a Manda bound

Dhaka Language Club Publica Ceremony Learn English In Scker 'Vay The publication ceremony of a book titled "Learn English in Quickest Way" by

Masud A Khan was held at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra on Sunday organised by Dhaka Language Club. Syed Marghub Murshed, former BTRC chairman, was present as chief guest. Singers Farida Parvin and Fatema-Tuz-Zohra and DCAB President Anis Alamgir were present as special guests.

4 die in road accidents

Traffic disrupted for 9 hours on Dhaka-Aricha highway

STAR REPORT At least four people, including two

ers injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Chittagong and Bograyesterday.
BDNEWS reports: a tobaccoloaded truck overturned on the Dhaka-Aricha highway near Savar

killing the driver and disrupting

traffic for nine hours since early

of a family, were killed and 37 oth-

Obaidul Huq (50), the driver of the truck, died on the spot, while two others, Didar, a helper and brother of the driver, and the tobacco trader were injured in the accident.

Deceased Obaidul Huq was the

son of Belayet Hossain of Purbacharshita village under Ramgoti thana in Laximipur district.

Eye-witnesses said the Dhakabound truck was coming from Haragachha in the North Bengal carrying 250 bags of tobacco.

The overloaded truck skidded off the road and upturned on the highway at about 5:30 am after hitting a roadside tree.

The truck carrying 250 bags of tobacco kept the highway blocked till 4:00pm and snapped the communi-cation between the capital and the northern districts for about nine hours. Hundreds of buses, trucks and other vehicles remained stranded on both sides of the highway. Local authorities with the help of

the police and people removed the

Meanwhile, UNB reports from Bogra that a homebound devotee of Biswa Ijtema died and 35 others

bus skidded off the road to ditch at Komal Dogachi of Santahar early hours of yesterday. Jabed Ali Mondal, 55, of

injured, all of Baddipur village, and sent to nearest clinics. Our CU Correspondent reports: Two women of a family were killed in a road mishap on Chittagong -Cox's Bazaar highway at Lohagara

in the district yesterday morning. The dead were identified as Mariam Khatun, 50, wife of Kabir Ahmed of Rashider Ghona in Lohagara and Rawshan Ara (32), sister in-law of Kabir.

Police said the accident occurred at around 7:00am near Shah Peer Filling Station in Lohagara on the highway. A Cox's Bazaar-bound bus of Saudia Paribahan ran over them while they were crossing the road.

Both Mariam and Rawshan died on the spot. Police recovered the bodies and sent them to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) morgue for autopsy.

EKUSHEY BOOK FAIR

Betar to broadcast inaugural function BSS, Dhaka

inaugurate the "Amar Ekushey Boimela" at the Bangla Academy at 2:30 pm tomorrow. Bangladesh Betar will broadcast the programme directly for its

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will

Seminar Stamford University of Bangladesh

might be behind the robbery. Alam is an accused in criminal cases, they added.

gutted, the owners claimed.

Rustam Ali, officer of Barisal Fire Service Station, said the fire origi-

Firefighters from Barisal, Jhalakathi and Banaripara fire service stations rushed to the spot

Abdul Aziz Sardar and Abdul Matin Sardar, owners of the gutted bakeries, alleged that the fire went out of control as Barisal Fire Service

Station failed to respond on time.

All machines, equipment, raw and packaging materials have been

and Sessions Judge's court yesterday. Eight accused persons, who are now detained in different jails, will

Habiganj yesterday afternoon. The evidence include 32 splin-

detonator, three mobile phone sets.

foundation today BSS, Sirajganj Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is expected to lay the foundation stone of Saidabad 450MW power plant at the western side of Jamuna Bridge during her visit to the dis-She is also likely to lay the foundation stone of the new academic building of Ullapara Akbar Ali Science College and will address two separate public meetings on the occasion. Khaleda Zia is scheduled to

"The charge sheet would remain incomplete. I cannot accept it at all. The government is doing this to show the international community

that it is sincere enough in trying the killers. But what they are doing is to hide the real killers," Asma told the

ग्रमाप्ति वैत मधाप्ती जतगत्तत्र जार्थ

Angikar Bangladesh Foundation organises a rally at Doel Chattar in the city yesterday demanding punishment to the perpetrators of Kansat killings.

KANSAT KILLING

Punishment to culprits demanded

Leaders of Bangladesh Krishak Samity (BKS) and Angikar Bangladesh Foundation (ABF) yesterday in separate rallies demanded fair investigation and exemplary punishment of the

people responsible for Kansat killing in Chapainawabganj. They also demanded compensations for the families of victim,

who were killed and injured in a police shooting. Eight people were killed and more than one hundred injured when police opened fire to disperse a mob in Kansat on January 23. The firing took place when locals were demonstrating for the release of three leaders of Palli Bidyut Sangram Committee (PBSC), an

organisation of local electricity

Robbery at PP's

A gang of robbers staged a daring

robbery at the residence of a public

prosecutor (PP) and BNP leader in

and other valuables worth over Tk7

lakh from the house of Abdus Sattar

Chowdhury and stabbed him in the

Police said the gang of six entered the residence of the PP at Lalkhan

Bazaar under Khulshi Police Station

at around 2.30am after confining

The robbers then confined Sattar

and his wife Advocate Marium

Sattar along with their three sons in

another room and started looting.
"They decamped with Tk 1.5 lakh

in cash, four mobile sets, gold orna-

ments weighing 35 tolas, \$ 400 and

one digital camera," Sattar told this

Sattar, who is also president of

Khulshi ward BNP, filed a case with

Khulshi Police Station in this con-

the night guard in his room.

They looted cash, ornaments

house in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cig

the early hours of yesterday.

chest and shoulder.

correspondent.

by BKS at Muktangan in the City BKS Acting President Advocate SA Shakur said under the present government people are deprived of their basic right to express opinion,

democracy in the country. The Kansat incident is nothing but an example of autocratic activities of the government, said

across country will start oust-

subscribers, arrested in connec- release of arrested PBSC leaders tion with January 4 violence in the

Addressing the rally organised

spoke on the occasion. At another rally, Angikar Bangladesh Foundation (ABF) demanded fair investigation and punishment of the perpetrators of Kansat killing.

and cancellation of all false cases against all PBSC leaders and realisation of their five-point demands. BKS leaders Advocate Hori Sadhan Bromho, Bimolendo Haldar and Alamgir Kabir also

general people launched movement against the autocratic atti-

though it claims that there is

BKS Secretary Morshed Ali said tude of the government for the first time from Kansat and the people

demanded compensation for the government-movement very soon. He demanded immediate Agri ministry has used

ABF leaders at the rally at Doel

Presided over by chief director

Chattar in the city blamed the

government for its inability to

of ABF engineer Muhammad

Helaluddin, the speakers

the country's total annual seed

demand assessment. He also asked

them to take a coordinated

programme involving BADC,

Department of Agriculture

Extension, Barind Multi-purpose

Development Authority, Seed

Certification Agency and Research

Organisations to increase seed

production to meet the demand

He said sufficient and quality

seeds are the important means to

increase production. He also

emphasised increasing irrigation

coverage from the present 55 per-

cent to 70-75 percent using the

surface water. It will help increase

mentation process of the on-going

82 projects and the appraisal pro-

cess of 38 new projects for agricul-

Kashem, officials of the different

ministries and divisions, and chief

executives of various agriculture

organisations attended the meet-

ture development.

The meeting reviewed imple-

Agriculture Secretary Kazi Abul

production substantially, he said.

control the situation.

42pc of ADP allocation

06 fiscal.

Agriculture Ministry has used 42 percent of Tk 600 crore allocation until December under the Annual Development Programme of 2005-

review meeting of the programme under the ministry, an official handoutsaid. Agriculture Minister MK Anwar

This was disclosed at a progress

presided over the meeting at the Urging speedy implementation of the projects, MK Anwar asked the officials concerned to make advance plans to utilise the allocation. He said nobody should wait

You implement the work first and make payment when the fund released," he asserted. The meeting reviewed the state

of annual demand and coverage, He suspects that the robbery country-wide soil testing, replicamight be an act of local criminals tion of integrated pest managepatronised by a listed terrorist. ment programme across the coun-Other sources, however, said try to control pesticide use and Sattar had a long-drawn political popularise organic production, rivalry with Lalkhan Bazaar ward reorganisation of BADC, and BNP President Shah Alam who strengthening of training facilities for agriculture officials.

for fund release.

He asked the officials to finalise