

12 students receive PM's gift

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday advised the students to groom themselves through pursuit of proper knowledge for strengthening human resource base.

She asked them to acquire knowledge by reading books other than their texts.

She was talking to children who received books and letter of appreciation from her as gifts for their distinctions in obtaining stipend under talent pool at primary and

junior scholarship exams.

Twelve of the 6,439 students who received stipend in 2002 were invited to meet the prime minister at her office as part of encouragement. All other stipend holders will receive books and letter of appreciation from the PM through mail.

"I am lucky to be selected from among so many talented students to come and meet the prime minister," said Protitee Priya of Dhanmondi YWCA Girls High School.

"This gesture will undoubtedly

inspire all the talented students," Protitee said this while she was talking to the journalists at the PM's office.

The 6,439 stipend-holders of 2002 will receive about 13,000 books of the country's and world's renowned authors. The galaxy of authors ranges from Shakespeare, Maxim Gorky, Charles Dickens, Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Begum Rokeya to Dewan Mohammad Azraf, Sharat Chandra Chatterjee, Ahsan Habib, Abdullah Al Moti Sharfuddin to Humayun Ahmad and Shamsur Rahman.

Khoka gets bail in graft case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka Court yesterday granted bail to Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor Sadeq Hossain Khoka in a graft case.

Judge Matiur Rahman of the Court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge passed the order upon a bond of Tk 30,000 with two guarantors.

Khoka along with his lawyers appeared before the court at 2:30pm and submitted a petition for bail.

In the petition, the lawyers said the petitioner earlier obtained bail from the lower court and did not misuse the privilege of bail. Moreover, the case was filed against him during the

Awami League rule as part of a conspiracy to harass him politically. So they prayed for bail. The prosecution did not oppose the petition for bail.

After hearing both the sides, the court granted bail to the DCC mayor.

In the case filed with Motijheel Police Station, it has been alleged that Khoka, state minister for youth and sports during the previous BNP government, in connivance with others misappropriated Tk 3.20 lakh from the public fund showing forged documents of 14 clubs and organisations.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the case accusing Khoka and seven others on August 24 in 1998.

Project plan on Keraniganj jail by June 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Construction of a jail at Keraniganj for relocating prisoners from Dhaka Central Jail will be completed within the tenure of this government.

This was disclosed at an inter-ministerial meeting on jail reform yesterday with Law Minister Moudud Ahmed in the chair.

The law minister said the government wants to relocate all the

prisoners of Dhaka Central Jail to Kashimpur and Keraniganj jails at the earliest possible time.

Moudud said 194 acres of land has already been acquired for constructing the Keraniganj jail.

He asked the authorities concerned to submit the project plan by June 15.

The meeting stressed the need for immediate amendment to several sections of the Jail Code.

It also decided to provide legal aid to those who are languishing in different jails after serving their terms.

The meeting was informed that out of 5,417 foreign prisoners, 640 have been released from different jails at the end of their term.

State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar and Communist Party of Bangladesh General Secretary Mujahedul Islam Selim were present at the meeting.

