METROPOLITAN/NEWS

3,560 become literate thru' Reflective Circle

Int'l Literacy Day tomorrow

MOON MOON SULTANA

Punkharay Tripura of Chhoto Kumira in Shitakunda could not read and write. So he was unable to get a job. It was also difficult for him to lead the family only depending on Jhum cultivation.

But after joining the Reflect Circle, he gained the knowledge of literacy and is now leading a solvent life by working as a security guard at PHP Industries. He also started teaching his children.

Like Punkharay, around 3560 people from 50 districts across the country became literate by participating in the two-year-long programme of the Reflective

It is an approach to collective adult learning ensuring empowerment and social change conducted by the Society for Participatory Education and Development (SPED) with the support of Action Aid Bangladesh.

The success story of 16 participants of the Reflective Circle programme across the country has been depicted in a 16-month calendar (September 2006 to December 2007) which was published ahead of the International Literacy Day on

SPED and Action Aid

Concert for

at Sheraton

on Sept 12

DU CORRESPONDENT

diseases

yesterday.

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and NTV will

jointly organise a charity concert to

raise fund to help United Nations

Children's Fund (Unicef) to immu-

nise about 700,000 children around

the world against fatal childhood

held on September 12 at Winter

Garden of the Hotel, where coun-

try's four leading band groups

Nagar Baul, LRB, Miles and Souls-

conference at Sheraton Hotel

under 'Unicef Check Out for

Children Challenge' programme.

The programme, launched in 1995,

is a partnership between Unicef and

Starwood Hotels & Resorts

Worldwide Inc., a hotel and leisure

Unicef Country Representative

Luis-Georges Arsenault, General

Manager of Sheraton Hotel Trevor

MacDonald, NTV Managing

Director Enavetur Rahman and

GrameenPhone Head of Marketing

Rubaba Uddaula Matin also spoke

Bachchu of LRB, Shafin Ahmed and

Hamin Ahmed of Miles were also

Famous pop singer Aiyub

at the press conference.

present on the occasion.

Unicef

place for children.

This was disclosed at a press

The concert is being organised

The 'Concert for Children' will be

Children

Bangladesh organised the calendar launching ceremony at the LGED Bhaban on Tuesday.

A discussion on 'Investment in Adult Literacy' was also organised on this occasion to regenerate the interest in adult literacy to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in education sector.

Presenting the calendar, Mohammad Muntasim Tanvir of Action Aid Bangladesh, said the success stories of the calendar will motivate people and make them interested in adult education.

" People will look at the calendar everyday and realise the importance of adult literacy," he said.

The Reflective Circle is being conducted in cooperation with around 80 different partner organisations including Nari Maitree, Chhinnomukul Bangladesh. Gram Bangla Unnavan Committee, Amra Kai Kori, Dristi, YPSA, Eso Desh Gori, Mohidev Jubo Unnavan Sangstha and SAP-Bangladesh.

There are 508 Reflective Circles containing 25 people aged between 15 and 45 years in each group, said SPED Coordinator Foysal Ahmed.

"The participants are being provided with basic literacy knowledge in the first year and different social and global issues are dealt in the following year in the programme," said Abdul Aziz Munshi of Action Aid Bangladesh.

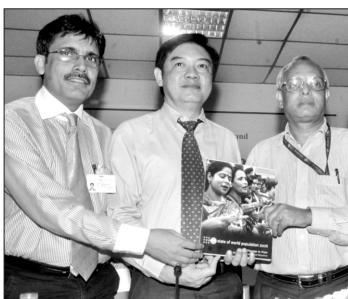
He told The Daily Star that the calendar has been published to draw the attention of people to adult literacy on the occasion of International Literacy Day.

country representative to Bangladesh, inaugurated the launching programme as special

He called for incorporating income-generating programmes with the literacy programmes to

Appreciating the initiative of publishing a calendar as a campaign tool State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haque Milon urged the NGOs and civil society to come forward to achieve the goal of education for all since the government alone cannot imple-

Zahin Ahmed, executive director of Friends in Village Development in Bangladesh (FIVDB), presided over the function while Syed Nurul Alam, SPED chairperson, Shoaib Siddique, country director of Action Aid Bangladesh, and Milon Bikash Pal, SPED vice-principal, also



UNFPA Representative Pornchai Suchitta, second from left, and UNFPA Assistant Representative Nurul Ameen hold a copy of the World Population Report 2006 at its launching ceremony in the city yesterday.

Separate directorate for RPAP demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Programme (RPAP) of Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) staged a daylong sit-in on the BRDB premises in the city vesterday

This year the challenge programme is running in all Starwood Asia Pacific hotels to focus on celebrating 60 years of

Addressing the conference, Arsenault said the charity concert next week is yet another fun and interesting way for people to participate in making the world a better their demands. Replying to a question,

today's programme.

However, they will declare new

the finance secretary by September

The RPAP employees also decided not to receive salary from now on until the new pay scale is

Earlier, speaking at the sit-in programme, BRDB unit President Muhammad Moin Uddin said, "Since BRDB cannot maintain the RPAP programme like other development projects of the government, a separate directorate needs to be formed for the project."

The other demands of the employees of RPAP include transferring the project along with its workforce to revenue sector and immediate implementation of the

RPAP project are receiving salary according the 1997 pay scale while other government employees are receiving salary according to the new pay scale, said Ataur Rahman. assistant rural development officer.

percentage

Evening

82

72

68

76

Morning

82

78

83

73



Light rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind

is likely at one or two places over Sylhet, Dhaka, Rajshahi and

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere

Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.2 degree Celsius was

The sun sets in the capital at 6:11pm today and rises at

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

26.8

25.6

26.0

25.5

25.6

25.2

Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.4 degree at Sandwip.

Temperature

in Celsius

Max

33.8

32.8

33.4

34.1

34.0

35.0

Modhu Purnima today

MacDonald said a total of 1,000

tickets would be sold for the concert.

Of them, 800 tickets will be sold at

Tk 700 and 200 tickets at Tk 1,000.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Buddhist community of the country will celebrate Modhu Purnima today.

The Buddhists in India and Bangladesh, especially in the region of Chittagong, celebrates the day of the full moon in the month of Bhadra.

Different organisations have

taken up elaborate programmes. Modhu Purnima is celebrated as a day of unity and charity. Buddhists observe it by bringing gifts of honey

to monasteries.

Bangladesh Buddhist Federation will hold different programmes, including a discussion on the significance of Modhu Purnima and world peace at 4:10pm at International Buddhist Monastery

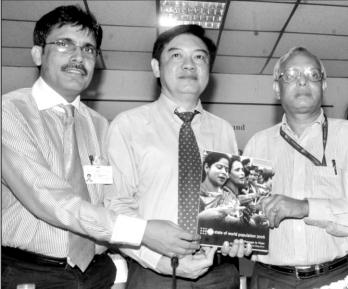
Buddhagaya International Bhabna Kendra General Secretary D Bar Sambodhi Thero will be

present. The day commemorates an occasion on which the Buddha retreated to the wilderness to bring peace between two squabbling factions of disciples.

Wolfgang Vollmann, UNESCO

motivate the rural people.

spoke on the occasion.



Leaders of Rural Poverty Alleviation demanding a separate directorate for RPAP programme and implementation of the National Pay Scale 2005.

Hundreds of RPAB employees from all over the country including Comilla, Chittagong, Sylhet, Feni, Tangail, Bogra, Gazipur, Gaibandha, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Patuakhali and Narayanganj joined the sit-in programme.

Meanwhile, at around 7:00pm last night BRDB DG Abdus Samad Mallik expressed solidarity with the demands of the employees at the sitin programme and assured them of taking immediate steps to implement

The leaders postponed their

programme if DG does not send

over the country, Met Office said.

some major cities and towns yesterday were:

5:42am tomorrow.

City/Town

Dhaka

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Svlhet

Cox's Bazar

implementation order of pay scale to

National Pay Scale 2005. A total of 1399 employees of



Chehlum

Chehlum of Novera Deepita, a reporter of The Daily Star, will be held at the residence of her eldest brother at Dhanmondi in the city after Maghrib prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

A bright journalist with shining academic records, Novera committed suicide at her residence on July 27. She had been suffering from schizophrenia

She is survived by her husband, Harun-ur-Rashid, a sub-editor of The Daily Star, parents, two broth-

Relatives, friends and wellwishers have been requested to attend the chehlum.

Mobile court seals off bakery at Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

A mobile court yesterday sealed off an unauthorised bakery for producing confectionery with adulterated

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Mohammed Munir Chowdhury sealed off Apan Bakery and Confectionery during an antiadulteration drive at Bandar Tila in South Halishahar

The owner, staffs and workers of the bakery fled before the mobile court reached there, sources said.

The court seized a huge quantity of adulterated and low quality biscuits, cake and contaminated raw materials, which were kept in an unhygienic condition in the bakerv.

The bakery has been running for long without licence of Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute (BSTI). It supplies a large quantity of confectionery items to different shops in Patenga and CEPZ areas, posing serious health hazards.

During the drive, the court urged local people to avoid food items of such illegal bakeries.

During another drive in Chittagong Court Building area, the court fined 11 people TK 550 for smoking on the court premises.

Ctg-Dhaka rail link snapped as cargo train derails

STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Rail communications between Chittagong and Dhaka and a few other destinations were snapped after three compartments of a cargo train derailed near Faujderhat Railway Station yesterday morning.

Engineers of Bangladesh Railway, Eastern Zone, who rushed immediately to the scene, could not restore communications as of 5:30pm, sources said.

Chief Traffic Manager (CTM) Kazi Asadullah, however, hoped that the rail communications would be restored in one and a half hours' Sources said the Dhaka-bound

cargo train carrying containers from Chittagong port skidded off the railway track at around 9:00am. Three of its compartments derailed, blocking the communications to and from Chittagong. The accident forced the railway

authorities to cancel the schedule of Dhaka-bound Karnaphuli Express and Chandpur-bound Meghna Express. They, however, managed an alternative way for the passengers of Dhaka-bound Mohanagar Godhuli, an inter-city train, by carrying them to the Faujderhat spot in the afternoon.

The Godhuli, which was due to depart at 2:30pm, left Chittagong Railway Station at 3:35pm, said the chief traffic manager.

'Arrest killers of customs officer' Explosion of STAFF CORRESPONDENT fireworks.

crackers banned **UNB.** Dhaka

Carrying of all types of firearms explosives and other harmful objects, and exploding fireworks and crackers in the city from 6:00pm tomorrow have been banned until further order to maintain the sanctity of Shab-e-Barat

The Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has imposed the restriction under the DMP Ordinance on the eve of Shabe-Barat to be observed in the country tomorrow.

Body formed to resolve boundary problem between Sirajganj, Jamalpur

UNB, Sirajganj

A five-member committee was formed yesterday to resolve the longstanding boundary problem between Sirajganj and Jamalpur districts.

The committee has been asked to submit its recommendations at its convenient time Official sources said the decision

was taken at a meeting of senior government officials at the Deputy Commissioner's conference room. Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Abdul Bari, Raishahi Divisional

Commissioner Moslehuddin Sirajganj DC Aminul Rab Prize-giving ceremony Chowdhury, Jamalpur DC M Hanif and high officials of Land Ministry Pran Agriculture Marketing Co Ltd will attended the meeting. give away prizes to the winners of 'Pran



and Gender Studies Department of Dhaka University and the daily Prothom Alo, at a city hotel yesterday. On her right is Dr Mahmuda Islam and on her left are Law Minister Moudud Ahmed and Tasmima Hossain.

Moudud rules out repeal of Constitution's 14th amendment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday ruled out the possibility of repealing the 14th amendment of the Constitution that crushed the demand of women's rights groups for direct election to parliament.

He was speaking at a roundtable styled '2007: Women in electoral process' organised jointly by women and gender studies department of Dhaka University and the Prothom Alo at a city hotel.

Admitting that the ruling BNP has violated its election pledge, Moudud said 'power politics' in the country compelled them to adopt many policies He hoped that the bodies con-

cerned would get 'gender sensitive

response' from all political parties if they demand an increase in the nomination of women candidates. Taleva Rehman, executive director of Democracy Watch, urged the 'selected members of parliament' to be gender sensitised prior to bringing

a change in the structure of patriarchal society Terming the selection process derogatory, Elina Khan, executive director of Bangladesh Manobadhikar Sangstha, posed questions to selected women MPs, Can they say how many voters are there in their jurisdiction?" or "Which constituency do they represent in parliament?

Mahmuda Islam, president of Women for Women, said despite two women heading the government consecutively for the last 15 years, poor representation in decision

Customs, Excise and VAT

Executive Officers' Associations

demanded immediate arrest and

punishment of the killers of customs

Unidentified criminals strangled

Customs Inspector Akbar Saeed of

Customs Excise and Vat

Commissionerate in Chittagong, to

At a meeting at National Board of

Revenue (NBR) in the city on

Tuesday, the leaders of Bangladesh

and Dhaka-Raishahi Customs.

Excise and VAT Executive Officers

also decided to submit a memoran-

dum to the finance minister, state

minister for home affairs and chair-

The Association President Zahid

Hossain, General Secretary Shafiul

Alam, Committee Convener

Mahmud Alam, Member Secretary

Azimul Islam and former secretary

general Nuruzzaman spoke at the

officer Akbar Saeed.

death on August 29.

making let women left behind the

"We have an election commission, an anti-corruption commission, a tax commission, but there is none to represent the women there although number of qualified women is not little to vie for such posts," she added. Mahmuda said election violence,

terrorism and hostile politics actually rob women's right to participate in all phases of election from candidacy to either voting or being voted. Tasmima Hossain, editor of

Anannya and former lawmaker, shared her experience to the table that even she had to play a puppet role. Sonali Chakma, president of Hill

Women's Association, stressed the active participation of indigenous woman in parliament to narrate the plight of hill women Majeda, a UP member from Tangail, alleged that in institutions

like municipality and union parishad

where the representation of woman

has been ensured, women are being treated badly. Mahin Sultana, convener of Nari Pakkha, supported the view, saving, "We had dialogues with the women representatives at the grassroots level. and it was found that their power was

constrained and they failed to implement their election pledges.' Shamima Sultan Shilu, cited the historic verdict of the High Court that ensured executive authority of women members at the Khulna City

Corporation. Asaduzzaman Nur, Awami League lawmaker, observed that the reservation system regarding the nomination should be implemented at the party level.

Dr Nazma Chowdhury, professor of women and gender studies department, explained that the nominations offered to women candidates would say how sincere the political parties are in implementing the pledges for women's political empowerment.

Khaleda Akhtar Rosy of the Centre for Policy Dialogue and Munni Saha of ATN Bangla raised questions whether it is possible to ensure women's rights with Jamaate-Islami in the alliance as it has no women representative in its executive committee and carries a different

With election getting close, the women from all walks of society and organisations were vibrant in pressing home their demands for reinstating the National Policy for Women Development '97 and repealing the 14th amendment of the Constitution.

They also wanted to know the strategy of the political parties over the participation of women in the next

Jahiruddin Swapan and Fahima Hossain, BNP lawmakers, Samia Zaman, film maker and news presenter, Avesha Banu, chairman of Women and Gender Studies Department, also spoke on the

Motiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, moderated the

4 killed, 48 injured in road accidents

Four people died and 48 others injured in separate road accidents at Chittagong and Munshiganj yester-

Our correspondent from Chittagong reports: Two youths were killed and another was injured in a road accident in the port city vesterday. Sources said a motorbike with

three people onboard collided head-

on with a Fatevabad-bound tempo at Roufabad near the city's Oxygen intersection at around 1:00 pm. As the bike riders fell on the street following the collision, a speeding truck ran them over leav-

The killed were identified as Saiful Islam, 27, son of Anwarul Hoque of Oxygen and Jamal Uddin, 30, son of late Abdul Malek of Hathazari.

ing two killed and the other severely

The injured was identified as Nizam Uddin, 27, son of Zahirul Ahmed of Hathazari, He was undergoing treatment at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), sources said.

A correspondent from

Munshiganj adds: Two people

including a woman were killed and

47 others injured in a road accident

yesterday at Old Baushia under Gazaria upazila of the district on Dhaka-Chittagong highway. Sources said a Dhaka-bound passenger bus of Seemanta Paribahan fell into a roadside ditch

at 6:00am as the driver lost control. The deceased were identified as Ali Ansar, 40, son of Yeasin Mia of Barisal and Rowshan Ara, 26, daughter of Firoz Mia of

Narayanganj. The injured are undergoing treatment at local hospitals and in Dhaka. Among them, one Hazera Begum's condition is reported to be serious.

The driver of the bus managed to flee away. A case was filed with Gazaria Police Station.

DHÂKA

National dialogue South Asia Partnership Bangladesh will

hold a national dialogue on 'Small arms: National peace and security threat'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 9:00am.

Discussion

Jatiya Shikkha-Sangskriti Andolon organises a discussion in memory of poet Shamsur Rahman, Venue: Liberation War Museum, Time:

The launching ceremony of 'Bandladesh Media and Demographic Survey 2006' will be held. Venue: Brac

Launching ceremony

moshlav Malavsia'. Venue: National

Press Club. Time: 10:45am.

Centre Inn. Time: 5:00pm.

Blue for Peace Family of slain former finance minister

Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: In front of Institute of Fine Arts, DU. Time: 5:00pm.

Pro-AL lawyers observe 'Black Day'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Members of the Dhaka Bar Association (DBA) yesterday wore black badges in protest against the attacks on pro-Awami League lawyers by the ruling party-backed hoodlums on September 6 in 2003.

Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) also observed the day as 'black day' under their programme titled 'Save the Court and Save the Country' across the country while Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum observed the day as 'development

At least 50 pro-Awami League lawyers were injured at Dhaka Bar Association office in the attack ahead of the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's visit to an adjacent court to lav the foundation stone of a court building on the day.

The ruling party's hoodlums also injured at least 10 photojournalists and two court correspondents and vandalised the portraits of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the association office at noon, half an hour before the prime minister's visit to Dhaka District Judge's Court.

Samannaya Parishad held a protest meeting at the Dhaka Bar Association auditorium yesterday and condemned the attacks on the

The speakers also demanded exemplary punishment to the culprits responsible for the attacks.

The programme of the Parishad was presided over by DBA President Nuruzzaman Nani. Its General Secratry Abul Baten, SASP member secretary advocate Subrata Chowdhury, Supreme Court Bar General Secretary AM Amin Uddin and its former secretary M Enayetur

Rahim were also present. The Ainjibi Forum leaders also held a rally outside the auditorium.

The forum programme was presided over by its President Fazlur Rahman Khan.



Surya Sen Bitarko Dhara executives

SM Maruf and Anwar Hossain have been elected president and general secretary of Surva Sen Bitarko Dhara, a debate organisation of Surva Sen Hall of Dhaka University

(DU), says a press release. Provost of the hall Prof Dr Md Sirajul Islam announced the names of 13 members of the new executive committee on September 3.

Obituary



SM Shamsur Rahman, a freedom fighter chairman of Kurmitola High School, passed away due to a cardiac arrest

the age of 52, says a press release. He was also the secretary gen eral of Muktijoddha Kalvan Kendra. He is survived by his mother,

wife, one daughter and one son. He was buried at Namapara Graveyard in Khilkhet with state

Shamsur Rahman

Shamsur Rahman, a politician and trade union leader, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on September 4, says a press release. He was the joint general secre-

tary of Jatiya Sramik Jote. Jatiya Sramik Jote President Mesbahuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Nurul Amin expressed deep shock at his death.

Momtaj Uddin

Bss. Dhaka

Mohammad Momtaj Uddin, a former teacher of Maona High School at Sreepur upazila in Gazipur, died of old age complications at his village home on Tuesday at the age of 80. He is survived by his wife, three

sons and three daughters.

Death anniversary



freedom fiahtei Ruhul Quddus. a member of the first batch of Civil Service of Pakistan, savs a press release.

Today is the

15th death

anniversary of

As the first principal secretary of Bangladesh government, he made significant contribution to administrative structure and the rebuilding

of the country. He was awarded the Independence Award in 2001

posthumously.

He formulated the historic sixpoint demand of Bangabandhu Sheikh Muiibur Rahman.