



PHOTO STAR

Different organisations, schools and colleges took out a colourful procession in Narayanganj yesterday to mark the International Literacy Day.

Edn policy should focus on children: Saifur

UNB, Dhaka

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman yesterday took a swipe at the concept of adult education, saying that government's education policy should concentrate on schooling for the children instead of elderly people.

"The elderly people can be educated by their grandchildren," he said in a cautious approach amid differences of opinion about the importance of elders' education in the country.

"I'm not discouraging education for the elderly people... at the same time we'll have to decide if we should waste resources for educating people above 40 years of age," he told a seminar at BIAN auditorium.

The Department of Primary and Mass Education and Directorate of Non-formal Education organised the seminar on "Importance and Effectiveness of Non-formal Education in Bangladesh" marking the International Literacy Day and Elderly Education Week 2002.

Primary and Mass Education secretary Prof Tahmina Hossain presided over the function and State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan also spoke. Officials of the projects concerned highlighted the significance of non-formal education.

"The government has undertaken a comprehensive education policy to provide complete educa-

tion to every child," said the finance minister, listing the education incentives the government declared in the current budget.

"If we can educate each and every child, the country will move ahead to a great extent," he said. Government's topmost priority is to alleviate poverty, and poverty in education is one of the major causes that should be addressed.

Instead of concentrating on education for elderly people, Saifur advised officials concerned to strengthen their monitoring so that the education system worked properly.

He also advised them to work on how the quality of teachers and curricula could be improved in a time-benefiting manner.

Law Ministry mulls changes in Bar Council Act

UNB, Dhaka

The Law Ministry is contemplating bringing some important changes in some provision of the age-old Bar Council Act to upgrade legal and judicial systems.

"We want to make the important institution a more democratic and neutral body as per demand of the different bars, senior lawyers and other professional bodies of the lawyers," said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

The Bar Council Act, which was enacted in 1972, provides for enrolment certificate of the lawyers, control of the professional behaviour, discipline and qualifications of the lawyers.

Suggestions put forward by different bars, other professional bodies and senior lawyers include election procedure and recasting the enrolment committee.

A ministry source told UNB that the demands, which are identical, include increase in the number of members of the council, direct election to the post of vice-chairman, nomination of judges and academics to the enrolment

committee along with elected council members.

Under the existing law, present council comprises 15 members. The Attorney General is ex-officio chairman of the council while seven national and seven zonal members are elected by the lawyers across the country. And a vice-chairman was elected from among the 14 elected members.

The council forms several committees, the most important one being the enrolment committee that gives enrolment certificate to the fresher in legal profession.

Suggestions also include election of zonal representatives by the zonal lawyer-members of the Bar Council.

The present enrolment committee comprises five members. Demands raised by the bars are for two members to be nominated by the Chief Justice from among retired or sitting judges as well as inclusion of the Attorney General and two others from among the council members and also from

academics.

Suggestion is also for increasing functional powers of the Chairman.

To a question, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed admitted to receiving suggestions from different bars and individual lawyers and said these were being considered.

He said the ministry is not in a hurry and it would take up the issues with the Bar Council, different bars, senior lawyers and other professional bodies of lawyers.

Moudud said changes in the Bar Council Act are required to enhance efficiency of the lawyers and of the judicial system.

3 killed in Khulna road accidents

BSS, Khulna

Three people, including a student, were killed in separate road accidents in the city on Saturday.

Two of the dead were identified as Ariful Islam Nannu, 24, and Asgar Ali, 30. The other victim could not be identified.

Police said Nannu, son of Obaidur Rahman and a degree examinee, was going to his college by bi-cycle when a speeding truck knocked him down at Badamtala area under Daulatpur thana. Local people rushed him to Khulna

Medical College Hospital (KMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 1.00 pm.

Asgar Ali, a worker of Mobsin Jute Mill, was going to his workplace by motor-cycle but he fell to the ground with a bi-cycle near the jute mill. He received serious head injury. He died after he was admitted to KMCH.

In another incident, an unidentified young man was sleeping on the road at Ghat area of the city when a speeding truck crushed him at around 4.30 am. He died on the spot.

Iajuddin greets Kim Jong Il

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday greeted the Chairman of the National Defence Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong Il on the occasion of the Independence Day of North Korea.

In a message to Kim Jong Il, also Supreme Commander of the Korean People's Army, the president expressed his optimism that the friendly relations existing between the two countries would be

further strengthened in the days ahead.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia also felicitated Prime Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea Kim Jong Il on the same occasion.

"The bonds of friendship that so happily exist between our two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come to the mutual benefit of our two countries and peoples," Khaleda said.

সবার দেরা ফেলেছে নাড়া

এবারের প্রচণ্ড প্রতিবেদন

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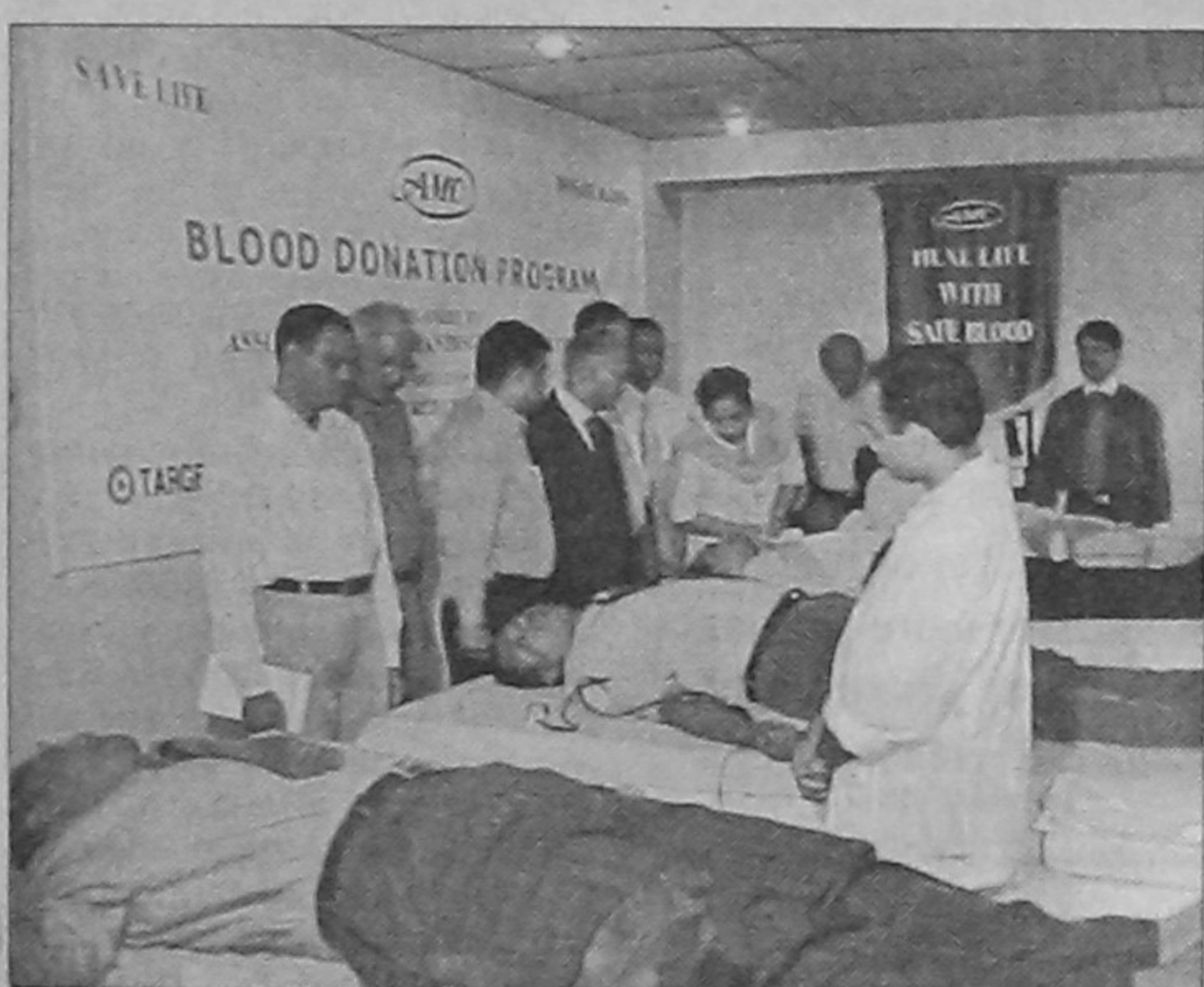
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The Associated Merchandising Corporation in association with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised a blood donation programme in the city yesterday.

Case under speedy trial act Seven Keraniganj AL activists sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Seven leaders and workers of Keraniganj thana Awami League accused in a case filed under the Law and Order Disruption Crimes (Speedy Trial) Act were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday after their bail petitions were rejected by the Speedy Trial Court, Dhaka.

They accused are Haji Abu Siddique, president of Taranagar Union Awami League, Kamal Hossain, president of Chhatra League at Shanta Union, and Hamid, Shah Alam, Parvez, Abdullah and Shahid.

The accused along with their lawyers - Hazi Nazrul Islam, Abdullah Abu, Mohammad Israfil, Abul Kashem, Moklesur Rahman Badal, Anwara Shahjahan, Abdur Rahman Howlader, SM Anwar Hassain, Anwar Hossain, Mahfuza Syeda, Fatema Rashid and Arshadul Haque - appeared in the court at about 11:00 am and sought bail.

The lawyers argued that the names of the accused were even not mentioned in the FIR of the case. But the investigation officer (IO) of the case included the names in the charge sheet with a political motive, they said.

The prosecution side opposed the bail petition.

After hearing both the sides, Magistrate Abu Abdullah rejected the bail petitions and sent them to jail.

In the case filed with Keraniganj thana, it has been alleged that

a launch, Lucky, sank in the Kholamora Launchghat under Keraniganj thana on July 31 this year. On receiving information, police of the thana led by the officer-in-charge (OC) went there and found that another launch, Zakia, was burning. Later, they tried to douse the fire, but more than 150 people led by Hafizur Rahman, another accused in the case, prevented them.

Police arrested Hafiz from the spot and filed a case against him and 300 others with Keraniganj thana the same day.

On August 7, the investigation officer of the case submitted a charge sheet against Hafiz and 13 others.

Six prosecution witnesses were also cross-examined yesterday.

The court also fixed September 12 for the next hearing of the case.

City AL meeting today

UNB, Dhaka

An extraordinary extended meeting of Dhaka City Awami League will be held at the party's central office in the city today.

Leaders of city Awami League and presidents and general secretaries of all the thana units have been requested to attend the meeting at 6.30pm, said a press release.

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