# Little magazine

FROM PAGE 16

on issue after being motivated by some organizations like Sector Commanders' Forum and the political move to banish the anti-liberation forces, said Major Quamrul Hassan Bhuiyan (Rtd), chairman & chief researcher, Centre for Bangladesh Liberation War Studies.

The stall named 'Shudhui Muktijuddher Boi' is selling comic series on the heroes of the liberation war to disseminate its message among young readers.

The demand of little magazines has also increased significantly this year. Visitors were seen flocking to the circular stalls under the two banyan trees on the book fair premises.

"This year the sale of little magazines is comparatively high. In the previous years, the number of stalls for little magazines was 11/12 but this year it is 40 in the fair," said Arif Ahmad, editor, Sahitya Bazar, a little magazine.

"This year the arrangement of the fair is more professional and systematic than previous. Every stall has its indication number. Previously, I could not say the number of my stall when people asked me," said Ahsan Habib, popular writer and editor of satire magazine Unmad.

"We feel different kinds of inspiration in the fair this year, he said.

Besides selling books in the fair, the stalls set up for voluntary blood donation were carrying out their activities in full swing. Among the stalls, Quantum Foundation has collected 1,172 bags of blood till yesterday.

Seventeen new books were launched in the book fair yesterday include Kobi O Kobita by Md Moniruzzaman, One Zero One Cyborg Team by Azman Andalib, Nishattay by Syed Ahmad, Megher Kole Roudra Hase by Syed Ahmad,

## Zillur

FROM PAGE 1

Rehana, her close relatives and the president's family members were present.

BSS adds: Earlier, the newly elected president paid rich tribute to the memories of his late wife Ivy Rahman, a senior Awami League leader killed in the August 21, 2004 grenade attack, placing wreath at her graveyard at Banani in the capital.

Son, daughters and other close relatives of the president were present.

After that, President Zillur Rahman placed wreaths at the graveyard of the family members of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who were assassinated brutally along with Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975 in the capital.

wreaths at the mazars of Awami League's senior leaders at the same graveyard.

The president offered fateha and stood in solemn silence for some time at the graveyard.

## Drug addict

handed over the youths to the

police suspecting their involvement with the murder.

The youths confessed to the police that they killed the two sisters.

#### Tipaimukh

FROM PAGE 1 the face of protest within and

outside India.

A long march from Sylhet to Jakiganj and environmentalists in India had strongly protested the construction of the barrage.

According to the WDB officials, Indian state-owned NIPCO Company recently t arted the groundwork on the barrage. An appraisal committee of river valley and hydro-electric experts of India issued the clearance certificate for the barrage

few months ago. Sajjadul Hasan, deputy commissioner of Sylhet, said he would inform the appropriate quarter about the latest development on

Tipaimukh barrage. The barrage at the catchment of Surma and Kushiara rivers at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore is aimed at building up a 1500-megawatt

hydel project. When the barrage will be completed by 2012, the 350km long Surma and 110-km long Kushiara rivers will dry up in the winter, seriously affecting agriculture and bringing about ecological changes in the region, experts said.

Hajar Bochor Pore by Syed Ahmad and Samudra (poetry)

by Sohani Hossain. "But at least today (Saturday) I can move to a stall and buy something. It was quite impossible for me yesterday (Friday). Today I have bought 22 books," said Rifat, a DU student.

#### Maiden Saudi woman minister appointed

AFP, Riyadh

King Abdullah on Saturday made sweeping changes to his government, axing the head of the religious police and appointing Saudi Arabia's first-ever woman deputy minister in the biggest shakeup since he took over the throne.

Analysts said the changes continued Abdullah's cautious modernisation of the country's arch-conservative education, legal and social environments.

The reshuffle included naming new education, justice, information and health ministers, a new leader of the consultative Shura council, new central bank chief and the appointment of a woman deputy education minister for female education

Norah al-Fayez, currently an official at the Saudi Institute for Public Administration, became the first holder of the new job, the most senior ever granted to a woman in the Muslim king-

In another major change, Abdullah sacked hardliner Sheikh Ibrahim al-Ghaith, the head of the Muttawa religious police, seen by many Saudis as a force opposed to some of the liberalisations proposed under his regime.

Under Ghaith, the Muttawa, who enforce Saudi Arabia's strict-but-eroding Islamic social mores, such as complete separation of unrelated members of the opposite sexes and Saudi women shrouding themselves completely in black while in public, have been widely feared.

Ghaith was replaced by Sheikh Abdul Aziz al Humain, who quickly gave notice of changes to come.

"We will try to be close to the heart of every citizen. Their concerns are ours," Humain told Al-Arabiya news channel.

"This is a turning point. It is the biggest change that happened in this country in 20 years," Mohammad al-Zulfa, a member of the Shura council, told AFP.

"It is a new start for King He also placed floral Abdullah. People are expecting changes," Zulfa said.

Abdullah, who ascended the throne after the death of his half-brother King Fahd in August 2005, had made mainly minor changes in the government since then, and expectations had grown for him to put his mark more deeply on the administra-

But the most powerful cabinet positions of defence, interior, and foreign affairs remained unchanged remaining in the hands of the key princes of the royal family who have held the jobs for

many years if not decades. The changes announced Saturday included naming Ambassador to Lebanon Abdulaziz al-Khoja as information and culture minister, legal expert Sheikh Mohammed al-Issa as justice minister, and senior national guard official Prince Faisal bin Abdullah bin Mohammed al-Saud as

#### education minister. Bengali culture

FROM PAGE 16 culture so that they can become ambassadors of our culture and heritage all over the world," he added.

"We have a plan to arrange the programme every year and students from outside the city could also participate in the events," he further said.

Students from nine renowned schools including Maple Leaf School, BIT School, BIS School, Sea Breeze School, Oxford International School, Green Gems International School, Sunnydale School, Playpen School, and St Jude's School participated in the programme. They performed

group songs and dances. The best performers will participate in The Daily Star's award giving ceremony for the A-level and O-level students scheduled for March 14.

### Textbook

FROM PAGE 1 said a publisher wishing anonymity.

Despite knowing about these types of problems in the newly printed textbooks, the publishers are not getting time to check the books before marketing, headded.

Besides, officials of National Curriculum & Textbooks Board (NCTB) do not get time to check the printed textbooks before marketing, as they have to allow the publishers sell-permission without checking due to tremendous pressure from the taskforce.

The taskforces members also admitted the fact and said there is no way of doing it as 42 days of the current academic year have already been passed and students are still facing textbook crisis.

"Something is better than nothing. We have issued two deadlines to publishers observing the tremendous crisis. Yes, students have to face troubles. But now they can continue their study after getting books," said Mirza Abdullah Baki, chief of the taskforce and additional director general of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB).

He said they will give an attention to check the problems in printing and binding as soon as the present situation improves.

However, publishers said textbooks crisis will not be ended even after publishing all NCTB-tendered 2.65 crore textbooks because the actual demand is estimated to be over five crore.

Students will have to read the textbooks with low quality printing and binding this year for this reason, they said.

Most of the publishers failed to market the required number of 2.65 crore textbooks last month under all the three phases, alleged NCTB Chairman Masir Uddin.

"When there will be no crisis of textbooks, we will take steps to ensure quality of binding and printing of books so that students will be encouraged," he told The Daily Star.

On February 5, the present government formed a taskforce for textbooks following recommendation by the education ministry in an effort to solve the textbooks crisis. The taskforce will also prepare a set of recommendations so that the textbooks crisis will not happen again in the next year.

### Blight blow

FROM PAGE 16

The government targeted production of 80 lakh tonnes of potato from five lakh hectares of land this season but it was cultivated in 4.64 lakh hectares. Last season, 92 lakh tonnes were produced from 5.20 lakh hectares, a senior DAE official mentioned.

"Late blight caused by bad weather may affect total production of potato," he said seeking anonymity.

Contacted, DAE Deputy Director in Munshiganj Hira Lal said the fungal disease attacked potato crop in 81 hectares out the 35,587 hectares brought under potato

cultivation this time. But farmers said the affected area is several times

that claimed by the DAE. Ramzan, a farmer a Charkewar in the district, said the disease attacked potato crop in more than 100 hectares only in that area.

Afzal Hossain, "I borrowed money to cultivate potato, but all my potato field is now affected. I am now helpless."

In Ranggpur, farmer Sohel Khandoker of Mahiganj, said late blight damaged almost 30 percent of the plants on 30 acres of his land.

Another farmer, Sajedul Islam Liton of Pirganj, said around 40 percent of his eight acres of potato field was affected in January and about 30 percent this month.

In Kurigram, the disease damaged potato crop in some areas of Rajarhat and Sadar upazilas.

A team of agriculturists looked into the matter and found low quality seeds were a major reason behind it.

Reports from Nilphamari said the disease led to untimely harvest of potato and consequent huge supply of it in local markets. And potato price has fallen sharply. It now sells at only Tk7-8 a kg compared to Tk 18-20 just two weeks back.

Hari Pada Mazumder, DAE director (field services), said agriculture extension officials had promptly advised farmers to spray fungicides when the attack was at primary stage.

"Those who followed their advice saved their crop," he claimed.

The field reports on late blight attack affecting potato crop were received from our correspondents Rafique Sarker in Rangpur, Abdul Wahed in Kurigram, EAM Asaduzzaman in Nilphamari, Farhana Mirza in Munshiganj and other sources.

# 16 killed in Indian train crash

NEWS

AFP, Bhubaneswar

Rescuers searched through the wreckage of smashed carriages yesterday after a train derailed in eastern India, leaving 16 people dead and almost 200 injured, rail officials said.

The high-speed Coromandel Express, connecting the eastern metropolis of Kolkata and the southern city of Chennai, derailed Friday night while changing tracks at Jajpur, 100km from Orissa's state capital Bhubaneswar.

"Its tragic. 16 passengers have died, while close to 200 got injured," Ajay Kumar Goel, general manager of Eastern Railways, told AFP.

Witnesses said 12 carriages

had jumped the tracks while travelling at high speed. "The train had acquired speed and minutes later it crossed the station and just toppled," said Hemant premises. Bhalotia, whose 70-year-old

father died. The accident came on a day when federal railways minister Lalu Yadav took credit for turning round the giant state-run transport network, which was once headed for bankruptcy.

The Press Trust of India news agency reported that Yadav has ordered an inquiry into the

## 100 fall sick in food poisoning

UNB, Gazipur

Over 100 students and teachers of Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology fell sick owing to food poisoning at a feast yesterday. Sources said the students

taking food at the monthly feast at Shaheed Muktijoddha dormitory on Friday night. "Many of them have been suffering from diarrhoea, fever and stomach upset since

and teachers fell sick after

they dined at the feast," said many a student. Over 50 students were taken to sadar hospital as their condition deteriorated.

#### Death toll film star Ilias Kanchan also spoke, among others. FROM PAGE 16 ntv staff killers

possible.

skidded off the road and fell into a 500 feet deep ditch.

Sources said the rescuers salvaged the bus Friday night but they could not find the body of the female student as the ditch got covered with mud and water after the acci-

Meanwhile, teachers and students of the college brought out a mourning procession on their campus in the morning. College authorities also announced a three-day mourning programme.

"She sought my permission before going to the picnic and was unwilling to let her go. Finally, I allowed her because she missed our family visit to St. Martin's Island just two weeks ago due to her year final exam," her father Temiyo Kumar Mutsuddy said in an emotion-choked voice.

Priyashi was a familiar face in cultural arena and obtained many prizes, including 3rd place in Jatiya Shishu Kishor Sangskritik Protijogita 2008 organised by Bangabandhu Shishu Kishor Mela. She also got prize in All India Children and Adolescent Cultural Competition held in Kolkata in 2000.

## parliament.

accident as well as compensa-

tion for families of the dead and

the number of train accidents

had decreased significantly

during his tenure as minister,

from 325 in 2003-4 to 194 in

main form of long-distance

travel in India despite fierce

competition from new private

airlines -- runs 14,000 passenger

and freight trains and carries

Smoking free

enhance the anti-smoking

campaign as it is undoubtedly

harmful to health," said Prof

Nazrul adding that they would

soon put up billboards pro-

hibiting smoking on every

Choudhury, founder presi-

dent of MANAS said tobacco is

responsible for death of one in

almost one lakh people die in

our country due to smoking

related diseases, which is 16

deadly diseases including lung

cancer, cardio-vascular dis-

eases, brain strokes, child death

etc," he said adding that accord-

ing to the World Bank 350 chil-

dren dying of malnutrition

every day across the globe can

be saved if 69 percent of the total

expense on tobacco is contrib-

the conference at DMCH

Modasser Ali said the govern-

ment would put its effort to

make all government institu-

as implementation of the Act

against smoking in public is

Director of DMCH Abdus

Shaheed Khan, Principal of the

hospital Deen Mohammad and

Talking to reporters after a

function in Uttara, Home

Minister Sahara Khatun

expressed condolences at

Atiqul's death and said she

had asked the Inspector

General of Police (IGP) Nur

Mohammad to take measures

to arrest the killers as soon as

prime minister for deteriora-

tion of law and order and so

are the police for any crime

committed under their juris-

ntv office at Karwan Bazar

yesterday morning and later

he was buried at his home

village in Bogra after two

namaz-e-janazas--one at ntv

was shot twice from behind.

Morgue sources said Atiqul

Investigation officer of the

case Sub-inspector (SI)

Tariqul Islam of Ramna Police

Station said police are looking

for clues and trying to arrest

print media and ntv

Several electronic and

the killers.

and the other in Bogra.

Atiqul's body was taken to

diction," she added.

"I am accountable to the

"Massive persuasion as well

Speaking as the chief guest at

uted for them.

tions smoke free.

important," he added.

percent of the total deaths.

He also said every year

"Smoking can cause some 25

every ten adults worldwide.

18.5 million people daily.

FROM PAGE 1

he said.

The railway system -- still the

those injured.

2007-8.

for reserved seats for women in

A total of 188 party nomination aspirants collected forms on the first day from the AL chief's political office in the capital's Dhanmondi. Some of them also submitted the forms. On Friday he boasted that Ashraful said the issue of

staging direct election to reserved seats for women in parliament is there in the party's election manifesto. The manifesto also said the

number of reserved seats for women in parliament will be increased to 33 percent from 15. Now parliament has 45

others the rest in proportion to party strengths in parliament. The minister said honest candidates having good educational qualification and background of making sacrifices for

the party will be given priority.

He said the forms would be sent to the AL parliamentary board that will finalise the list of party nominees. Party nomination aspirants

building at the university can collect forms paying a nonrefundable amount of Tk 10,000 Concurrently the shops each from the AL office and selling cigarettes around the submit those from 11:00am to campus would soon be closed, 4:00pm till February 18. As per the constitution, the Prof Dr Arup Ratan

election to reserved seats for women must be held within 90 days since the publication of general election results.

The party nomination aspirants who collected forms yesterday include Jubo Mohila League president Nazma Akhtar, party's relief and welfare secretary Prof Nazma Rahman, Prof Jinnatunnesa Talukder Hasina Doula, Mohila League president Ashrafunnesa Mosharraf, Faridunnahar Lily, Apu Ukil, Marufa Akhtar Popy and Lutfunnahar Munni.

### BNP to recast

FROM PAGE 16

Six central teams led by the party's joint secretariesgeneral and organisational secretaries which are assigned to talk to grassroots level leaders, were already asked to submit their recommendations for party revitalisation to the party high-ups soon after

Joint Secretary General views with field level leaders.

The party is now interviewing its grassroots level leaders

## Attorney office

ministry based on recommen-

dations of judges concerned. Additional Attorney General M Enayetur Rahim said the bar council act does not permit any law graduate to practice law without having a bar council's

enrolment certificate. Former Additional Attorney General Barrister Abdur Razaque Khan however told The Daily Star that setting up the attorney services was a good step, as the system ensures dispensation of justice in a fair

"The attorney services are regular and independent services. If the attorney department is in place, talented and neutral law officers will be recruited," he added.

Director General of Government Attorney Department Israil Hossain said the ordinance made the bar council's enrolment certificates unnecessary for lawyers wanting to be government attorneys.

Asked when the Government Attorney Department will start functioning, Israil said the implementation of the Attorney Service Ordinance is up to the governmentnow.

setting up of the department, it was empowered to recruit government attorneys for all courts including the Supreme Court. The president promulgated

the Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 on December 2 last year repealing the Government Attorney Service Ordinance, 2008 through which the departnow. But I cannot abandon her ment had been established. The law ministry in August because if I do, who would look

976 posts of government attor-

# Direct election Lanka bus carrying

FROM PAGE 16

residents of a home for the elderly inside a demarcated safe area within Sri Lanka's war zone, a doctor said Saturday.

Many elderly people were also injured in the shelling in the northeast coastal area of Puttumattalan, said T. Satyamurthy, a doctor working out of the makeshift community centre hospital.

He said hundreds of civilians were being treated in the reserved seats for women who hospital, which was running are elected by the lawmakers. out of drugs and lacked clean The AL will get 35 seats and the toilets and clean water.

Security forces and police were also deployed Saturday at a local election for two provincial councils in the central and north-western parts of the country, officials The government of

President Mahinda Rajapakse turned the election into a referendum on its handling of the battle against Tamíl Tiger rebels. Police said the vote went through peacefully and results are expected Sunday. This week, the Red Cross

evacuated more than 600 patients and family members from Puttumattalan by sea to the northeastern coastal town of Trincomalee. Satyamurthy said another

600 badly wounded people needed to be evacuated for further treatment. More than 200 patients

suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease and kidney problems

#### Language hero Gaziul yet to regain full consciousness

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite slight improvement in physical condition of ailing veteran language hero Gaziul Haque yesterday, he is yet to regain full consciousness at city's Square Hospital.

Physicians of Gaziul Haque at the hospital said due to old age complications and convulsion, neurological problem might have developed that led to the unconsciousness.

"However, his actual neudiagnosed through the magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) this morning," his physician Prof Mirza Nazimuddin told The Daily

He said after getting the MRI report, the medical board comprising eight physicians will sit to discuss the next step of his treatment.

Gaziul Haque was provided with artificial life support first but the ventilator was removed as his condition improved with normal breathing yesterday, physicians and his relative sources said. Haque, who has been

suffering from diabetes, heart

disease and old age complica-

tions, was hospitalised on Wednesday morning as his condition deteriorated. Born on February 13, 1929, Haque had played a leading role in the 1952 Language Movement. He was also a valiant freedom fighter and

frontline. Haque, a member of the advisory committee of Awami League, also took part in the mass upsurge of 1969 and anti-autocratic movement in

fought bravely in the Bogra

## 16 sewerage

FROM PAGE 16 fish of the lagoons, the metals would enter our bodies and remain there for years."

He said heavy metals can damage the kidneys and cause lever cirrhosis and cancer, so the authorities concerned should kill the fish every three months.

Faroque said it is very important to keep the place secured so that no one can enter otherwise it would be difficult to check the illegal fishing. Fish cultivation in the

lagoons was reportedly stared by one Harunur Rashid Pintu, son of a WASA staffer in 1985. The practice went on unabated by a number of influential people in the area, till the end of the four-party alliance government's tenure, said sources of WASA. The fish breed in the lagoons naturally now. They are mostly Telapia which grow very fast, he said.

Executive engineer Kamrul, however, maintained that it is not possible to kill all the fishes in the lagoons, some always survive and start breeding again.

were also in need of urgent

evacuation. The government accuses the LTTE of using some

100,000 Tamil civilians as a human shield after military forces cornered the guerrillas in a narrow strip of jungle in the island's north-east. However, official figures showed 37,420 people had crossed the front lines this

year, with nearly 35,000 mak-

ing the hazardous journey

this month alone to seek shelter with security forces. The Red Cross says hundreds of non-combatants have already been killed.

The government, which says it is on the brink of crushing the rebels, has resisted international calls to halt its offensive against the Tigers, who have fought since 1972 for the creation of an independent Tamil homeland. On Thursday, Sri Lanka set

up a new safe zone for noncombatants along a 12kilometre (7.5-mile) stretch of coastline, effectively scrapping a smaller designated nofire area. Sri Lanka has resisted calls for a "no-fire period," amid claims from relief agencies

island's war zone. Foreign governments as well as rights groups have asked Tamil Tigers to allow civilians free movement.

that a "humanitarian catas-

trophe" was unfolding in the

## Time runs out

FROM PAGE 1 ordinances to be laid before the legislature as bills. On its instructions, the law

ministry has already directed

the ministries concerned to convert the ordinances into Committee Chairman Rahmat Ali yesterday told The Daily Star that they might seek Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina's opinions before

settling on the ordinances to be placed for ratification. Contacted over phone yesterday, committee member and former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru said, "Hopefully we'll be able to resolve the issue at tomor-

row's meeting." Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon, another member of the committee, rological condition will be said they might need some more time as they will hear

from experts as well. The cabinet on Wednesday approved only three bills to be placed in parliament.

Legal experts say the government can, however, introduce fresh bills to be made laws along the lines of the ordinances that might not be ratified by February 24.

Taliban

FROM PAGE 16 Although many Pakistanis regard the fight against the Taliban as America's war, Zardari said that was not the

"We're not doing anybody a

favour ... We are aware of the

fact it's [Taliban] trying to take

over the state of Pakistan," he says. "So, we're fighting for the survival of Pakistan. We're not fighting for the survival of anybody else." Meanwhile, a suspected US missile strike by a drone aircraft flattened a militant hideout in northwestern Pakistan

and foreign insurgents, intelligence officials said. Several more purported militants were wounded in the attack in South Waziristan, a militant stronghold near the Afghan border where al-Qaeda leaders Osama bin Laden and Ayman al-Zawahri

on Saturday, killing 27 local

are believed to be hiding. The new US administration has brushed off Pakistani criticism that the missile strikes fuel religious extremism and boost anti-American sentiment in the Islamic world's only nuclear-armed Pilotless US aircraft are

believed to have launched more than 30 attacks since July, and American officials say al-Qaeda's leadership has been decimated. Pakistani officials say the vast majority of the victims are civilians. Taliban fighters surrounded the compound tar-

geted Saturday in the village of Shrawangai Nazarkhel and carried away the dead and wounded in several vehicles. Intelligence officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not

authorized to talk to the media, said the victims included about 15 ethnic Uzbek militants and several Afghans. Their seniority was unclear.

## demanded arrest of the killers. Love lost

Agargaon. On Valentine's Day yesterday, a nurse was checking her health.

come to see me," whispered elinain a feeble voice. "Please do not make up stories madam," a nurse reminds her gently, "Your sons

"I feel great when my sons

have never come to see you." Selina falls silent and the look in her eyes is vacant. She looks lost in a loveless world. Probably it dawns on her strokeridden brain that her wealthy past, her children established in life -- nothing matters now that she is living on others' pity. Bedridden for the last four

years after a series of strokes, she also suffers from diabetes and blood pressure. Recently she had a heart attack, her doctors said. Lying on a plastic sheet reeking of urine, Selina was

taking few orange pods from a kind woman who had come to visit the elderly in the home. "None of her children looks after her. Her daughters visited her only four times in the last four years," said her attendant.

Selina is one of the many

country who have no one to look after them. Since none of her children pays for her expenses, the home

Selina's expenses. worse by lack of support from her family. We are looking after her physical well-being but mentally she is a broken person," said Dr Ashraful Alam Khan, a part-time medical

months.

her medical expenses.

afterher?" At these words, Selina turns to the attendant. Tears roll down from her eyes and all the world's love and affection concentrate in her stare.

and wipes out her tears.

miserable elderly citizens in the

treatment. At the moment doctor at the home bears "She is suffering from multiple problems which are made

Selina's attendant hasn't been paid for the last three She said, "Her sisters used to pay me but they have stopped

officer at the home, who bears

The attendant smiles softly

neys.

completing their discussions. Abdullah Al Noman told The Daily Star last night that they will submit their reports soon after completing their inter-

He also said he is planning to submit an action plan for boosting the party's activities as well with his report. "An action plan should be adopted for better coordination between the central and field levels through central leaders frequent visits to the grass-

roots level.' to find out the reasons behind its humiliating defeat in the December 29, 2008 parliamentary election, and to better understand the overall organisational situation. The interviews which started on

#### February 3 will continue till the end of this month.

FROM PAGE 16

and impartial manner.

is finding it hard to continue her

In May last year, during

last year had sent a proposal to the establishment ministry for creating about 3,700 posts for the attorney department and the courts. But the establishment ministry on November 25 approved 2,098 posts including