Ordos

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka signs

declaration

Bangladesh has signed Ordos

declaration joining hands with 17 countries to strengthen

Disability Welfare Act to be amended

Says commerce minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commerce Minister Faruk Khan at a reception yesterday said the government is working to amend the Disability Welfare Act 2001, as it was the electoral commitment of the ruling Awami League government.

After the discussions with different stakeholders, the amended law would be passed in the parliament soon, he tricts. added.

Speaking at the reception of the councillors of the National Council of Physically Challenged Women, the minister also said the government wants members of parliament (MPs) from the persons with disabilities and would work in tion. this regard.

National Committee from this in the family. council and some three to five

(TCB), he added.

National Council of the Physically Challenged Women in association with the Action in Development and Disability (ADD) organised the reception programme at the National Press Club in the city.

Some nine executive members and 40 councillors were elected on July 28 from 99 women councils in 23 dis-

At the reception programme of the newly elected councilors the speakers highlighted the problems and discriminations facing by the physically challenged women who are five percent of the country's total popula-

Rights of these physically There would also be a mem- challenged women are violated ber at the Consumers' Rights in the country, society and even of ADD, Piksi Nazneen of

councillors would be recruited reserve seats in the parliament, National Council of the as dealers at the Trading not a single seat is reserved for Physically Challenged Women Corporation of Bangladesh the physically challenged

women, they said, adding that development would not take place if the participation of the physically challenged women is not ensured in politics.

Khushi Kabir, member of the advisory committee of the national council, called on the elected members to build a strong network as well as to create pressure on the political parties to realise their demands.

The issues of the physically and mentally challenged should be paid heed to the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, she further said.

Rokaia Akhter Asma presided over the ceremony where Akhter Hossain of National Grassroots Disability Organisation, Ferdousi Begum Directorate General of Women Though there are women Affairs and Yeasmin Ahmed of



Members of the National Committee for Health Rights Movement submit a memorandum to Director of the Directorate of Drug Administration Brig Gen Mohammad Ismail in front of his office in the city yesterday demanding immediate withdrawal of toxic paracetamol syrup from the market.

Overseas jobseekers should have information about workplace Speakers tell workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The overseas jobseekers national economy. should have detailed information about their workplace, employer and other terms and conditions before they go abroad in order to ensure safe

migration, said speakers at a

workshop yesterday. Although the migrant workers had sent around \$9.6 billion remittance from the last year till now instead of the global recession, they are still being harassed and humiliated since they had gone there without knowing details about the jobs, country and condition, they added.

Brac organised the workshop titled 'Safe migration and social participation' at the National Press Club in the city.

Elias Ahmed, secretary to the ministry of Expatriate Welfare and Overseas Employment, said, "We can ensure safe migration only when the potential migrants will take a decision carefully by evaluating necessaryinformation."

Whenever a jobseeker sees a chance to go abroad, he becomes so crazy that he leaves the country without having any clear idea about the job or the

conditions, said Elias. The migration cost is now fixed at Tk 84,000 but the cost will significantly decrease if the

migrants are made aware of the process, he said. While presenting a keynote

paper, Sheepa Hafiza, director of Training Division, Gender, Justice and Diversity and Advocacy of Brac, said the migrant workers are not only

Senior journo Saroj passes

away UNB, Dhaka

Rezaul Haq Saroj, senior staff reporter of the Dainik Janakantha and a permanent member of the National Press Club, passed away due to cancer at his residence in the

city yesterday at the age of 64. He left behind his wife, one son, one daughter and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

National Press Club President Shawkat Mahmud and General Secretary Kamal Uddin Sabuj expressed pro-

found shock at his death. In a condolence message, they also prayed for salvation of the departed soul and conveyed deep sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

helping their families, but they are also helping boost the

She said that around 6,000 Bangladeshi workers returned home dead in the last four years while the number is around 900 in the last five months.

The condition of the migrant female workers is becoming more vulnerable and the number of female workers is also decreasing, she said.

Sheepa demanded immediate ratification of the UN Convention on Protection of All Migrants and Their Families, revision of the Bangladesh Immigration Ordinance, fixing a lower migration cost, reduction of remittance rate and increasing the services of Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET).

Lawmaker Tahura Ali said around 55 lakh Bangladeshi workers are working in around 37 countries across the globe while there are around 1.11 lakh women migrant workers.

The migrants, especially the women are facing different types of problems, including fraudulence and even sexual

harassment, she added.

"This sector is contributing to our national economy signif- | communication system it icantly and we need to solve the | becomes difficult to provide problems," she said, adding, "We need to ensure their safe migration in addition to creating more skilled women work-

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said there is an immense opportunity to double the remittance if we can manage the migration process

She underscored the need for utilising the skill development facilities of the migrants.

Sheikh Mojibur Huq of Brac presented an overview of their project titled 'Safe Migration Facilitation Centre (SMFC) which is being carried out in 36 upazilas in 17 districts with the assistance of Manusher Jonno

Foundation. Dr Mahabub Hossain, executive director of Brac, Masud Ahmed, director general of BMET, and Hazrat Ali, addi tional director general of BMET, also spoke.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at most places over all the six divisions in the country during the next 12 hours as of

6:00pm today. Heavy to very heavy falls are also likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong divisions while moderately heavy to heavy falls at places elsewhere the country, Met Office said.

It said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

The sun sets in the capital at 7:28pm today and rises at 6:36am tomorrow.

Country's highest temperature 34.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.7 degrees Celsius at Satkhira.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns vesterday were

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	26.2	85	96
Chittagong	29.5	24.0	95	94
tajshahi	30.4	25.5	93	97
hulna	32.5	25.0	92	87
arisal	30.5	26.2	96	83
ylhet	30.5	24.5	94	94
Cox's Bazar	31.0	25.0	96	83

Telemedicine service to monga-hit people soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People of monga-hit char areas (river islands) in five northern districts Jamalpur, Sirajganj, Bogra, Gaibandha and Kurigram will receive telemedicine service soon.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Char-Livelihood Programme (CLP) funded by UK Department for International Development (DFID) and the Grameenphone in the city yesterday to provide the service with the technical assistance of Engender Health.

Under the agreement Grameenphone will provide 400 cell phones at a reduced rate to CLP char swastha karmis (health workers).

The specially tailored cell phone network will be used for consultation between the health workers, CLP paramedics, doctors and EngenderHealth medical experts for telemedicine purposes.

The phones will also be used for giving health and nutrition-related advices to island dwellers.

Being implemented by Maxwell Stamp Ltd, the main focus of CLP is to improve the livelihood of poor char dwellers in five districts along the river Jamuna and Brahmaputra.

Maxwell Stamp Ltd is implementing the CLP with the assistance of 18 local

Speaking at the signing ceremony Deputy Team Leader of CLP Abdul Haque said char dwellers are extremely vulnerable as they lack all basic amenities of life including food security and healthcare facilities.

Under the programme, 400 community health workers are providing primary healthcare services to char

The NGOs have been operating 212 satellite health clinics at char areas each month, providing healthcare services to nearly 1,94,000 patients since last one year.

Majority of the patients are women seeking family planning advice, services and essential care for newborns.

Haque said because of poor health facilities to these peo-

Now this problem will be solved to some extent with the help of telemedicine.

Ishtiaque Hossain Chowdhury, general manager of Commercial Division of Grameenphone, said, "We look beyond business. With the help of this programme we are helping to provide health facilities along with increasing connectivity in the remotest

Syed Nuruddin Ahmed, managing director of Maxwell Stamp Ltd, said

one of the primary aim of CLP is to develop sustainable livelihood and secure household income.

CLP also promotes access to education and employment during monga, improvement of infrastructure to cope with natural disasters and provides emergency grants during disasters, he added.

10 injured in **BCL-Shibir** clash at Duet

A CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Ten Shibir cadres were injured in a clash between Shibir and Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Dhaka University of Engineering and Technology (Duet) on Tuesday.

Following the incident, Shibir men have left the campus.

Tarkabagish Chattar at Sirajganj The clash ensued when posters of Shibir-run Optimum Coaching Centre Tarkabagish Parishad and were pasted on the posters of Salanga Social Welfare Samity Bangabandhu remembering have jointly organised the the National Mourning Day. daylong programmes at

Agitated BCL men Salanga on the occasion. swooped on Shibir cadres at different halls at around of the historic Salanga movement against British colonial role in the 10:00pm, injuring 10. subcontinent and he played an Police have been deployed outstanding role in abolishing

untoward incident. However, Duet Vice Chancellor Prof M Sabdar Ali said the campus was returning to normalcy and attempts are on to bring back those who are now staying outside the cam-

on the campus to prevent any



(From left) Tofail Ahmed, Prof Alimullah Mian, Dr Kamal Hossain, Muniruzzaman and writer Md Shamsuddoha hold copies of a book titled 'Itihasher Olpokotha' at its launching ceremony at the Liberation War Museum in the city yesterday.

Govt to distribute 26 lakh MT food among monga-hit people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Management Minister Abdur vide shot-term income to ing factors to this massive sea Razzaque yesterday said the 12,000 poor and distressed government has decided to distribute 26 lakh metric tons of food grains among the poor and distressed, especially the Monga-hit people, in the fiscal year 2009-2010.

The people of northwestern region, who have to fight against all kinds of natural disasters, including flood, drought and cold wave, are at their most vulnerable to face the food insecurity, he said.

chief guest at the launching ceremony of a project 'Initiative to enhance Monga coping capacity' at the National Press Club in the city.

The government plans to distribute more allocation to the Monga-prone districts from the budgetary allocation of Tk 1,176 crore to implement the programme 'Employment generation for the hard-core poor' in the current fiscal, he

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion meeting

yesterday demanded of the

government to take necessary

action for trying the war criminals

Death anniversary

of Tarkabagish

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 23rd death anniver-

sary of national leader Maulana

Abdur Rashid Tarkabagish, says

Different organisations,

Maulana Abdur Rashid

Tarkabagish Foundation and his

family members, have chalked

out elaborate programmes to

observe the day with solemnity

this eminent educationist and

veteran politician by placing

wreaths and offering fateha at

his graveyard at Banani in the

will also be held at the graveyard

seeking divine blessing for the

departed soul of the veteran

also be held on behalf of his

family members at his village

Foundation will hold a discus-

sion and a doa mahfil and at

The same programmes will

To mark the day, Tarkabagish

Tarkabagish Pathagar,

Tarkabagish was the pioneer

zamindari system, formulation of

loan arbitration board and share-

the language movement in 52

and he was the first to deliver

speech in Bangla language at

Gono Parishad at Karachi in

He played a vital role during

croppingsystem.

Pakistan in 1955.

languagemovementhero.

hometo mark the day.

Qurankhwani and doa mahfil

They would pay tribute to

today

a press release.

across the country.

city in the morning.

families and ensure food to 60,000 women, men and chil-

Saghata, Fulchhari and Sundarganj of Gaibandha, Sadar, Ulipur and Chilmari of Kurigram and Gangachara of

Foundation, Gono Unnayan Kendra (GUK), ZIBIKA and People Oriented Programme The minister said this as the Implementation (POPI) -- will assist to implement the In absence of any agricul-

tural work available during the months from August to December, hundreds of thousands of families are unable to

Heather Blackwell said, "Over reliance on agricultural production, low income of economic development, inadequate Under the four-and-a-half- investment in infrastructure

Try war criminals within

within the shortest possible time.

passed since the liberation war,

and the war criminals are still

moving freely. They were also

placed at different administra-

tive posts of the country," they

the 'Trial of militants, funda-

mentalists and war criminals'

was organised by the Forum for

Secular Bangladesh, Trial of War

Criminals of 1971 at the

Women's Voluntary Association

auditorium in the city yesterday.

Prof Kabir Chowdhury

demanded preventive detention

of the suspected war criminals

and militants so that they cannot

could be done earlier, the mili-

tant groups would not have been

Syed Ashraful Islam's remark

that the government was facing

pressure for not to hold the trial

of war criminals, Kabir

Chowdhury said, "The govern-

ment is pledge-bound to try the

war criminals. If it fails to do so it

will be considered as another

saddest incident in the history

Rashed Khan Menon, presi-

dent of the Workers' Party of

Bangladesh and president of

of the county."

able to form such strong network

"If the trial of war criminals

commit any more misdeeds.

in the country," he opined.

Presiding over the discussion

"38 years have already

shortest possible time

Speakers urge govt at discussion

month project, international and lack of initiatives to protect humanitarian and develop- the communities from recur-Food and Disaster ment agency Oxfam will pro- ring floods are some contributsonal food insecurity."

> effort by the government and development agencies this The project areas are Sadar, seasonal and widespread hunger and suffering can averted."

> Delegation of European Commission Brain Forey, lawmakers Fazle Rabbi, Mahbub Four local NGOs -- SKS Ara Gini, Jafar Ali and HM Shahriar and chairmen o Gangachara Upazila Majibur Rahman, Ulipur Upazila Kafi Uddin and Saghata Upazila Golam Shahed Raja also spoke.

Union, the project will cover these three most Mongaaffected districts, aiming to assists small, marginal farmers and agricultural day labourers provide enough food for their by creating short-term employment opportunity through cash Oxfam GB Country Director for work, provide training and start up capitals for alternative income generating option and assisting communities to better flood and river erosion.

Heather added "With united

Acting Head of the

Funded by the European prepare for future disaster like

committee on education minis-

try, called upon political parties

and country men to remain

united and cooperate with the

government for the trial of war

He also informed that a

"But we categorically

President of Communist

quarter on behalf of the war

in six countries to halt the trial.

demand the trial of war crimi-

Party of Bangladesh Manjurul

Ahsan Khan criticised the

government for not starting the

process of trial of war criminals

although 225 days have passed

been killing people through

massive grenade attack one

after another. But no previ-

ous governments did bring

the culprits under trial. The

BNP government rather

these connection," he added

Hasina that the officers placed

around her might hatch con-

spiracy against her like the one

which was hatched against

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

Shahrier Kabir, president of

the organisation, women leader

Sharmin Akhtar, Maj Gen (retd)

KM Shafiullah, and

Shaheedjaya Shyamoli Nasrin

Rahman in 1975.

He also cautioned Sheikh

"The militant groups have

since it assumed power.

nals at any cost," he added.

The discussion meeting on criminals is continuing lobbing

Referring to LGRD Minister staged different dramas in

59 injured in road crashes

At least six people were killed and 59 others injured in sepa-Tuesday night.

Our correspondent from people were killed and 29 day morning, police said.

Shamsul Alam, 25, son of Abdul Aziz of village Hossainpur under Khansama upazila and Md Shamser Ali, 26, helper of a passenger bus of Ramnanagar in Dinajpur

Dinajpur lost his control over the steering and fell into a roadside ditch in front of Dinajpur Govt College at 4:30am killing two people on the spot and at least 29 others injured, sources at Dinajpur

rushed to DJMCH. Of them, condition of 12 people was stated to be critical.

UNB from Sylhet reports: Two children were killed and 20 people injured as a bus plunged into a roadside ditch at Chiknagul in Jointapur upazila yesterday.

daughter of Mukhlesur Rahman, of Panichhara village of the upazila. Witnesses said the citybound bus skidded off the road and fell into the ditch at

20 others. Police sent the bodies to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital (SOMCH)

The injured were admitted to the SOMCH and local clin-

Angered by the accident,

local people put barricade on the road, disrupting vehicular movement for an hour.

Gopalganj adds: Two people were killed and 10 others injured in a road accident in Gopalganj on Tuesday eve-

The accident occurred when a bus hit a Nazirpurbound rickshaw from Bedgram while crossing the town bypass

Rickshaw passenger Salahuddin, 22, was rushed to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital where he succumbed to his

Bedgram of Sadar upazila.

the parliamentary standing Chowdhury also spoke. CTG VETERINARY UNIVERSITY

Students keep teachers confined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A group of students of Chittagong Veterinary University kept the teachers, including the vice chancellor, confined for around one and a half hours yesterday demandstudent politics on the campus. The students staged the

demonstration under the banner of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

6:00pm. Chandra Devnath and other teachers were holding a regular meeting with the master's students at the conference on the campus." room at 3:30pm.

raised the issue of politics, but Veterinary College and failing to get any positive upgraded as the university response from the teachers, later, has some 500 students.

Later, they along with other students locked the conference room at around 6:00pm. They also took out a proces-

sion on the campus under the

they left the meeting room.

banner of BCL. Some 30 teachers, including that the authorities allow ing the VC, remained confined there for one and a half hours. Later, the police stepped in and rescued them.

When contacted, VC Nitish Chandra Devnath said, "The They kept the teachers campus has been free of poli locked inside the conference tics so far. All the students and room of the university from teachers were verbally committed to this. But if they now The teachers said VC Nitish want to pursue politics, we cannot raise any objections. However, some students have created an untoward incident

The institution, estab-At one stage, some students lished in 1996 as Chittagong bilateral and multilateral cooperation in cultural arena and face adverse effect on cultural promotional activities in the backdrop of global economic recession. Minister for Information and Cultural Affairs Abul Kalam Azad signed the declaration in the Inner Mongolia China Asian Cultural Ministerial Round Table Meeting at Chinese city of

Ordos on Tuesday, says an

official handout received here yesterday. The meeting took the initiative to face adverse impact of global recession on the cultural activities in the member countries and adopted the Ordos declaration for promotion of cultural exchange and cooper-

Director General of the National Museum M Shafiqul Azam, Director General of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy M Shafiqul Islam and Director of Cox's Bazar Cultural Centre Lila Murlang are other members of the Bangladesh delegation.

Azad made a courtesy call on his Chinese counterpart Cai Wu and discussed various matters relating to mutual interests, including celebration of establishment of 35 years of diplomatic relation between the two countries.

They also discussed the progress of the cultural pact between the two countries and on the matter of establishing a cultural center in Bangladesh.

Six killed,

METRO DESK

rate road accidents in Dinajpur, Sylhet and Gopalganj yesterday and on

Dinajpur reports: At least two others injured in a road accident in Dinajpur early yester-The dead were identified as

Police said the accident

occurred when the driver of a Joypurhat-bound crowded bus from Khansama of Madical College Hospital.

Police said the injured were

The dead were identified as

Abdullah, 6, son of Kabir

Ahmed, and Nabia Begum, 5,

12:00 noon, killing the two kids on the spot and injuring

morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from

on Dhaka-Khulna highway as the driver lost his control over the steering. Rickshawpuller Rabbi, 22, died on the spot. Two rickshaw passengers and at least nine bus passengers were injured.

injuries at night. Both the dead hailed from