

Int'l Day of Older Persons today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The International Day of Older Persons 2009 will be observed in the country today as elsewhere around the globe with a befitting manner.

The UN General Assembly designated October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons in 1990 to recognise the contributions of older persons and to examine issues that affect their lives.

The theme of this year's commemoration is "Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the International Year of Older Persons: Towards a Society for All Ages".

On the occasion, various socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes in the city.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a message on the occasion said, "Over the past decades, we intensified our efforts to build a society for all ages and to promote international commitment to the United Nations Principles for older persons."

"We must put an end to age discrimination, abuse, neglect and violence against older persons," Ban Ki-moon said.

Bangladesh Probin Hitoishi Sangho will organise a seminar at the LGED auditorium tomorrow to mark the day.

The Day is a special occasion for older persons or senior citizens across the world.

Low over Bay persists

UNB, Dhaka

The well marked low over west central Bay and adjoining northwest Bay persists over the same area yesterday.

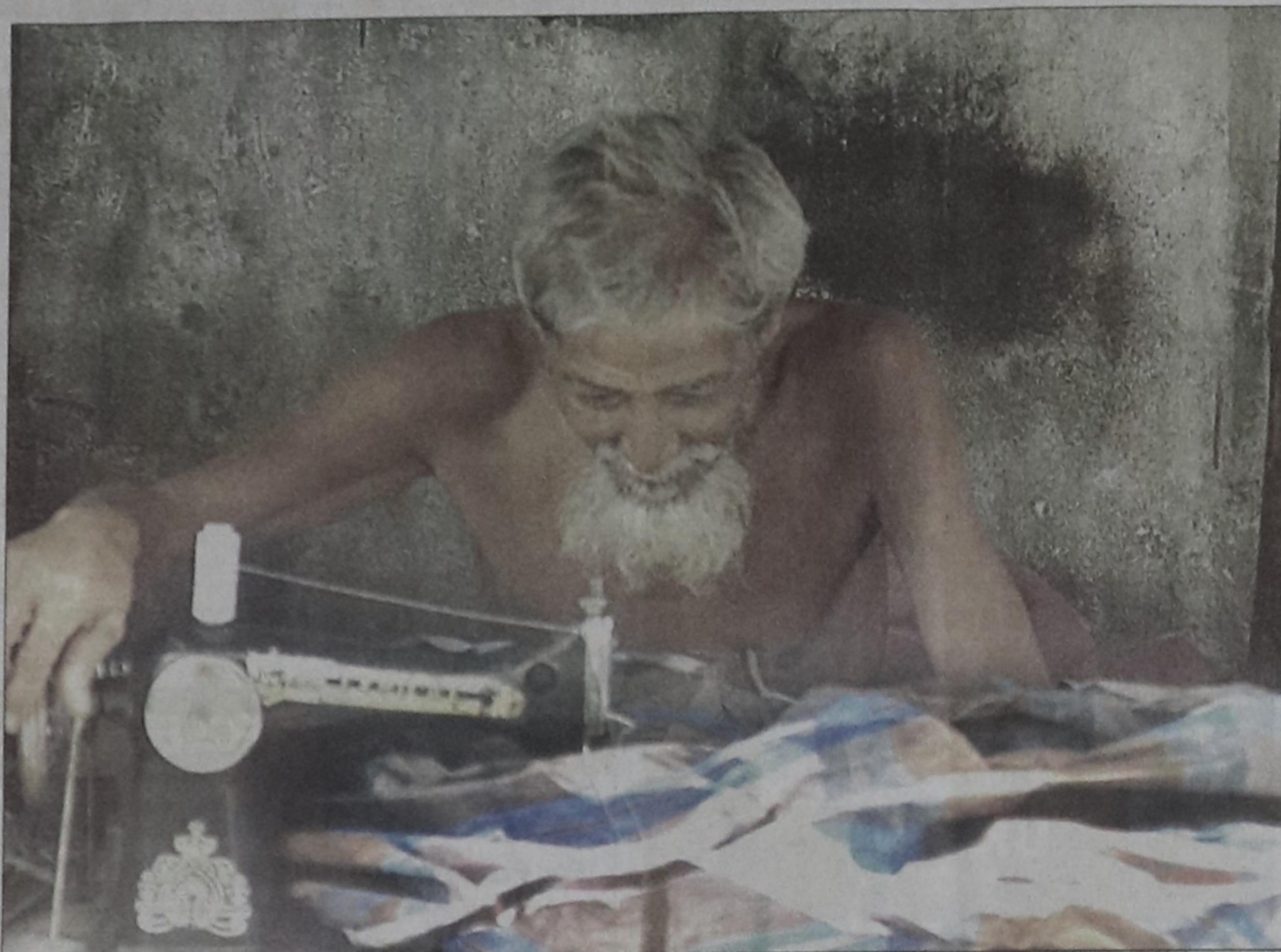
"It is likely to intensify further and move in a northwesterly direction," said a warning message of the Met office.

Under its influence, deep convection is taking place over North Bay, it said.

It also warned that squally weather might affect the maritime ports and costal regions of Bangladesh.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three.

All fishing boats and trawlers over the North Bay and deep sea have been advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution until further notice.



HARD-EARNED LIVING: Abdur Rahman, a septuagenarian of Ananda Bazar near Aga Sadek Road on the old part of the city, earns his living by tailoring lungis now as his family has abandoned him at this critical period of his life. Though the government has introduced old-age allowance, Rahman cannot fulfil the bare necessities of his life even on The International Day of Older Persons today.

PHOTO: SHAWKAT JAMIL

AUG 21 GRENADE ATTACK

CID seeks 10-day remand for Pintu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

government quarter before committing the offences.

On August 3, a Dhaka court ordered further investigation into the August 21, 2004 grenade attack on an Awami League rally, stating that the probe conducted earlier could not identify the collectors and suppliers of grenades used in the attack.

The court ordered the inspector general of police to conduct the investigation and submit the report to the court within two months.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina narrowly escaped the attack but 23 of her party leaders and workers were killed and over 300 were maimed.

The eight absconding accused are Pintu's brothers Tajuddin and Maulana Liton, Anisul Mursalin and his brother Mahibul Muttakin, Iqbal, Maulana Abu Bakar alias Selim Howlader, Jahangir Alam Badar and Khalilur Rahman.

The CID, which had misdirected the investigation during the rule of BNP-Jamaat-led four-party alliance government, finally pressed charges in June last year accusing 21 members of Harkatul Jihad Al Islami (Huij) including its top leader Mufti Abdul Hannan and Pintu.



Advocate Sultana Kamal speaks at a workshop at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Change mindset to ensure rights of sex workers

State minister calls at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sex workers are not safe even in police custody and often they are forced to have sex there, revealed a draft report at a workshop in the city yesterday.

It said sex workers are often arrested in Rajshahi on Thursday so that they can be kept in police custody on Friday and Saturday to be produced before the court on Sunday, and forced to have sex during custody.

The draft report on the 'Analysis of situation regarding the practice of legal rights by sex workers' was placed by Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) with the support of Centre for Development Service (CDS) and Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) at the Cirdap auditorium.

It was prepared on the basis of a study in six districts Jessor, Rajshahi, Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Natore and Ishwardi.

According to the report, 77 percent of sex workers are arrested as they do not give money to police while 53 percent

police do not pay the sex workers after having sex with them.

It also said around 66 percent of sex workers are not produced before the court after their arrest and become the victims of sexual harassment while 75 percent sex workers do not get any help from the police if they become the victims of violence.

Addressing the workshop as chief guest, State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Ministry Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury said there is no scope for discriminating sex workers as they have equal rights to live and enjoy all facilities including legal aid as per the constitution.

Stressing the need for changing the mindset towards the sex workers she said not only the government but also the people from all walks of life have to work together to ensure the rights of sex workers.

ASK Executive Director Advocate Sultana Kamal and CDS Director Khandaker Humayun Kabir also spoke at the workshop with human rights activist Dr Hamida Hossain in the chair.

She also underscored the

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