Enforce law to curb use of

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increased awareness and strict implementation of the law are a must to curb use of toxic chemicals in food items, said speakers at a seminar yesterday.

They called on everyone to commence a social movement from individual households, and say no to adulterated food items and other products containing poisonous chemical substances -- and also stressed on the need to find healthier alternatives for such products.

The seminar on 'Adverse effect on human health due to the use of toxic colours and chemical substances' was organised jointly by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa) at its office in the city.

You cannot preach creating awareness about harmful substances in foodstuff and other products and go home with soft drinks containing harmful substances for

your children, said Prof Mahabubur added. Rahman of Bapa.

toxic chemicals in foods

"The change needs to come from you, from your own home," he said.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dr Jahedur Rahman of Bapa, said, "Every consumer has the right to safe and toxic-

All products have chemicals, which cannot be helped, he said, but the problem lies in the process these products are being produced and ensuring the substances used are not bad for the health.

"I see people rubbing oily food items on paper and think the food is less oily and therefore less harmful," he said, they think wrong because by doing so they are consuming more chemicals as the toxic substance from the paper get mixed with the oil.

Awareness needs to be created regarding these small issues as well, Rahman

With attractive advertisements, the producers create a false sense of need in the minds of the consumers especially the children, said Zakir Hossain, joint general secretary of Bapa.

"They are creating an artificial free food, but we are all deprived of the demand by attracting the young minds. And the parents cannot help but indulge the children with harmful food because of the visible absence of alternatives."

The discussants pointed out that conducting mobile courts with magistrates and only fining the defaulters do not help. They demanded capital punishment for the offenders.

Permanent solution to the problem lies in a change in the mindset of the general people along with strict implementation of the law, they said.

Ataur Rahman Miton of Hunger Free World also spoke.



Awami League leaders greet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with a bouquet at Gono Bhaban in the city yesterday on the occasion of the third anniversary of her homecoming from the US during the last caretaker government. (Story on Page 1)

Buddha statues

Thailand donates 250

Schoolboy 14 killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Fourteen people were killed and 34 others injured in separate road accidents across the country in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Tangail reports: Four people were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Tangail highway at Mirzapur in Tangail vesterday morning.

The accident took place at Kadim Dhalla at around 8:00am when the driver of a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Bogra lost control and hit a motorbike, a CNG-run autorickshaw and passersby, leaving one dead on the spot and injuring

Local people rushed the injured to Kumudini Hospital where three more succumbed to their injuries.

The dead were identified as Bappy, 35, Shafiq, 30, Nahid, 28, and Niranjan, 35.

Following the accident, angry locals blocked the busy highway for two hours demanding speed breakers on the spot, causing untold suffering to the passen-

Vehicular movement on the highway resumed at about 10:00am after police and local representatives rushed to the spot and assured the agitating locals of constructing speed breakers within a few Our correspondent in Narayanganj

adds: Three people were killed and five others injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Meghna

Call to publish

exam results

this month

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates of the 28th

Bangladesh Civil Service

(BCS) examinations on

Thursday placed a four-point

demand before the govern-

ment, including publishing

The demand came from a

The other demands

include - giving appointments

to 1500 posts in general cadre,

executing the special rules

2010 for non-cadre appoint-

ments from the 28th BCS

examinations and stopping of

discrimination by appointing

children of freedom fighters

They also demanded that

posts in different cadres be

Death anniversary

Today is the

second

death anni-

UNB, Dhaka

6:00pm today.

5:19am tomorrow.

Sayedpur.

City/Town

Chittagong

Rajshahi

Khulna

Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

by reforming quota system.

increased.

press conference at Dhaka

University Journalists'

the results by this month.

Association office.

28th BCS

Bridge area at Sonargaon in the district yesterday evening.

The accident took place when a Fenibound bus collided head-on with a pickup van, killing van driver Yusuf, its helper Suman and an unidentified commuter of the van dead on the spot.

UNB adds: Three people were killed and five others injured as a tractor ploughed through a bazaar on Dhaka-Charsindur road at Palash upazila in Narsingdi yesterday morning.

Two of the dead were identified as Dana Miah, 30, and Dulal Miah, 35, - both banana traders while identity of the other could not be known immediately.

Witnesses said the tractor ploughed through Charsindur bazaar as its driver lost control over the steering, leaving Dana Miah and Dulal dead on the spot and injuring another six people.

The injured were rushed to the upazila health complex where an unidentified man succumbed to his injuries.

Local people caught the tractor driver and handed him over to police along with the vehicle.

Another report adds: In another road accident in Gazipur, Shaheen, 13, a student of Bariali Madrasa and son of Helal Uddin of Sunui village in Haluaghat thana of Mymensingh, and Anju Ara, 36, a maid servant of local Unique Fashion Garments, were killed on Thursday night.

Four others were also injured in the accident that took place on Dhaka-

Mymensingh highway at South Salna in Sadar upazila. Police said the accident occurred as a

bus rammed into a pick-up van and later hit some pedestrians.

Angered by the accident, local people blocked the highway and damaged several vehicles, hampering traffic movement for two hours.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Our correspondent in Faridpur adds: A man was killed and 25 others were injured in a road accident at Nowpara at Bhanga upazila in the district yesterday morning. The dead was identified as Shah Alam,

The accident took place when a pas-

senger bus from Dhaka fell into a roadside ditch as the driver lost control. Seriously injured Dulal, 40, Golam

Kibria, 35, Kibria, 40, and Jamal Mia, 30 were rushed to Faridpur Medical college Hospital (FMCH). Our correspondent in Magura adds: A

killed in a road accident near Magura Jail on Thursday night. The victim was identified as Golam Mustafa, 50, son of Gawhar Ali of village

constable of Bangladesh Jail Police was

Lahuria at Lohagara upazila in Narail. The accident occurred in front of Magura Jail when a static human hauler overturned and fell on him after a speed-

ing microbus hit it from behind.

DU employees demand construction of building without delay

DU CORRESPONDENT

Employees of Dhaka University (DU) gave a 15day ultimatum to the authorities to cancel a decision of the university's finance committee delaying the construction of a residential building for them. Instead of appointing an engineer for the

job, the finance committee on April 24 sent back the agenda of constructing the building on the employees' club premises near Nilkhet to the site selection committee.

This move by the finance committee has thrown the process of construction into uncertainty, DU Employees' Association leaders said. In a written application submitted to Vice

Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique on May 2, the leaders also threatened to launch a movement if the finance committee's decision is not cancelled by May 17.

"A site selection committee meeting on December 12, 2005 decided to construct the building on our club premises. On May 2 in 2006, a syndicate meeting approved the deci-

WEATHER

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty

or squally wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka,

and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna,

Barisal and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours as of

and Sylhet divisions and it may remain nearly unchanged

elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Max

35.5

32.6

35.6

35.5

35.6

30.7

35.0

Day temperature may fall slightly over Rajshahi, Dhaka

The sun sets in the capital at 6:31pm today and rises at

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.3 degree Celsius

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity

Min

26.3

24.4

23.8

25.0

24.0

24.2

25.5

Humidityin

percentage

Morning

58

69

74

61

69

87

62

Evening

89

69

74

75

66

was recorded at Tangail and the lowest of 22.0 degrees at

recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Temperature in

Celsius

start the process," said Md Sanwar Hossain, general secretary of DU Employees' Association. "But the finance committee, which received

sion and asked the authorities concerned to

the agenda of construction four years later, sent it back to the site selection committee instead of appointing an engineer," he said, adding: "We protest such farcical decision."

The finance committee's decision has caused resentment among the employees, as it is a long-cherished dream of them to have a residential building, the leaders said.

They said the employees have been suffering from acute accommodation crisis as only 350 houses are allocated for some 1500 employees.

When contacted, DU Treasurer Prof

Mizanur Rahman, also a member of the finance committee, said, "The university does not have any fund for the construction of such building. The building will be constructed by renting out its spaces to commercial institutions. We sent the agenda back so that the site selection committee can review it and select a better site."

Indefinite bus strike begins in Sylhet div

UNB, Habiganj

Sylhet division bus owners and workers went on an indefinite strike yesterday to press home their five-point demand. Transport movement

between four districts of the division and other parts of the country came to a halt following the strike. The decision was taken in a

meeting at the office of Habiganj bus owners' association on Thursday night. General Secretary of Sylhet divisional motor owners' association Syed Mofassir Ali chaired the meeting.

The five-point demand included withdrawal of Moulavibazar Model thana OC, withdrawal of extortion case filed against Syed Mofassir Ali and arrest of the miscreants who launched attack on Moffassir Ali, reconstruction of the bus counter of Moulavibazar Bus owners' association in Sherpur.

commits suicide STAFF CORRESPONDENT A teenage schoolboy commit-

ted suicide in the city yester-Mahfuzul Karim Nahin, 15

a class nine student of Sunny Dale School at Dhanmondi hanged himself in his bedroom at city's Gulshan area.

Sub Inspector of Gulshan Police Station Siddikur Rahman told The Daily Star that they recovered the body of Nahin from the bedroom of his house at Gulshan-1.

They sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Nabid, the elder brother of Nahin, said he and Nahin watched television until 1:30am yesterday and went to bed in their separate rooms.

At around 11:00am in the morning, he went to call Nahin but he was not responding, Nabid said. "We unlocked the door

found him hanging from the ceiling fan with a rope," he Nahin's uncle Shahidul Islam said he had been suffer-

with an alternative key and

ing from depression since his parents died in a road accident four years ago. Nahin was their youngest

son, he said.

Grand alliance leaders accuse Khaleda of falsehood

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The ruling grand alliance leaders yesterday alleged that BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia resorted to falsehood while addressing the divisional grand rally in Rajshahi on May 5.

At a press conference, they also demanded that the BNP chief make apology to the people of Rajshahi as her government had helped spread militancy in 2004, and deprived the divisional headquarters of desired development.

The city AL acting general secretary Shafikur Rahman Badsha read out a written statement.

He said Khaleda Zia's statement that her government added 1500MW power to the national grid was false.

Her claim of 'no corruption' in the power sector was also false, he added.

Rajshahi grand alliance coordinator and Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton and lawmaker Fazle Hossain Badsha spoke at the press conference held at the Rajshahi city Awami League office.

Paikgachha **UNO** receives death threat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

An unidentified caller, who claimed himself to be a cadre of an underground organisation, have threatened to kill the UNO of Paikgachha Md Sabur Hossain and all the members of his family.

The UNO received the call on

Thursday during office hours. To this end, he filed a general diary with Paikgachha

of his life. OC Humayun Kabir said investigation is going on.

Police Station seeking security Venue: Press Institute of Bangladesh seminar room. Time: 4:00pm.

Roundtable

increasing in the society. Dhammakaya Foundation, a Thailand-based

Celebration 2010. Executive Assistant Abbot (Head) of the foundation Phrakruvitedpanyapan handed over the statues to the Foreign Minister Dipu Moni at a ceremony held at the Pologround

Industries Minister Dilip Barua inaugurated the programme organised by Buddhist Research and Publication Centre Bangladesh.

Buddhist organisation, yesterday donated 250

Buddha statues to Bangladesh in a ceremony

marking International Buddha Anniversary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Supreme Patriarch of Buddhist Community in Bangladesh Sangharaj Dharmasen Mohasthobir presided over the ceremony.

Addressing the programme, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni said, "Our relation with different neighbouring and many other countries has been strengthened over the centuries through Buddhism which was originated here in this sub-continent and later spread across the world." She expressed her hope that the existing

excellent bi-lateral relation between Bangladesh and Thailand would be developed more through handing over of the statues.

She said the message of non-violence towards all creature and mankind what Lord Buddha preached 2553 years ago is still relevant in the present era when violence is alarmingly

The main messages of every religion, including peace, love for mankind, devotion, sacrifice and non-violence, are all the same and these morals are needed to fight terrorism and criminal activities.

She urged all the common people of Bangladesh irrespective of every religious community to be united to fight communalism and militancy.

Addressing the programme as the key discussant, Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique stressed following the principles of religions to develop a peaceful society.

Primary and Mass Education Minister Afsarul Ameen, Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Sri Lankan High Commissioner Sarad Kawary, State Minister for CHT Affairs Ministry Dipankar Talukder and Chairman of ATN Bangla Dr Mahfuzur Rahman were present as special guests.

President of the centre and Prof Ven Dr Jinobodhi of Chittagong University (CU), Bangladesh Buddhist Association President Ajit Barua and Bangladesh Buddha Krishty Prachar Sangha Organising Secretary Professor Dr Bikiran Prashad Barua made the address of welcome.

Later, the statues were distributed among different monasteries in the Chittagong region.

FROM PAGE 1

Water vessels

The new wage structure was

decided as per recommendations of a 16-member commit-

tee headed by director of

Directorate of Labour. The

committee was formed on

March 18 following a tripartite

meeting among vessel owners

and representatives of workers

ture, class-I and II drivers and

masters will have 60 percent

pay hike while the ones of

class-III 50 percent. The cooks

and cleaners of coaster tankers

will get 100 percent raise but

the ones of passenger vessels

the shipping minister assured

that vessels would ply as usual. He

also warned of stern action

against any attempt to disrupt the

unlawful and politically moti-

vated" Shahjahan said, "They

[workers] called the strike to put

the government in an awkward

workers were injured in a clash

between the supporters of the

strike and their rivals at

Sramik Federation Shah Alam

blamed Dhaka Noughat Sramik

League for the clash as they

launched an attack on their

6 and Dipraj along with seven

other workers were injured in the

Sramik League, however, said

that it was rather the federation

men who attacked their

Police Camp said the groups

locked into an altercation when

Noujan Sramik Federation

brought out a procession. Police

Police Station said a case under

Speedy Trial Act has been lodged

in connection with vandalism

and creating chaos at Sadarghat

terminal accusing 22 identified

and over one hundred unidenti-

Police have so far arrested

Officer-in-Charge of Kotwali

dispersed them, he added.

Sub-inspector of Sadarghat

clash, claimed Shah Alam.

Sadarghat office.

Masters of MVTipu-3, Suravi-

The leaders of Noughat

Vice president of Noujan

Sadarghat launch terminal.

Meanwhile, at least 10

Terming the strike "illogical

inlandwatercommunication.

During the press conference,

According to the new struc-

and the government.

50 percent.

situation."

procession.

5 killed in lightning

METRO DESK

Four women and a man were killed when lightning struck them in Bogra and Rajshahi yesterday afternoon. Of them, three housewives were killed at Solartaur village at

Gabtoli in Bogra, reports our staff correspondent in Bogra. The victims were identified as Golapi, 44, Mugli Begum, 42, and Priya Begum, 38.

The incident took place when they went out during a storm to collect green mangoes at around 5:00pm, local people said. BSS adds: Two people were killed and another was injured

when they were struck by lightning at Sonadanga village in Bagmara, Rajshahi. The dead were identified as Akter Hossain, 28, and Rashida

Begum, 25, while the injured is Rasheda Begum, 28. The lightning struck them when they went to a nearby field to bring back cattle during a storm that swept the dis-

DHÄKA

Roundtable The daily Prothom Alo and Brac

trict at around 5.30pm.

Development Institute will jointly organise a roundtable titled 'Infrastructural development and mass people: The challenge of rehabilitation'. Venue: Prothom Alo office. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Movement and Nagorik Uddyog will jointly organise a seminar on the housing problems of Dalits and national budget. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:30am.

Workshop Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) and

Islamic Relief will jointly organise a two-day workshop on disaster management. Venue: DRU conference room. Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

organises a seminar titled 'Vision 2021, the role of direct tax'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:00pm. Talk

The Association of Former UN Staff of Bangladesh organises a talk on food as medicine. Venue: Thaichi Restaurant. Time: 11:30am.

Bangladesh Thalassemia Foundation and Health Rights Movement National Committee will organise a roundtable 'National health policy and thalassemia.

Seminar

Bangladesh Rural Development Board and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA0 will jointly organise a seminar on 'Realising union level coordination all over the country through networking'. Venue: Biam auditorium. Time: 9:00am.

Kite exhibition The inaugural ceremony of the

Grameenphone - Asian Kite Exhibition 2010 will be held. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 3:00pm.

Conference North South University and

Knowledge Globalisation Institute, Suffolk University at Boston in the USA will jointly organise the 3rd International Conference on Knowledge Globalisation. Venue: NSU BCS (Taxation) Association campus. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

Save Environment Movement organises a seminar titled 'National budget to resist climate change'. Venue: 58/1, Kalabagan First Lane. Time: 11:00am.

Lecture Asiatic Society of Bangladesh organises FINAS Foundation Lecture 2010. Venue: Society

auditorium. Time: 4:30pm. **Rotary Dhaka Central**

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

tion. Senior Deputy Director

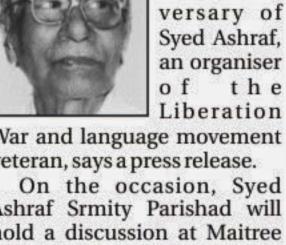
fied persons.

(Traffic) of Sadarghat terminal Mohammad Ali Siddique said vessel movement at the terminal had been normal yesterday.

eight people in this connec-

Abdur Rashid

dence in Chittagong. Different organisations will also hold memorial meetings.



Liberation War and language movement veteran, says a press release. On the occasion, Syed

Ashraf Srmity Parishad will hold a discussion at Maitree Auditorium of Mukti Bhaban in the city at 4:00pm.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

eighth death anniversary of eminent educationist Abdur Rashid, says press

Dhaka Barisal Cox's Bazar

Today is the

release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his resi-