

Ekushey book fair will encompass Suhrawardi Udyan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Alongside Bangla Academy premises, the month-long Ekushey book fair will also take place inside the Suhrawardi Udyan this year, Prof Shamsuzzaman Khan, director general of the academy, said yesterday.

The organiser took the decision following requests from publishers so that more publishers can take part in the biggest book fair of the country which begins on February 1, Shamsuzzaman told The Daily Star after an inter-ministerial meeting on the fair.

The meeting was held at

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Mother of two 'immolated by husband, in-laws'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman was allegedly burnt to death by her husband and in-laws in Hathazari upazila of Chittagong yesterday, apparently over family feuds.

Joya Pal, 36, wife of Sanjay Pal and a mother of two, succumbed to her injuries in Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) around 7:30 in the morning.

She suffered 95 percent burns to her body from kerosene fire, said Dr Mishma Islam of the burn unit. But Sanjay told police that Joya caught fire from a lamp.

Sanjay brought Joya to

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

The 11th death anniversary of Saleha Huq, wife of late Syed Nurul Huq, retired director of Power Development Board, will be observed on Friday.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani will be held in the Dhaka residence of her son Syed Ziaul Huque as well as in the Barisal residence of her son Syed Maksumul Huq.

Her relatives and well-wishers are requested to pray for the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR

An earthmover of Chittagong City Corporation demolishes a two-storey building, which is listed as risky by Chittagong Development Authority. The city corporation, after being closed for a while due to political unrest, resumed its drive against risky buildings yesterday.

ACC still scrutinising AL leaders' wealth statements

Its secretary tells monthly press conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Without stating whom it was investigating or the time that it would take, Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday said it was still scrutinising wealth statements Awami League men submitted to the Election Commission before the 10th parliamentary elections.

Addressing a monthly press conference, ACC Secretary Faizur Rahman Chowdhury also revealed that of the cases filed in December, two involved BNP lawmaker Moudud Ahmed and former foreign minister M Morshed Khan.

He also informed that ACC was able to get convictions in

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

COP, WIFE MURDER House help Sumi denied bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday rejected a bail petition of 11-year-old Khadiza Khatun Sumi in connection with the murder of her employers, police officer Mahfuzur Rahman and his wife Swapna Rahman.

Earlier, the lower courts rejected her bail petition for four times in the case.

While passing the order, the HC bench of Justice Md Rezaul Haque and Justice Gobinda Chandra Tagore said that the investigation into the case was yet to complete, and Sumi may face security problems if she is released on bail.

Sumi who was a domestic help of the victim couple, is now at Tongi's National Juvenile Development Centre, he

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Shoe factory fire guts 32 houses in capital

Injures 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An explosion at a shoe factory at Shahid Nagar of Lalbagh in Old Dhaka yesterday caused a fire that burnt the factory and 32 houses and injured two people.

The explosion occurred when two workers at the factory were trying to light a kerosene-run oven to heat glue, said Nazimuzzaman, senior station officer at Lalbagh Fire Station.

The oven exploded and the flammable materials stored in the factory caught fire, he added.

The fire spread burning 32 houses,

Nazimuzzaman said, adding that they all belonged to one Ambia Khatun.

The workers -- Nasim, 30 and Dilu Miah, 50 -- are currently undergoing treatment at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital with ten and twelve percent burn injuries respectively.

The fire was put out after an effort of 30 minutes.

Death anniversary

CITY DESK

Today is the fourth death anniversary of Sayeed Ahmad, former secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and also a playwright, art critic and a writer, especially in the genre of absurd theatre.

He received many awards including the Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Award and the prestigious legion d'honneur, presented by the French government in 1992.

Bangladesh Silpakala Academy and Sayeed Ahmad Foundation will arrange daylong programmes, including a seminar titled "Amreeta Sondhaner Ovijatri Sayeed Ahmad", on Saturday.

Doa mahfil

CITY DESK

A doa mahfil for Mujtahid Uddin Ahmed, former director of Bengal Development Corporation (BDC), will be held at Gulshan Azad mosque tomorrow after Asr prayers.

All friends, family members and well-wishers are requested to attend the programme.

He passed away on

Friday at the age of 90.



PHOTO: STAR

Govt to immunise children against measles, rubella from Jan 25

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will launch a three-week "largest immunisation campaign in the country's history" against two diseases -- measles and rubella -- on January 25 to vaccinate 5.20 crore children aged from nine months to 15 years.

Paediatricians disclosed this at a press briefing organised by the state-run Expanded Programme on Immunization (EPI) at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday with its Pro-Vice Chancellor Prof Shahidullah in the chair.

Earlier about 3.5 crore children aged from nine months to 10 years were given measles vaccine in 2006 while 1.8 crore children were vaccinated under its follow up campaign in 2010 against the disease, they said.

The measles-rubella vaccines will be injected into the children, who constitute about one third of the entire population, they said. The children under five would also receive a dose of oral polio vaccine along with the measles-rubella vaccines.

While symptoms of both viral diseases are rash and fever, pregnant women who contract rubella during the first three months of pregnancy are likely to give birth to children with defects like hearing and vision impairment, said the EPI officials.

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent the diseases as no specific medication is available to treat the diseases, which are highly contagious, experts told the event.

The massive campaign will cost Tk 512.70 crore and is to be supported by the The Global Alliance for Vaccine and Immunisation (GAVI), said Prof Ruhul Amin, president of Bangladesh Paediatric Association.

He said all educational institutions having children under 15 will be covered during the first week of the campaign.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Two Bangladeshi sisters 'raped' at West Bengal border

STAR ONLINE REPORT

Two Bangladeshi sisters who crossed the Ichhamati river to travel to North 24 Parganas in West Bengal said on Sunday that they had been raped by two boatmen on their way, an Indian daily reported yesterday.

An officer of Border Security Force (BSF) said jawans patrolling the Jhondanga border post in Swarupnagar saw the two women, aged 18 and 20, sitting on the banks of the river around 9:00pm on Sunday and crying, according to The Telegraph report.

The women from Chittagong were headed for Kolkata, where they had been promised jobs in a beauty parlour by a relative referred to as kaku (uncle), it said, quoting the BSF officer.

The name and identity of the man called kaku were not immediately known.

The victims said they did not have valid documents, said an officer of Gaighata police, who detained the two.

They got into the boat on the Bangladesh side of the river (in Sathkira sadar upazila) to reach India in the dead of night, he said.

"They said they were raped on the way by the two boatmen who left them on the banks of the Ichhamati at Jhondanga."

The cop said, "We have recorded their complaints of rape and sent them to hospital. But legal action will be taken against them for illegal entry into India."

After completing relevant procedures, the external affairs ministry will take up the matter with Dhaka, he said.

A search was on to trace the acquaintance called "kaku", he added.

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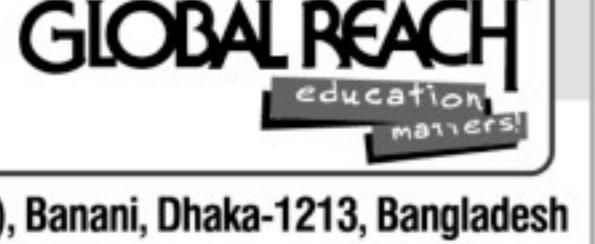
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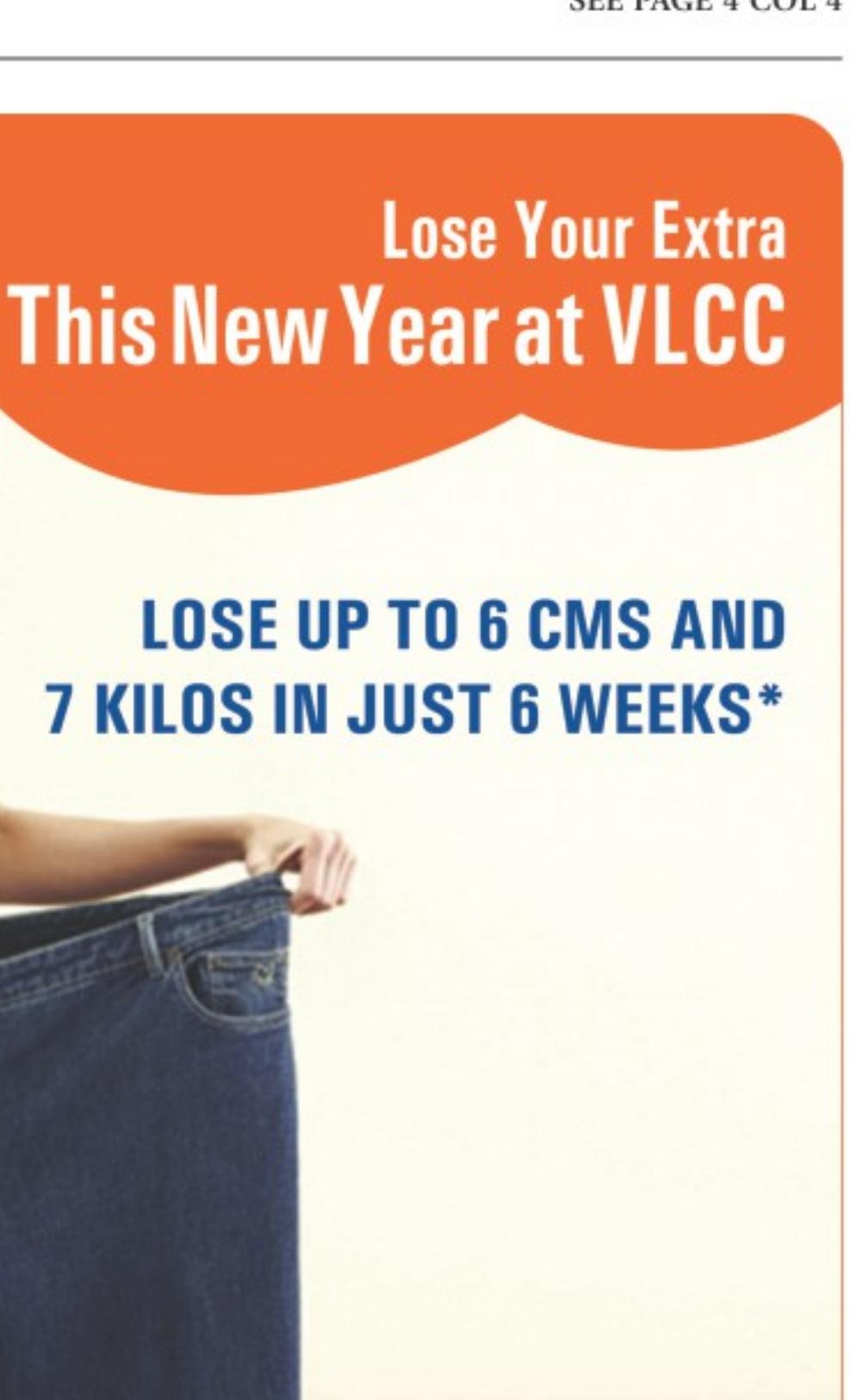
The spiritual leader of the world-wide Dawoodi Bohra community "His Holiness Dr. Syedna Mohammed Burhanuddin" expired on January 17, 2014 from a cardiac arrest at his residence in Mumbai, India. He was 102.

Born in Surat, Gujarat, Dr. Syedna was the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community for 50 years after succeeding his father Syedna Taher Saifuddin in 1965. Under his leadership, the community has achieved remarkable social, economic and educational success across the world. Known as Ambassador of Peace and Goodwill, Syedna was highly respected by world leaders and governments for his endeavours in promoting international brotherhood and harmony. He was honoured with highest civilian titles like the Star of Jordan and Order of the Nile by the respective governments of Jordan and Egypt. Syedna was conferred Honourary Doctorates for his efforts in social and educational development by renowned institutes like Al-Azhar University, Cairo, Aligarh Muslim University, India and University of Karachi.

Thousands of Dawoodi Bohras from all over India and from some 40 countries are converging to Mumbai to pay their last respects and homage to their beloved leader.

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