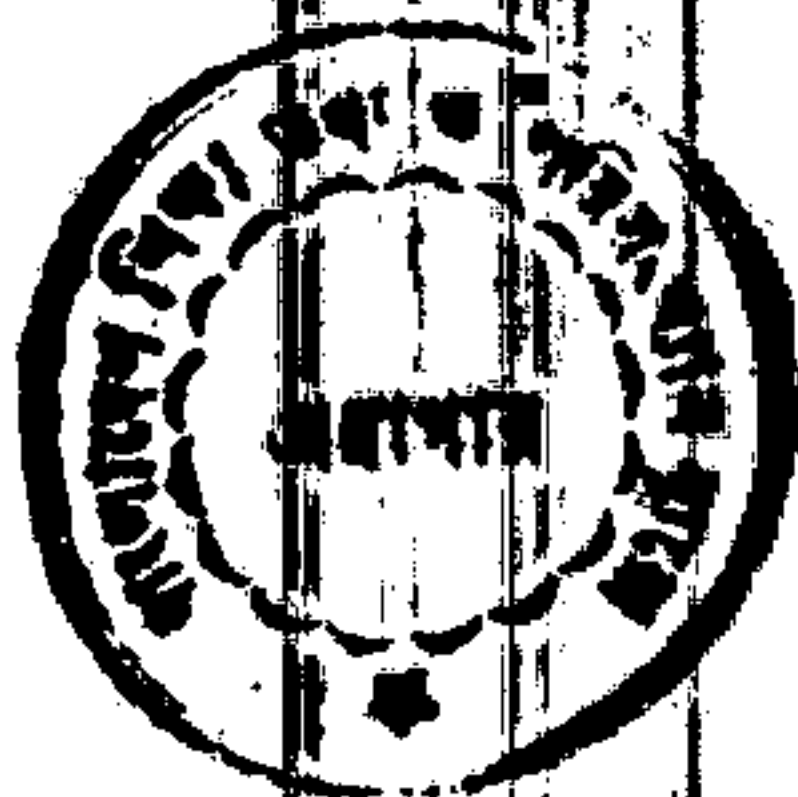




International Literacy Day today

By A. Stac Correspondent

International Literacy Day will be observed today (Thursday) throughout the country.

The day is observed worldwide every year by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) member governments and various groups of people, both governmental and non-governmental, in support of UNESCO and the United Nations system in general.

A Press release issued by United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) in Dhaka noted that there were at least 850 million people considered illiterate in different parts of the world, mostly in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Experts believe that the number will most likely exceed 900 million people before the end of the century, the Press release adds.

Highlighting the significance of the day, the UNIC Press release points out that literacy, loosely defined as ability to read and write, has in recent years been widely recognised as one of the most fundamental human rights which are indispensable in the achievement of economic, social and cultural advancement in the world. Illiteracy has declined at more or less constantly increasing rate but the absolute number of illiterate still continues to grow, it adds.

For the observance of the day this year in Bangladesh, a preparatory committee has been formed by 10 leading non-government organisations under the sponsorship of United Nations Information Centre.

(Continued on page 12 col.2)

Literacy Day

(Continued from page 1)

Dhaka.

The UNIC in cooperation with a number of such organisations will organise a symposium and an exhibition of educational materials at its premises today (Thursday). The symposium will be attended by Additional Secretary in-charge Science and Technology Division as chief guest. The exhibition will remain open from 11 a.m. till 5.30 p.m. at the UNIC lobby.

Dhaka Central Lions Club will hold a function on the day at 3 p.m. at its Adult Education Centre at Baranail.

Bangladesh Jatiya Samabaya Union will launch its week long programme for literacy drive in observance of the day at a function to be held at the premises of Khilgaon Model College on the day at 9 a.m.

A workshop will be organised at the same venue by the union.

Crescent Society will sponsor a seminar on the occasion at its central office at 29, Purana Paltan at 5.30 p.m.