in Delhi

from Oct 9

val of SAARC countries will be

held in the Indian capital New

Delhi on October 9-24, reports

Commission press release, one

cil for Cultural Relations and

the Shanker's International

January 1, 1976 from all

SAARC countries, are invited

to participate in this competi-

form of paintings/drawings or

entries by the Indian Council

for Cultural Relations, Azad

Bhaban, Indraprastha Estate,

New Delhi 110002 is August

tained from the High Commis

sion of India, Dhaka at phone

numbers 865096 or 507743,

PM's Pak visit

to help resolve

crisis: SPGRC

istanis here M Nasim Khan

yesterday hoped that Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

will be able to set a concrete

time-table for their repatria-

tion during her forthcoming

"We firmly believe that the

visit to Pakistan, reports UNB.

Prime Minister of Bangladesh

will resolve this long-lingering

issue by using her good office

and pressurising her Pakistani

counterpart," he said in a

Stranded Pakistanis General

Repatriation Committee

(SPGRC) thanked Foreign Min-

ister A S M Mostafizur Rahman

for discussing the issue with

the State Minister for Foreign

Affairs of Pakistan during his

He appealed to the Prime

Minister to allow a 5-member

delegation of the SPGRC to ap-

prise her of the problems

faced by the stranded Pakista-

Film Director

Al-Masud dies

story writer, and screen play-

wright Al-Masud died of can-

cer in a city nursing home yes-

terday morning, family sources

He was 50, reports BSS.

screen-plays he wrote for the

country's film industry, promi-

nent among those were, 'Ora

Egarojan' (The Eleven Free-

dom Fighters) and 'Sangram'

based on the War of Liberation

one son and a daughter and a

host of friends, well-wishers

and admirers to mourn his

Information Minister Nazm-

In a condolence message

ul Huda expressed his pro-

found shock at the death of Al-

the Information Minister re-

called the contributions of Al-

Masud in the development of

The Information Minister

expressed his heartfelt sympa-

thy to the members of the be-

reaved family and prayed for

the salvation of the departed

Masud left behind his wife,

of Bangladesh.

death.

Masud.

Of the 60 stories and

Eminent film director,

recent visit to Islamabad.

The chief patron of the

statement.

Leader of the stranded Pak

the press release said.

Information can also be ob-

15, 1992.

as written work in English.

Children, born on or after

Entries are invited in the

The last date for receipt of

Children's Competition.

The first South Asian festi-

According to an Indian High

Private university

will be set up

in Ctg. soon

Ahmed today said a private

university will be set up soon

here with a view to widening

the scope for higher education

in the country at private initia-

spite resource constraint, is

pledged to provide optimum

facilities for dissemination of

ing as the chief guest the

freshers reception arranged at

Pahartali Institute of Applied

Health Sciences (IAHS). City

Mayor Mir Muhammad Nastr

Uddin, National Professor Nu-

rul Islam, 'Kirara Nokkai' Pre-

sident Hiroko Kawahara,

IPGMR Professor Dr Nurul

Amin also spoke on the occa-

sion. Director of IAHS Dr D P

Barua presided over the func-

the occasion was participated

by students artistes of the in-

Nirmul body

meeting today

A musical soirce held on

The Minister was address-

He said the government de-

tive, reports BSS.

education for all.

CHITTAGONG, July 17: Communications Minister Off

## Dhaka Day by Day

### Travails of US Visa Seekers

by Sharier Khan

Mukul is never an early riser. He is often criticised for waking up very late. But one morning this month he made a mockery of his old habit by waking up too early. He woke up at

His mother did not enjoy being woken up to prepare his breakfast either.

But nothing could break his heart. His parents knew it too. Once or twice every year Mukul does the same thing. He tries to obtain a student visa from the American Embassy

"But I don't understand," his mother would say every time, "why do you have to wake up this early? When will the embassy open? Mukul would smile wisely," the embassy opens at 10 am, but I'm still late.

"How is that"? "By this hour hundreds of visa seekers are already standing in que in front of the embassy. which means I would probably be interviewed after hundred other guys!"

"My god! is it true?" "Hm. But don't worry. I sent Shimul (his younger brother) to stand in the que last night. I may be one of those first guys to be interviewed. Mukul reached

the American Embassy at Baridhara at around 5 am. The embassy, like a fort, was still closed. But hundreds of people were already standing in a que that began from the road crossing the north side of the embassy and ended nowhere .. for every minute the line was getting

Struggle begins from 9 am. A fresh que is made. This time somebody makes serial number of every body. It was then that Mukul met several other guys who previously attempted to get visas. One or two of them tried as many as 20 times. Others, rather "callow" to their eyes, tried 4 to 5 times.

Mukul also met parents of Buland, who studies in New Jersey, USA. "Salam alaikam, uncle and auntie, are you going too? asked he. "Well, don't you know Buland had a terrible car accident in New York last month?" Buland's father, a businessman replied. A shocked Mukul said, is it? my god! I was not informed. How bad is

"24 stitches on his face and his lower jaw is under the treatment of a plastic surgeon." Buland's father said, "but the terrible part is that he's still shocked and right now there is none around there to look after him"

Suddenly there was whistle. It was the embassy guard. He was pushing back the people, commanding them to form a "gentle line". " feel like a beggar here", Buland's mom said.

The embassy opened. Mukul could hear his heart beat. Three years ago when he really wanted to go to USA for study, they did not believe. Now he wants to make a living here. He has brought with him a lot of false documents which may seem credible to the visa officers, if Mukul was given a chance to talk this time.

Now submit your passport along with the visa form. Get checked. Then step into a passage and feel the environment like you are in the Middle East.

There is a lounge at the end of the passage for 50 to 60 people. But a lot of benches arc set in the passage for the extra crowd the embassy gets every day.

Mukul sat beside Buland's parents in the

lounge. The old man, already bored, told Mukul, "Well it feels like a prison here. But I won't mind the arrangement if I get the visa".

of the events in the festival will "Why, you will, off course, get visa. You are a be the SAARC competition for senior citizen. It's only us the youngsters they children, which will be jointly don't believe in". organised by the Indian Coun-

"Hope so. "Well, what have you written in the visa form as the cause of your visit?"

"Why? to meet my sick son. And I brought necessary papers to prove it." Hours passed. Names were announced in a loud-speaker. Visa seekers were getting in small rooms numbering I to 5 attached with the lounge, but Mukul's name was not announced in the first

Mukul began to icel sick. In the cool embassy environ ment his stomach was feeling hot. He wanted a glass of water. There was a water container at the corner of the room but it was

empty long ago. Then he wanted to go to the toilet. It was also impossible. People were standing in que. Mukul got the serial of 15. He then felt like going home. But the re was no embassy personnel around to ask for the return of

his passport. Getting out to buy cigarettes is also unwise. For if his name was announced in his absence, he would have to spend the whole day to know if he would be called

At about 1 pm, Mukul's name was finally announced. He jumped into room No. 4

After five minutes he came out dancing. He for fake papers! Isn't he lucky? Right then the loudspeakers announced names of Buland's

Within a minute they came out. Buland's dad looked surprised, mom angered. "We are fake?" Buland's dad was repeatedly asking himself. Mukul was shocked, "What did they say?"

"As we got in," the old man said, "the visa officer said 'visiting a sick son is a weak cause... I think you won't return!" I tried to tell him something, but he would not listen and said sorry I don't find you credible. And just that. He gave back our passport! "You really were not

Buland's dad looked down the floor. "What would I do in America? I'm somebody here... I'm old... what can I do in America? what do

they think I would do there?' They came out of the embassy. Mukul felt guilty for getting the visa. The old man's face was red and felt of humiliated. "It's so insulting... being a Bangladeshi... they won't believe you if you wanted to see your sick son for nothing... I see it ... I believe they think I would probably spend my life there working in some hotels than living a honourable life in

Mukul kept a long silence,"Will you not see Buland then after all these years?"

"Don't know. Then soon they took separate scooters. come back next week for the visa. After all

(facts were dramatised in the feature)

### SAARC festival Foundation of centre for deaf, blind children laid in Pahartali

CHITTAGONG, July 17 : Communications Minister Oli Ahmed today called upon the philanthropists and richer section of the society to build hospitals and other welfare organisations for serving the needy and the poor, reports

He said there was nothing greater than serving the ailing and needy people.

Speaking as chief guest at the foundation laying ceremony of the centre for deaf and blind children at Pahartali near Foy's Lake here this morning, he said, the government was engaged in massive development and rehabilitation activities in order to alleviate the sufferings of the people. The richer section of the people would have to contribute their mite towards building welfare organisations like hospitals and centre for training physically handicapped people, he said.

The function, held at the Pahartali Eye Infirmary and Training Complex auditorium was presided over by Dr. Fazlul

The centre for deaf and visually handicapped children is

a joint project of SAHIC-Bangladesh, BNSB and Japanese voluntary organisation Kirra No Kai. Over Taka five and a half crore will be spent for the centre. Kirra No Kai will contribute major portion of the construction cost of the centre. Ms. Hiroko Kawahara, president of Kirra No Kai who attended the function as special guest, also addressed it. City Mayor Mir M. Nasir-

uddin, local MPs and high

officials were present on the

The Communications Minister said, as an independent nation we cannot go on depending on others for ever and as such we will have to make concerted efforts to stand on our feet. We will have to set up hospitals, training centres, industries and many welfare organisations to gradually lessen our dependence on foreign countries, he said. adding the people have to supplement government efforts wherever possible.

Ahmad said that the vast tract of unused railway land in the Foy's Lake area had already been given to Jana Scha Complex, kidney hospital, diabetic hospital, centre for handicapped children and more land would be given to such welfare organisations when they come forward to build hospital or welfare centres.

The Minister thanked Ms Hiroko Kawahara, president of Kirra No Kai for generous contribution towards the centre for deaf and visually handicapped children. Ms Kawahara said that her organisation would continue to

extend necessary help for building more welfare centres in Bangladesh. She said that poverty, illiteracy and natural calamity were hindering economic progress of Bangladesh. Earlier, Prof M. Nurul Amin, welcoming the Minister and

other guests, explained different aspects of the centre for deaf and visually handicapped children being built near Foy's Lake here



Lt Col (retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, Dr Ahmed Sharif, Faiz Ahmed, Maj (retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, Maolana Abdul Awal, Prof Hamida Rahman, Shahriar Kabir, Naim Jahangir and Engineer Saifullah will also address the meeting.

### Death anniversary of Osman Ghani observed The 24th death anniversary

of Al-Haj Osman Ghani, a noted businessman of village Sukubashpur, Munshiganj was observed yesterday, reports BSS.

On this occasion a milad mahfil was held at the Hare Road official residence of Food Minister Shamsul Islam, the eldest son of late Ghant. Law Minister Mirza Golam

Hafiz, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Works Minister Rafigul Islam Mia, Energy Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, State Minister for Law Aminul Islam and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Hasan Ahmed were, among others, who attended the milad mahfil.

# for his interview

could not believe it! He's got it! He's got it all parents. With a happy grin they went in room

Mukul knew the old couple would probably emotion for a son is stronger then the harder

### 11 judges removed since independence Three High Court Division Javed Ali Akand, former addi-

judges and eight others of the lower courts were removed from service after the independence of the country till date, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs M Aminul Hug told the Jatiya Sangsad Thursday reports BSS.

manding trial of Golam Azam.

Mosharraf (AL-Jamalpur), the state minister said Justice KM Sobhan, judge of the High Court Division, was removed from service on March 24, 1982, Justice Abdur Rahman Chowdhury, judge of the High Court Division, removed on September 1, 1983 while Justice S M Hossain, judge of the High Court division was

removed on January 8, 1984. The removed judges of the lower courts are: Kazi Shamsur Rahman, former special judge of Rajshahi on July 13, 1982,

### Saudi sacrificial meat handed over

KHULNA, July 17: Thirty seven thousand three hundred carcasses of Saudi sacrificial meat were formally handed over at Mongla Port premises Thursday as a gesture of brotherly and friendly ties between the governments and peoples of Bangladesh and Saudi Arabia, according to an official handout yesterday, reports

tional district judge of Kushtia, on May 25, 1988, Harekrishna Das, former additional district judge of Jessore on November 15, 1984, M Obaidur Rahman, former additional district judge of Noakhali, on April 25, 1986, Abdul Hamid, former additional district judge of In a written reply to ques- Pirozpur, on July 9, 1987 tion from Hazi Rashed Abdul Matin, former additional district judge of Bagerhat, on the month of February, 1988, Mahbubur Rahman, former sub-judge of Manikganj, on February 1, 1983 and M Altaf Hossain, former Munsif of Bhola, on May 24, 1983.

Ekattarer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee brought out a procession in the city Friday de-

### Jatiyatabadi landless parishad formed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Landless Rehabilitation Welfare

- Star photo

Parishad was formed at a meeting of the landless held yesterday, reports BSS. A 41-member executive

committee was formed with Mahmood Hossain Khan and Mohammad Ali Ashraf Chowdhury as President and General Secretary respectively, according to a press release. The meeting participated

by leaders and representatives from different districts of the country discussed rehabilitation of landless people in the light of the government's land

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### Dateline Rajshahi

### 56 lakh cattlehead vaccinated RAJSHAHI, July 16: The hens among the people for de-

Livestocks Department has vaccinated 56 lakh 31 thou sand cattlehead and 5 crore 65 thousand ducks and hens in Rajshahi division during 1991-92 fiscal year, reports It was stated at a meeting of

district level officers of Livestocks Department here Wednesday with Divisional Deputy Director of the department Dr Golam Rahman in the chair.

During the period the department provided treatment to two lakh 50 thousand cattlehead and 25 lakh ducks and

Besides, the department has distributed 3 lakh 88 thousand day-old chickens 2 lakh 10 thousand hens and 2 lakh 60 thousand eggs of ducks and

velopment of the sector.

The department changed 90 thousand improved species of ducks and hens with the people and inseminated 3 lakh 32 thousand cows and provided training on cattle rearing and poultry farming among 37 thousand people during the time.

The department also undertaken a programme to plant two thousand saplings at its office premises in the division during the current year.

The Deputy Director, in his speech said, the Livestocks Department is now capable of producing 25 crore doses of vaccination for cattleheads and poultry and produces 40 lakh poultry birds and inseminate 10 lakh cows in a year.

# What's on today . . . . •

Inauguration of ultrasonic testing course The inauguration of the ultrasonic testing (level-I) training course will be held today (Saturday) at the auditorium of the Atomic Energy Centre at 9:30 am. Organised jointly by UNDP, IAEA, RCA and BSEC industrial project, Lt Col (Retd) Hesam Uddin Ahmed, Secretary of the Ministry of Education.

Science and Technology will inaugurate the opening session. Press conference

Desh Bachao Forum will hold a press conference today (Saturday) at Janata Bhaban, 47/1, Toynbee Circular Road at 10:00 am.

### ADAB review meeting

Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and like- minded environmental activist groups will jointly hold a review meeting following the global ecology conference (UNCED) today (Saturday) at the BMDC auditorium at Sobhanbag at 4 pm.

### FBCCI discussion meet

Executive Council members of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) will hold a discussion meeting with a 20 member high trades representative team headed by President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mia Habibullah at the Federation auditorium today (Saturday) at 4:30 pm.

The meeting will focus on expansion of trade between the two countries and setting up of joint-venture industries.

### 'Govt firm to eradicate illiteracy'

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan yesterday said that the present government had allocated the highest amount for the education sector in the current national budget with a view to cradicating curse of illiteracy from the country, re-

ports BSS. He said "if we can educate the whole nation, our development in every sector would be achieved.

Mannan was speaking at a meeting organised on the occasion of the 70th founding anniversary of the Tarini Bama High School at Nawabganj.

He said the teachers and students had to play the most vital role to make the government programme a success.

He called upon them to help implement the government programme with utmost sincerity and dedication to spread the light of education among the people.

Presided over by Barrister Shamsul Alam, the meeting was also addressed by the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka, Abu Sulaiman Chowdhury.

Later, the Mannan unveiled the plaque of the newly built house of the school and planted a sapling in the school ground.



### Saturday 5:00 Opening announcement

	Al-Quran				
	Programme s	ummary			
5:10	News in Bangla				
5-20	Recitation	from	the		
	Tripitak				
6-00	Cartoon film				
6-30	Mati O Manus	h			
7-05	Banshari (Folk Songs)				
8-00	News in Bang	la			

8-00 8-30 Probaha Shatabdir Prante Darie 10-00 News in English 10-30 Drama series : Dallas 11-30 Khabar /The News 11-40 Sunday's programme summary

11-45 Closing

# Weather

### Rain with gusty wind likely

By Staff Correspondent

Light or moderate rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely to occur at many places over Khulna, Chittagong and Dhaka divisions and at a few places over Rajshahi division during the next 24 hours commencing 6 am

today (Saturday). Day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over

the country. The Met office observes no appreciable change in weather in the next five days. Yesterday (Friday), rainfall occurred at most places of the

country. Rajshahi recorded the highest rainfall of 26 mm in 12 hours from 6 am to 6 pm while Dhaka recorded 9 mm, Rangamati 15 mm, Cox's Bazar 14 (in six hours), Dinajpur 8 mm, Barisal 7 mm and Sylhet recorded 1 mm of rainfall. The maximum temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was re-

ported from Chuadanga yesterday and the minimum of 24.0 was reported from Dhaka and Bogra. The sun sets today (Saturday) at 6.68 pm and rises tomor-

row (Sunday) at 5.22 am. The maximum and the minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns of the country yesterday were: Humidity in Cities/Towns Temperature in

	degree Celsius			percentage		
	Max .	7 - 1 - 2 - 2		9 am	6 pm	
Dhaka	30.6	24.0		83	93	
Chittagong	30.0	25.4		. 75	80	
Rajshahi	29.0	24.6		92	90	
Khulna	31.7	29.9	343	78	93	
Dinajpur	29.0	25.3		92	93	
Jessore	32.6	26.0		2		
Sylhet	30.0	24.1		95	85	
Barisal	29.6	24.6		95	92	