Children's competition

A four-day long competition of the children in painting, recitation, Nazrul sangeet and dance based on Nazrul sangeet will begin. The competition has been organised by Nazrul Institute in observance of the death anniversary of the national poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. Venue: Kabi Bhaban, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm daily.

Open day

HURDCO International School will host an Open Day to present the school as a whole to the parents, visitors and the community. The attractions of the day include science projects, musical shows, food, merchandise and raffle draw. Venue: Bashundhara main gate, Bashundhara, Time: 10.00am.

Bonsai display

A two-day long Bonsai display, organised by Bangladesh Bonsai Society, will begin. Venue: BRAC Inn Centre, Mohakhali. Time: From 10.00am to 8.00pm daily.

Exhibition

A 3-day international exhibition for garment and textile in Bangladesh titled '3rd Tex- Tech International 2002' will begin with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: From 10.00am to 8.30pm daily.

Blood and eye donation programme

Srijani Mukta Scout Group, cooperation with Sandhani Bangladesh, Dhaka Medical College, organises a voluntary blood donation and posthumous eye donation programme. Venue: Commissioner Office auditorium, Ward no 44, Mohammadpur. Time: 9.00am.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises voluntary blood donation programme in cooperation with Rotaract Club of Metro Dhaka. Venue: T&T Club, Motijheel. Time: 8.00am.

Anti-dengue programme

Genesis, a children and juvenile organisation will arrange an anti- 5.30pm. dengue programme that includes distribution of dengue-preventive medicine and a procession to raise public awareness about dengue. Venue: Shishu Academy. Time: 10.00am.

Discussion

Bangladesh Mahila Awami League will hold a discussion titled 'The nation wants to see the execution of the killers of Bangabandhu'. Venue: 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 4.00pm.

General meeting

The 10th biennial general meeting of Chuadanga Zila Samity, Dhaka, will be held. Venue: ICMAB auditorium, Nilkhet, Time: 5.00pm.

Prize distribution

ceremony

The prize distribution ceremony of Mridubhashan-Sentri Security World Cup Quiz will be held with former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA OMORROW

Film Show

Bangladesh Short Film Forum will celebrate its 16th founding anniversary by holding a four-day long festival of South Asian documentaries titled 'Travelling Film South Asia (TFSA), Dhaka-2002. Syed Shujauddin Ahmed, director general, NIMCO will inaugurate the festival. Venue: Goethe-Institut, Dhanmondi, Time: 6.00pm.

Workshop

A two-day workshop on 'Lessons Learned from Credit Losses', organised by the City Bank, will begin with Commerce Minister Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: MCCI conference hall. Time: 10.00am.

Blood donation

Orca blood for life organises a voluntary blood donation programme. Venue: Daffodil Institute of IT. Time: 10.00am.

BCACP rally

Bangladesh Chartered Accountancy Chhatra Parishad (BCACP) will hold a rally to realise their various demands. Venue: BCACP office, Motifheel. Time:

Rotary meeting

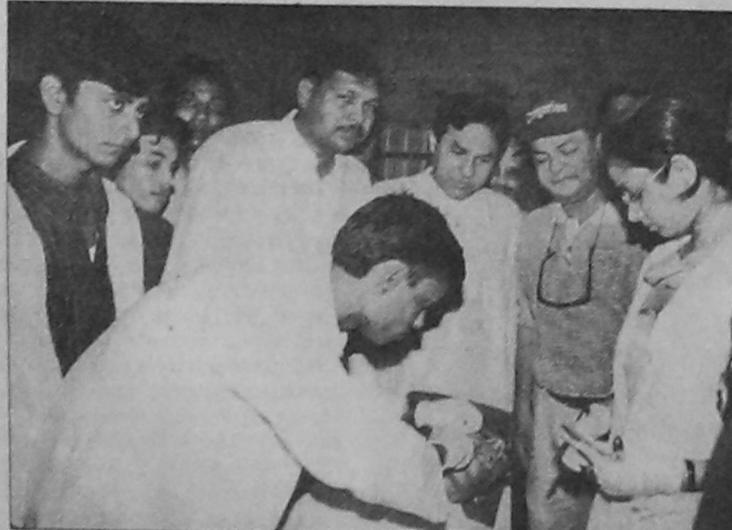
Regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: RAOWA Club, Mohakhali, Time: 1.30pm.



Centre for Policy Research (CPR) and International University of Business Agriculture and Technology (IUBAT) jointly organised a dialogue on rural electrification in the city yesterday.



The First Secretary of the Swedish Embassy Johan Norqvist handed over 12 sewing machines to the destitute women in Aliabad union under Faridpur Sadar upazila on August 20. The SIDA funded Local Capacity Development Initiative Project LCDI of LGED.



Lions Club of Dhaka Golden, Dist 315 B-2, with the support of local people of Elenga, Tangail organised a day long "Gandhina Medical & Eye Camp" on August 16. Over 290 doctors under the guidance of Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, an eminent physician of the country, treated 32,000 patients. Fifty patients underwent general surgery on the spot and 300 patients were selected to undergo major eye surgery at the Lions Eye Hospital in Dhaka.

'Find ways to reduce trade gap between SAARC nations'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for finding ways of reducing the trade gap between the South Asian countries.

political tension, different exchange rates, informal trade and restriction of trade and investment as the main impediments to subcooperation.

of the launching-ceremony of a book titled "Towards Greater Subregional Economic Co-operation" published by the Asia Foundation at a hotel in the city.

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmood Chowdhury

Blood cell lab

for leukemia

BSS, Dhaka

vesterday.

disease.

opens at CMCH

A newly set up blood cell labora-

tory for leukemia patients was

inaugurated by Commerce Min-

ister Amir Khosru Mahmud

Chowdhury at the Paediatrics

Department of the Chittagong

Medical College Hospital (CMCH)

The Laboratory run by 'CLASS'

(Children Leukemia Assistance

and Support Services), a voluntary

organisation, is working for the

The Laboratory is the third one

after the 'Isolation Block' and

'Children Play Corner,' established

at a cost of about Tk three lakh

mostly contributed by two indus-

trialist -- Yasin Ali and Hasan

Mahmud Raja -- said CLASS

Paediatrics Department CMC Dr

Chowdhury B Mahmood, the

function was also addressed by the

principal of the CMH Prof. Abdul

Mannan Sikder, CMCH Director

Brig. General Shah-E-Alam and

Tk-684cr SIDA

Osman Gani Mansoor.

projects in

Faridpur

BSS, Faridpur

Presided over by Head of the

chairman Osman Gani Mansoor.

children suffering from the deadly

Chairman of the Centre for They identified tariff barriers, Rehman Sobhan, President of the different exchange rates between is expected that the obligations of Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industries Yussuf Abdullah Harun, Commerce Secre- Bangladesh could move forward tary Suhel Ahmed Chowdhury, with its resources like gas, hydroregional and regional economic Kazi Zaforullah, MP, team leader electricity and agricultural prodof Regional Co-operation Study ucts. The discussion was held as part Forrest E. Cookson, Asia Founda-Resident Representative spoke on the occasion. Former in 1985, he said. Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan

> Greater sub-regional cooperation among Bangladesh, Bhutan,

chaired the function.

minister.

He expressed optimism despite Policy Dialogue (CPD) Prof. tariff and non-tariff barriers and different countries.

The FBCCI president said and acted accordingly.

in bilateral trade and cooperation added. Karen L. Casper, among others, since the inception of SAARC back

at US\$2.3 billion.

Forrest E. Cookson, the co- the sub-region.

attended the function as chief Nepal and the eastern states of editor of the book, said the imbal guest, and State Minister for For- India in trade and investment can ance in economic power between eign Affairs Reaz Rahman as spe- benefit all, said the commerce India and its neighbouring countries is a continuing difficulty.

India is increasingly taking up the role as a regional leader. So, it leadership will be acknowledged

Without co-operative efforts to use natural resources and encourage specialisation through trade, the standard of living in the sub-There has been a little progress region can hardly improve, he

Prof. Rehman Sobhan in his Harun said the trade gap be- brief speech has expressed optitween India and Bangladesh stood mism that there are huge trade potentials among the countries of



Committee for Resistance to Acid Throwing formed a human chain near the High Court in the city yesterday to create mass awareness against acid throwing.

Crimes against women, children have taken serious turn

BSAF study says

opinion-sharing meeting where

the speakers said the child killing

has gone up over the years due to

has gone up drastically over the

years. But in recent time, the na-

ture of such crimes has taken a

serious turn due to omnipresence

of brutality, cruelty and violence

against women and children,

Shahin Ara Begum, research offi-

cer of BSAF, told the meeting.

"The number of child killing

BSS, Dhaka

these reasons.

A coalition of child rights organi-Swedish International Developsations at a meeting here yesterment Agency (SIDA) has taken up day said the nature of crimes a new development strategy under against women and children have the style of Local Capacity Development Initiatives (LCDI) in four taken a serious turn due to omniunion parishads of greater Faridpresence of brutality, cruelty and pur at an estimated cost of Tk 684 violence. Bangladesh Shishu Odhikar Forum (BSAF) organised the

According to an official source, the object of LCDI is to strengthen the local government institutions with the participation of local elected people and social leaders both male and female. In broader view the local people will be directly involved with the implementation of the schemes selected by them. The fund for the projects has been placed directly to the union parishads, the source said.

According to the source, out of the total fund Tk 347 crore was placed in last fiscal year and 337 crore has been allocated for the current fiscal year. The selected unions are Aliabad of Faridpur district, Sultanpur of Rajbari district, Kamarkhali of Faridpur district and Amgram of Madaripur

The projects included health, infrastructures (roads, culverts), education and income generating activities (IGA).

According to the source, so far 83 schemes were taken up in 4 unions for implementation during the last fiscal year and of them 14 have been completed. The implemented schemes completed so far are mostly of health sector. Under this sector 10 arsenic free tubewells with mini treatment plants have been set up by LCDI.

She said some 418 children tims' families, she said they want were killed in last seven months in different parts of the country. Out of the total victims, 59 were killed after rape, 17 for dowry and 342

for other reasons.

was basically based on newspaper reports, said lives of 16 other chilto kill them. She, however, lauded government's role in dealing with the cases of brutal killings like

schoolboy Shihab with iron hands. Explaining the reasons behind gruesome ones, she said social deviations, lack of rapid police into illusion from reality. actions as well as absence of exemplary punishment to the killers have made the lives of children

vulnerable. Quoting members of some vic- present in the meeting.

to see capital punishment of the killers in public before dying their Mahmuda Chowdhury of the

Daily Dinkal said vulgar films, Shahin Ara, whose research both of local and foreign, as well as some writings of the contemporary writers of the country have dren were saved during the period been pushing children and juve-(January-July) even after attempts niles to be arrogant, ferocious and "Should Baker Bhai or Himu be

the ideal characters for our future generations?" she asked and requested writer like Humayun Ahsuch killings, including the recent med to stop writing such novels and dramas that allure children

> BSAF Chairperson Dr Hamidul Huq. Freasurer Khairuzzaman Kamal and journalists from different dailies and news agencies were

'Invest in industrial parks'

Commerce Minister Amir Khosru and other parts of the country. Mahmud Chowdhury last night soon under joint sponsorship of the government and the private of Gazipur.

Jute Mills compound, Chittagong challenge, he said.

VIP-Nitol Industries 11d, a urged the entrepreneurs to invest Bangladesh-India joint venture in the industrial parks to be set up initiative in private sector, has established its factory in Baimail

He said it is true that Bangla-Addressing the inauguration of desh's export earning has come a joint venture company for down recently due to downturn of manufacturing plastic moulded global economy. The country's luggage and furniture at Dhaka exports, especially the RMG prod-Sheraton Hotel, the minister said ucts will face a tough competition the government would welcome in 2005, but there should be no investment in the industrial parks major concern that RMG sector to be established in the Adamjee will not be able to withstand the

Executive Chairman of Board of Investment (BOI) Mahmudur Rahman, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh ML Tirpathi, Vice Chairman of the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Abu Saleh and President of Bangladesh Plastic Goods Manufacturers Association Yousuf Ashraf and Chairman of the VIP Group of Industries, India, Dilip G Piramal addressed the function as special guests.

Chairman of Nitol Group Abdul Matlub Ahmed presided over the function.

India responsible for environmental degradation in Bangladesh: Moudud

BSS, Dhaka

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday held India responsible for severe environmental degradation in Bangladesh through lifting waters from the crossborder rivers.

"Neighbouring India is mainly responsible for our environmental degradation. It has pushed Bang- chaired it. ladesh into severe environmental problems through building dykes and barrages in the upstream of 54 cross-border rivers," he said at a function here.

So if we want to protect our en- occasion. vironment, he cautioned, things must be solved relating to realisation of our due shares of waters of the cross-border rivers with India. Moudud was speaking as the

chief guest at the inaugural cere- be implemented after carefully ence of 'Sabar Jonya Paribesh', a pects. front organisation of the Centre for Sustainable Development, at Shishu Academy here.

Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir attended the function as the special guest, while Secretary General of the organisation Mahfuz Ullah

Nishat, lawmakers Gazi Nazrul Islam, Nazir Hossain, GM Quader, Dr Mohammad Abdur Razzak and Zahir Uddin Swapan spoke on the Moudud said development

without having link with the en-

vironment can never be termed

sustainable. He also opined that

every development activity should

mony of the first national confer- weighing the environmental as-

The law minister observed that environmental degradation has become the number one problem State Minister for Agriculture across the globe threatening the existence of mankind and other species. He said the almighty Allah has created the universe balanced, but it is the human being that has jeopardised the natural balance by Eminent water expert Ainun their injudicious and reckless

> He blamed the developed world for destroying the natural balance through massive and unplanned industrialisation. Developing countries like ours are not responsible for it, but unfortunately "we are becoming its first victims," he said.

Underscoring the need for a joint effort among Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan and Myanmar to protect the environment, the law minister said economic development is also a must in this respect.

He said: "Apart from the Western outlooks, we have to look into the development models of the ASEAN countries like Myanmar, the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Mirza Alamgir said excessive dependence on donor agencies as well as their defective development guidelines should be branded as one of the major reasons for the environmental degradation in the country.

He said the bio-diversity is at stake now due to the random use of chemical fertilisers and insecticides being prescribed by donors.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country,

Country's highest temperature 35.8 degree Celsius and lowest 23.6

degree Celsius were recorded at Srimongal yesterday. The sun sets in the capital at 6:25pm today and rises at 5:37am

tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	
Dhaka	32.7	24.5	68	63
Chittagong	32.6	25.6	78	81
Rajshahi	34.0	26.2	75	71
Khulna	32.0	26.6	78	77
Barisal	31.5	26.4	81	84
Sylhet	34.8	26.2	68	68
Cox's Bazar	32.7	25.2	74	82

Sanjida's music album released in Kolkata

PTI, Kolkata

Picking 13 Tagore songs from a rare private collection of an ardent fan, a music album of legendary Bangladeshi Rabindrasangeet exponent Sanjida Khatun was released here yesterday.

'Jakhan Bristi Namlo' (When it rained), recorded by Sanjida's admirer Arundhati Deb from a household function at her home in eastern Indian metropolis Kolkata and brought out by Saregama Ltd, has been woven around Rabindranath Tagore's rain songs.

"Rain songs by Tagore have probably no match anywhere in the world. This cassette comes as a pleasant surprise since I had never given a formal recording. I was just singing from the heart to a learned audience," the 69-year-old Saniida said.

Sanjida, who considers herself. a self-taught singer, said she was introduced to Rabindranath's literature from where she arrived at her songs in her youth.

The singer, who drew national attention by taking the lead in having "Amar Shonar Bangla" now the national anthem of Bangladesh, recorded in chorus, said her new album would build bridges between her country and

Despite being the moving force STAFF CORRESPONDENT behind propagation of Tagore and his music in the then East Pakistan, Sanjida's collection of recorded music is limited.

Many years ago, two of her songs were recorded by EMI, Pakistan in Karachi from where her first solo extended play was also published. Recently, the Bengal Foundation published three CDS and Cassettes 'Karuna Dharai Esho,' 'Abar Ashi Phire' and 'Chutir Banshi Bajlo.'

Sylhet Div Action Council to observe hunger strike today UNB, Dhaka

Sylhet Division Development Action Council will observe a token hunger strike at city's Osmani Udyan today at 3:30pm to realise their various demands.

Their demands include free treatment of Dengue patients in all hospitals and clinics, preserving the memories of Bangabir Gen Osmani, and protecting the country's all udyans, including the Osmani Udvan.

TCL observes its founding anniversary

CU CORRESPONDENT

The Computers Limited (TCL) took up various programmes in the port city yesterday to mark its 19th founding anniversary.

The programmes included blood donation and tree plantation in cooperation with the British American Tobacco Company, Bangladesh.

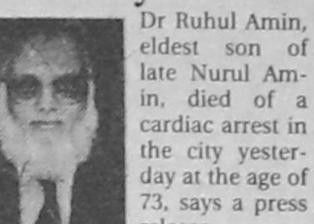
A procession was also brought out in the city and a seminar on ' Making IT Education Relevant for Bangladesh' was held at the auditorium of Aptech, Lalkhan Bazar centre on this occasion.

K Atique-e- Rabbani, managing director of TCL, presented the keynote paper at the seminar. Engineer M Shahjahan,

chairman of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB), release. Chittagong centre attended the seminar as chief guest. He also distributed certificates among the He left behind four sons, one successful students.

The programme was rounded off with a cultural function.

Obituary



He left behind his wife, a daughter, two sons and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn

his death. His namaj-e-janaza was held at Gulshan Jame Mosque after Zohr Qulkhwani of late Ruhul Amin

will be held at his residence at House-10, Road-6, Gulshan-1 after Asr prayers on Sunday.

Death anniversary The ninth death



quarankhwani has been arranged to mark the day. Hakim Khan hailed from village Rajpara of Nawabganj thana under

Qulkhwani

Dhaka and founder of Hakim

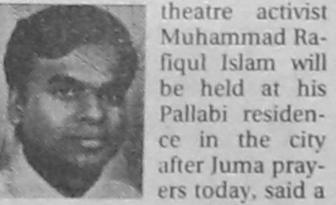


cardiac arrest on Saturday last at the age of 62. He is survived by his wife, three daughters and one son. He was buried at his village home at Kapa-

sia in Gazipur. One of his daughters Muneera Parbeen, who is now in London used to work for The Daily Star.

Friends and relatives are requested to attend the qulkhwani at his Eastern Housing Apartment at 26/B Topkhana Road after the Asr prayers.

Chehlum Chehlum of



ce in the city after Juma prayers today, said a press release. Rafiq, who was suffering from hepatitis-B, dengue and malignant

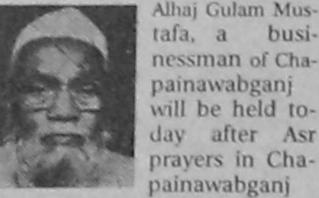
malaria, died at Shamorita Hospital in the city on July 14 last. Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the

As a member Padatik Natya Sangsad, Rafiq earned appreciation for his role in the wayside

drama "Taramon Bibi" and stage

drama "Khetmajur Khoimuddin".

Gulam Mustafa



painawabgani will be held today after Asr prayers in Chapainawabganj (Fakir Para Mosque) and at 3/9/D. Lalmatia in Dhaka, says a press

The chehlum of

He died on July 15 at the age of 84 due to old age complications.

daughter and host of admirers. Relations and friends are re-

quested to attend the chehlum.