

Labour leader SA Khaleq dead

UNB, Dhaka
SA Khaleq, a veteran labour leader, national executive committee member of BNP and vice president of Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal, died of kidney disease at a city clinic yesterday at the age of 64.

Case under speedy trial act Bail petition of 7 AL activists rejected

COURT CORRESPONDENT
The Speedy Trial Court, Dhaka, yesterday rejected the bail petition of seven workers and leaders of Keraniganj upazila Awami League.

ganj thana, it has been alleged that a launch, Lucky, sank in the Kholmora launchghat under Keraniganj thana on July 31 this year.



The Women's Voice formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday protesting recent attacks on hunger-striking students of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology.

DHAKA TODAY

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a group art exhibition titled 'Unity for the Peace and Progress', organised by Charcoal, a group of contemporary artists, will be held with renowned film actor and UNFPA ambassador Razzak as chief guest.

Leo meeting

Monthly board meeting of Leo Club of Dhaka Faridabad will be held. Venue: 9, Kazi Abdur Rouf Road, Laxmibazar. Time: 4.00pm.

Solo performance

Prof Rita Ganguly, a well-known theatre and music maestro from India will perform a solo programme based on the life of Maleka-e-Ghazal Begum Akhtar. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

Classical music

Ostad Ayet Ali Khan Sangeet Niketon organises a discussion and a session of classical music in observance of 30th death anniversary of Ostad Alauddin Khan and 35th death anniversary of Ostad Ayet Ali Khan with State Minister for Cultural Affairs Begum Selima Rahman as chief guest. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.15pm.

Film show

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a film titled 'Topaz' directed by Alfred Hitchcock. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, 14 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Movies

Under its Friday movies, Alliance Francaise will screen two films titled 'Les ports de la nuit' directed by Marcel Carné and 'Germinal' directed by Claude Berri. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm respectively.

Memorial meeting

Jatiyatabadi Peshajbee Parishad (JPP) organises a meeting in memory of Prof Syed Ali Ahsan with Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Barrister Moudud Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3.30pm.

Discussion

In observance of the death anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Bangabandhu Law Students Council will organise a discussion meeting. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity, Segunbagicha. Time: 5.00pm.

Play

Dastan Kehale Kehale, a play based on the life and times of the legendary singer Begum Akhtar, will be performed by Prof Rita Ganguly and her group. Indian Council for Cultural Relations and the High Commission of India will organise the programme. Venue: National Museum auditorium, Shahbagh. Time: 7.00pm.

Discussion meeting

A discussion meeting of general viewers of Ekushey Television will be held. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 4.00pm.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of a book titled 'Polimatir Desh Bhola' authored by Mostafa Harun will be held with Jule Minister Hafiz Uddin Ahmed as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3.00pm.

Reception

Private Schools Association of Bangladesh will accord a reception to those who got slips in the scholarship examinations held in 2001. Venue: New Light High School, Joarsahara. Time: 8.30am.

AGM

The annual general meeting of Satkhira Jana Samity, Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sunderban. Time: 4.00pm.

DHAKA TOMORROW

Seminar

Franco-Bangladesh Association of Scholars and Trainees organises a seminar on 'Bioinformatics' with French Ambassador Monsieur Michel Lummaux as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

World Peace Day

In observance of World Peace Day, Bangladesh Girl Guides Association will organise a function with Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan MP as chief guest. Venue: Guide House, New Bally Road. Time: 10.30am.

Jahangir Alam

UNB, Dhaka
Popular radio-TV singer Jahangir Alam died of a cardiac arrest in the city on Wednesday night at the age of 44.

He left behind his wife, mother and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death. The Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad and Ginkabi Sangsad have expressed deep shock at his death. In separate condolence messages, they conveyed heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Art exhibition in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT
A three-day art exhibition will be held at local press club auditorium in the port city of Chittagong at 4 pm today. Artist Shawkat Jahan and the five art schools of the port city will organise the exhibition. Paintings of about 400 students and artist Shawkat Jahan will be put on display. The five schools are Saint Placid High School, Sun Shine Grammar School, Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) High School, Saint Joseph's High School and SOS Shishu Pali.

Orbis eye hospital flies to Ctg today

BSS, Dhaka
Orbis, the world's only flying eye hospital, flies to Chittagong today on a three-week visit to stimulate fight against blindness in Bangladesh. An estimated 1.3 million people, including 42,000 children, or one per cent of the population are blind in the country. Orbis, which first visited Bangladesh in 1985, is paying its seventh visit to continue training for local ophthalmologists in the latest ophthalmic surgical and biomedical skills, officials at its country office in the city said. The Orbis aircraft will be visiting Chittagong for the first time. It will arrange fellowship training for local ophthalmologists at BNSB Eye hospital, Chittagong. The major focus will be on pediatric ophthalmology. According to Orbis International, a humanitarian and blindness-eliminating organisation, cataracts account for approximately 60 per cent of blindness in Bangladesh. Childhood blindness is considered the country's second most important blindness issue. Other important causes of low vision or blindness in Bangladesh include refractive error, glaucoma and ocular injury, it says. Refractive error among children is a major concern and an

estimated 500,000 children have this problem, which often can be easily and inexpensively corrected with spectacles. About 650 ophthalmologists practice in Bangladesh. But more than half of them are believed not to have performed any surgery due to the limited availability of trained ophthalmic nurses and paramedics. Orbis sources said. Currently, there are only 200 ophthalmic nurses in the country and facilities at all levels have inadequate ophthalmic equipment and supplies, according to available statistics. Moreover, existing equipment often remain non-operational due to inadequate maintenance and lack of trained personnel who can repair the equipment. Orbis will impart training to the local ophthalmologists, technicians and nurses to improve their eye care services. Although there are a number of ophthalmologists in Bangladesh, who are skilled in cornea transplants, the availability of cornea tissue is extremely limited. In 1999, only about 150 corneas were collected throughout the country. Orbis sources said over 90 per cent of the surgeries performed in Bangladesh are estimated to be cataract surgeries. The current cataract surgery rate is only about 460 per million people per annum.

Orchid show begins today

A two-day orchid show for the orchid lovers begins in the city today, said a press release yesterday. The Orchid Society of Bangladesh will organise the show at House CEN (C) 2, Road-95, Gulshan. The show will remain open from 4.30pm to 6.00pm. The admission fee has been fixed at Tk.10, the press release added.

Prime University to start academic activities this year

UNB, Dhaka
A newly established private university named 'Prime University' is going to start its academic activities in the fall semester this year. The university, which got government approval on Monday, will initially have two departments in Computer Science faculty and three departments in Business Administration faculty.

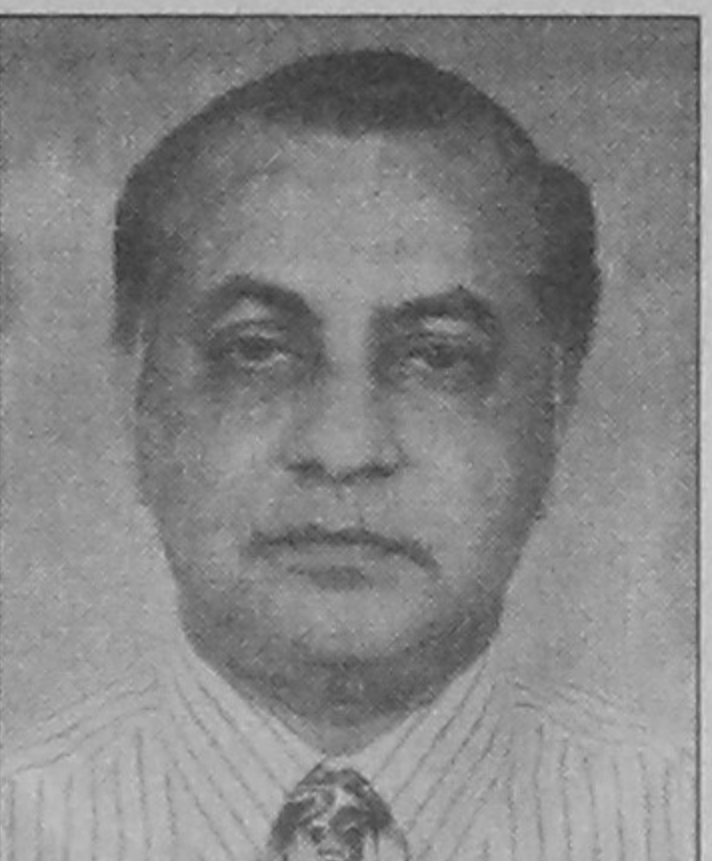
Parents demand trial of killers of their daughter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Parents of a thirteen-year-old school girl Reshma Akhter, who was abducted, raped and killed on May 30, have appealed to the Prime Minister for immediate arrest and trial of the killers of their daughter. Victim's father Mohammad Khabir Uddin and mother Saleeda Begum made the appeal in a press conference held at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. The parents alleged that due to negligence of police, the killers of their daughter could not be arrested. The criminals are still at large and not arrested for reasons best known to the police. Reshma Akhter, student of class four of Das Gaon Government Primary School under Bandar thana in Narayanganj district, was abducted by Imu, Palash, Alif and Kochi while she was going to her uncle's house to watch a TV serial on that fateful night. The parents alleged that the gang took Reshma to the bank of a pond and raped her, then they killed her and dumped the body there. Two people Chanchal and Alamgir who were irrigating the field with the water of the pond witnessed the killing of Reshma. A local rickshaw puller found the body near the pond next day. On receipt of information, the parents of Reshma went to the spot and identified the body of their daughter. Under these circumstances, they are urging the highest authorities to issue necessary directives to arrest the killers of Reshma and begin their trial immediately.



Prof Motiur Rahman receives JICA award

BSS, Dhaka
Prof Mohammad Motiur Rahman, a renowned nephrologist, received Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) award 2002. Prof Rahman is the second Bangladeshi national after Engineer Qamrul Islam Siddiqui to receive the award given as recognition of his outstanding cooperation and contribution to the activities of JICA, which provides technical cooperation to Bangladesh in different fields. This year, a total of 25 persons, including four foreigners, were selected for the award that comprises a certificate and souvenir. Prof Rahman is one of the four foreigners, JICA Bangladesh sources said. Resident Representative of JICA Bangladesh Takashi Sakamoto formally handed over the certificate to Prof Rahman at a simple ceremony held at a city hotel on Tuesday night.



Bangladeshi consul general in Penang dies

Shaik Allaudin Mohd Ismail, Bangladeshi consul general in Penang, Malaysia, died of a stroke at the Gleneagles Medical Centre in Penang on September 8 at the age of 64, says a press release. Shaik Allaudin, who was also the Penang Muslim League president and member of the State Islamic Religious Council, leaves behind his wife and four children. Chairman and Managing Director of one of the older shipping companies in Malaysia, S V K Patchee Bros (M) Sdn Bhd, Shaik Allaudin was actively involved in business in Bangladesh with Star-path Intl Ltd, Dhaka.

Repression on children protested

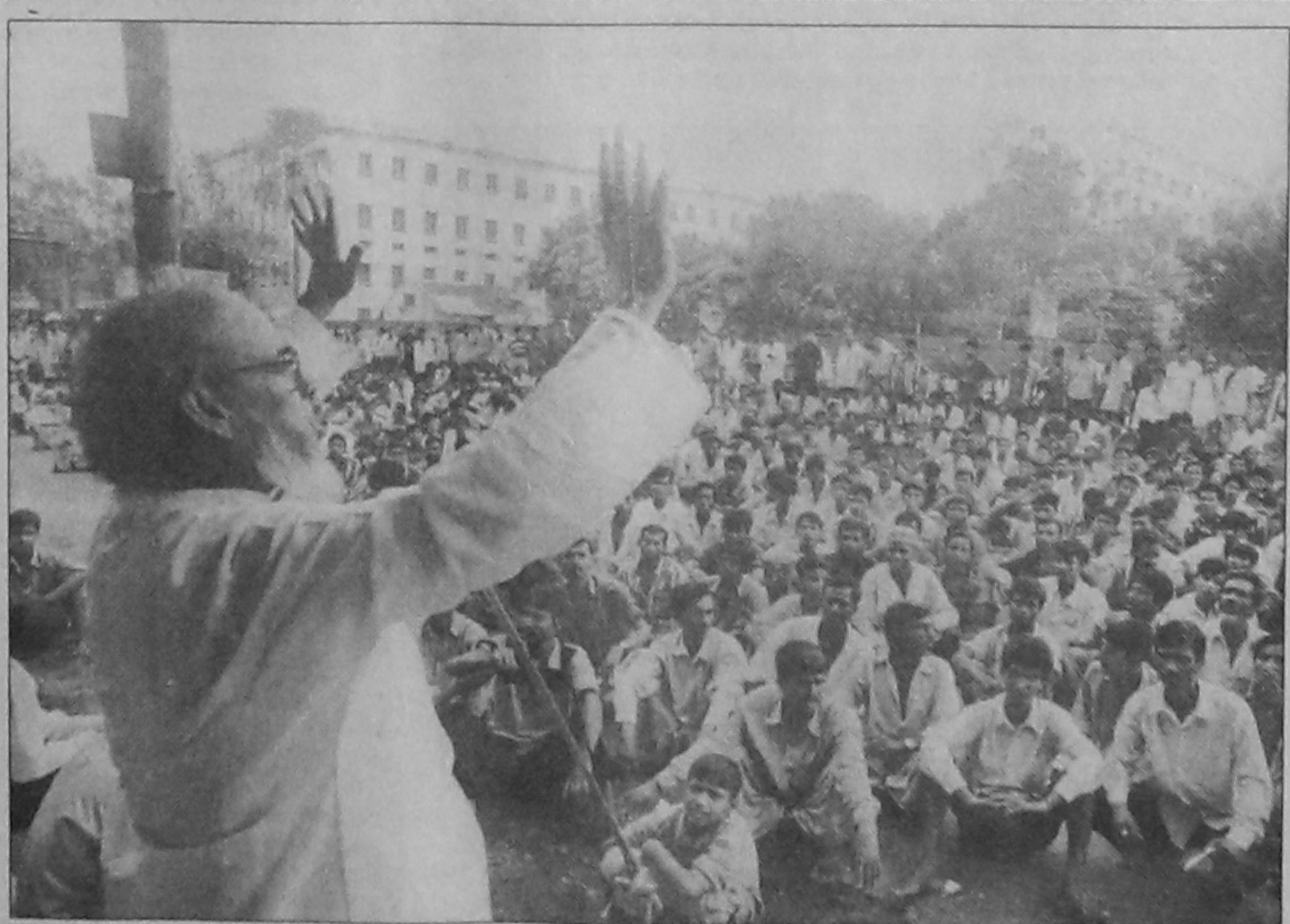
STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Sheikh Russel Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad (SRJSPK) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the Awami League office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city to protest child killing and repression across the country. Starting at 11.00am, the programme ended peacefully at 12.00pm. Around 300 children and teenagers took part in the programme with placards inscribed with slogans 'stop child repression', 'we want to grow up naturally', 'establish child rights' and 'we want punishment to the killers'. After the programme, the participating children distributed leaflets among the people urging them to come forward to rid the nation from the heinous crime of child killing. Talking to this correspondent, Mahmud Samad Chowdhury, general secretary of SRJSPK said, 'We want to create social awareness against child repression and killing as government alone cannot check it'. 'However, the government must take necessary steps to improve overall law and order situation in the country', he added. Earlier, students of different schools including Bangladesh Bank High School, Dhaka College High School, Ali Ahmad Uchcha Bidyalay, Goran Adarsha High School, Shantipur High School and members of the organisation from Mirpur, Moham-madpur, Demra, Teigaon, Uttara and Khilgaon thanas gathered at Bangabandhu Avenue at 10.30am to take part in the programme.



The DORP Education Project took out a procession in the city yesterday to raise awareness about dengue fever.

Farida Rahman buried

BSS, Dhaka
Eminent politician and BNP vice president Farida Rahman was buried at Banani graveyard in the city after Asr prayers yesterday. Earlier, her second namaz-e-janaza was held at the party office at Naya Paltan at about 2pm, a party press release said. Among others, party Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Chief Whip Khondoka Delwar Hossain, Health Minister Dr Khondokar Mosharrif Hossain, Law Minister Moudud Ahmed, Information Minister Tariqul Islam, Industries Minister M K Anwar, Food Minister Abdullah al Noman and Post and Telecommunications Minister Aminul Haq attended the namaz-e-janaza. After the namaz-e-janaza, party secretary general and senior leaders covered the coffin of the late leader with the national flag and placed wreaths. Farida Rahman died of a cardiac arrest at her Dhanmondi residence on September 8 at the age of 58.



The rickshawpullers held a rally in the city yesterday protesting the move to ban plying of rickshaws in different city streets.

WEATHER TODAY
Temperature may rise
UNB, Dhaka
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind may occur at a few places over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today. Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country, Met Office said. Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.3 degree Celsius was recorded at Rangamati and the lowest of 24 degree at Cox's Bazar. The sun sets in the capital at 6:05 pm today and rises at 5:44 am tomorrow. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

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University of Rajshahi, Bangladesh Department of Chemistry Invitation of Quotation for Equipment

Nat'l highway in Rajshahi divn Construction work to be completed by Dec

UNB, Dhaka
Communications Minister Nazmul Huda has said construction work on the 55-km Nalka-Hatikamrul-Banpara national highway would be completed on priority basis by December next. He gave the assurance yesterday while addressing a review meeting on communication infrastructure development, including national and regional highways, bridges and feeder roads. The national highway is being constructed at a cost of Tk 327.38 crore to establish direct road link between cities in Rajshahi division and the Jamuna Bridge. Of the total amount, Tk 203.78 crore came from International Development Agency (IDA) and the government provided Tk 123.60 crore. Nazmul Huda said the government had taken steps to construct new national and regional highways and feeder roads to set up townships in remote rural areas, give a boost to rural economy and thus reduce the pressure of growing population on big cities and towns. He said the government was planning to build up modern towns in Keraniganj, Nawabganj, Dohar, Srinagar and Mawa in order to expand Dhaka metropolitan city up to the other bank of the Buriganga river. 'A Padma River Drive will be set up for the recreation of the people living in the capital,' he said, adding that bus-truck terminals, service areas and modern market complexes will be constructed alongside all highways. Also present at the meeting were State Minister for Communications Salahuddin Ahmed, chief engineer of R&I Department M Fazlul Haq and concerned senior officials.