

Prachyanat will stage a drama titled 'kainya' directed by Azad Abul Kalam. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium. Time:

Launch of album of Tagore songs

An album of Tagore songs by Salma Sabera Nitu will be launched, with Professor Ansuzzaman as chief quest. Venue: WVA auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6.00pm.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen an Indian film titled 'Jism' and an Australian film titled 'The Piano'. Venue: Society auditorium, 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 3.30pm and 6.30pm

Poetry evening

The Kabitalap of Khulna organises a poetry reading session where 31 poets will take part. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 5.45pm.

Kite procession

Dhakabasi will took out a colourful kite procession to mark the Shakrain (last day of Poush). Venue: From Saint Lee Kindergarten premises, adjacent to

Lecture

The Department of Geography & Environment, Dhaka University, organises a lecture on 'India's interbasin water transfer plan: environmental implications for Bangladesh' by Professor KB Sajjadur Rasheed. Venue: Geography department of DU. Time: 12.30pm.

Discussion on Safta

The Economic Reporters' Forum organises a discussion on 'Safta: recent development and Bangladesh', with Commerce Minster Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: National Press Club. Time:

Discussion

Save The Humanity, a voluntary organisation, will hold a discussion on 'The role of public representatives in making the society free from violence' Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time:

Inauguration

The inaugural ceremony of Australia-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry will be held, with Commerce Minster Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury as chief guest. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time:

Discussion

A discussion on 'The 32nd year of the victory and the deprived Bangalee', organised by Aamra Mujib Sena, will be held with Awami League Presidium Member K M Shafiullah BU as chief guest. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra.

Certificate award ceremony

The certificate award ceremony of a training course on amateur radio operation will be held, organised by Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication. Venue: BETS Centre, Dhanmondi. Time: 7.30pm.

Reunion of freedom fighters

A reunion of freedom fighters of Sector 11 will be held. Freedom fighters from Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Mymensingh, Netrakona and Tangail will take part in the reunion. Venue: Mahanagar Natyamancha. Time: 10.00am

Meeting

A joint meeting of the executive committee and advisory committee of Rajshahi University Former Students' Association will be held. Venue: Swanirvar Bangladesh, Lalmatia. Time:



Nat'l Education Week

The inaugural ceremony of National Education Week-2004 will be held. Venue: Osmani Memorial Auditorium. Time: 9.15am

Film show

The Alliance Francaise will screen 'Resources Humaines' directed by Laurent Cantet. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10.30am



Law Minister Moudud Ahmed speaks at a review meeting on Artha Rin Adalat Act, 2003, jointly organised by Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry and Bangladesh Bank at the Biam auditorium in the city yesterday.

Food ministry gives 2.13 acres for extension of Azimpur graveyard

NEWS

The Food Ministry yesterday handed over 2.13 acres of land to Dhaka City Corporation for the extension of the Azimpur graveyard.

Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman formally handed over the document of the land to Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka in presence of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at a simple ceremony at the International Conference Centre.

The land adjacent to the Azimpur graveyard now houses a transport workshop of the Food Department.

Some 40 to 45 bodies are buried everyday at Azimpur, the biggest of the five graveyards under the DCC, set up in 1850 on nearly 32 acres of land. About 80 to 90 bodies are buried daily in the other four graveyards at Banani, Jurain, Mirpur and Uttara.

Khaleda in her address at the function pointed to the long-felt Azimpur graveyard.

Mentioning the growing popula-tion of the capital, she said that she had directed the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to build graveyards near Hazaribag flood embankment area, behind Mirpur Zoo, and at Aftabnagar and

She also urged all to consider reburial on each grave instead of permanent graves to overcome the crisis

Khaleda Zia also took the oppor tunity to ask the leaders and ward commissioners of the DCC to help keep the capital clean.

She said: "International and regional conferences, workshops and seminars are being held on regular basis in the capital. Many foreigners come on business purpose. Tourists also come in the winter...I hope you'll be more con-scious in keeping the city clean and improving the environment so that



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia receives the document of land for expansion of the Azimpur graveyard from Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman at a simple ceremony at the International Conference Centre yesterday.

foreign guests can take back a better image of Bangladesh." LGRD and Cooperatives

Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

Khan were present at the press

conference held at the National

Naik Alamgir killing **PBCP** claims responsibility

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Janajuddho faction of Purbo Banglar Communist Party claimed responsibility for the killing of Naik Alamgir Hossain of Ansar battalion.

Naik Alamgir was attached with Kalkalia camp of Joint forces. He was murdered on Monday at Ujalpur under Bagerhat Sadar

Ten people have been shown arrested in the murder case filed with Bagerhat Sadar thana with Sub-Inspector Shafiqul Islam as complainant.

According to SI Shafiq, Naik Alamgir had an illicit relation with a student of Kafurpura Madrassah of Ujalpur. He was with the girl for about four hours at her father's residence on the day of murder. The girl and her father have been taken to custody for interrogation.

Shafiq after his primary investigation blamed the conflict between Naik Alamgir and PBCP (J cadres) for the murder over toll collection. Slain Naik was the mess manager of Kalkalia camp.

We are investigating incident on the basis of these clues to reveal

motive behind the murder, Bagerhat Police Super Mesbahuddin said.

Sadar thana OC said, alleged killers stayed in the house of one Kalipada Biswas of Ujalpur before implementing the killing mission. They stayed in the house of one Mukunda Pal of the same village after murder, Both Kalipada and Mukunda also FIR-named accused are absconding since the incident.

Plice collected two copies of PBCP leaflets as evidences in which Naik Alamgir had been branded as rapist, extortionist and as such a class enemy. Police recovered some letters and a diary from the madrassah girl. She was examined

Over 1300 held

UNB, Dhaka

Police arrested a total of 1,322 people including two identified criminals, during their countrywide drive in last 24 hours ending at 6am yesterday.

70 lakh people suffering from asthma Uddin Ahmed and Dr zakia Mahfuza Khan and Nowazesh Ali

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seventy lakh people in the country have been suffering from various degrees of asthma, according to a research study

It identified house dust mites, organic dust and antibiotic medicines as major factors that can trigger asthma, leading to difficulties in normal breathing.

"Dust mites trigger asthma in every 91 patients out of 100 and such indoor pollution is the most common allergen in Bangladesh," said Dr M A Hasan, chief scientist of the research study, while presenting the findings at a press conference in the city yesterday.

The Allergy Asthma Environmental Research Skin Care Institute (AAERSCI) conducted the research study titled 'Allergy and Asthma: Current Research and Treatment'. The study that began in 1993 was conducted on 13,000

Dust mite -- mainly two types -is a parasite which lives on dead skin that decays away from human body every day and mostly found in the bedrooms. An adult sheds about 1.5 grams of dead skin tissue everyday

The findings showed that the excrete from the mites causes or triggers allergy, leading to symptoms like inflammation of the membrane inside the nose, derma-

titis or inflammation of skin, swelling of tissue on both sides of the nose and its reddening, nasal flow and deviated nasal sputum or DNS.

According to the study, asthma affects the airways in the lungs. During an episode or attack of asthma, the lining of the airways becomes swollen (inflamed), the airways produce thick mucus and the muscles around the airways tighten and make the airways narrower.

Dander (or flakes) from the skin, hair or feathers of pets such as dogs, cats, birds and small rodents, cockroaches, pollens from grass and trees, smoke from cigarettes, scented products such as hair spray and cosmetics, automobile fumes and air pollution are major allergens that trigger asthma, the study pointed out.

Dr Hasan said sneezing, running nose, cough, itching, irritation of nose and sore in the eye are primary symptoms of He said sneezing is responsible for allergy in 87 per cent of

the cases, running nose 78 per cent and cough 61 per cent. Dr Hasan also said that many

foods and food preservatives also act as common allergens.

Protein used in synthesis of some vaccines, aspirin, penicillin, gelatine used in synthesis of

capsules and sulphur in many drugs also triggers allergy or even lead to asthma, the study

"Organic dust and some charged suspended particles in the air are also major allergens causing asthma," said Dr Hasan.

In the city's Hajaribagh area, it was found that about 40 per-cent population of the locality suffer from respiratory problems largely due to sulphur dioxide in

The study also found that the level of suspended particles like nitrogen oxide, nitrogen dioxide and carbon monoxide is still high

Dr Hasan also presented findings of another research on arsenic contamination and suggested some remedies to check arsenic poisoning and contami-

Conducted by the AAERSCI, the study found that plants like water hyacinth, leafy vegetable like kalmilata and some ferns substantially absorb arsenic from

The study also showed that spirulna, euglena and some sea weeds having high concentration of some vitamins act as antioxidants and may prevent arsenic poisoning in human

Skin specialists Dr Monir

Integrate our kids into mainstream of society

UNB, Dhaka

Sex workers of Daulatdia brothel. seeking to turn around the social hatred towards them, came up with an 11-point demand at a conference to integrate their kids into the mainstream of society by ensuring edu-

Mohila Mukti Samity (MMS), an organisation of local sex workers. organised the conference on Tuesday with support from Save the Children, Australia (SCA) on the Daulatdia brothel premises, nearly 100 kilometres off capital Dhaka.

"We are socially hated and neglected, and still we cannot exercise our religious rituals in public, MMS convenor Perveen, also a sex worker of the country's oldest and largest brothel, told the conference.

bodies of sex workers and their bodies used to be thrown into river. But now things have changed as they have been able to realise their rights to funeral and some of children are going to school thanks to some non-government organisations for their tremendous role in

UNB, Dhaka

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

and a better life for their children.

Government officials, development attended. children in the mainstream of the

The sex workers shared their pains and agonies with the partici-

The conference also highlighted the need for creating safe homes for their children, alternative employment opportunities for the elderly women, stopping harassment by police and protection of their grave-

In her address of welcome. Perveen urged the conscious section of the society to come up for the rehabilitation of some 1350 sex workers and their children.

Humidity in

percentage

Evening

73

57

71

63

77

76

Morning

87

100

95

95

100

86

Dry weather with cloudy sky likely

Weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky over the country till 6pm today.

Moderate to thick fog may occur in north-western part and river basins while light to moderate fog elsewhere over the country, Met Office said.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, it forecast.

Highest temperature 28.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Teknaf and the lowest 08.0 degree at Ishwardi.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:32pm today and rises at 6:43am tomorrow.

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

Min

13.4

09.6

13.3

12.4

13.9

15.2

Temperature

In Celsius

Max

24.3

23.3

27.2

26.7

23.2

27.5

"If our children get education and better jobs, the number of sex workers will gradually decline. Now there is a need for setting up a safe home for our adolescent children so that they can grow up in a safe and violence-free environment," she

In a research paper, "Our Lives in Brothel", placed at the conference two minors -- Pinky and Sajan --

the girls follow in the footsteps of their mothers, the boys become hooligans and start taking drug at an

According to MMS leaders, there are now 408 children of 18 years old in Daulatdia brothel. Of them, 193 are boys and 215 girls. To provide health support to the

children and ensure their wellbeing, SCA and Karmajibi Kalyan Sangstha (KKS) are working for the last four years in addition to other NGOs and Department of Social Service of the "We are providing technical

support to the sex workers and education to their children so that they could become self-reliant and return to a normal life," SCA Project Coordinator Farooque Ahmed said.

do not want to follow in the footsteps of their mothers, are now

work for the brothel children,' Anisa, a resident of the safe home, Anisa, who was brought there by

Like Anisa, Pinky and Sumi also hate the profession and dream of bringing change in their own lives as

assurance to do everything possible to meet their demands.

attended the conference as chief guest. Chaired by MMS president Morzina Begum, the conference was attended, among others, by executive director of KKS Fakir Abdul Zabbar and SCA Country

Sex workers renew demand at annual conference

cation for them.

Parveen said once they were not allowed to bury or cremate the this regard, she added.

The sex workers have long been wishing for two major changes: An improvement in théir own lifestyle They renewed their demands at

the annual conference.

workers and journalists also The demands include legalising their profession, integrating their

society and ensuring education and other government facilities for their

narrated their experiences. The research was conducted to focus on how sex workers' children grow up in whorehouses. The children grow up as antisocial elements in brothels. While

Farooque said some 35 girls, who

living in their safe home. "I won't take up this socially hated profession. I want to read and

her sister, is now preparing to sit for the SSC examination from Daulatdia Model High School.

well other neglected children. Expressing their solidarity with the sex workers, the government officials and NGO workers who attended the conference gave them

UNO Gautam Aich Sarkar Director Sultan Mahmud.