

Reproductive institute for infertile mooted

President Abdur Rahman Biswas yesterday stressed the need for improving medical services and developing institutions, expertise and technology in all branches of health and family welfare so that people did not rush abroad for treatment, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating the first annual convention of Bangladesh fertility society at the BIRDEM auditorium in the city.

Referring to the country's infertility rate, President Biswas said that only the fortunate and wealthy among foreign exchange.

He said if an institution could be established in this country, people would not have gone abroad for treatment.

Appreciating the society's plan to establish a reproductive institute for infertile and

over fertile couples, President Biswas expressed the hope that private initiatives, philanthropists, NGOs would come forward and support all such humanitarian ventures.

President Biswas called for bringing all eligible couples under the population control programme. He said the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) of about 45 per cent has to be increased to reach the target of 70 per cent by the year 2005.

Presided over by Dr Hussein Ara Begum, president of the society, the function was addressed, among others, by Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP, chairman of Red Crescent Society, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, director general, Diabetic Hospital, Dr M A Bashed Miah, secretary general of the society, and Prof Myo Thwe, WHO representative.

Palli Shishu foundation confce held

By Staff Correspondent

The 16th annual conference of the Palli Shishu Foundation of Bangladesh was held yesterday in the city.

State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan inaugurated the conference as chief guest. Palli Shishu Foundation president M S Akbar presided over the opening function.

More than 200 delegates from across the country attended the conference. Rezaul Karim, secretary general of the foundation presented the annual report.

In the conference, evaluation on maternal and child health care, family planning programme, TBA training, immunization programme, free legal assistance programme and mass education programme were done and action programme was taken.

GATT agreement condemned

By Staff Correspondent

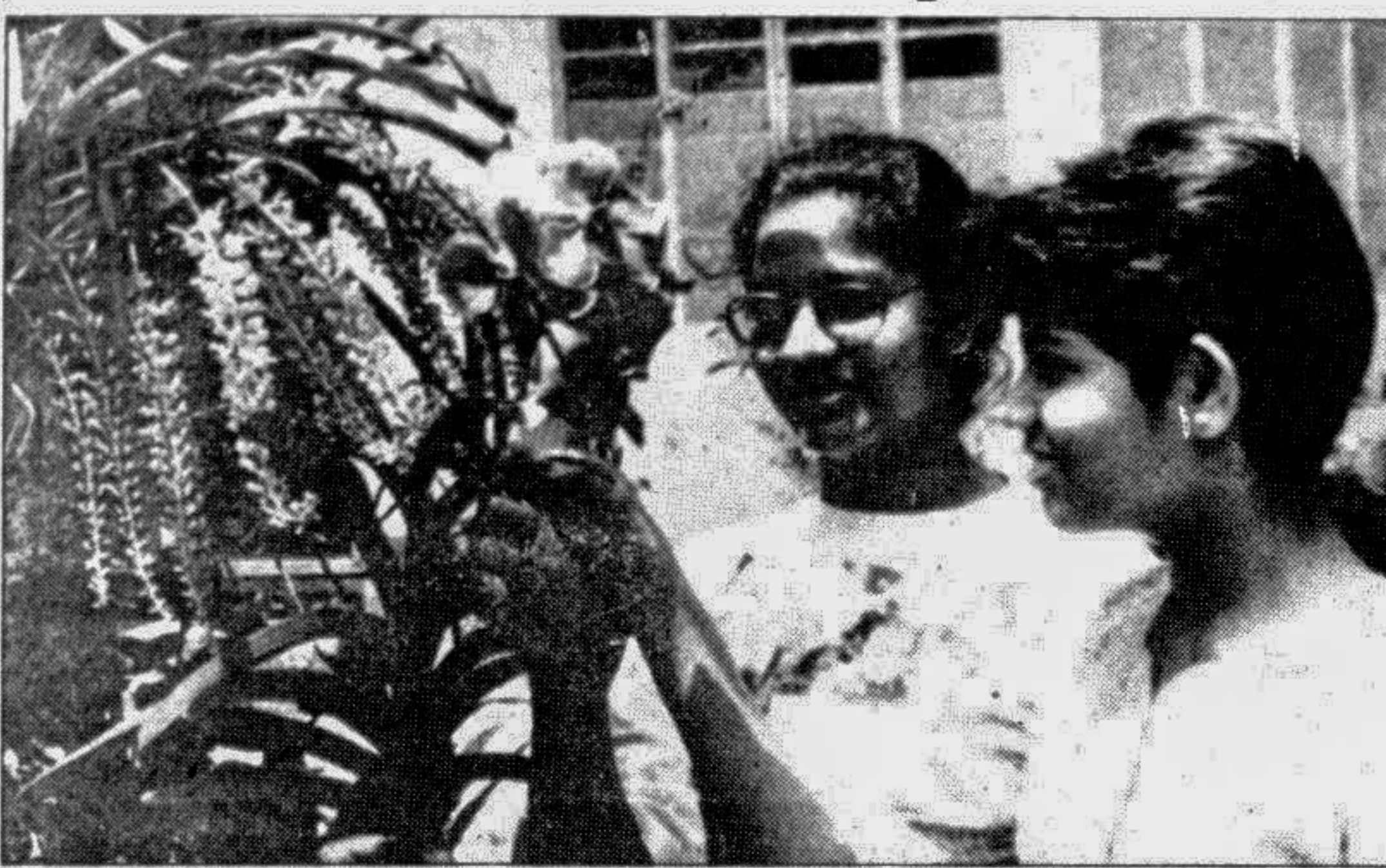
Bangladesh Chhatra Oikkya Forum has condemned the GATT agreement saying it would destroy the trade and commerce of the developing countries.

A resolution of the Forum's national committee meeting observed that the GATT has been ratified only to establish trading monopolies on the developing countries by the developed states.

Jahanara's 1st solo art show opens

A 10-day solo art exhibition of Jahanara A began yesterday at the Gallery Tone, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition. Fifty works are put on display.



A day-long orchid show and repotting demonstration was held in Gulshan yesterday. The Orchid Society of Bangladesh organised the show. — Star photo

Discussion on Apr 29 cyclone

Housing and Public Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia said yesterday that the government of Khaleda Zia had courageously faced the tragedy of the unprecedented and devastating tornado and cyclone which hit the coastal belt of the country on this in 1991 when her government was only 39 day old, reports BSS.

The minister was speaking as chief guest at a discussion arranged by Shada-Kalo, a Bengali magazine, to recall the painful memory of April 29, 1991, in the city.

Presided over by Manzurul Karim, former secretary, the function was addressed, among others, by Major Akhtaruzzaman, MP, Zanilur Rahman Chowdhury and Abdur Rahim, principal information officer.

Narrating his personal experiences while working at Kutubdia Island after the cyclone, the minister said that the distressed people had regained confidence due to the services rendered by the government.

Govt programmes on May Day

The government has planned an elaborate programme to observe, with due honour, the great 'May Day' on Sunday, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

A national seminar, followed by a cultural function, will be held at the Shilpakala Academy on the day. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Minister of State for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum will be the chief guest and special guest respectively at the seminar.

The day will be a public holiday and radio and television will put up special programmes highlighting the significance of the day. Newspapers will publish special supplement to mark the 'May Day'. Besides, sports, cultural function and seminar will be held in various parts of the country under the auspices of labour welfare centres.

Arrangements have also been made to publish a souvenir on the occasion. All post offices in the country will be closed on 'May Day'.

Trust for disabled to be formed

A trust for the disabled is being formed by the government which has initially sanctioned Tk 50 lakh for its fund, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Sarwar Rahman.



4:30 Opening announcement
Al-Quran
Programme summary
4:45 Kallol
5:10 News in Bangla
5:25 Cartoon: Peterman and the Pirates
6:00 Shikhangon
6:30 Samachar
7:00 Banashari
8:00 News in Bangla
8:30 Maati O Manush
9:00 Surer Chhaya
10:00 News English
10:30 Drama series: Dynasty
11:30 Khabar/The news
11:40 Tomorrow's programme

Happy Birthday

to
Madan Dada
Fayza and friends
at DS

Khaleda for recasting PATC

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia underlined the need for transforming the country's huge population into productive human resources to survive in the present day world of trade and economic competition, reports UNB.

She pointed to the recent changes in the world politics and economy, developments in technology and communication

system that left the nation in a situation of competition.

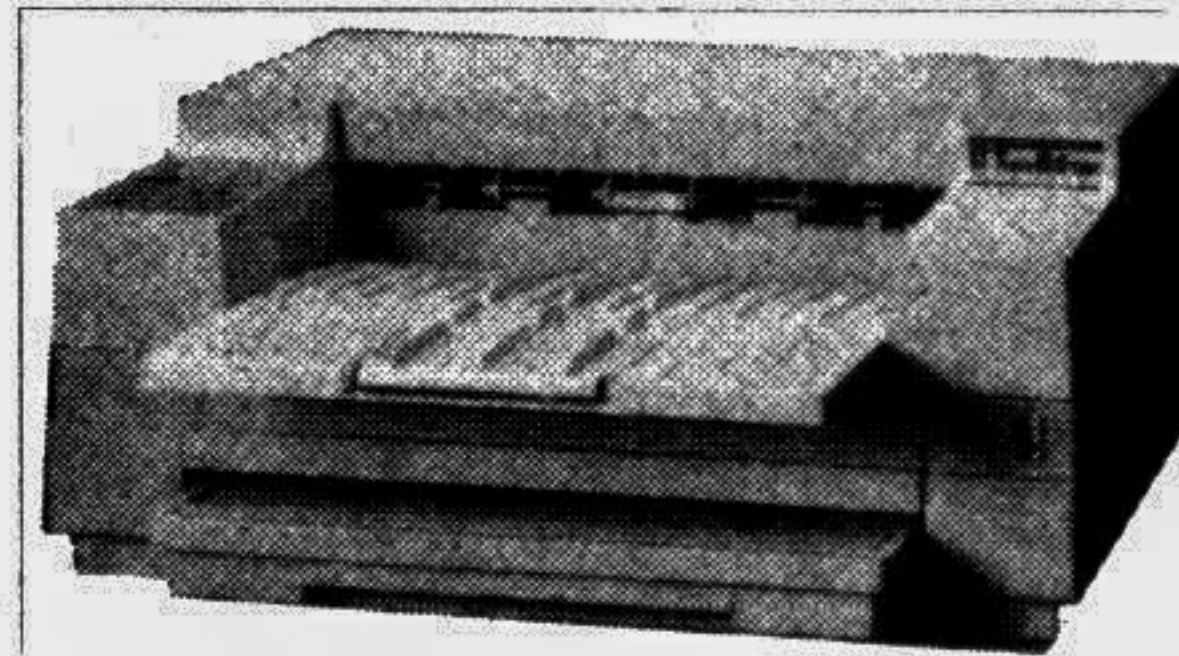
The Prime Minister was addressing the 10th anniversary of Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (PATC) at Savar this morning.

The Prime Minister reminded that the ambit of responsibilities of the public servants has expanded in the present day democratic structure.

She underlined the need for recasting the PATC to enable it to impart training to officers in the light of the changed situation.

Presided over by President of PATC Board of Governors and State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haque, the function was also addressed by its Rector Quazi Mohammad Monjoor-e-Mowla.

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and the Friendly People of the Netherlands
on their National Day*



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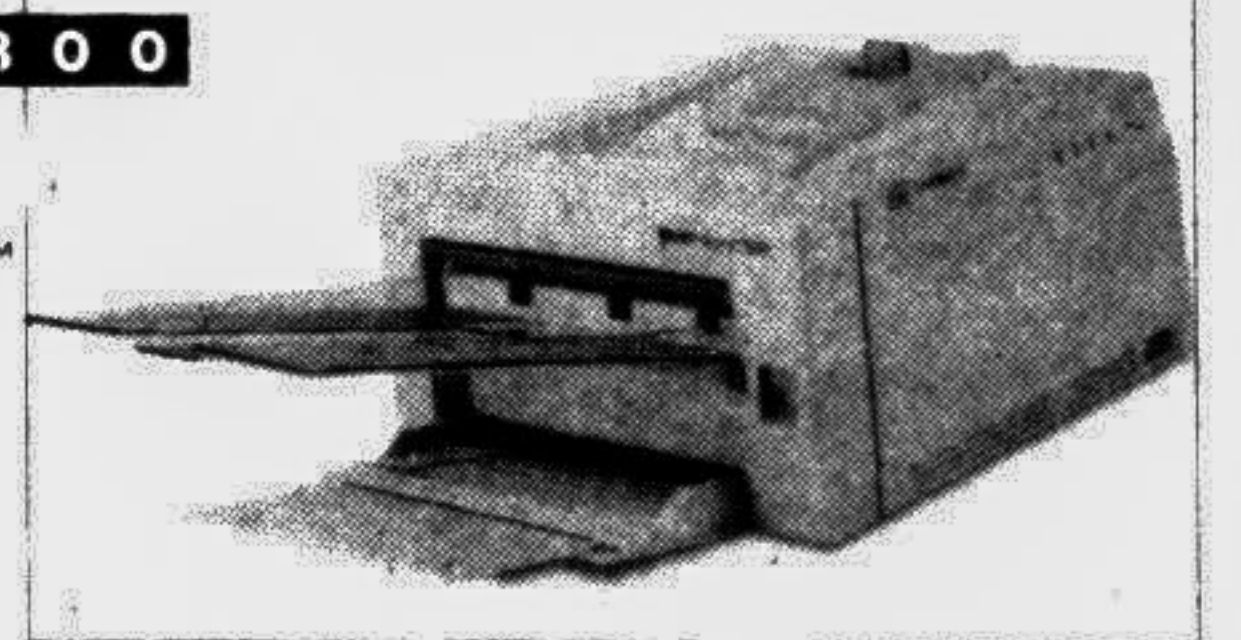
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Weather

Temperature may rise

By Staff Correspondent

The weather is likely to remain mainly dry over the country during the next 12 hours commencing 6 am today (Saturday).

The Met Office forecasts, day temperature is likely to rise by one to two degrees Celsius over the country.

The country's highest temperature yesterday of 38.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Rajshahi and the lowest 21.4 degrees in Srimangal.

The maximum and the minimum temperatures and relative humidity recorded in some of the major cities and towns of the country yesterday are:

Cities/ Towns	Temperatures in degrees Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9am	6pm
Dhaka	35.4	25.4	66	51
Chittagong	34.1	27.5	81	69
Rajshahi	38.5	24.5	56	61
Khulna	36.6	25.5	67	58
Barisal	36.1	24.8	75	65
Sylhet	35.5	23.0	64	60
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.5	74	-
Dinajpur	37.6	24.3	54	46

Notice

Our regular feature 'Dhaka Day by Day' could not be published today due to space constraint.



BBC South Asian regional head named

Barry Langridge, 48, has been appointed to the new post of Regional Head, South Asia. He will take responsibility for all BBC World Service radio broadcasts serving Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, commissioning and scheduling programmes in seven languages: Bengali, Hindi, Nepali, Sinhala, Tamil, Urdu plus English. He takes up his appointment April 18, says a press release.

Langridge has previously been Head of the BBC Hindi and Tamil Services, in addition to Urdu and Nepali. He has lived in the subcontinent, working in a village health project and as Christian Aid's Project Officer for Pakistan, Northern India and Bangladesh. During his BBC career he has been a television current affairs producer as well as producing World Service current affairs programmes in English.

He is one of six new regional heads working to the World Services Director of Broadcasting, Sam Younger.



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*On the occasion of 'Koninginnedag',
HSSH wishes to take this opportunity to extend
warmest congratulations to the Royal Family
and the people of the Netherlands.*



HSSH is an independent oil and gas company listed on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange. Our current producing interests are in the Dutch North Sea and European Russia. In cooperation with our Joint Venture partner, Cairn Energy, a UK independent, we look forward to working in the People's Republic of Bangladesh on our forthcoming exploration campaign.

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