



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue area prior to party's Food Directorate gherao programme in the city yesterday. — Star photo

60 pc married women suffer from RTI

The country needs immediate screening and treatment of reproductive tract infection (RTI) cases to thwart possible vulnerability to diseases like infertility, infants congenital infection and AIDS, experts at a seminar said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The dissemination seminar was organised by Bangladesh Women's Health Coalition to launch its study on RTI.

The study conducted on an urban based clinic's patients revealed that 60 per cent of the married women aged between 18 and 40 years suffered from RTI.

It said untreated RTIs can give rise to serious consequences like infertility, foetal wastage, congenital infection of the new born and can even facilitate transmission of HIV infection leading to AIDS.

The study suggested that such high prevalence of RTI among women in the general population called for an urgent need for RTI intervention in the existing health care system.

The study also found that risk of reproductive tract infection was lowest among women with at least 13 years of education, married for six years and whose husbands never had any history of genital infection.

It said there was no national level data on the prevalence of RTI in the country and people lacked awareness regarding RTI as a public health hazard and also from the nature of problem itself.

Due to the intimate nature of the problem and social stigma associated with it, patients are reluctant to seek treatment, it said.

The seminar was presided over by Dr A Halida H Akhter. Dr Syeda Nahid Mukith Chowdhury and Dr Enamul Karim presented the study paper while Dr T. A. Chowdhury and Dr Masse Bateman discussed on it.

CEC's call to make Tongi polls a success

Chief Election Commissioner Justice Abdur Rouf yesterday said that active participation of the people in the election process was indispensable to ensure proper polls in the country, reports BSS.

He was addressing the members of the steering committee and candidates of the forthcoming model election of Tongi pourasava at the Tongi pathagar Saturday, an Election Commission press release said. Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil, Additional Secretary of Election Commission Secretariat A S M Zakaria, Deputy Commissioner of Gazipur district, Returning Officer of the Tongi model election, senior officials and local elite were present on the occasion.

Justice Abdur Rouf discussed elaborately the measures taken for smooth holding of the model election in Tongi pourasava and hoped that all concerned would play their due role in making it a success.

The Chief Election Commissioner also appreciated the cooperation of the local people towards registration of voters and issuance of their identity cards and hoped that their active role in conducting the polls would be an instance for the people of the country.

Justice Rouf asked all to maintain peace and tranquillity during their campaign and follow election codes.

Tk 73 lakh earned from Waqf estates in last fiscal

Bangladesh Waqf Administration has earned Tk 73 lakh from waqf estates during the last financial year, reports BSS.

This was informed at the 28th standing committee meeting on the Ministry of Religious Affairs, held yesterday at Sangsad Bhaban with Minister for Religious Affairs Muhammad Keramat Ali in the chair.

Members of the committee — Whip Professor Mohammad Shahjahan Mia, Khandoker Badar Uddin, Maulana Ataur Rahman Khan and Begum Asiya Rahman of BNP and Alhaj Maulana Obaidul Haque of Islamic Oikya Jote — attended the meeting. Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs, Anwarul Islam and senior officials were also present at the meeting.

The meeting was informed that according to the census of statistical bureau conducted in 1987 there were about 1,50,500 waqf estates throughout the country out of which only 17,000 estates have so far been registered under the Waqf Administration. Work for registering the rest of the estates have been streamlined.

The meeting laid stress on changing the existing waqf laws so that encroachment of waqf estates, by miscreants could be stopped. In this regard, need for separate waqf khattians were also emphasised.

Tunisian President, PM greeted

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has greeted Tunisian President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali on the occasion of the national day of the republic of Tunisia to be celebrated today, reports BSS.

In a message to President Ben Ali President Biswas said that the friendship and cooperation which exist between the two countries would be further strengthened to the mutual interest of two peoples.

In a similar message Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has felicitated Tunisian Prime Minister Dr Hamed el Karoui on the same occasion.

In a message to the

Tunisian Prime Minister Begum Zia said, that she firmly believed that the fraternal ties so happily existing between the two countries would be further developed in the years ahead.

She expressed her best wishes for good health and happiness of his Tunisian counterpart.

Notice

Our regular feature Dhaka Day by Day could not be accommodated today due to space constraint. Inconveniences to are readers is regretted.

Setting up of bio-tech instt underscored

Speakers at a seminar on "Annual Plant Tissue Culture" said revolutionary change in the field of agriculture can be possible through successful application of bio-technology, reports UNB.

Held at the Institute of Food Science and Technology (IFST) BCSIR, in the city yesterday, the seminar also stressed the need for setting up of a Bio-Technology Institute for giving due importance in tissue culture research.

Science and Technology Secretary Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir inaugurating the day-long conference as chief guest said massive research on tissue culture and its development is urgently needed to ensure disease resistant varieties of plant, healthy seeds and sufficient crops.

Organised by the Association of Plant Tissue Culture (APTIC) under the auspices of BCSIR, the inaugural function was attended by acting chairman of BCSIR Dr M Eusuf as special guest while Prof Shamshul Islam presided, said a press release.

Among other general secretary of APTC Prof Hadjuzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the science secretary opened the Tissue Culture Class.

'Bangladesh now known as basket full of hopes'

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has underscored the need for a balanced and realistic perception of Bangladesh abroad.

Speaking as chief guest at a seminar in the city Saturday, on "A balanced and realistic perception of Bangladesh abroad and role of the American Institute of Bangladesh Studies (AIBS)," the Foreign Minister said Bangladesh is now known as a basket full of hopes because of the hard work since 1975.

"We overcame a monolithic political tendency and one-party rule and today pluralism and democracy are our guiding principles," the Foreign Minister said.

Professor Craig Baxter, president of the AIBS, Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman, Centre for Development Research (CDRB), Dr Syed Anwar Husain and Enayet Karim of the CDRB also took part in discussion.

The seminar, held at a local hotel, was organised jointly by AIBS and CDRB.

Professor Craig Baxter said, today information about Bangladesh is available in American classrooms and among American academics interested in the affairs of Bangladesh mainly due to activities of AIBS.

More OMS centres in city

The government has decided to increase the number of foodgrain selling centres in the city under open market sale (OMS), reports BSS.

According to the decision, rice and atta will be sold at the premises of 14 thanas in the city in addition to the existing selling points.

A press release of the Ministry of Food said Saturday that Chittagong port authorities have allocated six berths in place of the existing four to accelerate unloading of foodgrain with the increased frequency of the arrival of ships carrying foodgrain in the port. At present 1,60,000 tonnes of foodgrain are being unloaded from 11 ships including mother and lighter vessels at Chittagong jetty and outer anchorage.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of Enayet Chowdhury, city editor and diplomatic correspondent of The Morning Sun was held at his Gopibagh residence after magreb prayers, reports BSS.

A large number of people including his colleagues, friends, relatives and admirers attended the *milad mahfil* and prayed for the peace of the departed soul.

Venue shifted

The Matlabganj High School Ex-students' Association will observe its 77th founding anniversary on March 24 at 9:00 am, says a press release.

The programme will be held at the auditorium of National Sports Council instead of the school premises, the release added.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Dry weather is likely to continue over the country with partly cloudy sky in the next 12 hours ending 6:00 pm today, reports UNB.

Met Office said, day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

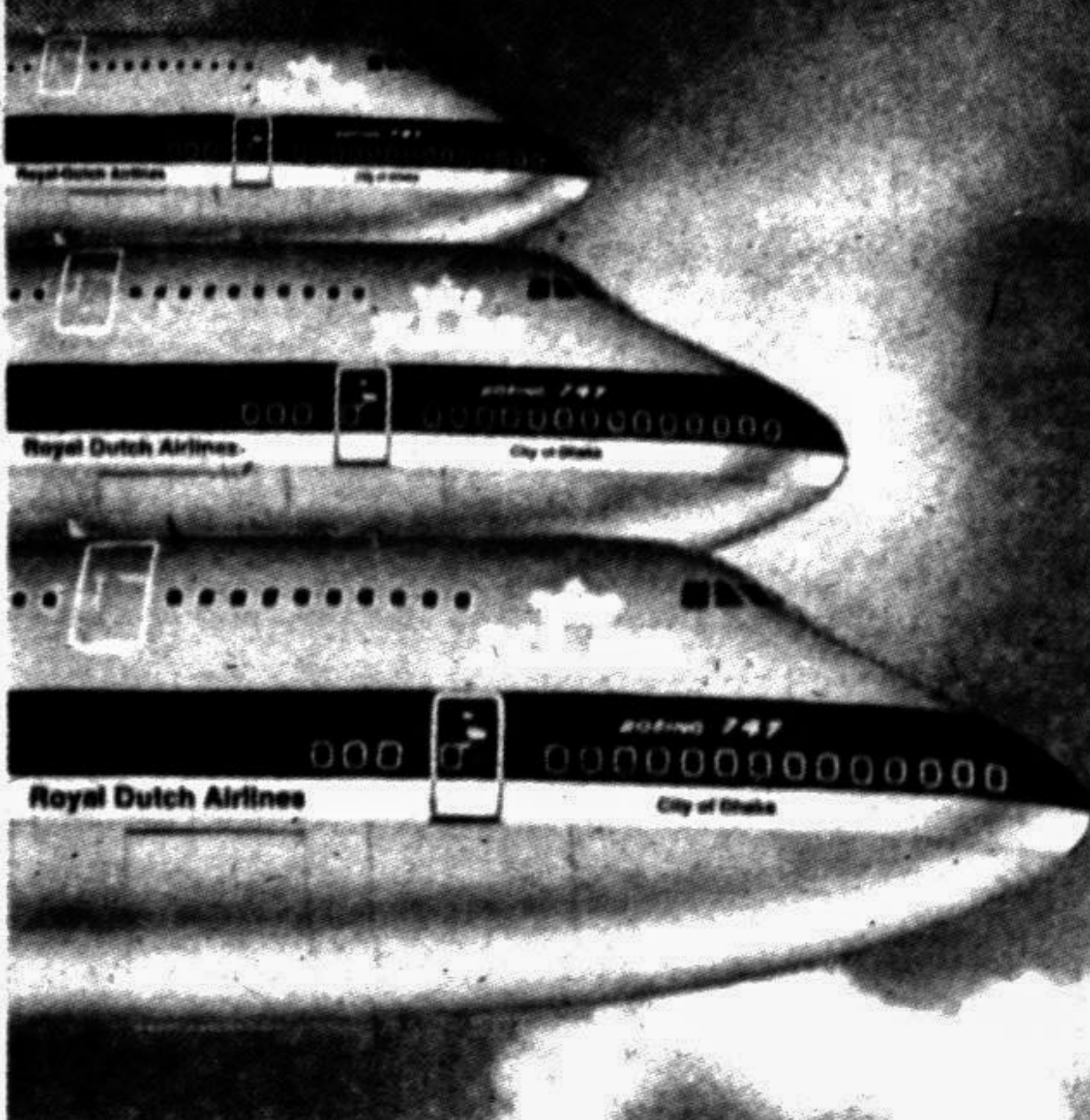
Thundery activity is likely in the next two days and will register little change in the following week, weathermen predict.

The country's highest temperature 37.5 degree Celsius recorded at Jessore and lowest 15.0 degrees at Rangpur. The sun sets today at 6:09 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:02 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature readings and humidity percentage recorded yesterday in major cities are given below:

City	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	36.7	20.5	52	36
Chittagong	34.3	20.8	51	43
Cox's Bazar	36.0	22.0	42	54
Sylhet	34.5	19.5	39	37
Rajshahi	35.1	18.3	49	48

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26 MARCH 1995, THURSDAY
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