

Environmentalists to assemble in Rajshahi Peace march for Ganges water on May 16

A "peace march" for Ganges water sharing will be held on May 16 in Rajshahi to be joined by 80-year-old legendary leader of the Chipko Movement in India, Sundaral Bahuguna, reports UNB.

Madha Patkar, leader of the anti-Narmada Dam Movement, may also attend the Ganges Peace March to be organised by Women for Water Sharing and People's Initiative for Water Sharing, co-chaired by Kuldip Nayar and Hasna Moudud.

In a statement yesterday Hasna Moudud called upon the people to participate in the "Ganges Peace March" to save the people of North Bengal and Sundarban areas from the curse of Farakka barrage.

Identifying the Ganges flow as the life line of development in Bangladesh, she said: "We are victims of both regional and global environmental degradation and injustice."

Hasna Moudud said international laws and conventions dictate that water should be shared in such a way as it does not harm the co-riparian country.

She said unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by In-

dia have been causing floods, desertification, cyclones and the rise of sea level severely affecting the lives and the economy of Bangladesh.

She mentioned that the Sundarbans, a World Heritage Site are dying from consistent lack of fresh water due to Farakka Barrage in dry season.

Hasna Moudud said the Sundarbans has become so dry in recent years that the present incident of fire which started on Friday could not be brought under control yet.

"We have already lost a lot of our precious forest before and now we are losing instantly what took thousands of years to grow," she said and urged the present government to ensure the protection of humanity in North Bengal and the Sundarbans from extinction.

The Bangladeshi environmentalist said the leaders and people in both India and Bangladesh should come forward towards an agreement on Ganges water sharing immediately based on the framework of understanding similar to the one of 1977 until a long-term permanent agreement is reached.



A K M Rahmatullah, former MP from the Dhaka-5 constituency addressing a function organised to mark his joining the Awami League. AL president Sheikh Hasina, DCC Mayor Mahammad Hanif, AL secretary-general Zillur Rahman and presidium member Abdus Samad Azad are also seen. — Star photo

Weather

Rain at few places likely

Temporary rain or thundershower with gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Dhaka, Sylhet divisions and the regions of Rajshahi, Pabna, Bogra, Noakhali and Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry elsewhere across the country. Met Office said adding that day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged during the period over the country.

Meantime, both Sylhet and Srimangal had 23mm rain yesterday.

Country's highest temperature 42.2 degree Celsius was recorded at Iswardi and the lowest 18.6 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets today at 6:24 pm and rise tomorrow at 5:23 am.

The maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature in Celsius Humidity in percentage

max min morning evening

Dhaka 37.0 27.4 49 69

Chittagong 33.0 27.0 74 78

Rajshahi 42.0 26.0 73 65

Khulna 38.4 27.2 79 65

Barisal 34.0 26.5 81 73

Sylhet 31.6 21.0 77 78

Cox's Bazar 34.2 27.5 73 81

EU to send polls observers

A delegation of three ambassadors of the European Union paid a courtesy call on the Chief Adviser Habibur Rahman at his office yesterday, reports BSS.

They congratulated Rahman on his assumption of office of the Chief Adviser.

Ambassadors of the European Union proposed to send a group of observers to monitor the forthcoming parliamentary elections.

The Chief Adviser welcomed the proposal.

The European Union had sent an observer group to monitor the parliamentary elections held in February, 1991.

Led by the Italian ambassador in Bangladesh Raffaele Miniero, the delegation included Robert Arthur Vormis, ambassador of the Netherlands and French ambassador Renee Veyet.

Principal secretary to Chief Adviser Syed Ahmed and acting Foreign Secretary Khairul Anam were present.

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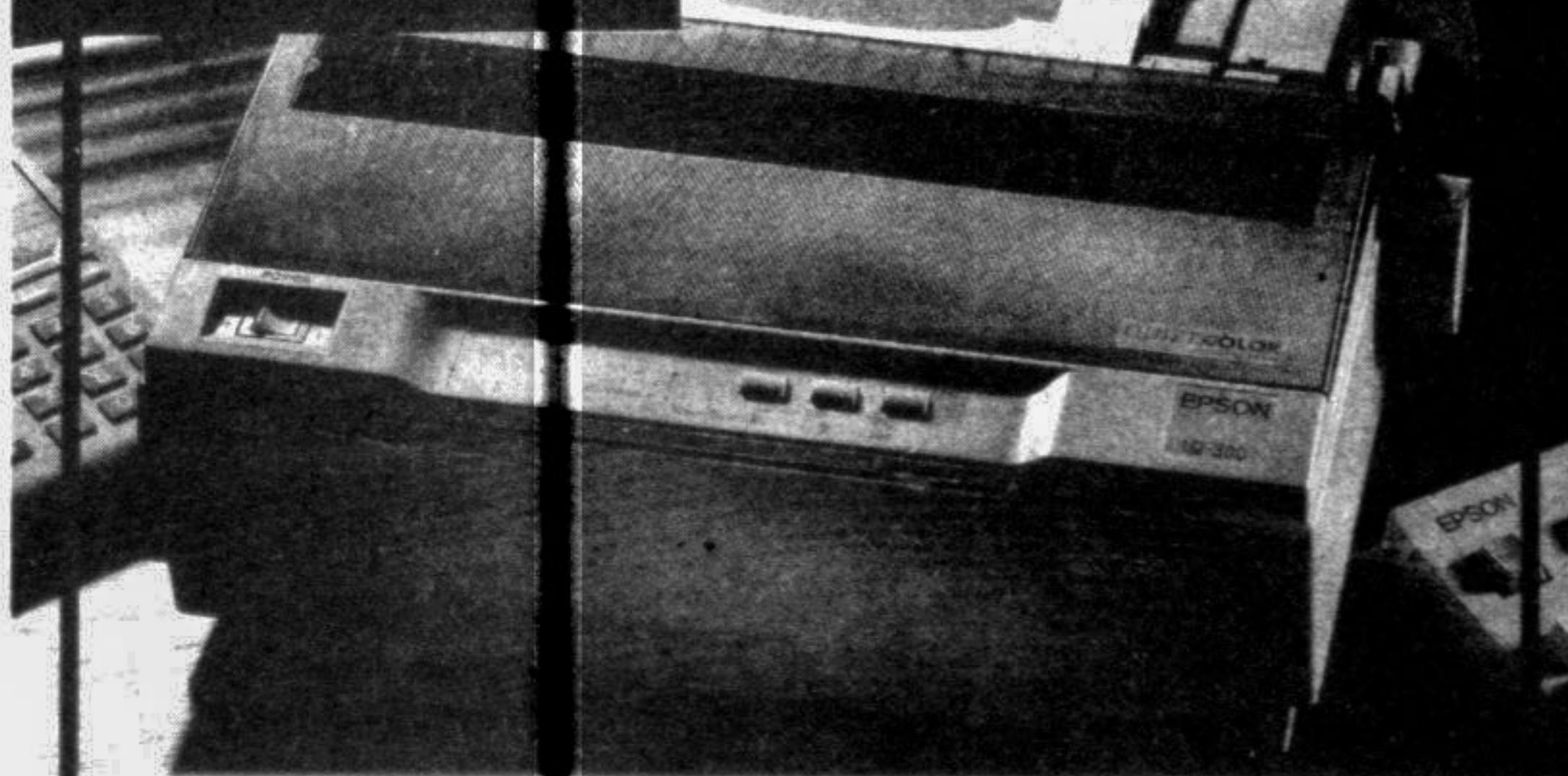
Students seeking admission in this university in Computer Science and Technology, Civil Engineering, Business Administration and Women Studies are notified that the last date for submission of application form is extended up to 23rd May, 1996.

Prof S A Chawdhury

(Ex-Vice Chancellor, Shahjalal University of Science & Technology, Sylhet) Dean of Studies

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Professor Douglas Stoddart MA (Cantab), PMD (Harvard), PGCE (Oxon), Senior Lecturer in Marketing will be pleased to talk to anyone requiring further information.

A presentation will take place on:
Date: Wednesday 24th April 1996
Time: 5.00 pm
Venue: The British Council Auditorium, 5 Fuller Road, Dhaka
Interviews will be held after the presentation.

For a personal appointment please call Mahmuda Akhter on 868905-7

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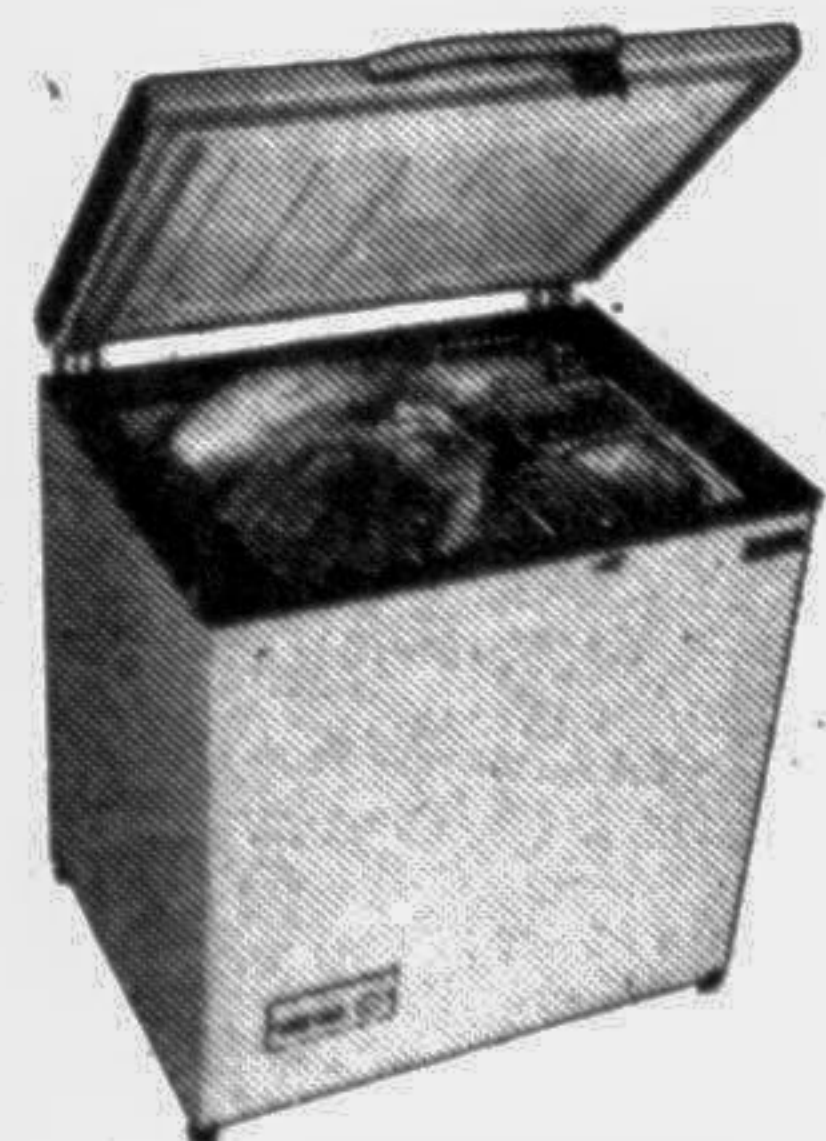
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