

News



Members of Kranti Sangskritik Goshthi rendering songs at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday as part of the Ekushey programme.

Khoka warns of 'stern action against obstruction during hartals'

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka MP has warned of giving a befitting reply to the Awami "terrorists" if they try to obstruct the opposition sponsored programmes during the three-day country-wide hartal beginning Tuesday.

He sounded such warning while discussing with the party leaders and activists on hartal yesterday at his residence.

Khoka observed that Prime Minister, Ministers, MPs and leaders of the ruling Awami League became mad after the call of the three-day hartal that coincides with the municipal polls.

"They (AL) became imbalanced and threatening to resist the hartal by its party terrorists and hired goons," the BNP leader alleged and said that from now BNP activists would not allow the terrorists to create violence in the streets.

He said the opposition parties are now prepared to resist the ruling party's terrorists as well as to give them a befitting reply. Khoka urged the party men to make the hartals a complete success.

Meanwhile, a joint meeting of city BNP and its front organisations will be held today at 7 pm at the central office of Jatiyatabadi Mukti Joddha Dal.

City unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka will preside over the meeting.

All joint convenors of city unit, presidents and general secretaries of all thana units, BNP supported ward commissioners and presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations have been asked to attend the meeting, said a press release.

Zoological Society AGM now Apr 18

The date of Annual General Meeting and Conference of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh has been shifted from February 28 to April 18 due to unavoidable reasons, says a press release.

AGM and Conference will be held at the University of Dhaka. All zoologists are requested to attend the programme.



Death anniversary of Shamsuzzoha today

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Feb 19: The 12th death anniversary of A K M Shamsuzzoha, one of the founder-members of Awami League, language movement veteran and ex-member of Gano Parishad and Jatiya Sangsad, will be observed tomorrow in a befitting manner.

Various political and socio-cultural organisations have taken up elaborate programmes to mark the day. The programmes include discussion meeting, cultural function, Qurankhwan, milad mahfil, destitute feeding, mourning procession and cricket tournament.

District Sports Association has organised "A K M Shamsuzzoha First Division Cricket Tournament" in memory of the late leader. State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Huq inaugurated the tournament at local stadium today.

A mourning procession will be brought out from the district AL office tomorrow.

And the milad mahfil will be held at his residence at Hira Mahal, north Chasara, after Asr prayers.

Others who spoke on the occasion were Professor Q Shahidul Alam, director, Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital, Dr S A Malek, Political Adviser to PM and Professor Syed Modasser Ali.

Later, Dr Garst inaugurated a casualty ward named after him on the first floor of the 300-bed Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital.

PM addresses Chhayanaut reunion

Govt keen to provide more help for flourishing culture

colourful function, the Prime Minister said for flourishing culture state patronage is very important and the present government is very much willing to extend more assistance in this regard.

Mentioning some steps taken by the present government in this regard, she said this nation had sacrificed blood for achieving the right to language during alien rule and earned independence through a bloody war. The nation will also undertake all efforts for enriching its cultural heritage.

Hasina said the government had already taken a number of steps for advancement of Bengali civilisation and culture and mentioned a cultural ring around Shilpakala Academy, Ramma Park, Suhrawardy Udyan and Bangla Academy which stand in a cluster.

She said the government had implemented 16 development projects in the cultural sector while 24 others were awaiting approval.

The government is constructing Shilpakala Academy branches in every district town to spread exercise of culture to every corner of the country and taking steps to leave a rich cultural heritage for the next generation.

Hasina said there was resis-

tance against Bengali culture when the nation did not get freedom, but even now sometimes some resistance crops up in variegated forms.

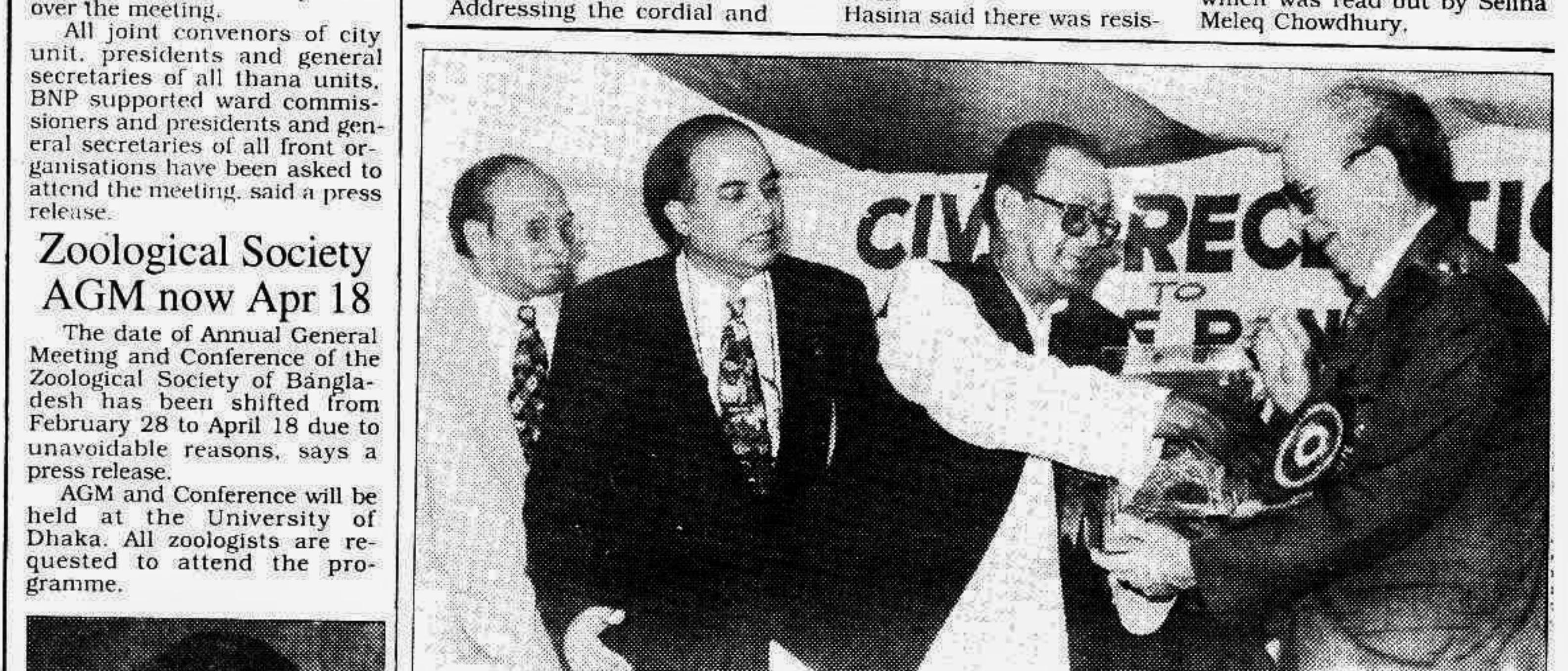
Referring to the conferring of Desikottama degree by the Biswa Bharati University of West Bengal on her, she said that function was held in their own style, which was hailed with adverse criticisms by some quarters in the country.

Every citizen has the right to practise his own culture, some quarters do not want to understand difference between culture and religion.

"How come that as Bengalee we cannot practise our culture," she wondered, emphasising the need for practice of Bengali culture and measures for its uplift for the benefit of the next generation.

The function was also addressed by its Principal Sanjida Khatun, former student Hosne Ara Chowdhury, Ifat Ara Dewan and General Secretary Khaifur Anam. Vice-president of the organisation Waheedul Huq presided over the function.

Elderly poet Sufia Kamal who was scheduled to chair the function could not attend it for ailment. She sent a message, which was read out by Selina Meleq Chowdhury.



Health Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf (2nd R) presenting a crest to renowned orthopaedic surgeon Dr Ronald Garst (R) at a civic reception held at the Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday. Also present are (from L to R) Prof Syed Modasser Ali and Prof Shahidul Alam, director of the hospital.

— Star photo

Dr. Garst accorded civic reception

By Staff Correspondent

US orthopaedic surgeon Professor Ronald J Garst was accorded a civic reception at Shaheed Suhrawardy Hospital in the city yesterday.

Salah Uddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, presented a special crest to Professor Garst at the ceremony. Dr Garst had made a great contribution to establish the Rehabilitation of Disabled Persons Centre (Pangu Hospital).

Speaking on the occasion, the minister said, "We have decided to open a casualty ward named after Dr J Garst at the Suhrawardy Hospital to honour him."

Recalling the contributions of Dr Garst who helped train physicians in the country, the minister said that the existing facilities at the rehabilitation centre are not satisfactory, but we are happy to see that the country has so many doctors specially trained in orthopaedic.

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Foundation stone of fire station laid at Bera

B Chy warns of one-pt 'oust govt' movement

TANGAIL, Feb 19: Deputy leader of the opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury has said the opposition alliance would launch a one-point "oust government" movement if the four-point demands were not met, reports UNB.

"The government will find no way to escape if the one-point movement begins," he told a public meeting here this afternoon.

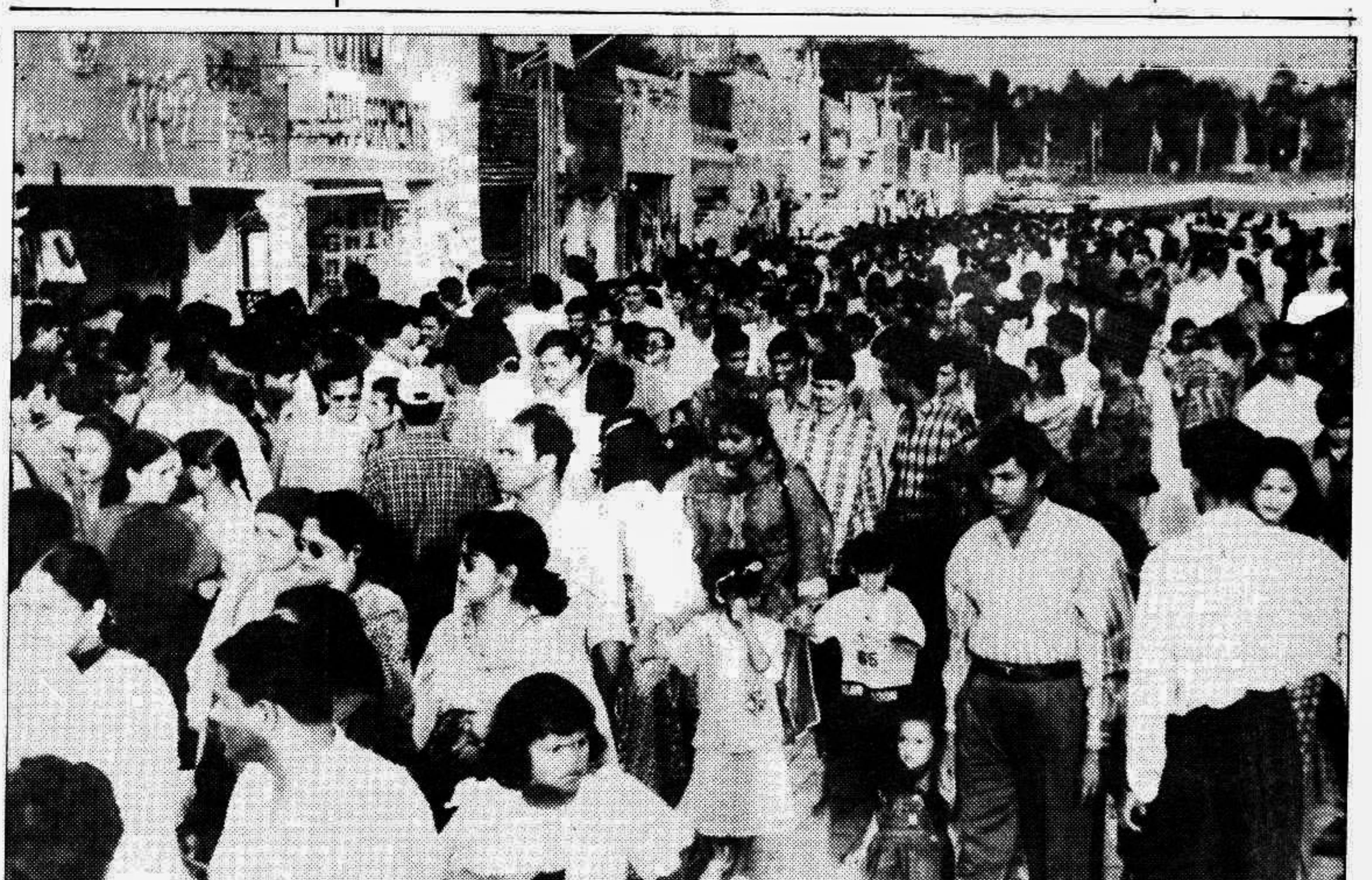
District unit of BNP organised the meeting at Shahid Smriti Poura Uddyan with BNP leader Maj Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan in the chair.

Dhaka seeks more int'l cooperation to eradicate poverty

Bangladesh underscored the urgent need for taking necessary steps for the eradication of poverty and urged for greater international cooperation to achieve the objective, reports BSS.

Poverty eradication will have to be the central goal of all our efforts for social development," Bangladesh Permanent Representative to the United Nations Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury told the world body on Thursday, a message received from New York said yesterday.

Chowdhury was taking part in the debate on social development issues at the 37th session of the Commission for Social Development.



Visitors in thousands flock to the Dhaka International Trade Fair yesterday.

— Star photo

Weather

Dry weather forecast

Dry weather is likely to prevail over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

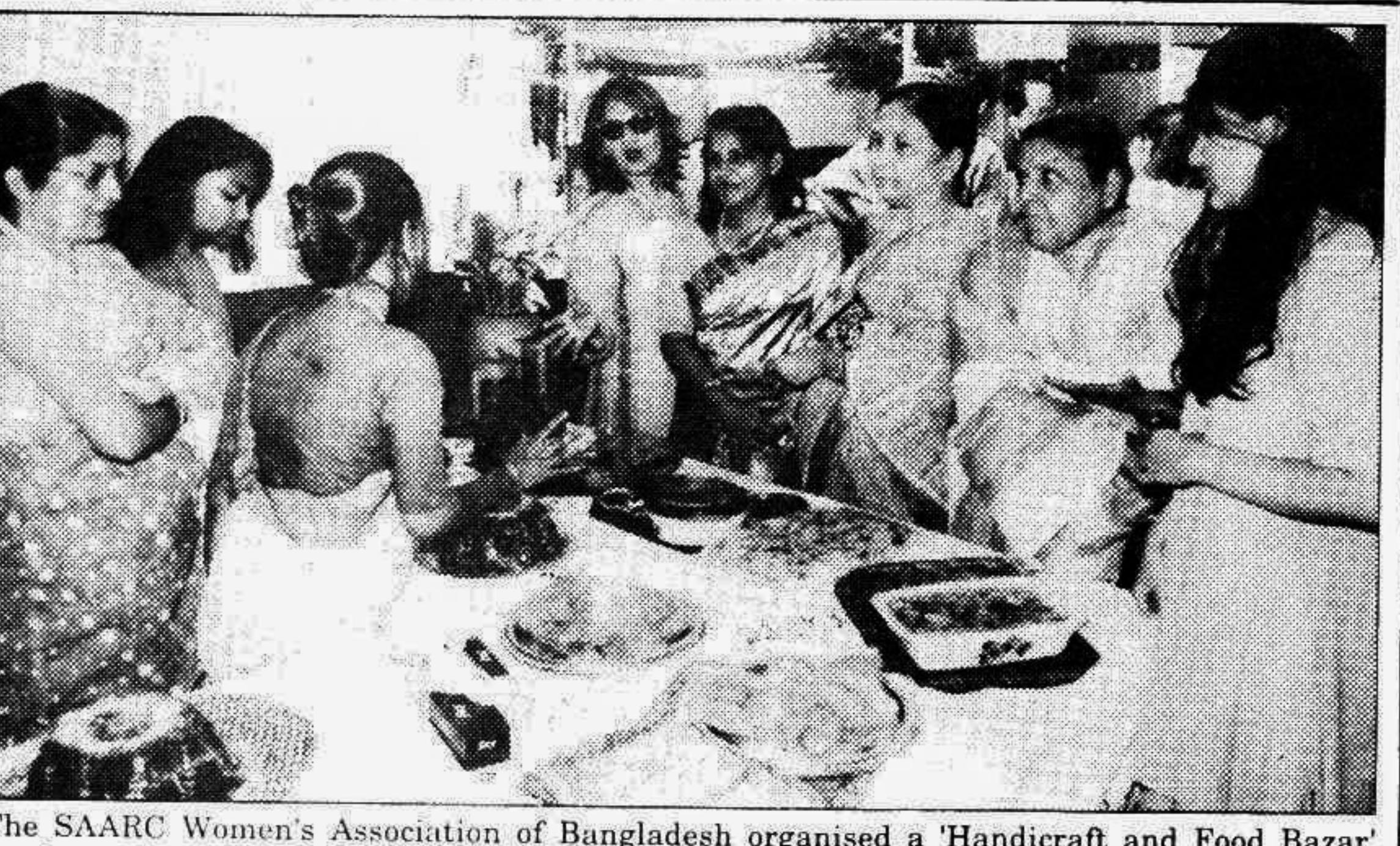
Night temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met Office predict.

The country's highest temperature 33 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf and the lowest 12.2 degree Celsius at Ishwardi.

The sun sets today at 5.57 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.28 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.3	15.2	54	44
Chittagong	32.0	16.7	64	—
Rajshahi	32.3	14.0	66	61
Khulna	32.6	14.8	64	50
Barisal	31.5	15.0	74	56
Sylhet	31.9	17.0	56	55
Cox's Bazar	33.0	19.0	55	59



The SAARC Women's Association of Bangladesh organised a 'Handicraft and Food Bazaar' on the Nepalese Embassy premises in the city yesterday.

ISESCO research aid for lecturer

By Staff Correspondent

Kamrul Alam Khan, Lecturer of Physics in Dhaka College, has been awarded ISESCO Research Aid for conducting research on solar energy, says a press release.

Kamrul Alam completed his Ph.D in solar energy from Dhaka University and is active in various scientific and cultural organisations, the release said.

He is also the founder director of Solar Energy Research Centre in Dhaka College, Dhaka.