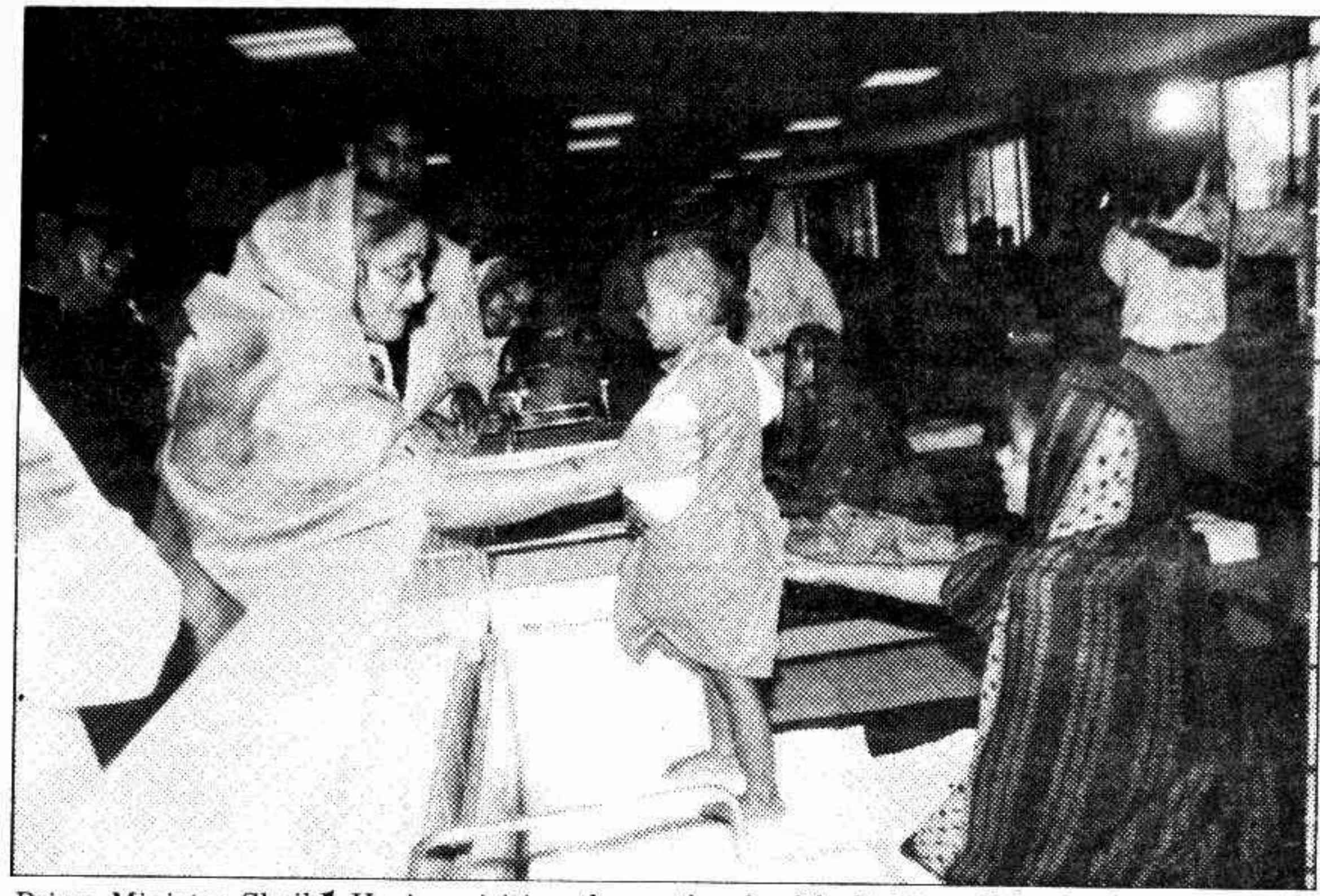


News



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visiting the mother health division of the Institute of Child and Mother Health after inaugurating it at Matua in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Institute of Child and Mother Care opens

Qualitative health care for all top priority of govt: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government attaches top priority to child health and child education and would ensure qualitative, effective and low-cost health care service for all, reports UNB.

"From the current year, the government is going to implement the Essential Service Package under the Health and Family sector programme to provide one-stop service," she said while inaugurating the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH) at Matua in the city.

Under the programme, a community clinic will be set up for every 6,000 people, the Prime Minister said.

She said that the prime objective of the Essential Service Package programme is to reduce the spread of contagious diseases and bring down the mother and child mortality rate from such diseases.

The package includes reproductive health care, child health, prevention of contagious diseases, ensuring limited curative services and communication for changing attitudes.

Terming the ICMH as an excellent venture, Hasina said that the newly built institute would provide integrated health care services to the child and the mother which is very essential for the country.

The Prime Minister also said only a healthy mother can give birth to a healthy child. "Without a healthy child, it is not possible to build a healthy

nation and without a healthy nation, it is not possible to build a developed country".

She said 50 per cent of the country's population are children under 15, who are the future hope and aspiration of the nation and expressed her government's determination to groom the children as worthy citizens.

The government is implementing integrated programmes to ensure healthy life for the child and nutritious food, medicare, education and entertainment for them, and to stop child repression," she added.

About the reproductive mothers, the Prime Minister said that though the mother mortality rate came down in the recent years, there is still a lot to be done for them.

Saying that "women's right is human right," she mentioned that the government has introduced National Women Development Policy to ensure equal rights for women in all spheres of life, including the political, economic, social and cultural sectors.

Hasina said the government has also taken steps for the empowerment of women and mentioned the direct election of women to the local government bodies.

About the ICMH, she said this institute is for two-thirds population of the country mothers and children who constitute and hoped that it will play an important role in this field.

Besides providing modern health care to child and mother, the ICMH will also assess the health and nutrition status of children and mothers, formulate measures for prevention of diseases, and promote health and nutrition, and invent low cost affordable effective treatment.

The institute with an eye-catching architectural design has been built at a cost of Tk 66 crore. Of this, Tk 27.82 crore was contributed by the government and the rest Tk 37.99 crore came from the World Bank. The total surface area of the institute is 300,000 square feet.

At present, the ICMH hospital, on the outskirts of the capital, has 130 beds for paediatric and obstetric and gynaecology in-patients. Its out patient department (OPD) has the capacity to serve 1,000-1,500 patients every day.

The Institute will groom health workers, health professionals and health managers as part of human resources development and help them increase their skills through knowledge derived from research works.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof M Amanullah, Habibur Rahman Molla MP, Shamim Osman MP, World Bank Country Director Fredrick T Temple and Director of the Institute Prof MQK Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

SAARC countries' speakers visit Bangabandhu Bridge

What's on today....

Seminar: A seminar on "Folkloric and Modern Use of Plants for Healing" will be held. Chief guest: Nooruddin Khan, Minister for Science and Technology. Venue: Bangladesh Council for Science and Industrial Research (BCSIR) auditorium. Time: 9:30 am.

Exhibition: The 2nd Environment-friendly bag exhibition will begin. A total of 8 participants are displaying their products in the two-day exhibition. Organisers: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in association with ESDO. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10:00 am-7:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: A discussion on "Bangabandhu and Freedom" will be held to mark Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's birthday. Organiser: Mukti Joddha Sanghati Parishad. Chief guest: Shah AMS Kibria, Minister for Finance. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm.

Painting exhibition: The 1st solo painting exhibition of Nazrul Islam Dulal will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Prof Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Information. Venue: Bangladesh National Museum. Time: 4:00 pm.

Symposium: A symposium will be held in observance of International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Organiser: United Nations Association of Bangladesh. Venue: Hotel Purani. Time: 5:00 pm.

Meeting: The weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Metropolitan Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 5:30 pm.

Installation ceremony: The installation ceremony of Board of Investment Employees Welfare Association will be held. Venue: BCIC auditorium, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

Reception: A reception will be accorded to renowned intellectual, writer and philosopher Prof Sardar Fazlul Karim. Organisers: Sardar Fazlul Karim Gumanuddin in collaboration with Bangladeshi National Museum. Venue: Bangladesh National Museum. Time: 6:00 pm.

Musical soiree: Refugee and freedom fighter singers will present baul songs. Organiser: Liberation War Museum. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 6:30 pm.

Workshop: A workshop on Improving GO-NGO-Donors Partnership in the Fisheries Sector will be held. Organiser: Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Forum (AFDF) in association with Integrated Food Assisted Development Project (IFADEP SPZ) of Department of Fisheries. Chief Guest: Abdur Razzaq, Minister for Water Resources. Venue: Islamic Development Bank Bhaban, Agargaon. Time: 9:00 am.

Seminar: Bangladesh Niti Nirikkhon Kendra will hold a seminar on the recommendation of the committee for Formulating National Education Policy (1997). Venue: Dhaka University Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Club meet: A joint meeting of Rotary Club Greater Dhaka and Rotary Club of Dhaka Midtown will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Ltd (family lounge). Time: 5:30 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said yesterday.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded 36.2 degree Celsius at Khulna and the lowest 14.5 degrees at Sri Mongal.

The sun sets today at 6:10 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	35.8	19.2	30	29
Chittagong	34.5	23.8	83	62
Rajshahi	35.7	17.2	37	35
Khulna	36.2	19.3	75	38
Barisal	35.0	19.5	63	-
Sylhet	33.0	18.6	68	40
Cox's Bazar	34.0	23.5	76	71



Udichi, a leading cultural organisation of the country yesterday brought out a procession in the city to protest the recent bomb attacks on a stage programme by its artistes at Jester.

—Star photo

First Santal pry school opens in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Mar 20: The first Santal primary school of the country began today with a mission to save the language of the tribal community from extinction, reports UNB.

A total of 35 children, 17 of them girls, enrolled as the first students of the school at Barashpara village in Godagari thana of the district.

Jatiya Adiavashi Parishad founded the school at the village, located some 20 km west of the divisional headquarters.

All the students were provided with text and exercise books, pencil and slates.

Prof Hasan Azizul Haq of Rajshahi University formally inaugurated the school at a simple ceremony in the morning. Director of Grameen Trust Project Prof Syed M Hashemi, Prof Shahidul Islam, Prof Zulfiqar Matin, Left leader Fazle Hossain and Deputy Commissioner AKM Shamsuddin also spoke on the occasion.

He said the country has fallen into an all-round crisis due to government's immense failures and incompetence. Normal public life is being seriously hampered due to the government's misrule, he added.

"Now there is no alternative way for the nation but to oust the government to get rid of this misrule," Bhuiyan said.

The BNP-led opposition alliance has called for the programme to protest deterioration of law and order, government's "failure" to ensure security of life and property of people, terrorism, price hike of essentials, repression on opposition, crisis of power, gas and water, and demand of realisation of 4-point demand, cancellation of recent municipal polls results, and release of all arrested leaders and activists.

Mannan Bhuiyan in his statement yesterday instructed all city, district and thana units to organise rallies and bring out processions to register protest against government's "limitless failures" in every sector.

He said the country has

Make Mar 22 protest a success: Mannan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked BNP and its front organisations to make the March 22 nationwide "Protest Day" programme a success through holding public rallies and processions.

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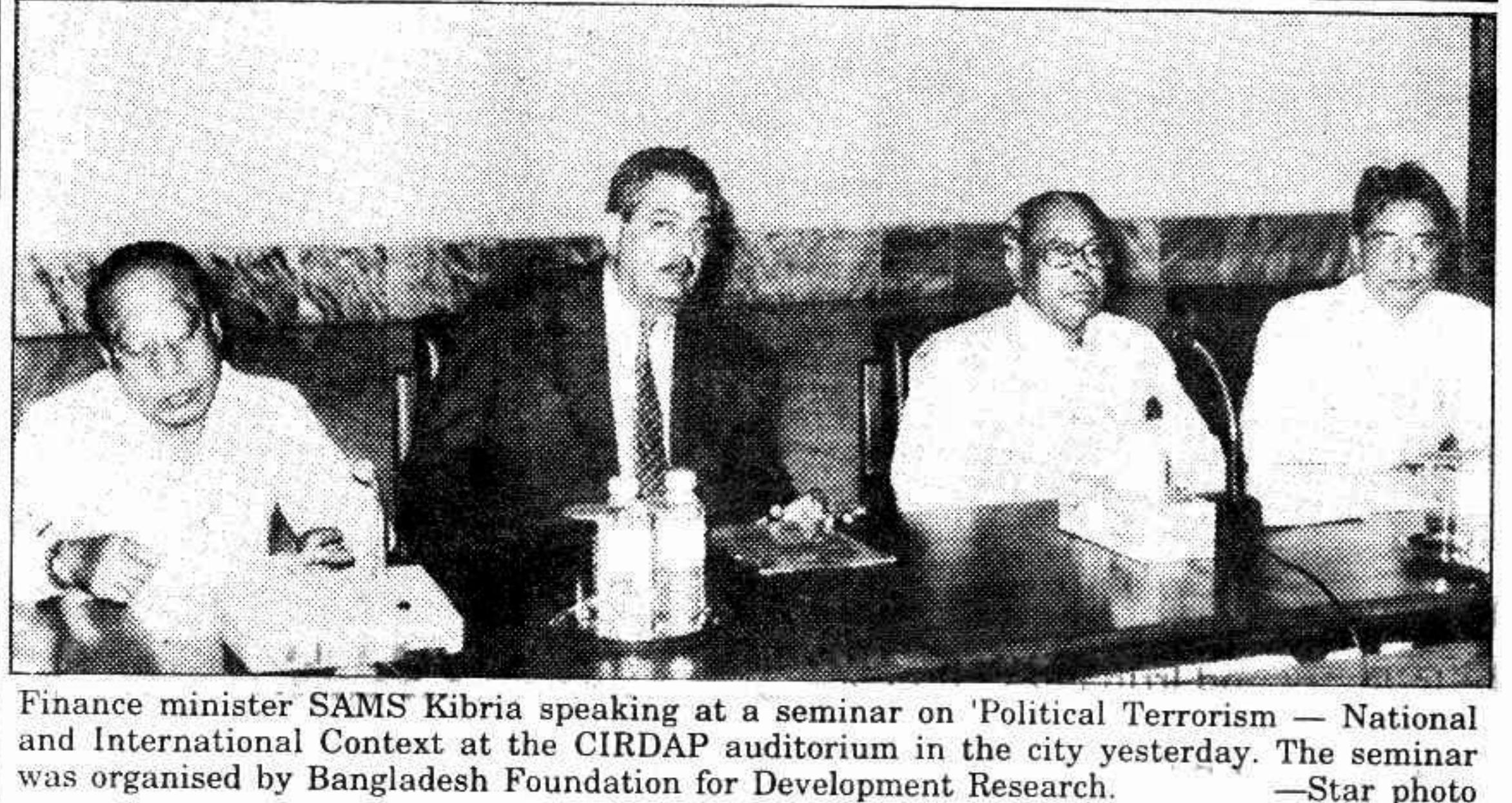
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As part of the central programme, BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote will hold separate public meetings in the capital city on Monday afternoon. Their rallies will be followed by demonstration processions.

BNP secretary general said an all-out resistance would have to be build against the government through combined protest and demonstration.

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BNP will organise a public meeting at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm which will be addressed by Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia.



Finance minister SAMS Kibria speaking at a seminar on 'Political Terrorism — National and International Context' at the CIRDAP auditorium in the city yesterday. The seminar was organised by Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research.

—Star photo

Political stability a must for development'

By Staff Correspondent

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain yesterday said that political stability is a precondition to improving the lot of people.

Addressing a public rally at Gouripur school playground under Bhandaria thana in Barisal, the minister said that the country could not achieve the desired development because of incompetent and unskilled leadership in last 50 years.

Expressing concern over some political parties' move to topple the government, Anwar Hossain said all should allow an elected government to complete its term.

At the demonstration rally, the students urged the authorities to put up speed-breakers after every 100 yards on all the university vehicles in to the campus.

The students under the banner of "Sadharan Chhatra-Chhatra Parishad (SCCP)" staged a demonstration in front of the Vice Chancellor's office before the submission of memorandum.

The DU VC assured them of taking necessary steps to prevent and check vehicles from entering into the campus and to repair the drain in front of the Science Annex building.

The students urged the authorities to renovate the open drains in front of the Science Annex Building on the campus which spreads a stink around.

Among others, Humayun Kabir Palib, Md Elias, Moza hidul Islam, Akash, Azizul Haq, Atiar and Babu addressed the rally.

Earlier, the students paraded on the campus.



International School Dhaka (ISD) held a programme yesterday to introduce the European Council of International Schools (ECIS) and the International Baccalaureate organisation. Executive Secretary of ECIS Dr T M Maybury (3rd from left) and Principal of ISD Fiona Findlay (2nd from left) can be seen in the picture.

GCO demands congenial atmosphere in DU

By DU Correspondent

Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), a conglomeration of some left leaning student organisations yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to demand a congenial atmosphere in the different educational institutions of the country.

GCO brought out the procession around noon and a rally in front of the DUCSU building.

They also urged the government to stop the 'on going terrorism' and 'harassment by the police' in the educational institutions and as well across the country.

SAARC countries' speakers visit Bangabandhu Bridge

Seminar on Life Philosophy on GC Dev March 23

By DU Correspondent

A special seminar on 'The Life and Philosophy of Dr GC Dev' will be held at the Department of Philosophy of the Dhaka University on March 23 at 4 pm.

The visiting guests expressed the opinion that this bridge would immensely contribute towards the improvement of communications system not in Bangladesh but also of this region as a whole.

This will also contribute towards economic development of the country, they added.

The guests highly praised the construction and design of the bridge.

Earlier, in the morning the lawmakers visited the Bangabandhu Museum. The guests also went to Parliament Bhaban and went round different sections of the bhaban including the parliament chamber.

Festival on "muhua" held at JU

By JU Correspondent

A festival and discussion on blooming of 'Muhua' was held at Muhuatola of Jahangirnagar University (JU) Thursday.

Jahangirnagar Sahitya Kendra and 'Teachers' and Students' Centre' (TSC) organised the function. Vice Chancellor Prof Alaudin Ahmed was present as the chief guest while Prof Abdul Matin, Prof Aminul Islam and Prof Ajay Kumar Roy will deliver lecture on life and philosophy of Dr Dev.

The statement Prof Sayeed said Begum Zia had projected herself as a 'mentally imbalanced' person by her reported remarks on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

It is a vicious move of Begum Zia to misguide people through misinterpretation and falsehood of the recent observatory remarks of the Supreme Court," Prof Sayeed said adding "either Begum Zia did not read the advisory verdict of the Supreme Court or she failed to understand it."