

Mansur Ahmed Chowdhury, Chairman of National Disabled Day Celebration Committee speaking at a press conference of National Forum of Organisations working with the Disabled (NFOWD) at the National Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

UNFPA chiefs call on Hasina

The outgoing and newly appointed representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Alaih P Mouchiroud and Shu Yun Xu yesterday called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Ganobhaban residence, reports BSS.

Mouchiroud lauded Bangladesh's achievement in various social sectors including health, medicine and family planning. He noted with deep appreciation the support he received from the government and other agencies during his stay here and conveyed felicitations of the UNFPA chief Nafis Sadique to the prime minister.

Xu hoped that he would get the similar cooperation and support during his tenure in Dhaka and added that his organisation would extend its all out support for implementing various programmes in the health and family planning sector.

The prime minister said her government is trying to reach medicare services to the doorstep of the people. She hoped that the services would be extended in a more effective way through public representatives after the coming upazila elections.

Health Secretary MM Reza was present during the meeting.

Hasina shocked at death of AL leader

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her deep shock at the death of veteran Awami League leader Badiul Alam, reports UNB.

Alam, former president of Rangamati District Awami League and convenor of local Bangabandhu Parishad died of old-age ailment in his hill town residence on Monday.

Sheikh Hasina in a message said, the death of Alam is an irreparable loss in the political arena of the country.

The Prime Minister conveyed her deep sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

Tk 70 lakh Danish grant

Bangladesh will receive Danish Kroner 1,009 million (approximately equivalent to Taka 70 lakh) as grant under an agreement signed in the city yesterday between Bangladesh and Denmark, reports BSS.

The grant will be utilised for implementation of the project entitled "support to the establishment of the Ombudsman institution in Bangladesh" the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs will implement the project.

The immediate objective of the project is to take necessary technical preparations for the establishment of an Ombudsman institution prior to the initiation of a long term programme.

Dr Mashru Rahman, secretary, economic relations division of the Ministry of Finance and Finn Thilsted, Charge D'Affaires EP of the Royal Danish Embassy signed the agreement on behalf of their respective government.

Architects express solidarity with BUET students' movement

Bangladesh Architect Society, an association of the professional architects, has expressed its solidarity with the ongoing movement of the students of Architecture Department of BUET in protest against admission system, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference yesterday, the leaders of the society expressed concern over the volatile situation centering admission test at the Architecture Department of BUET.

They said the authorities are going to hold the admission test in the department on April 10 with the controversial admission system of last year.

The leaders also resented for not yet forming a committee demanded by the agitating teachers and not inclusion of the departmental teachers in the committee on transforming the department into an institution.

The society called for holding of the admission test and other activities as per opinion of the majority of the teachers of the department.

Mobassher Hossain readout the written statement while other members of the convening committee, architect Ehsan Khan, SM Ismail, Iqbal Habib, Rezaur Rahman were present at the press conference.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours, reports APB.

Met Office says day temperature may remain nearly unchanged during the period across the country.

There would be little change in the subsequent two days.

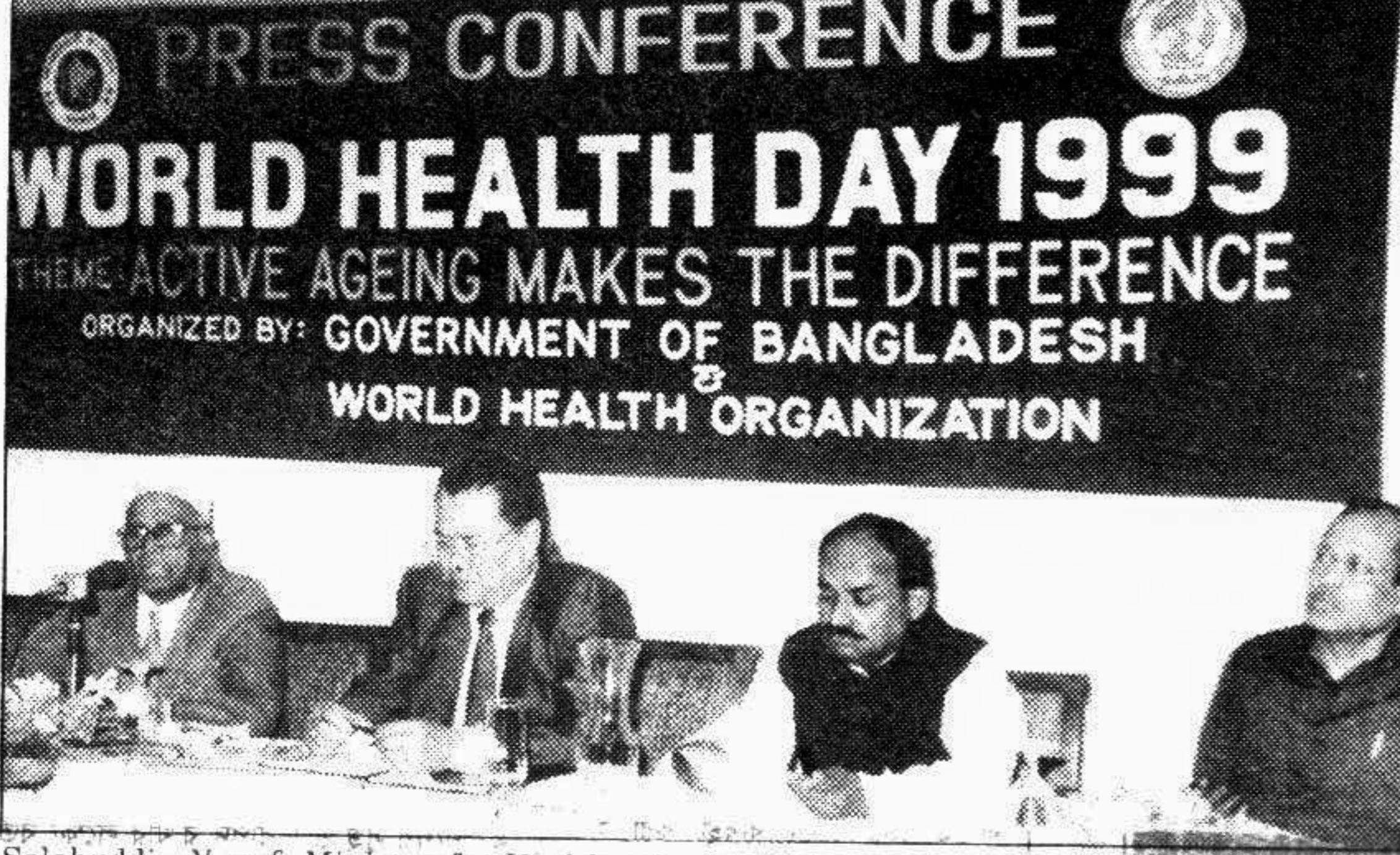
Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 37.3 degrees Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 20.8 degrees at Jessore.

The sun sets today at 6:16 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:44 am.

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	35.5	26.6
Chittagong	32.6	24.6
Rajshahi	37.3	24.2
Khulna	34.6	25.8
Barisal	33.8	24.8
Sylhet	34.0	23.8
Cox's Bazar	31.2	24.5

35.5 26.6 76 63
32.6 24.6 86 85
37.3 24.2 84 55
34.6 25.8 83 61
33.8 24.8 83 71
34.0 23.8 77 59
31.2 24.5 82 85



Salahuddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare speaking at a press conference jointly organised by World Health Organisation (WHO) and the government of Bangladesh yesterday. — Star photo

'No alternative to one-point movement'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson's Advisory Council member Advocate Mahbubur Rahman MP yesterday said there is no alternative before the opposition but to launch a one-point movement to dislodge the government as the door to reach an acceptable understanding has closed down.

"Now there is no alternative before BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, Islamic Oikya Jote and other opposition parties but to start an effective and final movement for rapid change of Jatiya Sangsad and the government," he said.

Advocate Mahbub said all doors to reach a peaceful solution and improve the prevailing situation have closed due to the present socio-economic condition, serious deterioration of law and order and impatient political situation of the country.

He said the government and opposition are now in confrontation with each other as the government has totally ignored the demand of the opposition parties and held the municipal polls, the government is now after taking preparations to hold by elections in Meherpur and to declare the polls schedule of upazila and city corporations.

The BNP leader said the people of the country are now eagerly awaiting with high expectations on the opposition alliance and its future course of action.

He stressed the need to maintain the unity of the opposition and formation of an action committee up to village level.

DU now free of violence, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

The incidents of violence in the Dhaka University have come down to nil at present, the Education Minister claimed in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Giving a break-up of violence in the country's largest university, ASHK Sadique said there were 57 violent incidents, including 27 gunfights, which left one dead during the 1993-94 period.

In 1994-95, there were 72 violent incidents, including 32 gunfights, with four deaths in the university.

In 1995-96, there were 50 incidents of gunfight during the BNP rule.

In 1996-97, the number of violent incidents came down to 28, but rose again to 47, including 27 gunfights, which left one killed during the beginning of Awami League's rule.

In the first six months of 1998-99, there were 12 violent incidents and Chittagong League leader Partha Pratim Acharya was killed during a clash between JCD and BCL.

AGM of Cha Sangsad in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: The 38th annual general meeting (AGM) of Chittagong Branch of Bangladesh Cha Sangsad will be held at a hotel here tomorrow.

The secretary of the ministry of commerce is expected to attend the AGM as the chief guest.

He stressed the need to maintain the unity of the opposition and formation of an action committee up to village level.

AGM of BSC today at Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 6: The annual general meeting (AGM) of Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) will be held at BSC Bhaban here tomorrow, reports UNB.

Chairman of the Board of Directors of BSC and State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya will preside over the meeting.

According to an official source, a proposal of issuing new shares to raise BSC's authorised capital to Tk 400 crore from existing 25 crore and paid up capital Tk 350 crore from existing Tk 20 crore will be placed before the meeting.

Besides, proposals of expanding the container service of BSC to earn more profit and purchase of one more tanker vessel and four container vessels to enlarge the BSC fleet from existing 15 ships are likely to be discussed.

BSC earned a profit Tk 3.29 crore from its container service.

The accumulated loss of BSC decreased substantially during the last few years. During 1997-98 fiscal, the total loss of BSC was Tk 9.00 crore which was Tk 25 crore on the previous year.

At present, the accumulated loss of BSC stood at Tk 91.17 crore which was about Tk 250 crore before 1995.

BSC repaid bank loan of Tk 91.63 crore out of Tk 154.93 crore during 1997-98 fiscal.

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