

What's on today....

Painting exhibition: A fortnight long solo painting exhibition by artist Md Muniruzzaman will begin. Prof Anisuzzaman will inaugurate the exhibition. Chief guest: ASF Rahman, Beximco Group chairman. Venue: Shilpangan, House No: 25, Road No: 5, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm. The show will run till May 20 from 10 am to 9 pm daily.

Exhibition: A week-long first solo painting exhibition by artist Anadi Boyragi will begin. Artist Mustafa Monwar will inaugurate the exhibition as chief guest. Venue: Alliance Francaise Gallery, House No: 26, Road No: 3, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi. Time: 5:30 pm. The exhibition will remain open from 10 am to 8 pm till May 13.

Seminar: The College of General Practitioners of Bangladesh has organised a seminar on liver disease. Prof Dr Mobin Khan, Prof Dr Selimur Rahman and Prof Dr Nooruddin Ahmed will deliver lecture. Venue: College premises, 215/A, Outer Circular Road, Baro Magbazar. Time: 9 am.

Installation ceremony: The installation ceremony of the newly elected 13th executive council of the Institute of Architects Bangladesh will be held. Chief guest: Minister for Housing and Public Works and Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Md Mosharraf Hossain. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre auditorium. Time: 6:30 pm. A cultural programme will follow the installation ceremony.

Meeting: A general meeting of the Sharonkhola Youth Welfare Association will be held. Venue: TSC Road Island, DU campus. Time: 4 pm.

Weather

Temperature may rise

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

The Met Office expected a slight rise in day temperature over the country during the period.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Chuadanga and the lowest 21.0 degree Celsius at Barisal and Tangail.

The sun sets today at 6:30 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:20 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 |
| Dhaka | 29.5 | 97 |
| Chittagong | 32.0 | 21.7 |
| Rajshahi | 35.5 | 23.0 |
| Khulna | 33.5 | 27.6 |
| Barisal | 32.0 | 21.0 |
| Sylhet | 27.5 | 21.1 |
| Cox's Bazar | 33.8 | 25.5 |
| | Morning | Evening |
| | 77 | 74 |
| | 72 | 86 |
| | 92 | 72 |
| | 79 | 77 |
| | 78 | 72 |
| | 100 | 86 |
| | 66 | 89 |



San Amalan, General Manager of Dhaka Sheraton handed over a cheque for over fifty six thousand taka as donation to Martine Billanou, the Programme Director of 'Save the Children in Bangladesh' on Thursday. This money is a part of the sales proceed which the hotel raised through selling of paintings at its lobby. Also present were Khaled Ehsan, Head of Advocacy, Policy and Research of 'Save the Children' and Rafiqul Alam, Financial Controller, Saeed Ahmed, Director Sales and Rashida Muhiuddin, Director PR of the hotel.

BNP Dhaka dist committee formed

A full-fledged committee of Dhaka District BNP has been formed with Barrister Nazmul Huda MP as president, Amanullah Aman MP general secretary and Advocate Abbas Samad as organising secretary, reports UNB.

The committee was formed at a meeting of the unit at central party office Thursday with its convener Barrister Nazmul Huda in the chair, said a press release.

Three vice presidents were also elected in the meeting. They are Abdul Mannan, MP, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, MP and Dr Dewan Salahuddin Babu, MP.

Names of other office bearers and members will be announced within one month, added the release signed by central assistant office secretary of the party, Ahmed Musa.

3 pirates held after gunfight with police

From Our Correspondent SATKHIRA, May 6: Three pirates were arrested with two guns after nearly one-hour gunfight with the police in Char Meghna area in the Sundarbans early today.

Police also seized an engine boat and rescued six fishermen who were earlier kidnapped from the river Kalinchi.

According to sources, the pirates first opened fire on the police who also retaliated. After trading fires for about an hour, the pirates finally gave in.

Need for focusing on child right issued stressed

Participants at a discussion in the city yesterday underscored the need for focusing on child right issues in the media to make a better future for the next generation, reports UNB.

They also emphasised the importance of ensuring access to information for covering the child rights issues from all sectors including the government.

The discussion on child rights and the media was organised by the Information Ministry and UNICEF at the CIRDAP auditorium with the aim to mobilise national media preparatory to Second Asian Summit on Child Rights and the Media to be hosted by Bangladesh.

Ex-BCL leaders to hold rallies

Ruling party's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, Saturday launches a massive countrywide campaign to reach the success story of the government to the common people, reports UNB.

Former student leaders, who met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina recently, will lead several BCL teams at different parts of the country to hold student and public rallies.

Apart from apprising the successes of the government during the last three years and its frantic effort to overcome present power crisis, they will also tell people about the "conspiracy being hatched by the opposition."



Although the shower brings relief to people amidst unbearable dry spell, some city areas went under water following yesterday's rain. The picture was taken from Nittali area.

—Star photo

Sectt employees urge govt to meet demands by May 20

By Special Correspondent Bangladesh Sachibala Karmakaria O Karmachari Sanjuktia Parishad have urged the government to meet their 15-point demand which include change in office hours, promotions of the officials and employees and removal of discrepancies in pay by May 20.

In a press release after a meeting of the Parishad leaders Wednesday it said if the demands are not accepted, then they would announce a tough programme.

The other demands of the parishad include promotions in all posts of Class Four employees, removal of discrepancies in the pay of Cash Sarkers, DA/DMOs and others, change in the designations of the Class Four employees, payment of Tk 50,000 to Shahian who was injured during hartal in February.

Earlier on Tuesday, the Parishad leaders Nurul Alam and Abdul Khalek met the establishment secretary and urged him to consider their demands. The secretary had assured them of meeting some of the demands, the press release said.

JS body team visits BRRI

Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee for the Ministry of Agriculture visited the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) yesterday in Gazipur and discussed with the senior scientists about the prospects and problems of rice production in the country, says a press release.

Dr TIM Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, MP, and chairman of the standing committee supported the demand of the agricultural scientists to extend their service age up to 65. He said that by relaxing the present age barrier we can utilise the talent of the experienced scientists for the progress of the country.

Dr M A Hamid Miah, Director General of BRRI, briefly highlighted the contribution of the institute towards achieving self-sufficiency in rice production. He also urged the government to increase service facilities to stop migration of scientists from the institute.

Alhaj Md Abdul Wahab, MP, and member of the committee, Dr Z Karim, Executive Chairman of the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Dr Nurul Haque Chowdhury, Director (Admin) and Dr Farhad Jameel, Director (Research) of BRRI, and senior scientists and officials of BRRI and BARC attended the open discussion and field visit.

Lightning kills father, daughter in Sitakunda

CHITTAGONG, May 6: A man and his daughter were killed in lightning at Nalupara under Sitakunda thana today, police said, reports BSS.

They said, Salamati Ali, 45, and Shirin, 12, were struck in the field when Shirin went there taking food for her father.

Alliance Francaise programmes on Tagore's birthday

Alliance Francaise has taken up programmes to celebrate the 138th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore tomorrow, reports UNB.

The programmes include poetry recitation and Tagore songs, said a press release yesterday.

Nasim asks CID to deal criminals with iron hand

Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday asked the police to deal criminals with an iron hand, reports BSS.

"If you go hard on criminals and terrorists, people will extend their all-out cooperation to you," the Home Minister told the concluding session of the First Quarterly Crime Conference '99 at Malibagh CID Police office in the city.

Presided over by Additional Inspector General of Police (AIGP) Nurul Huda, conference was also addressed, among others, by Home Secretary Safiur Rahman, Inspector General of Police BI Siddique and Deputy Inspector General Nurul Islam.

Nasim said, "People have firm confidence in the CID, because they are involved in facilitating speedy trial of the

criminals after investigating the serious crimes including killing."

He called upon the CID officials to maintain their reputation through honest and sincere efforts in investigating crimes.

The minister also instructed them to arrest the criminals within reasonable time-limit maintaining neutrality.

He assured the police officials of setting up an effective forensic department for CID in the interest of proper investigation.

Nasim said it is very difficult to curb crime and give punishment to criminals in a crisis-ridden developing country like Bangladesh.

But the police will have to deal criminals with iron hand in the existing social condition despite limited resources, he added.

HB vaccination for children to be introduced by 2003

The vaccine against Hepatitis B, commonly known as jaundice, would be introduced as a routine immunisation programme for children in Bangladesh by 2003, reports UNB.

The decision to introduce the Hepatitis B (HB) vaccine in Southeast region countries, especially Bangladesh, India and Nepal, was taken at the 6th meeting of Technical Consultative Group (TCG).

Stephen Cochi of USA based Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), who attended the TCG meeting, made the disclosure yesterday.

The four-day TCG meeting of World Health Organisation-Southeast Asia Region (SEAR)/Expanded Programme of Immunisation concluded in the city on Thursday.

"The main barrier in introducing the HB vaccine is financial barrier and we are trying to overcome the obstacle," Cochi said while emerging from the TCB meeting.

He said WHO would extend its all-out cooperation in introducing the immunisation programme in this region.

Cochi, Director of CDC's Vaccine-Prevention Disease and Eradication Division, hoped that the HB vaccination would be included in routine immunisation programme for children in every country within five years.

CDC is one of the donor agencies, which have been contributing to eradicated Polio from Bangladesh by 2000 as elsewhere in the world.

The CDC representative said steps would be taken by WHO and other organisations to bring down the cost of HB vaccine to make the drive feasible and affordable as the vaccine was still costly for many countries of this region, except Indonesia and Thailand.

"It would be a shared programme between the government and the donor agencies," he said adding, "but it would be free for individuals."

An elegy

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the hospital for the government employees, which used to be the Railway Hospital, although there is a hospital inside the Secretariat.

Just beside the hospital railway still maintains an office to keep its possession on the northern part of the Udyan. Across the street, beside the police headquarters, the Railway authorities have given up its valuable property for an under-construction super market.

Opposite the market beside an office of the DCC another market is emerging, its first floor already constructed. This is also railway property.

If authorities wanted, any one of the buildings on the northern side of the Udyan on the Abdul Ghani Road could be demolished to make way for the convention centre.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Chhatra Union, a left-leaning student organisation, yesterday urged the student community to resist the government move to construct the convention centre at the Osmany Udyan.

New appointment

The government has appointed Hamida Hoq as the Director of the Training Department of the Shilpakala Academy for one-year term on contract basis, reports UNB.

She was the Director of the same department and was in LFR, said an official handout.

RUCSU polls postponed

RAJSHAH, May 6: Islami Chhatra Shibir called a strike on the campus Saturday amid heightening tensions as the authorities today postponed the Rajshahi University Central Students' Union (RUCSU) elections, reports UNB.

The RU administration in a meeting, with VC Prof Abdul Khaleq presiding, took the postponement decision following a case filed by a student demanding revision of the voter list as his name was dropped.

In response to the case filed by a student of Language Certificate Course demanding further acceptance of nomination papers and imposing injunction on polls, the court issued a showcause notice on the authority to explain "why injunction will not be imposed" on the elections.

Election of five student representatives to the RU Senate and polls for all hall unions have also been stayed.

As the news of election cancellation broke spread over the campus, activists of student organisations, except the Awami League-backed BCL, burst into agitation creating tensions among the pupils.

The unruly demonstrators in reprisals broke a number of vehicles on the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway at about 9pm.

Heavy contingent of police was deployed on the campus as tensions mounted.

JU employees call off strike

Employees of the Jahangirnagar university (JU) called off their indefinite strike on Wednesday that was enforced on May 4 in support of their demands for the withdrawal of new admission rules for their wards, reports APB.

JU authorities resolved the stalemate with the Employees' Union and the Employees' Samity with an assurance to discuss their demands in the next meeting of the 'University Admission Committee,' scheduled for May 8.

Union leaders warned of a "greater movement" if no positive decision is taken in Saturday's meeting to meet their demands.

They announced that the employees will once again go on a four-day strike from May 10-13 and work stoppage including movement of transport from May 15-18 if their demands are not met.

The Employees' Samity, in a meeting presided over by its president Mohammad Firoz Miah, on the campus Wednesday also gave a May 9 deadline to meet their two-point demand.

Employees are agitating since last month demanding introduction of a separate rule for the admission of their wards.

Election of graduate representatives in DU Senate: Lists of candidates finalised

By DU Correspondent

Three panels -- Jatiyatabadi Oikya Parishad, Pragati Parishad and Ganatantrik Oikya Parishad -- have finalised the lists of their candidates for the election of 25 registered graduate representatives in the Dhaka University Senate.

The Jatiyatabadi Oikya Parishad will announce its panel tomorrow at the National Press Club, said a press release signed by Dr. Zahidul Islam, a teacher of Anthropology Department of the university, and publicity secretary of the panel.

Among others, Barrister Moinul Hossain, Gias Kamal Chowdhury, Prof. Jasim Uddin Ahmed and Prof. Chowdhury Mahmud Hasan will contest the polls from this panel.

The Ganatantrik Oikya Parishad announced its panel yesterday.

Among others, Adv Syed Ahmed, Dr. M Akhtaruzzaman, Dr. Rangalal Sen, Syed Badruddin Hossain, and Abul Kalam Azad, president of BFUJ, are contesting from this panel.

The Pragati Parishad finalised the list of its candidates yesterday. The list includes the names of Dr. AKM Aktaruzzaman, Adv AKM Salimullah, Prof AM Muazzam Hossain and Prof AN Rasheda.

The nomination board of the panel also selected a total of 25 candidates in a meeting which was presided over by Prof AN Rasheda, said a press release signed by Dr. Mushtaque Hossain, former general secretary of DUCSU.

Allowances for internee doctor raised

The government yesterday finalised the sanction order enhancing the monthly allowances for the Internee Doctors to Taka 5000 from the existing Taka 4000, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS.

The enhanced allowances will be effective from October, 1998.

Concern over abduction of Bangladeshis

By Staff Correspondent

Sylhet Division Development Council has expressed grave concern at the abduction of four Bangladeshis and some cattle heads by members of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Indian nationals recently at the Chunarughat border.

The council president Advocate Abed Raza and general secretary Nazmul Islam in a joint statement yesterday demanded the safe return of the abducted people and a solution to border conflicts.

Army assistance to WASA continues

Bangladesh Army continued their assistance to the Dhaka WASA authorities in their water supply and distribution programme, said an ISPR press release yesterday, reports APB.

The Army began the operation on April 14 at the instigation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to mitigate the suffering of the city dwellers due to water crisis.

About five lakh litres of water is now being distributed among the residents of the city by Army every day.

Two water purification plants of the Army at Gulshan and Ramna have been filtering lake-water for distribution among the people living in the city and its suburbs under Army management.

Presently, two water bousers of 16 thousand and eight thousand litres capacity as well as 29 water trailers of various capacities are being used for distribution water.

Meanwhile, technical teams of the Army remained deployed at the WASA pump houses in the city. Army personnel so far assisted WASA in sinking 110 tubewells, as well as in reactivating a generator and repairing two water bousers.

Army personnel have also been helping the Chittagong WASA authorities in their water distribution programme since April 15, said the press release.

Khaleda urges businessmen to take to street

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday urged businessmen to take to street against power, water and gas crises and "government-patronised" terrorism, reports UNB.

"People will truly realise the problems if you raise your voice against the prevailing situation of the country," she said.

She made the call when a 20-member delegation of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) led by its president Sharif M Afzal called on Begum Zia at her 29 official residence in the evening.

She said power, water and gas crises, terrorism and extortion of hit hard all sections of people apart from the businessmen and industrialists.

About strikes, the BNP chief said: "We don't like hartal, but the government is pushing us towards enforcing shutdowns."

The opposition leader also came up with the allegation that conspiracy was being hatched to make the institution like army "India-dependent" as substandard vehicles are being imported from the neighbouring country.

"The Army will have to depend on India for spare parts. It would fall in difficulty if India stopped the supply of spare parts," she said.

Begum Zia also mentioned that government was closing down the GEM industry and a steel mill in Chittagong which are not yet incurring loss.

Budget discussion with JP MPs

'Tk 100cr could be saved a yr if loss-making SOEs are laid off'

The Finance Minister has vented grave concern over the state of limping and loss-making state-owned enterprises, saying government has to pay crores of taka every year only for their maintenance, reports UNB.

"A sizeable amount of taxpayers' money goes to nourish the loss-making SOEs... If the losing ones are closed down at least Tk 100 crore would be saved every year," Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said in a pre-budget meeting with Jatiya Party (JP) MPs at his office in the city yesterday.

JP secretary general and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju said wastage in the SOEs and "system loss" must be checked to reduce the pressure of fresh taxes.

"People would not have to pay additional taxes if wastage in public sector enterprises is checked," he said.

The other JP MPs who met the Finance Minister to place their suggestions for the coming budget were Advocate Fazle Rabbi, Golam Hossain and Shahadat Hossain.

They advised the Finance Minister to make sure that the low-income people do not fall prey to the burdens of fresh taxes in the coming budget.

The JP MPs suggested that measures be taken to check drainage of national exchequer in the state-owned enterprises and tax evasion to save the nation from recurrent taxes.

They felt the need for a concrete and consensus position on privatisation or offloading of public sector enterprises.

Kibria said he has formally approached BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami for separate meetings to get their proposals for the budget for 1999-2000 fiscal. But they have not yet responded, he said.

Advocate Fazle Rabbi MP urged the Finance Minister not to raise the price of diesel, main fuel for irrigation pumps, until power situation improves. He said price hike of diesel will increase irrigation cost and affect crop production.

The JP lawmakers also called for strengthening poverty alleviation programmes.

HSC exams

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gree College during the clashes. In Matlab Degree College centre, examinees damaged furniture and locked in clash with police.

Police also fired 13 bullets to bring the situation under control.

Some 358 examinees out of 718 left the centre with their answer scripts.

The Matlab Degree College centre was cancelled following the trouble.

Seventeen answer scripts were missed from Haimchar College centre.

In hall administration sources said students left the centre with their answer scripts during the trouble.

In Sirajganj, outsiders clashed with police over supplying copies to the examinees at Sirajganj Islami College centre. At least 30 people, including two policemen were injured.

Police opened tear gas shells to disperse the mob.

In Feuch administration sources said students left the centre with their answer scripts during the trouble.

Some 76 examinees were expelled from eight of the 10 centres of the district.

In Chuadanga, at least five people were injured in a clash between police and outsiders over supplying copies in Darshana Government College centre.

In Comilla, some 15 expelled students along with their supporters damaged and ransacked furniture, doors and windows of Laksam Chittoi College after the examination.

In Parbatipur, examinees assaulted two teachers for not giving them chances to adopt unfair means in Parbatipur Degree College centre. They also ransacked doors and windows of the college.

In protest against the incident, teachers wore black badges and brought out a silent procession in the town.

In Kushtia, examination in Meherpur College centre remained stopped for over half-an-hour from 12 noon when outsiders forcibly tried to enter the examination hall for supplying copies.

Cops sued

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was supposed to return the money with 15 per cent interest.

Ahkam lodged a case with police when Alam did not return the money even after repeated reminders and requests, the SI claimed.

Alam was arrested and taken to the thana late Tuesday night. His wife was allowed to accompany him to the thana following her request, the SI claimed.

At the thana, Alam told police that he had already returned Tk 50 lakh to Ahkam in five cheques Tuesday afternoon.

Then Ahkam was contacted. He (Ahkam) admitted that he had received the cheques. But Alam suddenly became sick at the thana, the SI said.

"After discussing the matter with my senior officials, I released Alam at about 1:30 am Wednesday on bond as he was sick," the SI added.

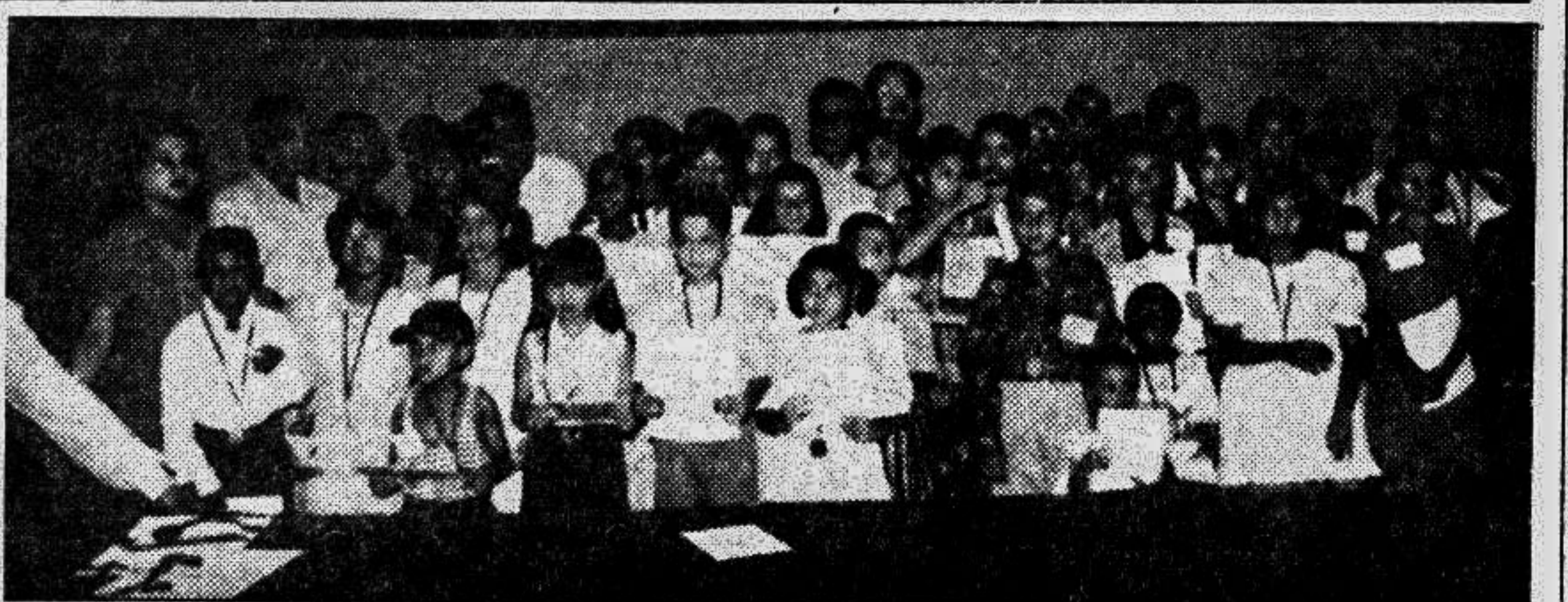
ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ
Dhaka Electric Supply Authority
জরুরি সংরক্ষণ কাজের জন্য
বিদ্যুৎ বন্ধের নোটিশ

হাসানাবাদ গ্রীড উপকেন্দ্রের ৩৩কিউ বাসে জরুরি সংরক্ষণ ও মেয়ামত কাজের জন্য নিম্নে বর্ণিত এলাকায় আগামী ৭-৫-৯৯ইং জরুরি সকাল ৯টা হইতে ১১টা পর্যন্ত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ বন্ধ থাকিবে।

এলাকাসমূহ
 কামরাঙ্গিরচর, ইসলামাবাদ, লালবাগ, সেন্ট্রালজেল, চকবাজার, সদরঘাট, ফরাশগঞ্জ, সূত্রাপুর, ফরিদাবাদ, পোস্তগোলা, পোস্তগোলা আর্মি ক্যাম্প, আলম মার্কেট, মীরহাজিরবাগ আংশিক, কোরাণীগঞ্জ উপজেলা, শ্রীনগর উপজেলা, নবাবগঞ্জ উপজেলা, দোহার উপজেলা এবং আশপাশ এলাকা।

সমান্বিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকগণের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য ডেসা কর্তৃপক্ষ দুঃখিত।

নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী
 পদম বিদগ্ধ, পোস্তগোলা
 জিডি-৩৭৬ ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ, ডেসা



The prize-giving ceremony of UNFPA's poster contest was held on Wednesday. Advocate Abdul Hamid, Deputy Speaker attended the function as chief guest while Hashem Khan, a renowned artist was present as the special guest. Shuyan Xu, UNFPA representative chaired the faction.