

Bus service will bring people closer : Jyoti Basu

Indian West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu yesterday said that the direct bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta would bring the people of the two countries closer and create a scope for better interaction, reports BSS.

"Although we have one language, one Rabindranath and one Nazrul, our younger generations know little about each other," the visiting Chief Minister told a reception hosted in his honour by the Workers' Party. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad attended the reception ceremony.

The West Bengal chief minister said the problem of the border enclaves remain an unsettled issue causing immense suffering to the people there. Basu said he would take fresh initiative to solve the problem.

West Bengal ministers Manab Mukharjee and Susanta Das, former member of Lok Sabha and CPI leader Geeta Mukharjee accompanied Basu at the reception.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, economist Rehman Sobhan, chief whip of the opposition Khondokar Delwar Hossain, Awami League leader Moazzaf Hossain Paltu, CPB president Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Gano Forum leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Left Front leaders Nirmal Sen, Khalequzzaman, Mujahidul Islam Selim, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Abdus Salam and Dilip Barua, Gano Azadi League leader Haji Abdus Samad, Bangladesh Bank governor Dr Farashuddin, The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Weekly 2000 editor Shahadat Chowdhury, poet Abu Zafar Obaidulah were also present.

President of Workers' Party Rashed Khan Menon and its leaders Abu Bashir, Haidar Akbar Khan Rano, Bimal Biswas, Nurul Hassan, Saiful Haq, Fazle Hossain Badsha, Mahmudul Hassan Manik, Parvez Chandra Saha, Hazera Nazrul and Quamrul Ahsan welcomed the guests.



Death anniversary of poet Rudra today

By DU Correspondent

The 8th death anniversary of Poet Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah will be observed today.

To mark the day, the Rudra Sangsads has drawn up elaborate programmes. In the morning, wreaths will be placed on his grave.

The programmes include open discussion, photo exhibition, cultural function, *milad mafid* and feeding of the destitute.



Obituary

Rubina Afroz, a second year student of the Department of Computer Science and Technology, the University of Asia Pacific (UAP), died on Saturday at 3:30 am, says a press release.

Her *namaz-e-janaza* followed by a condole meeting was held on the university premises yesterday.

The condolence meeting was presided over by Vice-Chancellor of UAP, Hedayat Ahmed. Students and faculty members spoke on the occasion. *Munajat* was offered for the salvation of the departed soul.

Retired Chief Engineer of Roads and Highways Division and the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge Project Abdul Matin, 62, died of heart failure at a local clinic early yesterday, reports BSS.

He left behind three sons and four daughters.

Abdul Matin was buried at the family graveyard at his village home of Pirkashimpur under Muradnagar thana of Comilla district.

His *qulukhwanai* will be held at his residence of Elephant Road on June 25 after *Asr* prayers.

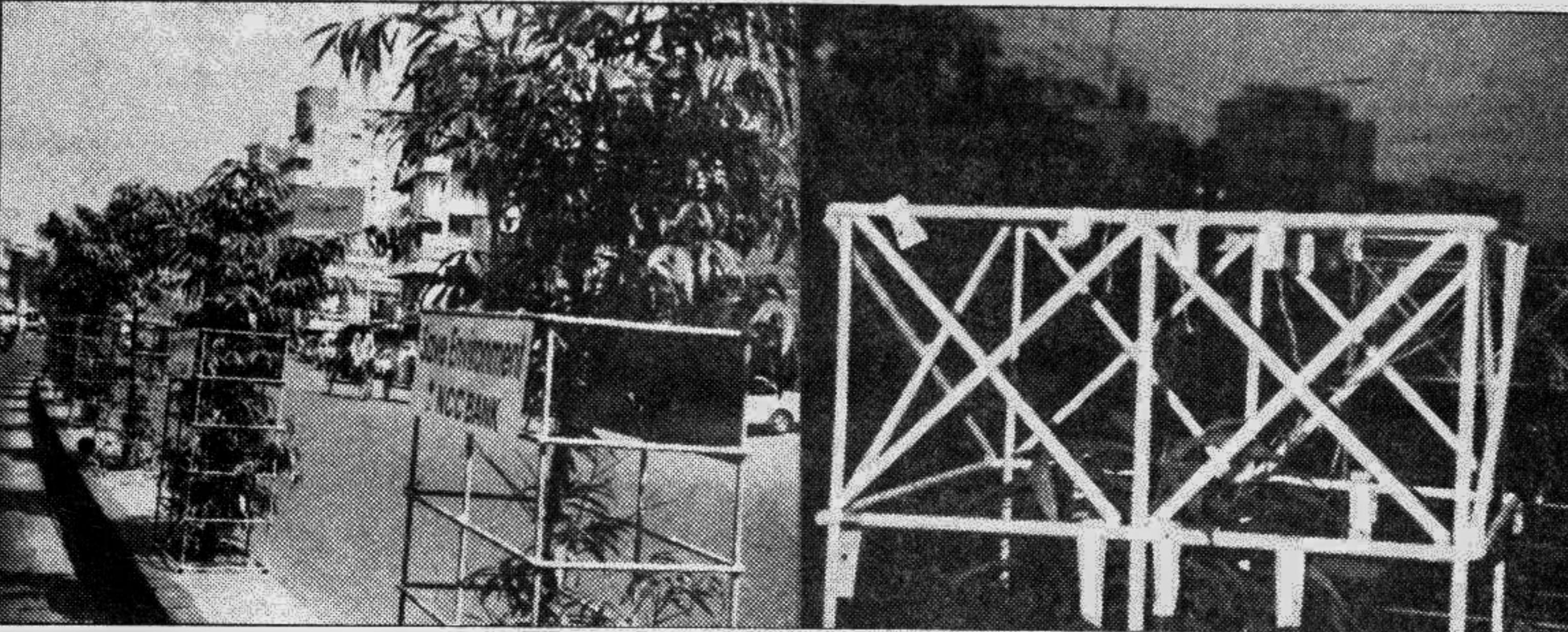
Abu Ahmed Majumder, son of late Sujat Ali Majumder of Chhagalnaiya thana in Feni district, died at Suhrawardy Hospital Saturday night, reports BSS.

He left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters.

He was buried at his family graveyard after *namaj-e-janaza* at Debpur Eidgah mazda at his Poschimdevour village yesterday.

Signboards disappear from city roads

By Staff Correspondent



The signboards put up in different streets of Dhaka and Chittagong as part of a campaign to protect the environment have started disappearing recently.

In a statement, Journeymen, the official agency for event management of World Environment Day '99, said that unidentified elements seem to

have removed the boards with public awareness slogans at night.

The boards with slogans like "Grow more trees", "Care for trees", "Save trees to save yourself" were attached to the iron fences around the trees on important road islands and surrounding of parks.

It urged the authorities concerned and city dwellers to remain alert against such activities.

The picture (above left) shows signboards on the fences around the trees while the fence (above right) is seen with the signboard missing.

World Music Day at Alliance Francaise June 24

By Staff Correspondent

A musical festival will be held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka on June 24 and 25 to mark World Music Day observed by people of France every year.

France Lasnier, the Director of Alliance Francaise, explained at a press conference held yesterday to explain the significance of the occasion, that this function will be held on the evening of June 24, and the afternoon of 25th, with professionals and amateurs taking part. All types of music varying from folk to classical to band music will be sung on these days. She said that in Paris people sing on the pavements and cafes on the occasion.

The celebration of World Music Day was first started on June 21 in 1982 by the then Minister of Culture, Jack Lang. Since that day, she added, the popular day on the calendar has been receiving increasing enthusiasm.

She said furthermore that a charter between partners of the European Music Festival now enables fruitful exchanges between the musicians of France and their European neighbours. In Bangladesh itself, Lasnier said, one will hear a variety of music including Rabindra Sangeet and Nazrul Geetis.

Alain Delaune, the Deputy Director of Alliance Francaise, present on the occasion, added that singers and musicians like Farida Parveen and Bari Sidiqui will perform. The last two occasions had been undoubtedly successes with people singing and playing even on the staircase.

Christophe Stey, the other Deputy Director of Alliance Francaise, added that celebrations will go on in every room of the cultural centre. Only the entrance to the rock band's show will be on invitation, he added.

Two arrested, pistol recovered

GAZIPUR, June 20: Tongi thana police arrested two alleged terrorists and recovered a pistol from their possession from Dattapara village under Tongi Pourashava last night, reports BSS.

Police said, the arrested persons are Rumane, 20, and Mushtak, 21.

A case has been registered with Tongi thana in this connection.

Journalist Sadekin dead

Noted journalist M Sadekin died of heart attack at his Zafarabad residence yesterday morning. He was 60, reports BSS.

Sadekin left behind his wife, three daughters and host of relatives to mourn his death.

He had been crippled the last few years of his life following a fatal road accident.

During his long career in journalism, Sadekin worked in a number of newspapers including Dainik Bangla, Sangbad, weekly Robbar, and the Janakantha.

Author of a number of novels and dramas, he was also associated with the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra as a commentator during the War of Liberation.

His first *namaz-e-janaza* was held at Jafarabad Mosque after *Asr* prayers. His body was taken to the Jatiya Press Club where the journalists assembled to pay their last respects to him.

Press Club general secretary Swapan Kumar Saha placed a wreath beside the mortal remains of Sadekin on behalf of the Press Club.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFU) secretary general Akhtar Ahmed Khan, Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) president Attaf Mahmud and general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan also placed wreaths on behalf of their organisations.

Later, Sadekin was buried at the Mirpur Freedom Fighters' graveyard.

By Staff Correspondent



Visiting Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee placing a wreath at National Memorial at Savar yesterday.

— PID photo

Weather

Thundershowers likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy falls is also likely at places over Chittagong division during the period, according to Met office.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country.

Country's highest temperature 35.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sathkhira.

The sun sets today at 6:49 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.5	27.5	79	86
Chittagong	30.8	25.0	97	90
Rajshahi	35.3	27.0	81	73
Khulna	33.2	26.0	87	90
Barisal	32.6	25.3	99	97
Sylhet	32.4	25.4	82	100
Cox's Bazar	28.0	25.0	98	100

What's on today

Meeting: The regular weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar-Dhaka will be held. Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 5:30

Meeting: A meeting of the Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee of Bangladesh Awami League will be held. Venue: Party's central office at 23, Bangabandhu Avenue. Time: 7:00 pm

MBBS course begins at Armed Forces Medical College

Projanmo '71, an organisation of the children of martyrs of Liberation War, has congratulated Ganatantrik Oikya Parishad (GOP) for its landslide victory in the elections of the registered graduate representatives to the Dhaka University Senate.

In a statement yesterday, Anwarul Kabir Milu and Headmaster Hossain, the president and general secretary of the organisation, described the victory as a triumph for the registered graduate representatives to the Dhaka University Senate.

The academic session 1998-99 of the college started under the Dhaka University. The six-year MBBS course of the college includes one-year in-service training.

The Chief of Army Staff said that the college was established with the aim of providing qualified and efficient physicians. Besides, armed forces personnel and their wards, a number of students from outside would also get opportunity to take part in the courses run by the college.

The Acting Commandant of the college also spoke on the occasion and gave a brief resume on the courses.

Among others, the Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Abu Taher, the Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshall Jamal Uddin Ahmed and senior officials of the armed forces were present.

Parents of the students including Minister for Science and Technology Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan and Begum Noor Uddin were also present.

Later, Sadekin was buried at the Mirpur Freedom Fighters' graveyard.

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