

What's on today....

Annual general meeting: The AGM of Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum will be held. The executive for (2000-2001) will also be elected. Venue: Dhaka Ahsanita Mission auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.

..... and tomorrow

Cultural programme: Kendriya Kanchi Kanchar Mela will hold a cultural programme to mark the 7th birth anniversary of Rokonuzzaman Khan Dadabhai. Venue: Mela premises at 37/A Segun Bagicha. Time: 4:30 pm.

Seminar: A seminar on "Grassroot Mass Organisation versus Fundamentalism: Brahmanbaria perspective. Venue: Sufia Kamal auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5:00 pm.

ICSBA seminar: The 18th seminar of the International Centre for Study of Bengal Art (ICSBA) will be held. Venue: Library hall of centre, House No 32 E, Road 17A, Banani. Time: 5:00 pm.

Seminar: Cyber College of Bangladesh will hold a seminar on "Java — the Programming Language of the Future." Venue: College premises, House No 38/1, Rd No 6 (new). Dhanmondi A.R. Time: 5:00 pm-7:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or strong wind is likely at the regions of Mymensingh and Sylhet in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country during the period, Met Office said predicting slight rise of day temperature across the country.

The country's highest temperature 37.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and the lowest 20.2 degree Celsius at Syedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.18 pm and rises on Sunday at 5.43 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	26.0	73	59
Chittagong	32.0	23.5	74	80
Rajshahi	37.2	24.5	80	51
Khulna	32.5	25.0	82	
Barisal	32.6	24.5	76	71
Sylhet	30.7	21.3	84	77
Cox's Bazar	32.6	24.4	73	80

Saleha begins a new life

Saleha Akhter, an orphan, who was brought up in Tejgaon Shishu Paribar run by the Social Welfare Directorate, was married to a small trader at a formal function in the city yesterday, an official handout said, reports BSS.

State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hussain attended the function and wished the happy life of the newly-wed couple. He said the present government had undertaken all possible measures to rehabilitate the distressed and orphan children of the country.

He said the government would continue to implement these measures for proper education, training and rehabilitation of such distressed and orphan children in the Government Shishu Sadans orphange throughout the country.

The function was also attended by senior officials of the ministry and departments under it.

Saleha's husband Sirajul Huq Chowdhury is a small trader living in Tejgaon.

Officials of the Social Welfare Department gifted necessary furniture and a sewing machine to Saleha, one of the 79 such girls of Tejgaon Shishu Paribar so far rehabilitated through marriage under the supervision of this organisation, the handout said.

Minor girl violated

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 7: A 10-year-old girl was violated by two persons at Chandarpur village of Deraia thana under Sunamganj district last Monday. Both the accused had been absconding, police sources informed.

Police said, that the victim while returning to her home from the fair at Noagaon at about 7 pm came under attack of two persons named Nazrul Islam and Abdus Salam. They stood on the way of the minor girl and took her to a nearby quiet place. They raped her there and left her. She was given first aid immediately.

The victim was sent to the Sunamganj District Hospital for Forensic Test today.

A case in this connection had been lodged under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act, police said. Police officials had visited the village.

Status of the disabled to be improved

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 7: At least two houses of 'Dewanbag Darbar Sharif' the 'Heritage' of NFWOD, at Agargaon Samajsheba Bhaban in the city.

President of NFWOD Khondakar Jafirul Alam presided over the function, while it was addressed, among others, by Director General of Social Service Department Mohammad Sajiduzzaman and Johirul Islam.

The keynote paper of the seminar was presented by A H Noman Khan.

State Minister for Social Welfare Dr Mozammel Hossain Thursday said the government was committed to bringing about qualitative change in the socio-economic status of the disabled persons of the society, reports BSS.

He said this while inaugurating a day-long seminar on "Review of the revised agenda for action of ESCAP decade of disabled persons" organised by NFWOD at Agargaon Samajsheba Bhaban in the city.

Despite the emergency declared in 1996, the government hasn't addressed the issue of treatment for cancer patients. There is no referral hospital where patients can get relief from their pain.

"Yes, I understand that the problem is very extensive but in absence of available remedial measurement we can do nothing to help the sufferers," said Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, minister of health and family welfare when contacted Monday night. "We depend on preventive measures, such as awareness programmes, to motivate people not to drink contaminated water."

"We are also providing alternative sources of water wherever possible. But in the meantime, we have requested World Bank, WHO and other relevant agencies to extend further help to address this top priority issue."

The maximum permissible level of arsenic in drinking water in Bangladesh is 0.05 milligrams per litre, or 50 parts per million.

The latest study shows 59 of 64 districts are affected by naturally occurring arsenic contamination in groundwater. The most severely affected districts are in southern Bangladesh. Officials are painting wells red and green to distinguish contaminated water sources from safe sources.

Carmen Z Lamagna, vice-chancellor of Ama International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) and pro-vice-chancellor of Dr T Hossain inaugurating a blood donation programme in observance of the World Health Day on the university campus on Wednesday. One hundred twenty bags of blood were collected from the enthusiastic students, faculty members and officers of the university. The programme was held in collaboration with Bangladesh Red Crescent Society.

Arsenic

From Page 1

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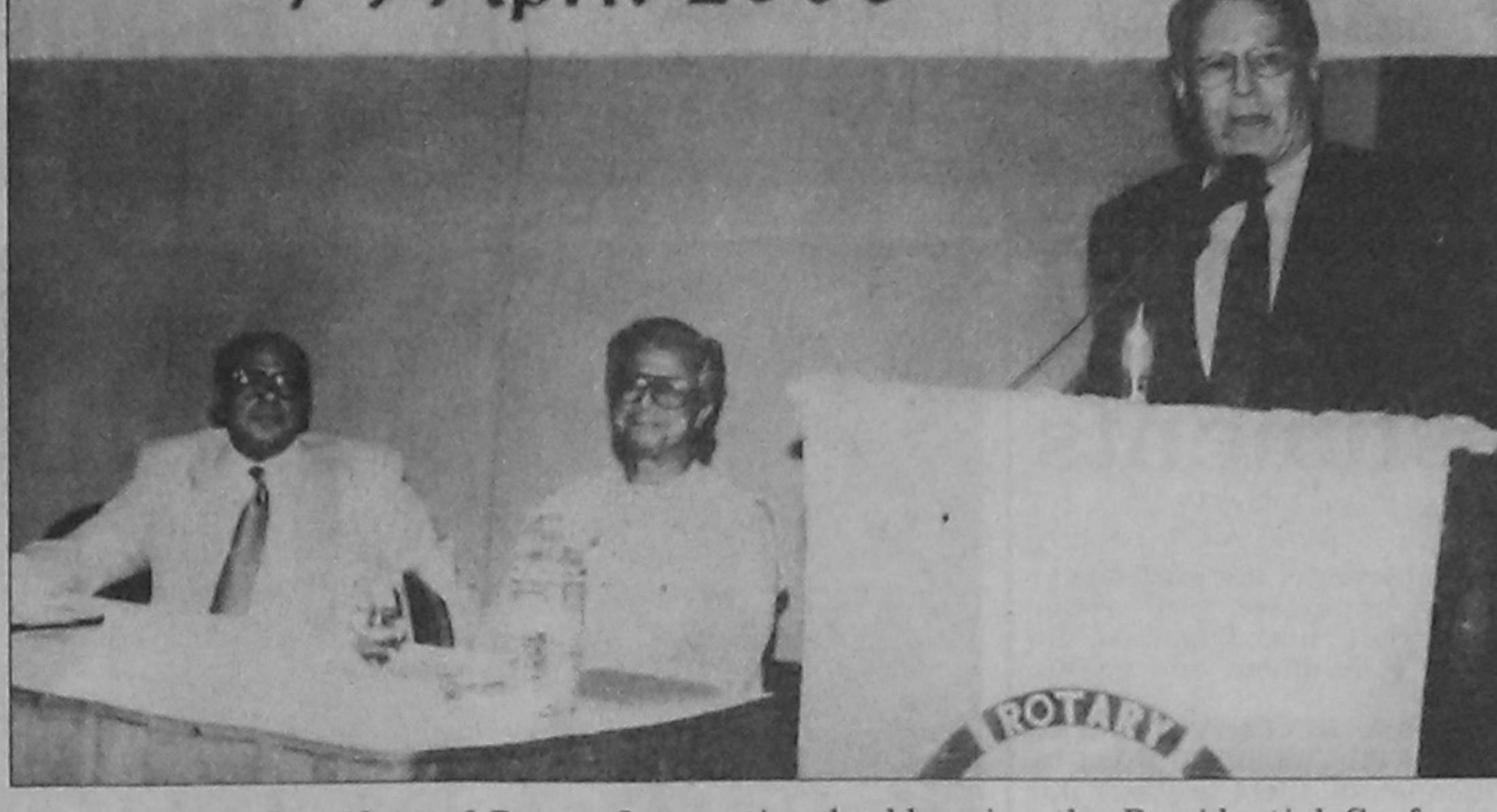
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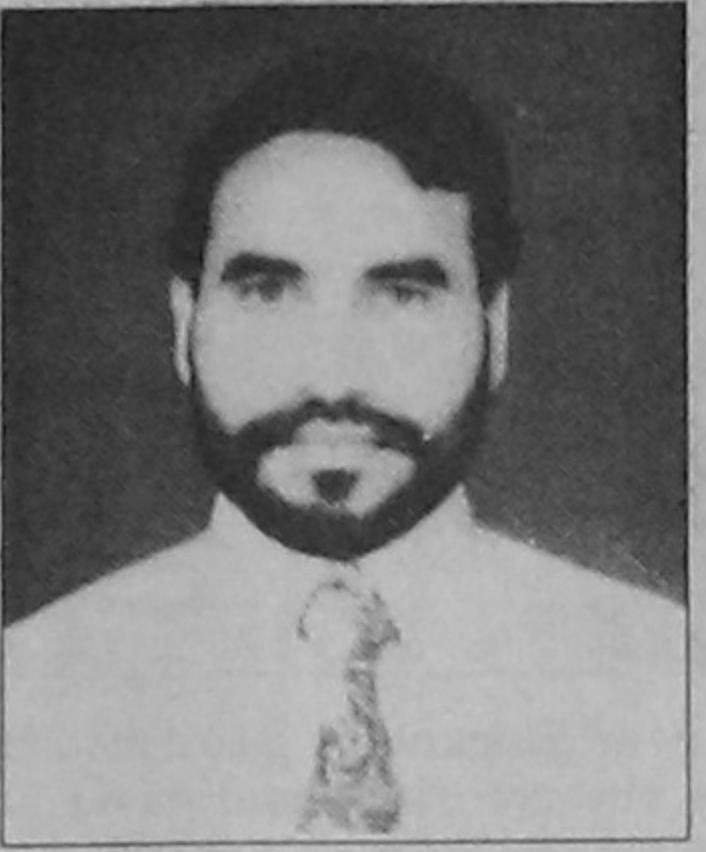
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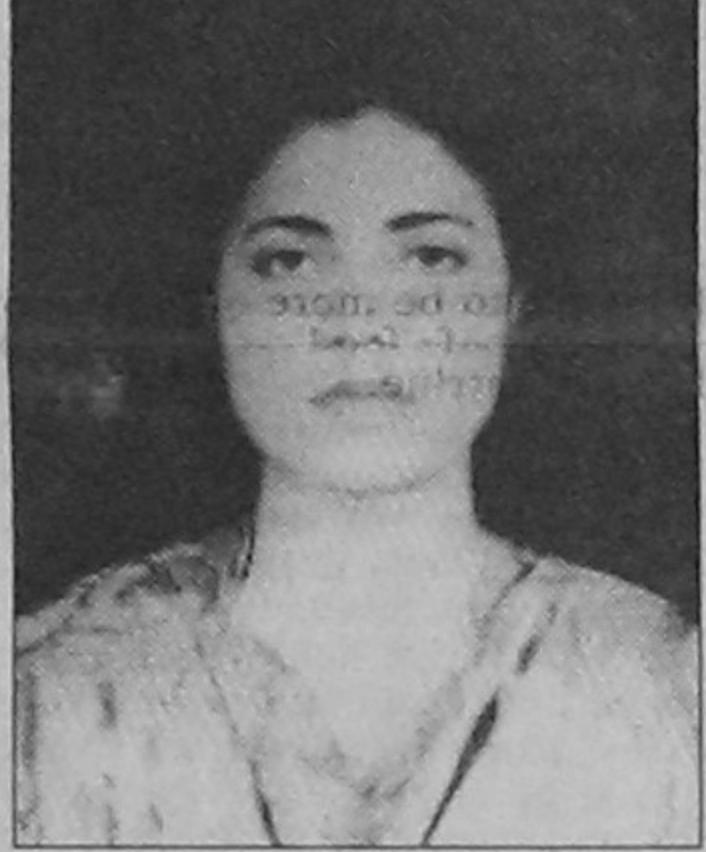
Carlo Ravizza, President of Rotary International addressing the Presidential Conference 2000: Dhaka of Rotary International, the biggest gathering of the Rotarians which began at a city hotel yesterday. (From left) Chief Justice Latifur Rahman, who attended the function as the chief guest while noted economist and Managing Director of Grameen Bank Dr Muhammad Yunus, keynote speaker also seen on the dais. — Star photo



M Tariqul Islam, Senior Scientific officer of Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture (BINA), obtained PhD degree from the University of Agricultural Science, Vienna, under a scholarship programme of Austrian government, says a press release.

The subject of his thesis paper was "Plant-water relation studies in diverse rice cultivation under Bangladesh climatic condition."

He completed his MSC (AG) in Crop Botany 1988 from Bangladesh Agricultural University.



Lukna Yeasmeen of Dhaka University secured first class first in General History Department under B group in MA examination held in 1999, says a press release.

She also stood first in her Honours course. Lukna is eager to go for higher studies on general history.

She is the daughter of Mostafizur Rahman of Bridge Road, Gaibandha.

Hasina: Popular govt

From Page 1

it is quite the other way ... we can claim that our government has proved to be the most competent and popular government after '75."

Presided over by New England Awami League president Matiur Rahman, the reception function was also addressed by state minister for foreign affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, US AL general secretary Abus Salam and former Chhatra League president Enamul Haq Shamil.

Hasina said the problem is with the two main opposition parties — BNP and JP — who were created by military dictators.

These parties feel comfortable in power. They feel suffocated when out of power," she said. That they were toppled by the people through mass movements.

Referring to her offer for dialogue, she said the opposition declined to sit and settle the problems through discussion despite her repeated initiatives.

Hasina said the country would reap another bumper IRR-BORO harvest this year after bumper production for three consecutive years. At present the food reserve is 17 to 18 lakh metric tons.

About government's social-sector development schemes, she said 40 per cent of ADP had been allocated in the social sector to improve economic

tus of the poor people and women in rural areas. She mentioned schemes for housing, employment and empowerment of women.

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