



PHOTO STAR
The National Heart Foundation of Bangladesh took out a procession in the city yesterday to mark the World Heart Day.

Bill to control smoking in next JS session

BSS, Dhaka

The government is going to enact a new law to control smoking habit in the country aimed at reducing some health risks along with raising healthcare services of people.

"A bill will be tabled in the next session of Jatiya Sangsad for making a law to control smoking as it is the source of some deadly diseases particularly cancer and heart ailments," Health Minister Khandker Mosharrar Hossain told a seminar at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Bangladesh Heart Foundation organised the seminar on "Prevention and Control of Heart Disease" in observance of World Heart Day 2002. The theme of the day is 'A heart for life.'

Presided over by chairman of Heart Foundation Justice ATM Masud, the seminar was also addressed by State Minister for Health Amanullah Aman, former advisor of the caretaker government Brigadier Prof MA Malik, Health Secretary M Fazlur Rahman, WHO Country Representative Dr Suniri Acharya, Prof Sirajul Haq of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) and Prof Nazrul Islam of NICVD.

Health Minister said healthcare service is the constitutional right of people and the private organisations have also responsibilities along with the government initiatives to ensure it.

"The government has taken massive programmes in health

sector including filling up the vacant posts in different hospitals and health centres," Mosharrar said.

He urged all to wage a massive campaign to create health consciousness, necessity of physical exercises and against smoking to keep heart sound.

Laying emphasis on private initiatives on treating heart diseases, Aman said the government facilities are not enough to deal with the situation as the disease is increasing alarmingly across the world including Bangladesh.

Brigadier Malik said if effective preventive and control measures are not taken in time, the disease will assume an epidemic form within next few years.

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Bappi Murder Case Mother cross-examined

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two more prosecution witnesses in the Bappi Abduction and Murder Case, were cross-examined in the Third Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday.

After the cross-examination for about two hours by the defence lawyers, the court adjourned the hearing till 10.30 am today.

Roksana Akhter, the 5th prosecution witness in the case and mother of the victim, identified the planner of abduction and murder in the dock, while being cross-examined by the defence lawyers.

The witness identified Shahidul Alam Shipon, and son of her sister and shouted at him "it is the culprit" who abducted my only

son Bappi and, she became senseless.

Later, the defence lawyers completed their cross-examination for yesterday.

Another prosecution witness, Emdadul Haq, a young man of the locality, was also cross-examined yesterday.

Accused Shipon, Ripon, Sanjit and Sankar, now in jail custody, were produced in the court. The other accused Sharif has been absconding since the incident.

Rubayet Ahmed Bappi, 8, a student of class III of Armanitola Government High School in the city, was abducted by his maternal cousin Shipon from their Becharam Dewri residence in the old city on August 5. He allegedly strangled Bappi and dumped his body in the Sitalakhya River.

Four BITs to be made universities this yr

UNB, Rajshahi

The country's four Bangladesh Institutes of Technology, including the BIT of Rajshahi, will be turned into full-fledged universities of engineering and technology this year.

"The prime minister is expected to formally announce the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Rajshahi, as a university in December this year," Education Minister M Osman Faruk said this while he was addressing a meeting at the auditorium of BIT here on Saturday.

Chaired by BIT Director Dr Keramat Ali Molla, the meeting was also addressed by Teachers-Employees Unity Council President Prof Yakub Hossain and Teachers Association President Dr Sirajul Karim Chowdhury. BIT's veteran professor AM Rezaul Karim Talukder gave an address of welcome.

The education minister said the BNP-led coalition government has decided to convert the country's four BITs into the universities aiming at building the future generation as worthy citizens of the 21st century.

A bill in this regard would be passed in the parliament soon after the cabinet approved the

decision, he said. All necessary steps like construction of dormitory and Shaheed Minar and introduction of new departments would be taken in the light of other universities, he added.

The government has been working to build violence and politics-free educational institution, he said.

He also sought cooperation of all, irrespective of party affiliation, to build up a corruption-free educational system, said a press release.

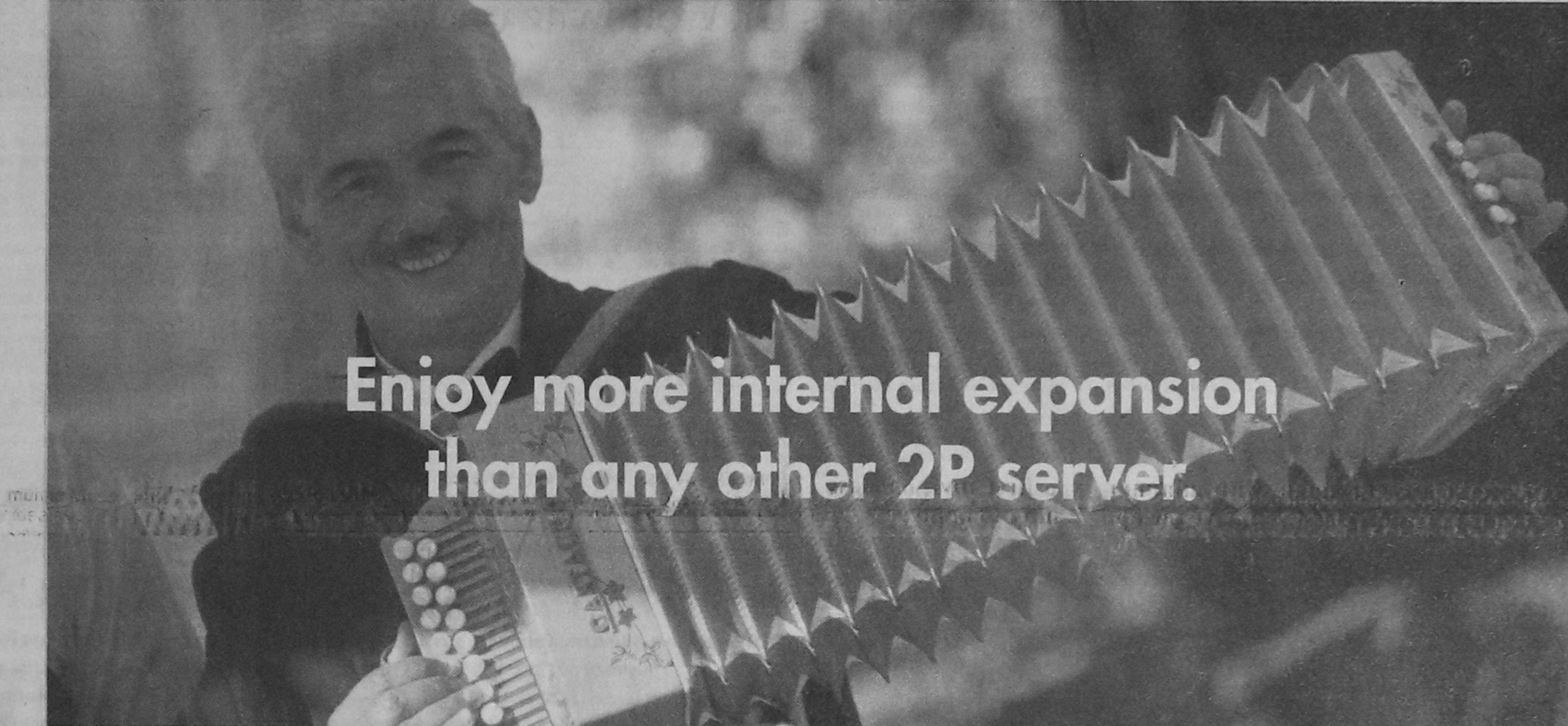
Meet on climate change in Delhi begins today

BSS, Dhaka

Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj left Dhaka yesterday for New Delhi to attend a ministerial meeting on climate change.

The two-day meeting begins in the Indian capital today.

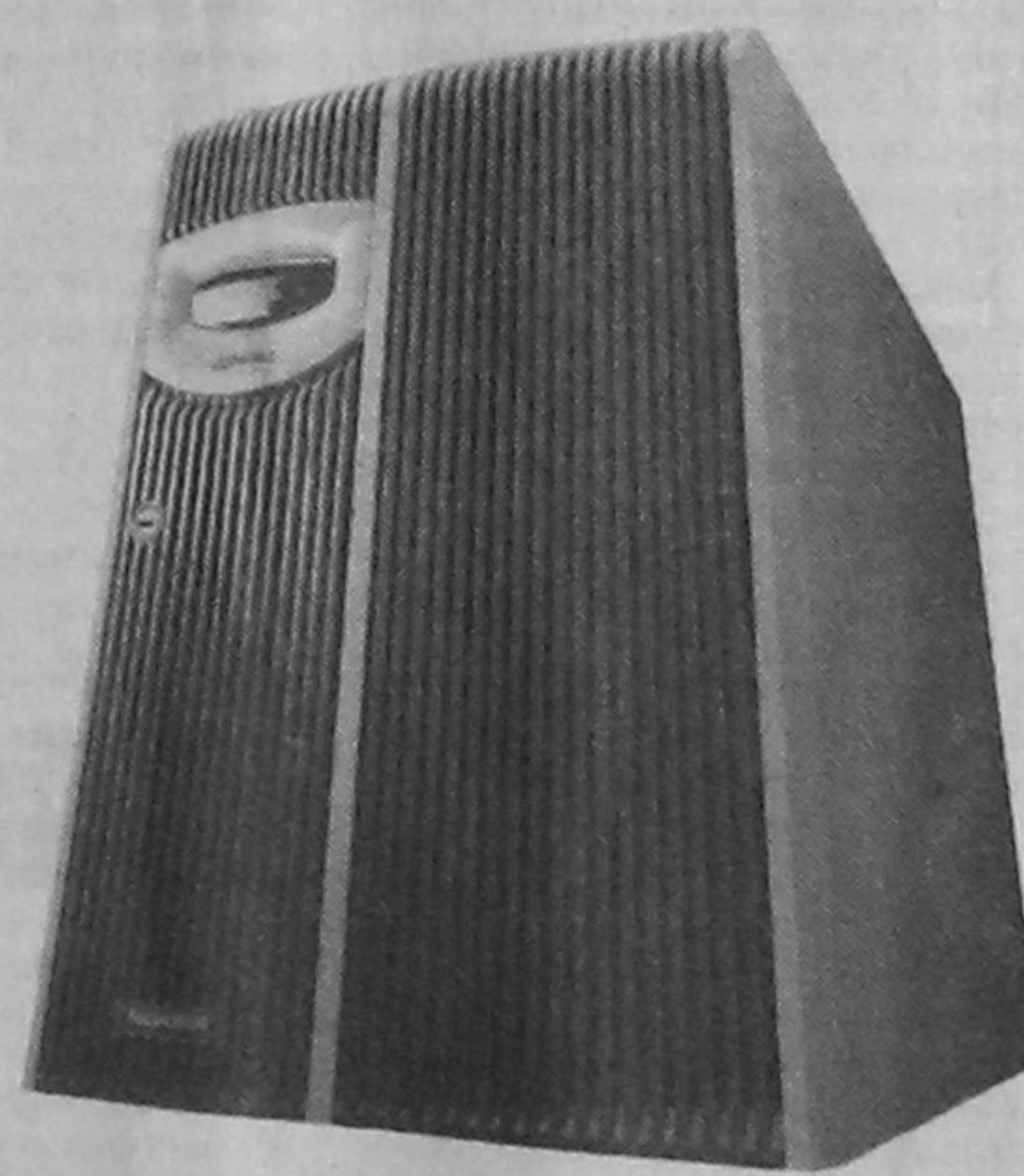
The meeting is being held as part of the preparation of 8th conference of member countries of convention on climate change to be held in New Delhi in October, an official handout said.



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