

What's on today....

Quality convention: Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management has organised a two-day Third Annual Quality Convention that will conclude. Venue: LGED auditorium, Agargaon. Time: 4 pm.

DRU installation ceremony: The installation ceremony of the newly elected executive committee members of Dhaka Reporters' Unity will be held. Venue: National Press Club auditorium. Time: 11 am.

'Ananda Dibash': Shoishab Bangladesh has organised a day-long programmes for child workers, titled 'Ananda Dibash'. The programmes include annual sports, an entertainment programme and a reception for community members involved in Shoishab's education programme for these children. Venue: Iqbal Road ground, Mohammadpur. Time: 10 am.

Annual conference: The 10th annual conference and general meeting of Bangladesh Cancer Society will be held. Venue: BARC auditorium, Farmgate. Time: 10:30 am.

Musical soiree: A musical soiree titled 'Srejon Chondoy' will be presented by Shimul Yusuf. Venue: Cafe Theatre of Muktiuddha Jadughar, 5 Segun Bagicha. Time: 6:30 pm.

National conference: The 7th national conference of the Bangladesh Krishok Samity will be held. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar. Time: 11 am.

Film show: Chalachitram Film Society will screen 3 films — 'Nawab Straj-ud-Dowla', 'Jibon Theke Neya' and 'Sujon Sokh' to commemorate the first death anniversary of filmmaker Khan Ataur Rahman. Venue: Central Public Library auditorium. Time: 11 am, 3 pm and 6 pm respectively.

Publication ceremony: The publication ceremony of the 'Biniyog', 'Babasthapani', 'Utpadan O Bipnon: Basra Shilpa Prekshit' by Abul Kashem Haider will be held. Venue: VIP Lounge, National Press Club. Time: 5:40 pm.

Rotary Club meet: The weekly meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club Family Lounge. Time: 1:30 pm.

Weather

Fall in night temp likely

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Slight fall in night temperature is expected across the country during the period, according to Met Office.

Country's highest temperature 29.8 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 13.5 degrees Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets today at 5:13 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:32 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	28.0	15.8	74	78
Chittagong	29.0	17.8	86	72
Khulna	27.2	17.5	94	76
Rajshahi	26.4	16.2	86	85
Barisal	27.5	16.4	82	82
Sylhet	28.0	16.6	78	67
Cox's Bazar	29.8	17.7	71	60



'People have foiled conspiracy of BNP, anti-liberation forces'

PABNA, Dec 11: State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed today said the people have foiled the conspiracy of BNP and anti-liberation forces by holding a fair and free election in Pabna-2 constituency, reports UNB.

He was addressing a rally while inaugurating the 14-kilometre Chinakhora-Santhis road adjacent to Pabna-Nagarbari highway this morning.

The Minister said calling a pre-planned and issue-less hartal ahead of Intellectual Martyrs Day and Victory Day is possible only by the anti-liberation forces.

Prof Sayeed said the voters of the constituency have rejected the anti-people activities of the opposition and the provocative statements of BNP chairperson.

6th North America Nazrul Convention May 29-30

Bangladesh Institute of Performing Arts, a New York-based non-profit, socio-cultural organisation will hold the 6th North America Nazrul Convention in New York on May 29 and 30.

The Institute popularly known as BIPA will also celebrate the birth centenary of poet Kazi Nazrul Islam at the same time.

BIPA has taken various programmes to celebrate the birth centenary of Nazrul. The programmes include seminars, cultural evenings, children's competitions, translations of poet's writings to introduce and familiarise all aspects of his writings.

There would be four different seminars in two days covering the writings, songs, compositions, poems, his life and philosophy. Nazrul lovers, writers and researchers on his works and life would enrich the seminars.

Two evenings would be full of colorful cultural performances by the prominent Nazrul artists from North American countries, UK, India and Bangladesh. A rich display of photographs, movies, documentaries, books, souvenirs and paintings would depict the works and life of Nazrul.

The Institute would also organise a competition for the children of North America on Nazrul songs, poems, recitations, and writings in different age groups and also bring out a colorful souvenir full of thoughtful, research-oriented writings and rare photograph of Nazrul.

Clash leaves two dead in Natore

RAJSHAH, Dec 11: Two young men were killed and 10 others injured in a clash between two rival groups as a sequel to past enmity over land dispute at village Batmohal in Singra thana of Natore district on Thursday, reports UNB.

Qulkhwan of Begum Mustafa Ali today

By Staff Correspondent
Qulkhwan of Begum Syed Mustafa Ali will be held at the Priyanka Community Centre, 6/A, Dhanmondi at 11 am today.

A *doa mahfil* and *milad* have been arranged at the occasion. A *munajat* will also be offered before *Zohr* prayers.

Yesterday, the mortal remains of Ms Ali arrived at the Zia International Airport from Paris by a Bangladesh Biman flight at around 9:55 am. The body was taken to her Mohammadpur residence at around 11:50 am where a stream of people thronged to pay their last respect.

The first *namaj-e-Janaza* was held at Baitul Fazal Mosque in Mohammadpur after *Jumma* prayers and the second at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque after *Asr* prayers.

She was laid to rest at the Banani Graveyard at around 5 pm. Begum Ali had been suffering from Bronchial infection and was flown to Paris on December 4 for treatment. She died on Sunday.

She was the mother of late S M Ali, Founder-Editor of The Daily Star and recipient of Swadhinata Padak, 1995. Begum Ali is survived by Shaukat Ali, Prof Fouzia Ally, Principal, Chittagong Women's College, Syed Moazzam Ali, Ambassador to France, Syed Iqbal Ali, Syed Ruhul Amin, Daisy Chowdhury and Najat Chowdhury.

Obituary

District Food Controller of Tangal Abdur Rouf Majumdar died of cardiac arrest in the city on Thursday night, reports UNB.

Majumdar was attending the wedding ceremony of his only daughter at the Eskaton Ladies Club.

The deceased left behind his wife, son, daughter, a host of relatives and admirer to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard in Choddagram of Comilla district.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at the Golden Jubilee celebrations of Begum Badrunessa Government Women's College yesterday.

Citizens' Committee demands referendum on hartal

The Citizens' Committee for Building Pro-development and Hartal-Free Bangladesh at a meeting yesterday demanded a 'referendum on hartal', and called for bringing necessary bills at the Jatiya Sangsad on the basis of the projected opinion of the people, reports BSS.

The meeting, held at the TSC cafeteria of Dhaka University with its convenor Prof Shahadat Ali in the chair, decided to forge unity of the greater section of society including the professionals, trade and business organisations and civil society to mould public opinion against the 'hartal culture' which has caused untold sufferings to the common man.

Among others, Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) Vice President Prof Harun-Ar-Rashid, ADAB Director Shamsul Huda, Minar Mansur of ADAB, executive secretary of Parliamentary Democracy Paishad Dr Harun-Ar-Rashid, General Secretary of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, president of Uttara Bank Employees' Union Serajul Islam Mollah, president of Bangladesh Chhinnamul Samity Khokan Majumder, Dhaka City Van Drivers' Union general secretary Mohammed Mansur Ali and Dhaka Darjee Sramik Union general secretary Mohammad Nurul Islam took part in the discussion.

A number of representatives from different socio-cultural and trade organisations also attended the meeting.

The speakers said that with the establishment of the democratic rights there is no need in the country to call any hartal.

IPAC team tells PM Hartal major obstacle to investment

A high profile delegation of international investors based in Brussels Thursday praised investment potentialities in Bangladesh, but identified frequent hartal as a major stumbling-block, reports UNB.

The observations were made when a 25-member team, led by Dr M H Battaille, President of International Public Affairs Centre, called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the morning.

The IPAC delegation, who came here on December 8 and had discussion with several ministers, said frequent shutdowns and political agitation have not only been damaging the prospect of development and investment, but also tarnishing the image of Bangladesh.

They, however, assured the Prime Minister that the IPAC would make up its plan and decide in which sectors it could make investment in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister told the delegation that Bangladesh is an ideal and prospective place for investment since her government has offered investment package incentives.

'We have got benefits out of it and we are expecting more foreign investments in the coming years,' she said.

Hasina said the investment prospect is bright in the areas like hotel, tourism and agro-based industries.

She said the scope of investment has opened up with the commissioning of the Bangabandhu Bridge and urged the IPAC delegation to come up to invest in these sectors.

The Prime Minister assured that the government would protect the interests of investors and enhance more facilities for them.

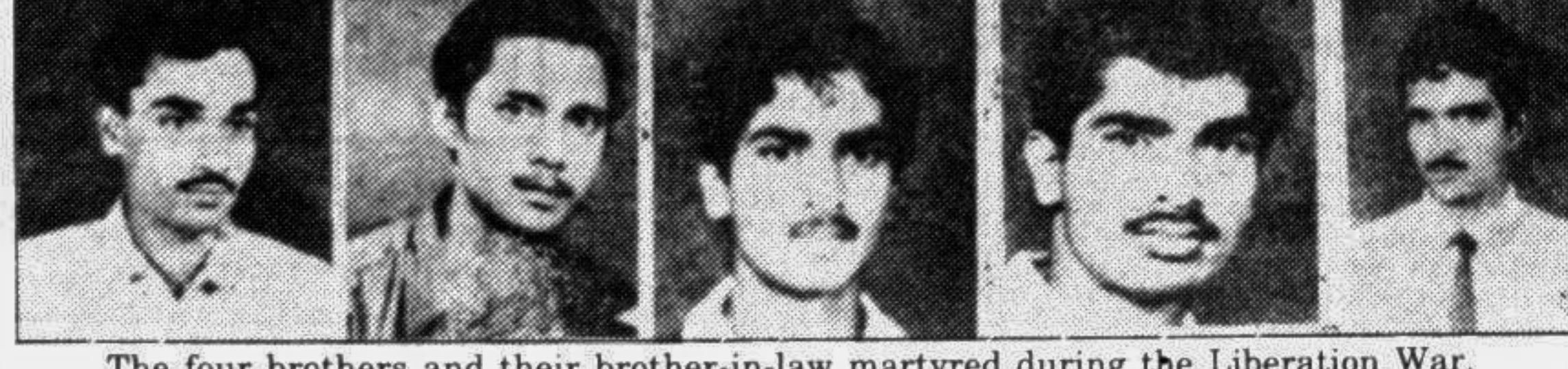
She said necessary steps have been taken to improve the infrastructure facilities, ease traffic congestion, improve living condition and enhance civic amenities.

BOI Chairman Farooq Sobhan was present in the meeting.

The IPAC delegation members included Fred Zorbas, Vice-President, ABS Integrated Services of Singapore, Michael Basile, President Coca Cola, Bangkok, Patrice Couveignes, Senior Vice-President, Credit Agricole Indosuez of Singapore, representatives of American Management Association, New York, Basic American Industries Indianapolis USA, Genfood, Silverton, South Africa, Great Lakes Chemical Corp West Lafayette, USA, Richard Hall, Senior Vice-President Power International, India, Joseph Chew, Senior Vice-President Singapore, Airlines, Yoshimi Takada of Toyota Tsusho Corporation, Japan, David Humphres of HSBC, London, Subi Saha of Indian Oil Corporation, Koninklijke Bolswezenen of Netherlands, Takazumi Kanai, Mitsui Marine and Fire Ins of Japan, Richard Roering, Vice-President Unocal USA and J Kitamura, General Manager, South Asia of Japan, Mitsui Marine and Nicholas JS Mille Managing Director, Southwest Asia, Nestle of Switzerland.



Movement for the Trial of the War Criminals of '71 brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of all war criminals.



The four brothers and their brother-in-law martyred during the Liberation War.

Death anniversary of 4 martyred brothers today

By Staff Correspondent
The 27th death anniversary of freedom fighters Mokarram Hossain, Mansur Hossain, Moshtaq Hossain, Mosharaf Hossain, four brothers, and their brother-in-law Yusuf Ali will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, a *Qurankhwan* and *milad mahfil* have been arranged at the residence of their elder brother Capt (ret'd) Mozammel Hossain at 74/F New Airport Road, Mahakhali.

Mokarram, Mansur and Yusuf were killed in the Dhaka Cantonment where they were dragged from their Madhubag residence by the Pak Army on December 11.

And Moshtaq and Mosharaf were killed in a combat with the Pak army near Ruppang on December 12 in 1971.

Quality convention begins

Speakers at a regional quality convention yesterday stressed the need for promotion of Total Quality Management (TQM) in enterprises to face the challenges of globalisation and market economy in the next millennium, reports BSS.

'We the evolution of market economy concept, the idea of globalisation is spreading fast. Now there is no alternative but to follow the very concept of TQM to promote quality culture to help this region become future leaders in the emerging movement of globalisation,' the speakers told a two-day Third Annual Quality Convention held at the LGED auditorium.

They said such convention would help develop human resources, facilitate technology transfer, improve quality of goods as well as create better understanding among the countries of the region.

Bangladesh Society for Total Quality Management (BSTQM) organised the convention in joint collaboration with the Department of Industrial and

Opposition urged to withdraw Sunday's hartal

Education Minister A S H K Siddique yesterday urged the Opposition to withdraw tomorrow's hartal in the interest of the students who are taking preparations for different examinations, reports BSS.

In a statement, the Education Minister condemned the Opposition for being unkind to the 70 thousand BA and Honours examinees. He said the Junior Scholarship examinations across the country was also scheduled on that day.

The Education Minister said the annual examinations in different institutions have not completed yet and the relatives of the leaders and activists of the Opposition would also be affected by this programme.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association (BFTA) and Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity also urged the opposition to withdraw Sunday's hartal call.

Bangladesh Shikkhak Samity said the Opposition should consider the fact that hundreds of students across the country are participating in the annual examinations.

BFTA said the Opposition should withdraw their hartal programme in view of BA examinations and Junior Scholarship examinations across the country.

DUJ condemns B'baria incident

An Executive Committee meeting of Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday expressed its deep concern and condemnation over the December 7 Brahmanbaria incident in which the proposed Victory Day celebration was marred by anti-liberation forces and 'fatwabaj', reports BSS.

The meeting also slated the remark of the Deputy Commissioner of Brahmanbaria who alleged that the journalists have fabricated the happenings and made a 'media coup'. The meeting demanded unconditional apology from the deputy commissioner for such audacious comments.

The meeting observed with deep regret that the deputy commissioner had failed to protect the life and property of the citizens and to uphold the ideals and spirit of the Liberation War. He instead tried to take side with the offenders, it said.

The meeting said that this attitude of the administration would further encourage the 'fatwabaj' and fundamentalists, who had shown the audacity to strike the very core of our independence.

Held at the National Press Club, the meeting was presided over by DUJ acting president Suva Rahman and addressed by union leaders Shafiqur Rahman, Kartik Chatterjee, Altaf Mahmud, Azizul Islam Bhuiyan, and Rokeya Kamal.

Seven arrested, arms recovered

NARAYANGANJ, Dec 11: Police arrested seven youths and seized a number of firearms in separate incidents in the district on Thursday and Friday, reports UNB.

Four youths along with arms were arrested from Aliganj in Fatullah thana on Thursday night.

The youths identified as Masum, 19, Jasimuddin, 30, Mizanur, 30 and Zahurul Islam Buly, 26 — were arrested by the police from a baby-taxi near Aliganj Fishery suspecting their movement at 12.30 am. A pipe-gun was seized from their possession.

In another incident, police recovered five firearms kept in a briefcase from a passenger bus on Dhaka-Chittagong highway on Friday noon.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the Dhaka-bound bus of S Alam Paribahan at Meghna ghat in Sonargaon thana and found a foreign-made sawn-off rifle, four local guns and four rounds of bullet in it.

Meanwhile, three wanted accused — Swaysan, 30, Mizanur, 30 and Zahurul Islam Buly, 26 — were nabbed from Mashtardh Ghat area of the district on Thursday night.

They were wanted in connection with several cases.

Workshop on labour based development programme held

A day-long workshop on labour based development programme in Bangladesh and Zimbabwe was held at the LGED auditorium in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Organised by LGED the workshop was chaired by Rubaiyat Nurul Hasan, Additional Chief Engineer of LGED. He also presented the keynote paper.

H R Akanda, Management Consultant ISP, LGED apprised the Zimbabwe engineering delegates about LGED's diversified activities, particularly relating to its labour based programme.

The paper focussed that the major activities of LGED's rural development projects are being implemented through contractor, project implementation committee, labour contracting societies (LCS), contracting group and maintenance crews.



ASPIRING ARTISTS: Children taking part in a drawing competition organised by Shishu Academy yesterday as part of the Victory Day celebrations.

'Skilled, neutral admn a must for welfare of people'

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday laid stress on a skilled and neutral administration to ensure overall welfare of the people, reports UNB.

'A strong bridge between the political government and civil servants is needed for fulfilling the hopes and aspirations of the people,' Tofail said while addressing the annual conference of 15th BCS Forum at NEC auditorium in the city on Friday morning.

He said Bangladesh earned independence under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for establishing a society free from hunger, poverty and exploitation.

But even after more than a quarter century of the independence, the goal has not yet been achieved, he said.

The minister said the civil servants are the key to implement the government's policies and programmes. He said political governments may change, but it is imperative for the government officials to acquire expertise and skill to draw plan and implement the plans and programmes for the welfare of the people.

Referring to recent flooding, the minister said the government has successfully faced the aftermath of the devastating floods with the help of the officials.

Expressing optimism about the country's future, Tofail said Bangladesh would definitely emerge as a self-reliant nation in near future if we could tap the vast natural resources and keep up the inflow of foreign investment.

Turning to the anomalies and salary structure of various BCS cadres, the minister said the government is considering the matters seriously and hoping to solve these very soon.

He urged the junior civil servants to dedicate themselves for the welfare of the society and be prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century.

State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, BCS officer of the 15th batch Maskawath Hasan and A K M Sake also spoke on the occasion.

More investment in telecom sector urged

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday emphasised on more investment in the telecommunications sector in Bangladesh, saying that it has link with all other sectors relating to overall development of the country, reports UNB.

It is one of the major profitable sectors for any investor where customers and entrepreneurs could benefit at the same time, he said addressing the inaugural session of a national workshop on draft Bangladesh Telecommunications Act at a local hotel.

Kibria said the telecommunications sector is the 'most lucrative sector in Bangladesh and its demand is increasing everyday.'

Mentioning the telecom policy in the developed world, he preferred a regulatory role of the government specially like USA. 'The government should strongly guide the sector... nothing more than that,' he said.

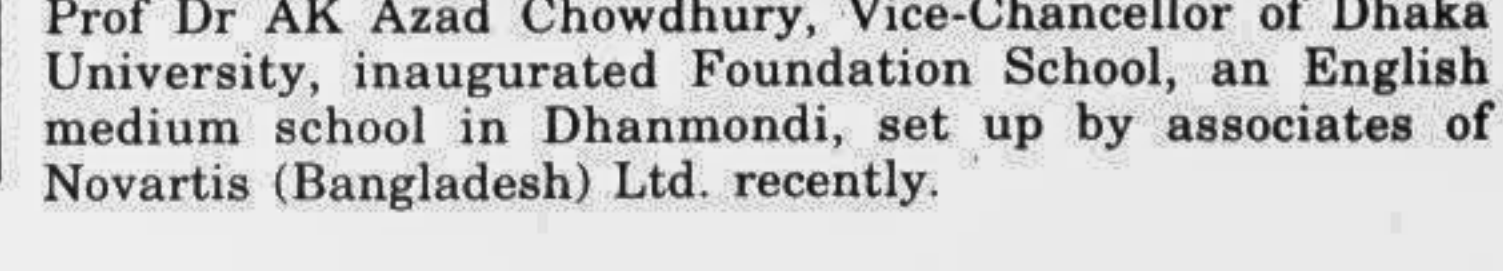
The Finance Minister urged the entrepreneurs to come forward to invest in the telecommunications sector.

One killed in car crash

FARIDPUR, Dec 11: A private car driver was killed and two passengers injured when their car dashed a roadside tree at Jadurda in Faridpur-Barisal highway in Nagarkanda thana on Thursday, reports UNB.

Police said the accident took place at about 8:30 am as the driver lost control over his steering.

The car driver Abdul Alim, 30, died on the spot. The injured — Md Selim Reza, 40, a contractor, and Yusuf Ali, 42, — were rushed to Dhaka for treatment.



Prof Dr AK Azad Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, inaugurated Foundation School, an English medium school in Dhanmondi, set up by associates of Novartis (Bangladesh) Ltd, recently.