

● What's on today ●

Closing ceremony: The closing and prize distribution ceremony of the 40th annual sports of Dhaka Residential Model College will be held. Venue: College premises. Time: 2.30 pm.

Condolence meeting: Bangabandhu Parishad will hold a condolence meeting on Begum Sufia Kamal. Venue: Teachers Students Centre (TSC) auditorium, Dhaka University campus. Time: 3.00 pm.

BILIA memorial meeting: Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs (BILIA) will hold a memorial meeting in observance of the 36th death anniversary of Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy. Chief guest: Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Minister. Venue: BILIA seminar room, House No 22, Rd No 7, Dhannondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Regional seminar: A 3-day long regional seminar on "Conflict of Management of International River Basins" will be inaugurated. Organiser: Department of Water Resources Engineering, BUET. Chief guest: Abdur Razzak, Minister for Water Resources. Venue: BUET. Time: 8.30 am.

Launching programme: The launching ceremony of Godrej Hair Dye will be held. Organiser: Baraka Ltd. Venue: Pand Garden, Mohakhali. Time: 1.30 pm.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of Kaniz Suborna's first audio cassette will be held. Organiser: Amra Kuri. Chief guest: A S M Abdur Rob, Minister for Fisheries and Livestock. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 4.30 pm.

Weather

Dry weather to continue

Dry weather will prevail over the country during next 12 hours till 6pm today, reports BSS.

Met Office said night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 31.0 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 13.2 degrees at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5.10 pm and rises tomorrow at 6.28 am.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Humidity in Percentage
Dhaka	29.4	15.6	64	77	
Chittagong	29.0	16.8	77	63	
Rajshahi	28.6	15.6	72	66	
Khulna	29.6	15.6	76	81	
Barisal	29.4	14.8	80	81	
Sylhet	29.1	16.4	86	67	
Cox's Bazar	31.0	16.8	68	74	

HERE and THERE

Bangladesh Short

Film Forum

By Staff Correspondent

Aminul Islam and Junaid Ahmed Halim have been elected president and general secretary respectively of the Bangladesh Short Film Forum, the only independent filmmakers and activists in the country.

Other officials elected in the 19-member executive committee of the Forum are: Tareq Shahriar and Pulak Gupta, vice-presidents, N Rashed Choudhury, executive secretary, Dewan Shamsur Raqib, finance secretary, Nurul Alam, publications secretary, Samir Ahmed, training and programme secretary, Shahidul Karim Manik, publicity secretary and Rezibun-Nabi, office secretary.

Members of the executive committee are: A K M Zakaria, Mostafa Zaman Raihan, Ratan Kumar Paul, Aka Reza Galib, Kawsar Ahmed Khan, Syed Imran Hossain Khan, Abdus Sattar Ripon, Zahirul Islam Kachi and Joyanta Howlader.

The election was held at the Community Development Library in the city on Friday.

Dhaka Club

The annual general meeting and election of Dhaka Club Limited was held on Saturday at the club premises, says a press release.

Rezaur Rahman, Managing Director, Bengal Airlift Ltd, was re-elected unopposed as president of the Dhaka Club Limited for the year 1999-2000.

A 10-member executive committee was also elected. The members are: Md. Zafar Osman, Firoz N Khan, Md. Ayub Ali, Syed Shahed Reza, A S M Faruque, Mahmud Koli, Lutfe Najib Khan (Rumy), Major Quamrul Abedin (Retd), Kazi Faruq Kader (Babu) and Niaz Mahmood Khan (Babu).

Mahila Parishad

The Mirpur branch of the Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the city elected a 21-member new executive committee at the end of its 4th annual conference on Saturday, reports BSS.

Nurul Wara Begum and Kawsar Parveen were elected president and general secretary respectively of the committee, says a press release.

The conference, held at Mirpur Section 12, was presided over by Nurul Wara Begum. A number of central and city leaders including Shamse Ara and Saraban Tahiru, Rekha Das Purakalista and Suria Chaklader were present.

LAND

Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, Chairperson and President, ADAB on Friday called for united efforts of all to establish the rights of the landless poor and involve them to the country's development activities, says a press release.

The development of the country can not be achieved leaving aside the largest part of the population, who becomes capable to take part in the country's development activities, he said while speaking as the chief guest at the closing session of the conference of LAND member NGOs at Bwanomali Institute Auditorium in Fariba.

LAND (Land Network for Development) working with the landless poor organised a day long "Staff Conference '99 of Member Organisations" where more than fifteen hundred officials from 44 NGOs took part to build up strong unity and solidarity among them and share working strategy, methodology and experience. Another objective of the conference was to present Samata's (leading NGO of the network) concept on land right movement, democratisation and gender issues.

Presided over by President of LAND and Executive Director of Samata Abdul Kader, the closing session of the conference was also addressed by Md. Shamsul Huda, Director, ADAB, Md. Afzal Hossain, ADAB, Rajshahi Chapter Chairman, Md. Barkat Ali Bakul, Director, Dulai Janakiraman Sangstha and Nasiruddin Moinul, Director, Shromojibi.

The workshop, attended by a group of development workers, garment workers, leaders, lawyers and owners of the respective sector, was moderated by Fahima Nasreen, Project Director of the CWRW.

Prof Ishrat Shamim of Sociology Department of the Dhaka University, Dr Mohammed Akhteruzzaman, head of the Department of Forensic Medicine of the Faridpur Medical College Hospital, Roy Romesh Chandra, general secretary of the Bangladesh Truck Drivers' Union spoke on socio-economic aspects of garments sector and problems faced by its workers.

The workshop in its recommendation called upon the government to ensure social security to the garment workers by fulfilling their just demands and basic needs including human rights for economic emancipation of the country.



British High Commissioner, David C. Walker, speaking at the inauguration ceremony of the UK Trade Fair that opened at Hotel Sheraton yesterday. — Star photo

The turbulent days of '71 Rasulpur Killing Field: A silent witness to Pak atrocities

RASULPUR, Comilla: Dec 5: Rasulpur, a quiet and sleepy village adjacent to the railway track only 8 kilometres north of Comilla town, stands witness to the orgy of killings and arson committed by the Savage Pakistani soldiers during the turbulent days of the Liberation War in 1971, reports BSS.

An estimated 200 Bangalees were gunned down by the Pak soldiers and dumped in only knee deep holes at Rasulpur Killing Field. The people of Rasulpur village had no option but to silently witness the atrocities and hideous crimes perpetrated by the Pak soldiers. Tohey Ali, octogenarian Sirajul Islam and Motizul Islam of the same village, and many others today still shudder with the same shock and disbelief as they remember those dreadful days.

Motizul Islam, a day labourer, is overwhelmed with grief and sorrow when he recalls the days of his ordeal. He escaped from the jaws of death miraculously. Razakars of the area had caught him and taken him to a nearby place where the army had set up camp. A large number of captives at the camp were kept locked in a house at night. During the day, they were employed to carry boxes of Pak soldiers supervised.

Among the captives were about two dozen Hindus. Motizul knew that these ill-fated persons would be gunned down soon.

One of the victims was Samir. He was a Hindu. Motizul knew him personally. He fell on the feet of some of the soldiers and claimed to be a Muslim to save his life. He even uttered the Kalima to convince the soldiers. Repeated pleadings softened the heart of a Pathan soldier at the killing field. He took pity on Samir and separated him from the line of people who were to be shot. But a razakar present there came forward. He pulled down Samir's lungi to prove that this was no Muslim boy. A shower of correct documentation of our Liberation War.

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