

Solution to power, energy crisis within two years

Says prime minister's adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will be able to solve the power and energy crisis by increasing the production and the reserve within two years, Power and Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr Taufiq-e-Elahi Chowdhury said yesterday.

The government have the vision and plans to solve the crisis, but it will take time, as increasing the production is not possible within an hour, he said after inaugurating the four-day 2nd International CNG Exhibition at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the city.

He suggested using natural gas, electricity and other mineral resources efficiently to ease the crisis, adding that the conversion and refueling station owners should take safety measures to avoid any accident.

The users should also be aware of fake cylinders and take necessary safety measures, he added.

"Before the vehicles were converted into CNG, the air was horrible, but now we can breathe properly," he said.

About 50 local companies and establishments from India, Pakistan, the UK, the USA, Canada, Italy, Brazil, Argentina, Korea, China, Egypt, Netherlands, Austria and Myanmar are displaying their equipment and machineries run by compressed natural gas (CNG) at the exhibition.

At least 1.72 lakh vehicles have been converted into CNG at the country's 130 conversion centres while there are 485 refueling stations, said Zakir Hossain Nayain, secretary of Bangladesh CNG Filling Station and Conversion Owner's Association.

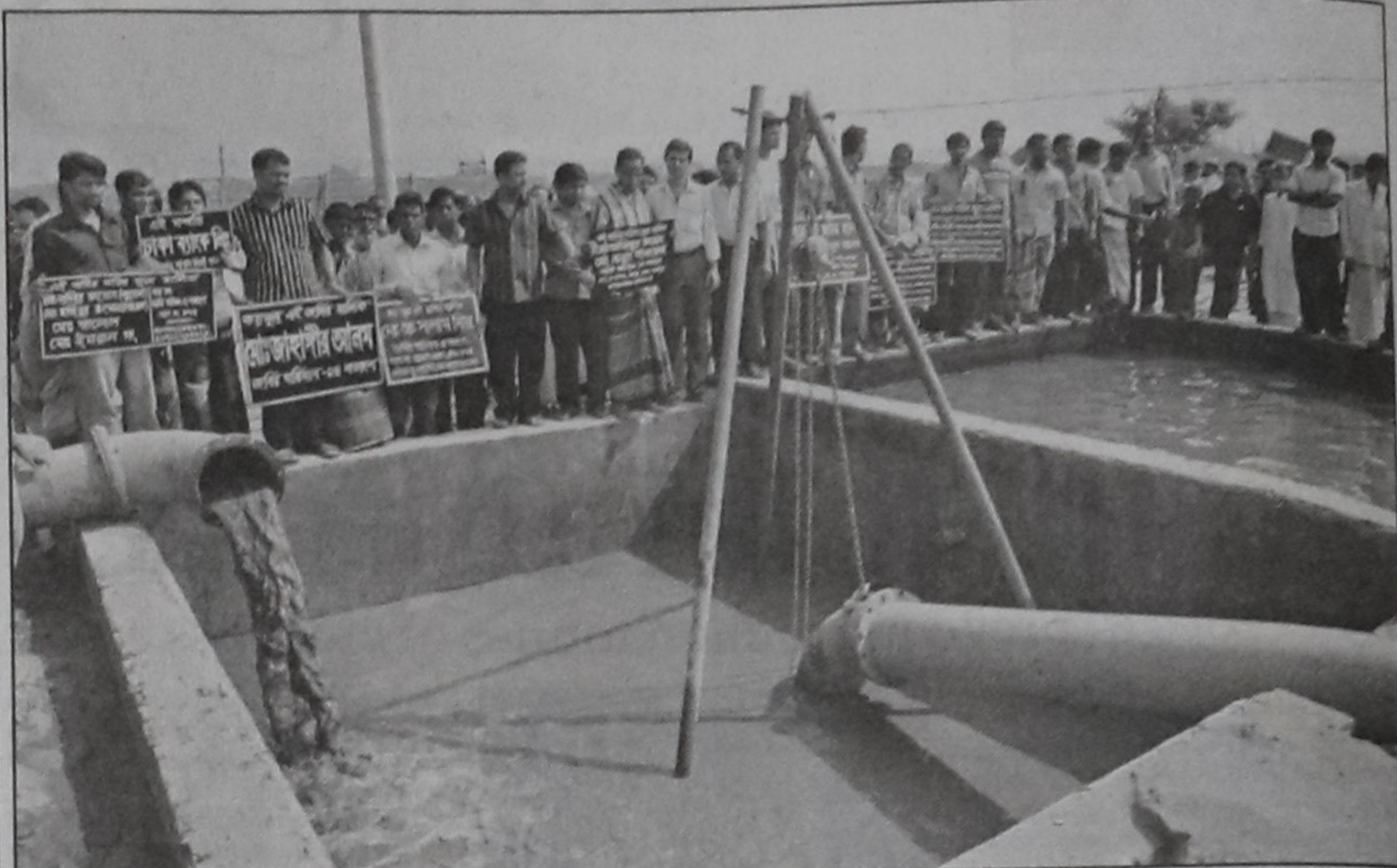
About 10,000 people are employed in

those conversion centres and refueling stations while total investment in the sector amounts to about Tk 2,000 crore, he added.

Petrobangla Chairman Prof Dr Hossain Mansur, Managing Director of Rupantorito Prakritik Gas Company Ltd (RPGCL) Shafiqul Alam, Korean Consular to Bangladesh Riyad Ali and Managing Director of Rahimafrooz CNG Ltd Mudassir M Moyeen also spoke at the inaugural ceremony of the exhibition.

Global Event Management Services Ltd (GEMS) organised the exhibition under the direct supervision of Petrobangla and RPGCL.

The Daily Star and ETV are the media partners of the exhibition that will continue till November 9 from 10:00am to 8:00pm.



Affected landowners form a human chain at Chunkutia in Keraniganj yesterday protesting alleged land grabbing by Bashundhara Group. (Story on page 16)



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia speaks at the closing ceremony of Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition-2009 at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 1)

Full implementation of Cedaw demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citizen's Initiatives on Cedaw, a platform of 38 human rights and development organisations, yesterday demanded full implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw).

The demand came from a press conference at the National Press Club in the city marking the 25th anniversary of Bangladesh's ratification of the Cedaw.

Cedaw is the most important international instrument for protecting women's rights and more than 185 countries of the world are signatories to the convention, which Bangladesh ratified on November 6, 1984.

Women are being discriminated and suppressed in private and family life but they are not getting proper legal support because of the reservations on Article 2 and Article 16.1 of the Cedaw, said speakers at the press conference.

Every year at the meeting of the Cedaw com-

mittee the government says that it is actively considering withdrawal of the reservations, but no initiative had been taken so far, they said.

The speakers demanded the reservations on these articles be withdrawn by December 2009, before the report on Cedaw implementation is submitted to the United Nations.

Otherwise, it will tarnish the image of the government, they added.

Salma Khan, president of Women for Women and former chairperson of Cedaw committee, presided over the press conference while Rokeya Kabir, executive director of Bangladesh Nari Pragati Sangha, Rokeya Rafique Baby, director of Karmojibi Nari, Shirin Banu Mital, director of Prip Trust, Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development, Ayesha Siddika, assistant coordinator of Awaz Foundation, Kohinor Mahmud, project coordinator of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies, Dr Hamida Hossain and Dr Rowshan Jahan also spoke.

Tributes paid to Saifur Rahman

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a condolence meeting yesterday paid rich tributes to former finance minister and veteran political leader M Saifur Rahman.

Saifur was a great patriotic politician and he always criticised bad activities of a government and welcomed its good ones, they said at a function organised by Jalalabad Samity, Dhaka at Institute of Engineers in the city.

Political colleagues and former government officials who worked under Saifur's leadership recalled their experiences with the BNP leader.

The former minister died in a road accident on Dhaka-Sylhet highway in Ashuganj on September 5.

Citing experiences, Siddique Rahman, a former secretary, said people would recall Saifur's contribution to the country's economy for long.

Former commerce secretary Shohel Ahmed Chowdhury said Saifur was a man with a high sense of professionalism.

The speakers said during his lifetime, Saifur had worked for the betterment of the countrymen.

BNP leader Abdullah Al Noman, Awami League leaders Suranjit Sen Gupta, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, AB Mirza Azizul Islam and a few secretaries were present.

Water transport workers threaten strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Bangladesh Noutan Samik Federation, a coalition of the unions of water transport workers, threatened to go on strike from Sunday midnight to press home their 22-point demand.

Abul Hashem, president of Barisal unit of the federation, said: "We announced this programme from a gathering at Muktangan in the city on November 3."

"As we did not get any result yet, we have no alternative but to go on strike."

Their demands include separate pay scale for water transport workers, implementation of the gazette notification about fishing trawler workers and rescheduling their salary structure, checking river pollution and encroachments, controlling risk factors and health hazards of workers, curbing extortion, toll collection, dacoity and piracy on waterways.



Temperature may fall

UNB, Dhaka

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

The sun sets in the city at 6:16pm today and rises at 7:09am tomorrow.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 33.5 degree Celsius was recorded at Sylhet and the lowest of 20.2 degree at Rangpur.

The highest and lowest 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	32.3	23.8	81	67
Chittagong	31.8	24.0	77	70
Rajshahi	31.6	20.6	89	79
Khulna	33.0	23.5	83	76
Barisal	32.8	23.0	80	91
Sylhet	33.5	21.4	62	73
Cox's Bazar	32.8	23.5	55	75

BDR-BSF conference ends today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The four-day regional border conference between the border forces of India and Bangladesh ends in Sylhet city today.

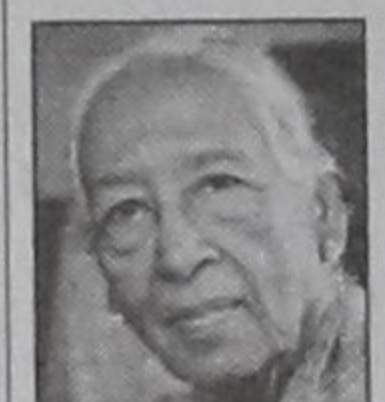
A 13-member team of Bangladesh Rifles and an 18-member team of Indian BSF are taking part in the conference.

The officials attended some meetings in Dhaka on Thursday and yesterday. BDR DDG Brig Gen Md Obaidul Haque led the Bangladesh team while SK Mishra, inspector general, BSF, Tripura, Mizoram and Cachhar frontier, led the Indian side.

Trans-border problems such as trafficking, arms smuggling, barbed-wire fencing and water sharing disputes were discussed in the conference, BDR source said.

Death anniversary of Dr Zohra Kazi, today

DU CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 2nd death anniversary of Prof Dr Zohra Kazi, the first Muslim

woman doctor in the subcontinent, says a press release.

She passed away on this day in 2007 at the age of 95. One of the country's most eminent physicians and teachers, she dedicated her life to helping innumerable individuals, especially her students, mould their lives into careers of academic excellence and professional achievement.

Dr Zohra won the British Viceroy's medal for her outstanding scholastic achievements. She was also honoured with many awards at home and abroad, including Ekushey Padak, Rokeya Padak and Tamgha-e-Pakistan.

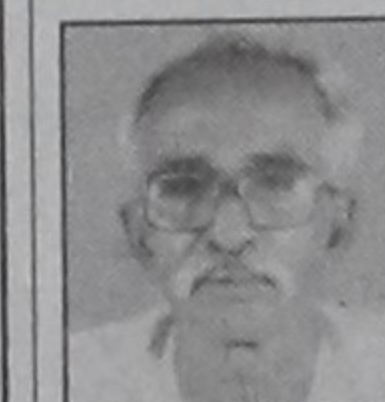
Late Raziuddin Bhuiyan, an MLA, industrialist and Zamindar of Hatirdia, was her husband.

On the occasion, a commemorating meeting will be held at Dr Milon auditorium of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University in the city.

Besides, milad and doa mahfil will be held at Baitul Mokarram Mosque in the city and her village home in Madaripur.

Abdus Sattar Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 13th death anniversary of Comrade Abdus Sattar Khan, an organiser of the liberation war and founder president of Bangladesh Krishak Federation, says a press release.

Bangladesh Krishak Federation, have chalked out several programmes, including rally and discussion.

Ambia Hasan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the 27th death anniversary of Mosamat Ambia Hasan, wife of late Dr KA Hasan, a freedom fighter and former chairman of Bangladesh Tea Board.

DEATH IN POLICE CUSTODY

Health complex, police station besieged

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Agitating people laid a siege to Pirgachha Police Station and upazila health complex in Rangpur for about ten hours and confined an assistant superintendent of police and a magistrate to the health complex following the death of an accused in the police custody on Thursday night.

Nuruzzaman, 50, of West Chandipur in Pirgachha was allegedly beaten to death by the police in their custody after he had been arrested in a mugging case.

The police said, Nuruzzaman was arrested from Pirgachha station around 7:00pm on Thursday. He fell sick inside the grill and died of a cardiac arrest on the way to upazila health complex.

Locals became agitated when they heard the news of the death of Nuruzzaman. They rushed to upazila health

complex and confined the police official and constables who took him to the health complex. They went on a rampage at the health complex and vandalised its gate and furniture.

When a magistrate urged the people to go away, they rebuked him and asked him to arrest the police official. At one stage, locals confined the police officer and the magistrate to a room.

Later, police from the district headquarters rescued them and took them to Pirgachha Police Station. The locals also rushed to the police station and laid a siege there till 3:00am.

Locals and relatives of Nuruzzaman alleged that the police tortured him inhumanly and they heard his scream from outside the police station.

A three-member probe body headed by Pirgachha Upazila Nirbahi Officer was formed to investigate the matter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

25,056 pilgrims reach Jeddah

DU CORRESPONDENT

A total of 25,056 hajj pilgrims have reached Jeddah as the first batch of pilgrims flew for Saudi Arabia on October 21, says a press release on Thursday.

Of them, 17,300 pilgrims have flown by Biman Bangladesh Airlines.

This year, a total of 58,448 hajj pilgrims will go to Makkah under the government and private arrangements. Of them, Biman will carry some 34,448 pilgrims in regular and special flights.

Attack on BNP office condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain yesterday condemned the incident of vandalism at BNP office in Barisal and demanded punishment to those who were involved with the incident.

In a statement, he blamed the ruling party men for the vandalism and alleged that they are harassing BNP activists across the country.

"The ruling party has failed to control its men. Rather, it is patronising terrorism and using the terrorists to harass the opposition party," he added.

'Observe Nov 7 as FF Killing Day'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amra Muktiyoddhar Santan on Thursday called on the countrymen to observe November 7 as the Freedom Fighters Killing Day, says a press release.

The central committee of the organisation and its district as well as thana-level committees have chalked out a series of programmes to observe the day.

They took the decision of observing the day at a weekly meeting of the organisation at its central office in the city yesterday.

Hemanta Boi Mela begins

DU CORRESPONDENT

A 10-day book fair titled 'Hemanta Boi Mela 1416' began on the Public Library premises in the city on Thursday.

Cultural Affairs Secretary Hedayatullah Al-Mamun opened the fair organised by Shabbagh unit of Bangladesh Book Publishers' and Sellers' Association.

A total of 20 publications are participating in the fair where book lovers will get 30 percent discount on each book in the fair.

CU admission test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The first year admission tests for the academic session 2009-10 at Chittagong University (CU) begins tomorrow.

Around 32 students would vie for each seat under six faculties and in two institutes of the university this year.

The test for the "GA" unit (Commerce faculty-Commerce group) will be held at 10:30am tomorrow. "KA" unit (Science faculty) at 10:30am and "CHA" unit (Forestry) at 2:30pm on November 9. "JA" unit (Biological science) at 10:30am and "CHHA" unit (Marine sciences) at 2:30pm on November 10. "GA" unit (Commerce faculty - science and humanity groups) at 10:30am on November 11. "GHA" unit (Social science) at 10:30am on November 12. "UMA" unit (Law) at 10:30am on November 14. "KHA" unit (Arts) at 10:30am on November 15, and "KHA" unit (Arts-Fine Arts, Arabic and Persian, Islamic Studies, Pali and Sanskrit) at 10:30am on November 16.

In Fond Remembrance of a Great Soldier Colonel K. Najmul Huda, Bir Bikram

Born 06 July 1938 - Killed 07 November 1975



Photo: Major Huda briefing his ex-EPR troops before going for the Victorious Battle of Chougacha, Jessore as Sub-Sector Commander, 8 No. Sector Mukti Bahini, Nov 1971 at his Boyra Camp.

"নিজ আমার আবার চলে যেতে হচ্ছে because I am fighting for a cause and right cause এবং এতে যে কত বাঙ্গালী মারা যাচ্ছে সেখানে আমি যদি একটা safe জামানার ব্যক্তি that will be betrayal to the cause and to my conscience...তুমি যখনই না keep confidence in yourself and on God and everything and the Victory is Ours".

Tape recorded interview to Late Cinematographer Subrata Mitra, Kolkata, 11 April, 1971.

Family & Friends

DHAKA TODAY

ICT fair
The inaugural ceremony of a digital ICT fair will be held. Venue: Multiplan Centre, New Elephant Road. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop
Economic Reporters Forum and Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) jointly organise a reporting workshop. Venue: DSE training room. Time: 10:30am.

Premiere show
The premiere show of a film on genocide in armed forces will be held. Venue: Public Library. Time: 4:00pm.

Photo exhibition
The inaugural ceremony of a weeklong photography exhibition titled 'Amar Bangla' will be held. Venue: National Museum.

Discussion
Cooperative Directorate organises a discussion on the occasion of the National Cooperative Day. Venue: Bangabandhu International Conference Centre. Time: 10:30am.

Seminar
Edexcel Bangladesh organises a seminar on 'Effective education for employment and prospect of BTEC qualifications in Bangladesh'. Venue: Sonargaon Hotel. Time: 11:30am.

Memorial meeting
Dr Zohra Begum Kazi Parishad organises a memorial meeting marking the second death anniversary of Dr Zohra Kazi. Venue: Dr Milon Auditorium, BSMMU. Time: 10:30am.