

What's on today.....

Workshop: A day-long workshop on Laparoscopic Surgery will be held as part of the 13th Asia Pacific Federation being held by International College of Surgeons (ICS). Venue: BIRDEM auditorium. Time: 8.30 am-4.30 pm.

Film show: A special screening of "Mukhtir Kotha", a documentary on the experience and suffering of ordinary people in 1971 by Tareque and Catherine Masud, will be held. Venue: Shishu Academy auditorium. Time: 3.30 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Girls Guide Association will hold a discussion on "World AIDS Day". Venue: Guide House premises, Bailey Road. Time: 6.15 pm.

Introduction: Sangram, a sculpture under construction to mark the declaration of International Mother Language Day, will be introduced to a limited members of the public. Venue: Shapla Art Centre, 410B Mallbagh Chowdhurypara. Time: 4.00 pm to 6.30 pm.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of EARTH, a society dedicated towards creating environment and civic awareness will be held. Chief guest: AK Faezul Huq, State Minister for Jute. Venue: Goethe Institut auditorium, House no 10, Road no 9/A, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Procession: Padakhep, a Non Government Organisation (NGO), will bring out a procession to mark World AIDS Day. Venue: From Padakhep office premises at Ka-58 Pisciculture Housing Society, Shyamoli. Time: 8.30 am.

Weather

Dry weather likely

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

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period but it may fall in the next two days. Met Office forecast.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was 30.5 degree Celsius at Cox's Bazar and the lowest 12.0 degrees at Sathkira. The sun sets in the capital today at 5:10 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:24 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	29.0	15.5	69	74
Chittagong	29.6	18.0	81	71
Rajshahi	28.4	14.2	70	80
Khulna	29.0	15.4	75	67
Barisal	28.8	14.6	80	80
Sylhet	29.0	17.8	82	69
Cox's Bazar	30.5	18.5	66	72

Young man chopped to death

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Nov 29: One person was chopped to death at Nalaini village of Charbaria union under sadar thana of the district last night.

According to Kotwali police, Sahid, 28, a resident of Bhamra, on the outskirts of the Barisal town was attacked by unidentified assailants while returning home from a relative's house at Nalaini village at about 9.30 pm. His eyes were gouged out and a hand was cut off.

Police recovered his body from the spot this morning.

Shahid's brother Shaikh Sagir filed a case with Kotwali thana. Police detained Zakir, Jalil and Delwar in connection with the murder.

Loadshedding continues

By Staff Correspondent
The city and its suburbs experienced a loadshedding of 92 MW yesterday due to shortage of power generation, according to DESA sources.

The sources said Power Development Board allocated 870 MW power for distribution in areas under Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) Rural Electrification Board (REB) and Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO). The total power needed for the areas is 1000 MW, they said.

All sub-stations under DESA had to operate with one or two MW power shortage yesterday. The area under Dhanmondi sub-station also experienced load shedding as the under ground cable line was yet to be repaired, they said.

Sources in the PDB control room however said power generation increased to 2450 MW yesterday which was enough to meet the country's demand though some units remained shut due to technical reasons.

102 teachers protest DU decision

By Staff Correspondent
One hundred and two teachers of Dhaka University has demanded withdrawal of the university's decision to award Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with the honorary Doctorate of Literature.

In a joint statement on Sunday, the teachers described the decision taken at a meeting of the DU academic council on September 12 as 'controversial'.

The teachers have already protested the way the decision was taken by the academic council at that time, the statement said.

The teachers also said that the prime minister does not deserve such a prestigious degree as she used abusive words against the Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia in parliament recently.

The signatories to the statement include Dr. Mahmudul Amin, Dr. Wakil Ahmed, Dr. Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Dr. S M A Foiz, Dr. Mustafizur Rahman, Dr. Towhidul Anwar, Dr. Yusuf Haider, Dr. Nazrul Islam, Dr. Sayeedur Rahman and Dr. Chowdhury Mahmud Hasan.

Saida

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manding advance payment against over-time.

"BAPEX executives have become demoralised and do not want to pursue new schemes due to such a standstill situation there", one source said.

At the same time, the government is also "ignoring an age-old recommendation" for financial reforms allowing the company to earn from the gas fields it discover and undertake projects from its own earnings, they claimed.

"BAPEX's activities are now limited to exploration, funded by the government. All its discoveries go to other gas producing subsidiaries of Petrobangla. Meanwhile, drilling of a new well at Titus gas field has also been completed with a 'very positive result'. Sources said that a major new gas layer has been discovered in Titus, the country's biggest gas field.

The country's total gas reserve now stands at about 10 trillion cubic feet.

Biman flight stranded at Ctg for 5 hrs

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 29: An international flight of Bangladesh Biman was stranded at Chittagong airport for about five hours today after a bird flew into the propeller of the aircraft, Biman sources said.

The bird got into the propeller of the flight on its way to Chittagong from Muscat with about 150 passengers on board, they added.

Later, an engineer was called from Dhaka who removed the bird, airport sources said.

The flight then left for Dhaka at 12-18 pm.

Students damage vehicles

By Staff Correspondent

A group of angry students of Dhaka University damaged a number of vehicles in front of Hotel Sheraton after a student of the university was critically injured when he was sandwiched by a tempo and a maxi yesterday afternoon.

The injured was identified as Shamim, a student of Islamic History Department, hospital sources said. He was under going treatment at the Chest Disease Hospital.

Hospital sources said the incident took place when Shamim was crossing the road at about 5.30 pm.

HC vacation bench formed

A Vacation Bench of the High Court has been formed with Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin for hearing and disposal of emergency matters during the period from December 14 to January 1 when the court goes on vacation, reports UNB.



Shilpi Baruri performs in city today

By Staff Correspondent
Bharatnatyam exponent Shilpi Baruri will perform at a cultural programme at the British Council auditorium today. The programme also includes performances by sarod player Aloke Lahiri and vocalist Iftekhar Ahmed.

The Academy of Performing Arts (UK) has organised the show in collaboration with the British Council. The show will begin at 7 pm.

Shilpi Baruri is one of the rising stars in the Calcutta Bharatnatyam circuit. She began training at the early age of three. She has trained under Thankamani Kuttai, Kalamandalam Venkit and most recently by renowned Bharatnatyam exponent Padmaswari Chitra Visweswarar. She has recently started teaching Bharatnatyam at Chidambaram - a Bharatnatyam institute in Calcutta while studying for her Masters degree at Calcutta University.

Although Bharatnatyam is her forte, she is equally at ease with modern, classical and folk dances. She also choreographs dance performances.

Sarod player Sri Aloke Lahiri who will also perform at the programme was trained initially by his father Anil Chandra Lahiri, one of the premier disciples of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan. He is a regular artist of All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Iftekhar Ahmed, who is the director of The Academy of Performing Arts, will present ghazals at the show. Iftekhar received training in vocal music from Ustad Bedaruddin in 'Nazrul Geeti'. While studying at the college, he got interested in Bengali modern songs and took lessons from such singers as M. A. Hamid, Nina Hamid and Bashir Ahmed. He led a four member British cultural troupe that toured Bangladesh in 1997.

The Academy of Performing Arts (UK) was launched in 1995. The main objective of the academy is to promote cross-cultural awareness through the medium of music and art.

License withheld

The government has withheld the recruiting license (number RL-462) of M/S Delta Trading Corporation till December 31, reports UNB.

The suspensions order was given under Section 14 of Immigration Ordinance, 1982, said an official handout yesterday.

Chehlum

The Chehlum of Advocate Alhaj Abdul Jalil will be held on the December 4, at his village home, at Harong in Chandina thana of Comilla, says a press release.

Abdul Jalil who died on October 27 was a senior Advocate of Comilla Bar.

Friends, relatives and well-wishers have been requested to attend his chehlum.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaking at the inaugural ceremony of the Trust Bank Limited in the city yesterday. (Story on page 1)

Hasina opens Trust Bank

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the onset against new loan defaulters.

"Please keep in mind that the deposit in the bank belongs to the people...none has the right to play foul with the money," she said.

Responding to criticism against mushroom growth of banks, the prime minister said opening of more banks would increase competition and improve services to the clients.

She reminded the private sector's role in the development of national economy and hoped the sector's efficiency and services would be increasing against the backdrop of free market economy.

Chaired by the Chief of Army Staff, the opening ceremony was also addressed by Home Minister Mohammad Nasim and Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin.

The prime minister, referring to her government's poverty alleviation programme, urged the Trust Bank management to consider launching a micro-credit project to help the rural people become self-reliant.

She hoped that like other

commercial banks, the Trust Bank would make an important contribution to the socio-economic uplift of the country alongside welfare of the members of the armed forces and retired army men.

Giving a brief resume of the government's economic performance, Hasina said liberal industrial and investment policies have enabled the country to attract investment worth 990 crore US dollar.

The inflation rate remains stable at 4.5 per cent and foreign currency reserve at 200 crore dollar. The GDP growth was recorded at over 5 per cent. The present food stock of 15 lakh metric tons is also satisfactory, she said.

In three years since 1996, she said, some 439 mills and industries were set up on foreign investment and 4,230 industrial units on local investment.

The prime minister said the government has undertaken a comprehensive plan to modernise the armed forces and build them stronger.

"The development programmes include establishment of a composite brigade, a support battalion, an engineer-

ing support battalion, an ordinance company, a field ambulance and a riverine engineering battalion.

Besides, she said, the Military Institute of Science and Technology, the Armed Forces Medical College and the Peace-keeping Training Centre at Rajendrapur have been established.

To develop the naval forces, necessary military hardware, including frigates, are being procured while Khulna Shipyard has been handed over to the Navy, Hasina said.

Moreover, Mig-29 aircraft, C-130 transport plane and L-117 are joining the Air Force to increase its strength.

Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Farashuddin welcomed more banks in the private sector, saying it would increase competition and quality of services to the clients.

Trust Bank chairman Lt. Gen. Mustafizur Rahman said the bank would be run by a group of expert bankers to contribute to the economy. He said army would not be used in trade and business. They would remain engaged in their professional duties and safeguarding the country.

Prof Razzak buried

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National Professor will be held at House No 6, Road No 69, Gulshan, section-2 residence of his nephew Abul Khair Litu after Maghrib prayer today (Tuesday).

Hundreds of people, including politicians, ministers, university teachers, eminent citizens, cultural activists, students, student leaders and admirers took part in the namaj-e-janaza. Those who attended the Janaza included State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Dr Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Ishiaq Ahmed, former DU VC Prof Enajuddin Ahmed and Prof Moniruzzaman Mian, Rashed Khan Menon, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Hasanul Haq Inu, Monayem Sarker, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, state minister for Sports, Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader and government officials. Officials, employees and students of DU also attended the Janaza.

Prof Razzak died of respiratory failure at the BIRDEM on Sunday at the age of 86. He was first admitted to a city clinic on October 11 with severe respiratory problem. He was later shifted to BIRDEM when his condition worsened.

The body of Prof Razzak was first taken to the Bangla Academy premises from BIRDEM mortuary at 11 am yesterday where it was kept for about one hour. Eminent citizens including Ramendu Mojumder, Santosh Gupta and Foyez Ahmed paid their last respect to the late Professor there.

People of all ages from different walks of life thronged the DU campus when the body was taken to the Aparajeyo Bangla at 12 noon. DU VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury wrapped the body with the DU flag as a mark of respect to the late National Professor. Different socio-political and cultural organisations, members of the DU Syndicate, Senate executives of DU Teachers' Association, Faculty Deans, teachers and students placed wreaths at the mortal remains of the Professor of the DU.

A condolence meeting was held at the Aparajeyo Bangla to pay tributes to the professor, which was addressed by VC Prof Azad Chowdhury, Prof Moniruzzaman, Prof Anisuzzaman, Prof Rangalal Sen, Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Foyez Ahmed and Hasanul Haq Inu. They discussed the life and work of Prof Razzak and prayed for the eternal peace of his soul.

The body was then taken to the DU central mosque for Janaza.

Meantime, the Department of Political Science of DU will organise a condolence meeting at the department at 11 am today, said a press release yesterday.

Various socio-political and cultural organisations have, meantime, expressed their deep shock at the death of the National Professor and prayed for the salvation of the departed soul.

These include the Bangla Academy, Bangladesh University Grants Commission, Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Bangladesh Open University, Jatila Party, Bangladesh Workers' Party, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front, Uddhi Shilpi Goshithi, Central Command Council of Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad, Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Association, Department of Political Science of DU, Bangladesh Public Relations Association, Bangladesh Open University Officers' Association, BRAC, and Dhaka University Journalists' Association.

4 party chiefs meet today

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pledges, "anti-people and anti-national" Ganges Water Sharing treaty and GHT peace accord, deterioration of law and order, economic scenario, electricity-gas-water crises, share market scam and deaths in police custody.

The declaration will pledge to fulfil the hopes and aspirations of the people and address the above issues if the Opposition is voted to power.

There will also be a fresh call to add democratic, nationalist, patriotic parties, professional groups, students, workers and people to join in the one-point movement.

It will contain some instructions to form "all-party action council" at district and thana levels, to intensify the movement, the leaders said.

A JP leader said, "We have almost decided and reached an understanding to contest the next parliamentary polls unitedly, but there will be no such hint in the joint declaration."

The Liaison Committee had a lengthy discussion on Sunday

night regarding formation of a single platform to contest election, but it would not be disclosed now for strategic reasons, he added.

M Shamsul Islam MP, who represent BNP in the Liaison body, told The Daily Star yesterday that though the committee had a lengthy meeting on Sunday night, still there were some issues to be finalised. "We are optimistic of settling those by tonight (Monday)".

Meanwhile, Jamaat leaders Mohammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Qader Mollah, ICG leaders ARM Abdul Matin and Masud Khan had separate meetings with Khaleda Zia at her official residence last night.

IOJ leader ARM Abdul Matin said last night the issue of inclusion of a pledge in the declaration that no law repugnant to the Quran and Sunnah will be enacted was still to be settled.

Besides, Jagpa, President Shafiqul Alam Prodhan, PNP Chairman Shaikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu and NDA Chairman Nurul Haq Majumder also met the BNP chief.

Mahathir's party

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only seat declared in Peninsular Malaysia, where Mahathir's alliance faced stiffer competition.

The winner was expected around midnight tonight, with the final tally in the early hours of tomorrow.

Meanwhile, in a potential setback to Mahathir, the opposition appeared poised to win state assembly elections in the Malay heartland state of Terengganu, local politicians said.

"Unofficially we heard PAS is going to form the government," a local candidate from Mahathir's party told Reuters by telephone from the state capital Kuala Terengganu. He was referring to the opposition Parti Islam se-Malaysia (PAS).

Before today's general election, Mahathir's coalition had ruled all but one state, Kelantan, also in the Malay heartland in the north of Peninsular Malaysia.

The opposition had tried to retain Kelantan and capture at least one other state, possibly the oil and gas-rich Terengganu.

In Terengganu's outgoing state assembly, Mahathir's coalition held 25 of 32 seats, with the remaining seven in PAS's hands. Local reporters said PAS had won 16 of 17 seats in early returns.

Most of the major oil firms operating in Malaysia have large investments in Terengganu, which borders Kelantan on the South China Sea.

"It appears that PAS is doing better than expected whereas the DAP may be suffering from

its association with PAS," William Case, senior lecturer at Australia's Griffith University, said.

The Chinese-based DAP linked up with PAS with two other parties in a joint alliance against Mahathir's coalition.

Politicians said PAS also appeared to be making headway in Mahathir's home state of Kedah.

Wan Azizah wins

Anwar's wife, Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, head of the opposition Parti Keadilan Nasional (National Justice Party), won her seat in the election, state TV said.

Azizah making her political debut, defeated ruling party candidate in Anwar's old seat in Penang state.

"I am very happy but I am sad. I wish my husband was around and I am very grateful to the voters," Wan Azizah told reporters as she arrived at the vote counting centre in Permatang Pau constituency.

About 300 supporters outside the centre shouted "reformasi" (reform), the rallying cry of Anwar's supporters during unprecedented anti-government protests which erupted after the ex-minister was sacked in 1998.

Several dozen riot police stood nearby.

Token strike postponed

By Staff Correspondent

The Biddut Unnayan Board Sramki Karmachari Karmakarta Oikya Parishad has postponed the token strike programme on Sunday 2, said a press release yesterday.

The release signed by Engineer Shahid Ahmed, convener of the parishad, said that the decision regarding postponement of their 24-hour strike was taken following fruitful discussion with the state minister for energy Prof. Rafiqul Islam on Sunday last.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Biddut Utpadan Karmakarta Samity in a press release on Sunday said that the action programme of the officials and employees of the PDB would continue as the meeting between them and the government ended without any decision.

"As the meeting between the state minister for energy Prof. Rafiqul Islam and the leaders of the Biddut Karmakarta Samity ended without any decision, the three-day action programme from December 7 will remain unchanged," the release said.

The action programme was declared to press for their five-point demand.

Rally protests fresh round of WTO talks

By Staff Correspondent

A group of women and human rights activists, development workers and farmers staged a protest rally at TSC on Dhaka University campus yesterday denouncing the fresh round of trade talks under the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Later, they brought out a procession and marched towards the Jatila Press Club.

The protest rally was staged at the outset of WTO ministerial meeting in Seattle, USA which will try to organise the so-called 'Millennium Round'.

They demanded that Bangladesh take a firm position against the talks at Seattle, which would discuss, among other things, patenting of life forms.

The rally was addressed by president of CPB Manirul Ahsan Khan, leader of Sammilita Nari Samaj Farida Akhter, Habibur Rahman, a farmer, and trade union activist Shima Das Shimu. General Secretary of Bangladesh Farmers' Union Saiful Haque chaired the rally.

It is a wrong strategy (for BNP) to unite with these forces to hunt down its immediate political foe.

Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee Executive Convenor Shahriar Kabir said the meeting will be the "most unfortunate" event for freedom fighters, specially for those who are in BNP.

He said democratic and pro-liberation forces should get united on a minimum programme to overcome the critical situation.

Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju) Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju questioned how an elected government could be unseated since it was not a dictatorial or autocratic regime.

"The opposition can press for midterm elections, but they can't force out an elected government. They should fix up the

AL sees crisis

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anti-liberation elements and fallen autocracy". This would strip BNP of its secular, democratic and nationalist character.

Suranjit said the pro-democratic and pro-liberation group within BNP will never accept this.

He said people are simply unconcerned about opposition's agitation designed to fan up instability in the country.

JSD General Secretary Hasanul Huq Inu said BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia shook hands with "razakars and autocrats". He called the alliance a "morchha" (alliance) of communal elements. "The persons who committed heinous crimes against humanity and democracy banded together to save their skins."

The JSD leader advised BNP chairperson Begum Zia to "return to the path of democracy severing ties with razakars and autocrats".

He also urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to give up Awami League's "go alone" strategy.

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"The opposition can press for midterm elections, but they can't force out an elected government. They should fix up the

terminology first".

About the four-party alliance he said: "They have agreed on certain matters, but I believe they are not sure of their strength," commenting on the meeting Manju said he doesn't think this will "bear much fruit".

CPB General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim said the AL government is not doing good to the country while BNP's alliance is harmful for the country.

He said his party was planning a meeting of 11 left-leaning parties to build an "alternative force". They will neither side with Awami League nor with BNP.

Elderly politician Prof Mozaffar Ahmed said: "Those whose profession is brokerage and corruption deserve no attention."

The NAP leader also expressed frustration over the left political parties saying: "We have no leftist who really speaks for the people of the country."

Gano Forum Leader Saifuddin Ahmed Manik said his party does not lend itself to the opposition with communal and autocratic forces, "two dangers for the nation".

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Errata-NU exams schedule

The rescheduled timetable for Degree examinations under the National University printed in The Daily Star yesterday contained some inadvertent errors. The errors are regretted and the correct version is given as under:

Earlier Date	New Date	Subjects	Paper
1.12.99	26.01.2000	Library and Information Science	1st Paper
2.12.99	27.01.2000	Library and Information Science	2nd Paper
4.12.99	29.01.2000	Library and Information Science	3rd Paper
19.01.2000	30.01.2000	Home Economics	1st Paper
20.01.2000	31.01.2000	Home Economics	2nd Paper
22.01.2000	02.02.2000	Home Economics	3rd Paper