

## News

## ● 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: BIDEM auditorium. Time: 8.30 am-4.30pm.

**Film show**: A special screening of "Muktir 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 Mollibagh 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 Institute auditorium, House no 10. Road no 9/A, Dhamondi 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 Satkhira.

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
Dhaka	29.0	65
Chittagong	29.6	80
Rajshahi	28.4	70
Khulna	29.0	75
Barisal	28.8	80
Sylhet	29.0	82
Cox's Bazar	30.5	66
		72

## Young man chopped to death

By Staff Correspondent

BANISAL, Nov 23: One person was chopped to death at Naiani village of Charbaria union under sadar thana of the district last night.

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

Police recovered his body from the spot this morning.

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



## Anwara Khatun's death anniversary today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is the 11th death anniversary of Begum Anwara Khatun, a member of erstwhile Bengal Legislative Assembly and East Pakistan Legislative Assembly. She died in 1988 after a prolonged illness.

Begum Anwara Khatun was a pioneer in Muslim women's education campaign and herself was one of the very few Bangali Muslim women to have obtained MA, BT, LLB in British India. She was a close associate of Hussain Shaheed Subhrawary, Moulana Bhashani and Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

She was one of the founders of Awami League and opposed the Muslim League government in the Assembly after the shooting of February 21, 1952. She was actively involved in the historic language movement of 1952. She represented Pakistan in the United Nations General Assembly and many other international forums and conferences.

## Obituary

Mozaffar Hossain, a Personal Assistant at the Secretariat office of the Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak, died of heart attack at his Azimpur residence yesterday morning. He was 53, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a host of relatives.

The first *namaj-e-janaza* of Hossain was held at Azimpur and the second at the Secretariat.

The Water Resources Minister expressed shock at the sudden death of Hossain and conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

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 Titas gas field has also been completed with a "very positive result". Sources said that a major new gas layer has been discovered in Titas, the country's biggest gas field.

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

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

## Biman flight stranded at Ctg for 5 hrs

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: An international flight of Bangladeshi 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 maxyesterday 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.

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

Fahad.

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

## 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 Thakamani Kutt, Kalamandalam Venkit and most recently by renowned Bharatnatyam exponent Padamashri Chitra Visweswaran. 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 Geet". 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.

**Salda**

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mainding 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 Titas gas field has also been completed with a "very positive result". Sources said that a major new gas layer has been discovered in Titas, the country's biggest gas field.

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

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## Chehulam

The Chehulam of Advocate Alhaj Abdul Jalil will be held on the December 4, at his village home, at Harong in Chanda 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 *chehulam*.



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

—PID photo

## Hasina opens Trust Bank

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the onset against new loan de-

faults.

"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

Fahad.

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.

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

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

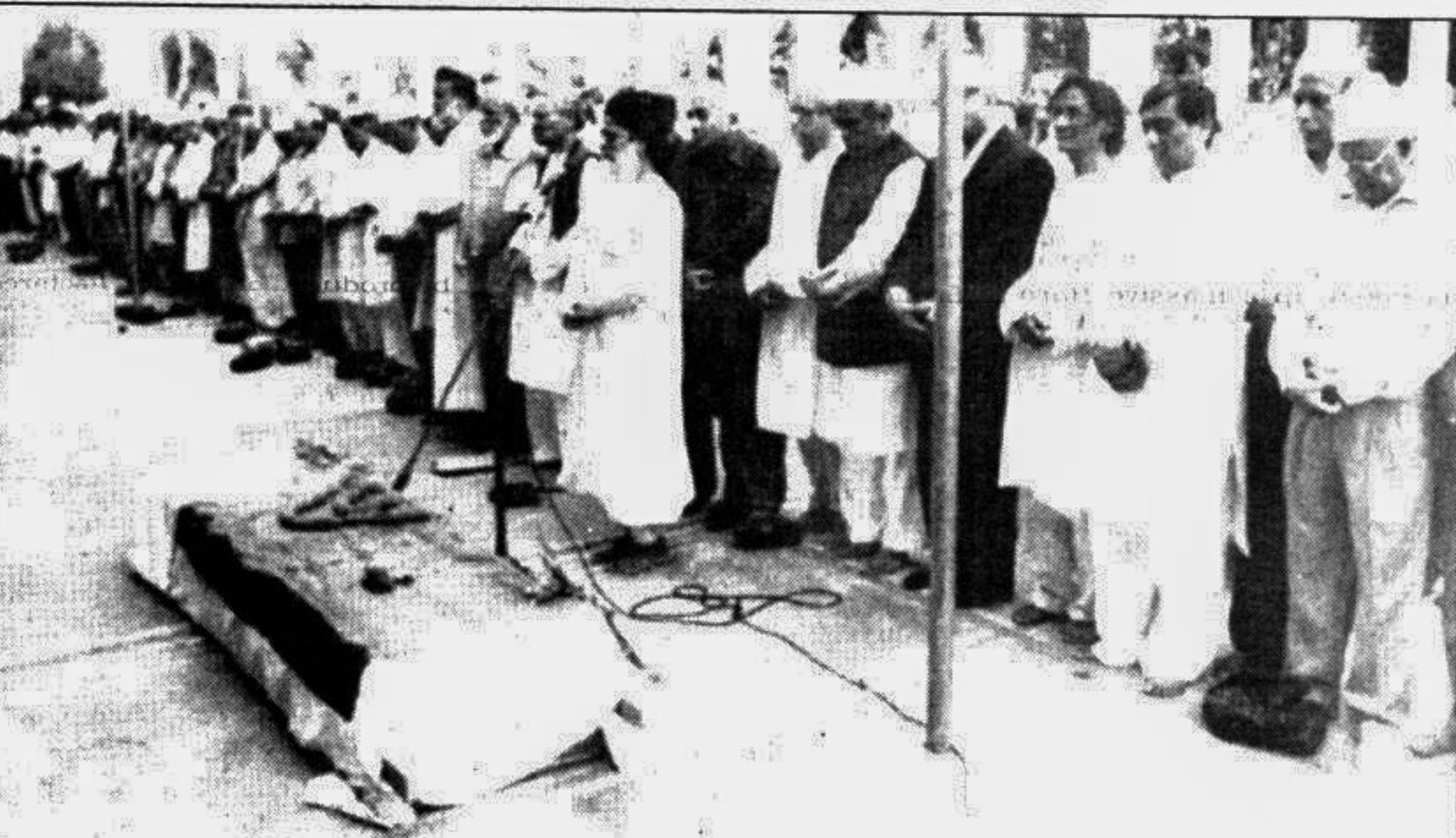
Besides, she said, the Military Institute of Science and Technology, the Armed Forces Medical College and the Peace-keeping Training Centre at Rangpur have been established.

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.



The *namaj-e-janaza* of Prof Abdur Razzak was held at the Dhaka University Mosque yesterday.

—Star photo

## 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 "marcha" (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 "return to the path of democracy severing ties with razakars and autocrats".

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 mid-term elections, but they can't force out an elected government. They should fix up the medium of music and art.

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