

## What's on today....

**NMST lecture:** National Museum of Science and Technology (NMST) will hold a lecture on "Role of Plant in Tissue Culture in Biotechnology." Speaker: Prof Rakho Hari Sarker, Botany Department, Dhaka University. Venue: NMST auditorium, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Painting competition:** Lions and Leo Club of Dhaka Mid-Town will hold a painting competition for children to mark International Children's Day 2000. Venue: Bangladesh Shishu Academy. Time: 4.00 pm.

**Book launching ceremony:** Bangla Academy will hold the launching ceremony of *Kishore Biswathapaya*, a book in Bangla on world architecture for the youth by Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed. Venue: Winter Garden of Hotel Sheraton. Time: 4.15 pm.

**Contemporary Spanish Film Session:** On the concluding day of the Carlos Saura Retrospective Zahir Rahaan Film Society will screen *Outrage*. Venue: Goethe Institut, auditorium, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm.

**Film show:** High Commission of India will screen *Ishwar*. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, House No 25, Road No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6.15 pm.

**Pedro Almodovar Retrospective:** Zahir Rahaan Film Society will screen *Laberinto de Pasiones* (Labyrinth of Passion) by Pedro Almodovar on the 2nd part of its Contemporary Spanish Film Session. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 7.30 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow .....

**Film show:** High Commission of India will screen *Dil To Pagal Hai* starring Shahrukh Khan and Madhuri Dixit. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium. Time: 6.15 pm.

**Pedro Almodovar Retrospective:** Zahir Rahaan Film Society will screen *Mujeres Al Bordo de un Ataque de nervios* (Women on the verge of a nervous breakdown) and *Atame!* (Tie me up, tie me down). Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 5.30 pm & 7.15 pm respectively.

## Weather

## Downpour likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind are likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy fall at places till 6pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may fall by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 31.6 degree Celsius at Patuakhali and the lowest 22.6 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

**The sun sets in the capital today at 5.58 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.47 am.**

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.7	24.7	85	88
Chittagong	30.0	24.5	77	89
Rajshahi	27.0	23.7	95	97
Khulna	31.0	24.8	86	98
Barisal	31.0	25.0	83	92
Sylhet	25.0	23.0	100	91
Cox's Bazar	31.3	24.5	85	86

## HERE and THERE

## Bangladesh Bar Council

Supreme Court Bar Council Vice-Chairman Barrister Amirul Islam yesterday emphasised the need for forging unity of the lawyers in ensuring rule of law and called upon newly enrolled lawyers to be more hard-working and attentive towards the legal profession, reports BSS.

He was inaugurating a seven-week orientation course for freshers-trainees of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Vocational Course third batch at the Bangladesh Bar Council auditorium.

Supreme Court Justice Mohammad Mansurul Haque Chowdhury, Bar Council Enrollment Committee chairman Abdul Basel Majumder and Advocate M Mohsin Rashid were also present.

Barrister Amirul said that the role of the lawyers in establishing the rule of law and human rights in the country and urged the young lawyers to come forward to uphold it.

## Forum

Forum, a platform for the upcoming BGMEA elections, held a *milad mahfil* on Sunday on the occasion of opening its new office at Concord Tower at Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue here, a press release said yesterday.

The president of the Forum and Managing Director of Fortuna Group Engg M Abu Taher, several MP's Divisional Commissioner of Dhaka AR Khan, second Vice-President of BGMEA Engg Nurul Huq Sikdar, Managing Director of Minhaj Group ABM Kamal Uddin Khan, Managing Director of Elite Group Rainul Siraj and over 200 garment factory owners attended the *milad*.

## Hasina

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all the halls and departments will be connected through an Internet Network immediately.

Hasina directed the DU authorities to construct a tower building for fourth class employees of the university, saying Bangabandhu, when a law student, was expelled from the university for agitating to realise the demands of employees. She promised to extend all-out support for the construction of the building.

Earlier, Hasina laid the foundation stone of Begum Fazlalatunnesa Mujib Hall at the Bangladesh-Kuwaiti MoU Hall of the university. Construction work of the 500-seat modern dormitory for female students is going on in full swing and is expected to finish by January next.

He thanked the university authorities for naming the hall after her mother who made a lot of sacrifices during the liberation struggle. "My mother played an important role in the liberation movement and guided the party in the absence of Bangabandhu."

The meeting was addressed among others by Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, Pro-VC Prof M Shahidul Ali, Treasurer Prof. Abul Hashem, President of DU Teachers' Association Prof. RIM Anisur Akteruzzaman Chowdhury Babu.

Babu and Abdul Matin who were granted ad-interim bail by the High Court division of the Supreme Court in 1997 appeared before the trial court yesterday.

Of the accused, Fazlur Rahman Tommoy, Kaiser and Alam - now in the jail - were also produced before the court while Headayatul Islam, Babu and Towhidul Islam are absconding.

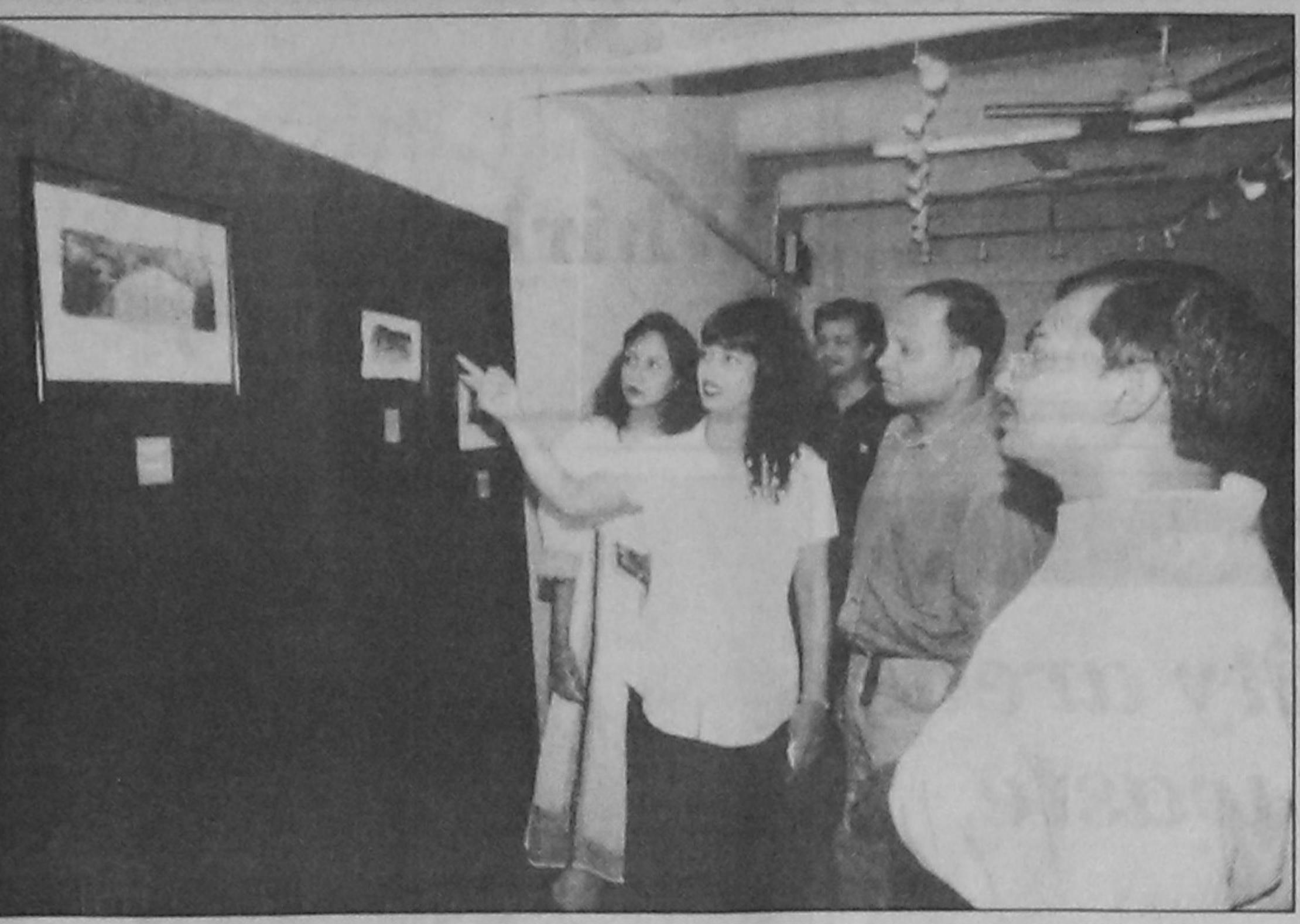
District PP Mohammad Ali appeared for the state, while Advocate Mahbub Ahmed, Abdur Rashid, Shamim Ahsan and Sajid Ferdous for the accused.

## Kuwaiti envoy

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He will hand over a message of Kuwaiti Crown Prince and Prime Minister to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today.

He will also call on President Shabuddin Ahmed at Bangabandhu.

The Kuwaiti envoy is scheduled to leave Dhaka today in the evening.



A four-day solo painting exhibition by Laila Sharmin began at the gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka in the city yesterday. Picture shows the artist taking guests around the exhibition.

## Alleged mugger

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over their ornaments and cash, witnesses said.

The gang snatched Tk 70,000 in cash and 80 tolas of gold ornaments from the shop at gun point and immediately left the spot. As soon as the gang left the shop, employees of the shop started hue and cry, witnesses said.

Hearing the hue and cry, local people and shop owners chased them up to Mogul Lane and managed to catch two of them and started beating. The muggers were handed over to police when they became unconscious.

Two others managed to escape along with the cash and gold ornaments exploding crackers. Kartik Chandra, one of the employees of the shop received burn injuries when the gang exploded crackers, hospital sources quoting witnesses said.

Police rushed the injured muggers to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where Alam died.

A pistol, a revolver and 10 rounds of bullets were recovered from their possession, police said.

Kotwali police lodged three cases in this connection.

## Golden day

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included Romanian Marilena Muntean after her national Olympic committee paid up 50,000 dollars to have lifted a ban on the entire team, imposed after three lifters failed doping tests.

Earlier Patrick Schamasch, director general of the IOC's medical commission, insisted the Romanians could not buy their way back into the Games.

"A fine can never, never replace a sanction. All the weightlifters have to leave the village," he said prematurely.

The growing list of athletes expelled from the Games for failing drug tests swelled today to include the Baumann, Norwegian weightlifter Stian Grimsell and Iranian boxer Anosharan Nourian.

Athletes governing body banned Baumann, the 1992 5000m gold medal winner, for two years following two positive dope tests.

Baumann had claimed his toothpaste had been spiked and offered 100,000 dollars to anyone who could provide him with evidence to prove his innocence.

The United States athletics team's had its own internal dispute as the first 4x100m relay practice went ahead without the world's fastest man, Maurice Greene.

Greene took no part in the baton-changing practice, in a row believed to involve his management company exerting pressure over the make up of the team.

"It gets ugly every four years whenever there's someone who isn't selected," said US relay coach Johnny Moon, adding the team will be picked today.

The Jamaicans had their differences, but settled them before putting sprint legend Merlene Ottey into the 100m after the male and female Jamaican sprinters backed off a planned relay boycott if Ottey was chosen at the expense of national champion Peta-Gay Dowdy.

Such was the febrile atmosphere that 25 Jamaicans, half the athletics team, marched in protest in the athletes village today holding banners saying 'Merlene out, Peta in, Relays out'.

Nor Islan, brother-in-law of the victim, came to Sabujbagh police station after seeing his picture in newspapers. He went to the hospital morgue along with the investigation officer and identified the body.

Neither police nor the relative could give say anything about the motive behind the murder of the auto-rickshaw driver.

Brother-in-law of Jewel identified the body at the DMCH morgue yesterday. Jewel was beaten as the mob suspected him to be a one of the muggers who had tried to snatch valuables from a pedestrian at Dainik Bangla intersection at that time.

Police rescued him and took him to the DMCH where he died at about 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Jewel hailed from Degree Char of Lohar thana in Narail. He was planning to go aboard and was living with his brother-in-law.

Considering the time constraint, the government has already decided to leave out cement-coating plant component. "In any case, installation of this plant would take a long time and if we insist on this, the pipeline project would obviously be delayed," said a source.

"We have agreed to the idea of bringing in ready-coated pipeline. But we have given the contractor a condition that we will send our experts to inspect the pipes where it will be coated and they will have to bear the cost," he noted.

But Petrobangla is somewhat taken aback by the proposition of building the Habiganj-Ashuganj pipeline using 30 feet segments instead of 40 feet. "It means there would be more interconnectors and more weight. In other words, it would be less durable and weaker," the source added.

In a couple of years, Petrobangla intends to increase the gas supply by 180 million cubic feet per day (mmcf/d). The existing North-South gas pipeline in that region, having a capacity to transmit 330 mmcf/d of gas, is almost saturated now as it is already supplying over 300 mmcf/d. The country presently consumes a total of 1000 mmcf/d at the maximum.

New gas wells are being drilled at Rashedpur, Habiganj and Titab and there are possibilities of fresh gas supplies from Kailastila, Jalalabad, Beantabazar and Bibiyana. Without the HA pipeline, the additional gas cannot be transmitted across the region.

Persons interested to provide monetary assistance have been requested to send the money to Prof M Sadeq, Savings Bank A/c No 730, Bangladesh Krishibank, Karwan Bazar Branch, Dhaka.

## Ershad's desire

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further said in the NDTV interview. "We are concerned about India's relations with Pakistan and we want to see those improve, and the president made it clear that he will do everything he can to help that."

Meanwhile, Pakistan and Indian forces traded artillery fire at several front-line positions in disputed Kashmir, leaving a total of 23 soldiers, guerrillas and civilians dead, the two countries said.

Pakistan said about 100 Indian soldiers staged a pre-dawn attack on a Pakistani frontier post, but the Indians were repulsed, suffering three dead and 10 wounded, the Pakistan military said.

The Indians were seen dragging their dead and wounded as they retreated under the cover of heavy artillery and mortar fire, the military added.

The Indian shelling in that assault, in Kashmir's Lipa sector, left two Pakistani civilians dead, the military added. Two more Pakistani civilians were killed in separate shelling attacks further south in Kashmir, the military announced.

Meanwhile, India said its army killed 10 Kashmiri militants in the forests of Poonch, near the frontier that divides Kashmir into its Indian and Pakistani sectors.

## Dacoits

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The gruesome murders could be known when Afzina's eldest son Likhon (19) returned home at about 10.30 pm. Neighbours rushed to the house when Likhon cried out seeing the bodies lying in blood.

Likhon passed the HSC examination this year from Khulna City College. His father Abdus Samad did not reach Khulna from Chittagong till 5.30 pm today.

Autopsies of the bodies were done at noon today. They will be buried after the return of Abdus Samad. None filed any case till writing of this report.

Police believe that they were killed because they identified some of the dacoits.

Five persons have so far been taken into custody for interrogation.

The two murders have created a sensation in the city. People alleged that incidents of murder, dacoity, rape and mugging have become rampant because the OCs of Khulna and Sonadanga thanas are deeply involved in corruption.

## Mystery

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the jail authority for the death.

A recently released youth from jail and a resident of Totokhali village under Sadar thana said, Billah fell sick after jail police beat him mercilessly on July 13 over the issue of selling seats inside the jail.

He said Billah was earlier sent to Bandarban jail and brought to the district jail few days back for producing him before the court.

Postmortem of Billah was held at Sadar Hospital.

## CHT accord

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ment. "In this political system that you have, the user takes all and the people are the loser."

He also said, "There are reports of violence involving police and police stations."

Both of them said they were essentially on a fact finding mission and they were giving their impressions and not their judgement.

## Citibank

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of the shares will be reserved for the employees and the rest will be retained by the government under the criteria laid down for restructuring and commercialisation of Biman.

The consultants are also discussing revision of the valuation of Biman's assets as their preliminary assessment putting it at 100 million dollars had drawn bitter criticism from the employees and others.

The Biman authorities then ordered a revision of the valuation of the assets of the national carrier. The airline with a staff strength of 5500 and a fleet of 14 aircraft including six DC-10 and three Airbus 310 connects 24 destinations worldwide. It is going to have one more DC-10 and one more Airbus 310 shortly.

It has also invited bids for long lease of new generation aircraft like four Boeing 777 or Airbus 340. The bidding starts on October 10.

Against such a background, seven consultants from the Citibank started talks with Biman officials at its headquarters yesterday to finalise their draft information memorandum for restructuring. Biman