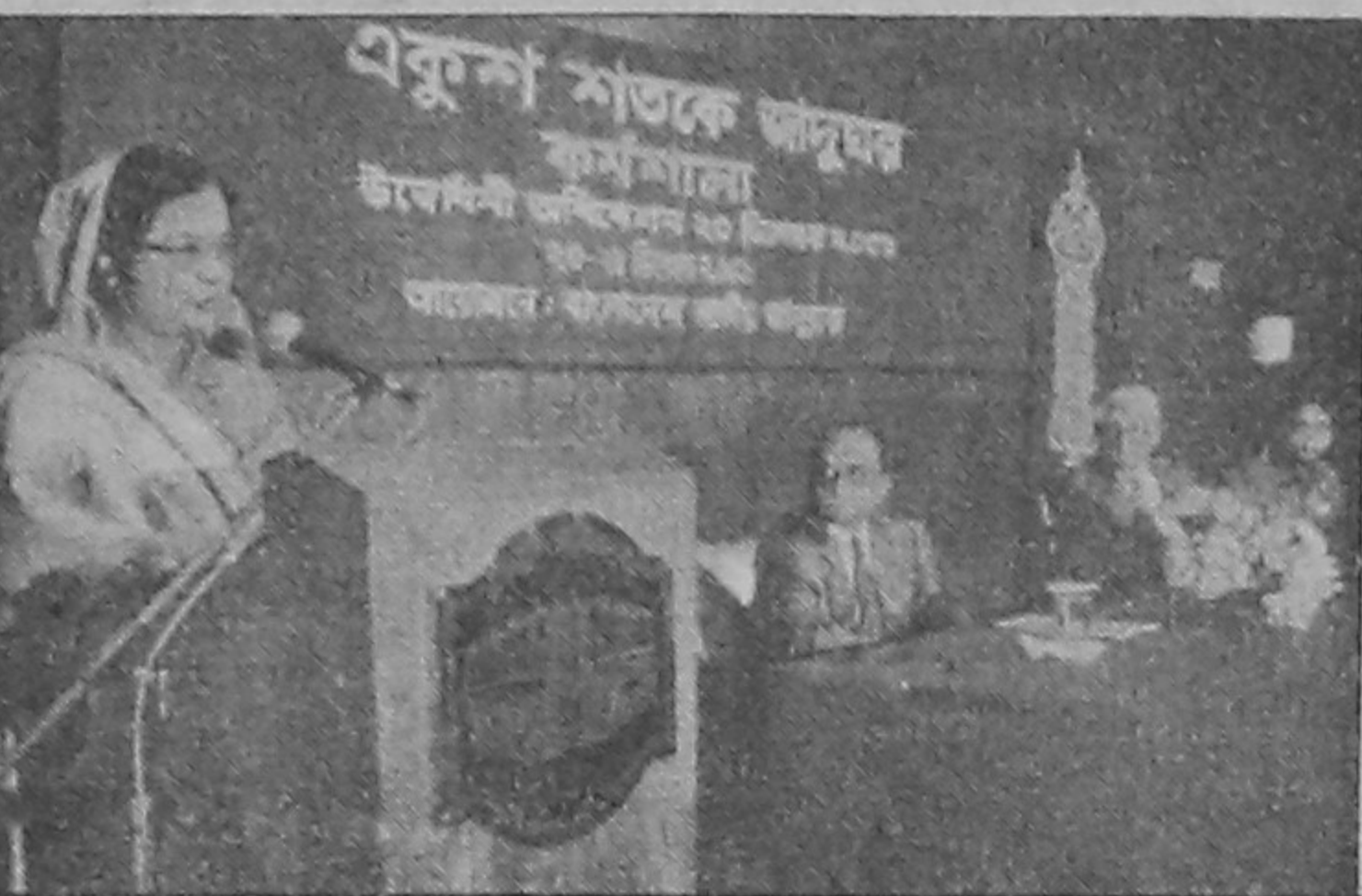
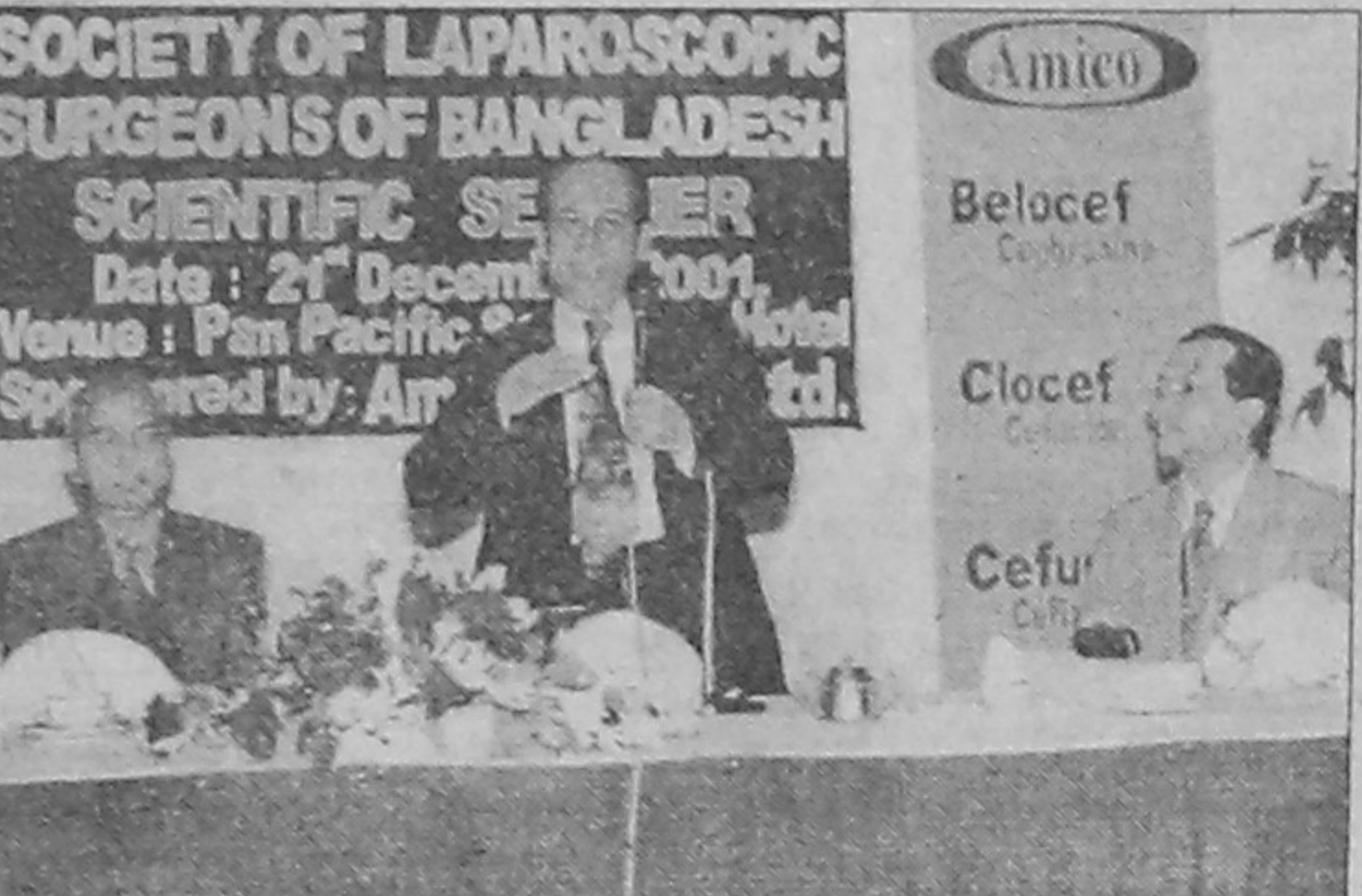




Bangladesh Red Crescent Society yesterday brought out a procession in the city yesterday to create awareness among people about misuse of the BDRCS logo by some miscreants across the country.



State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman addressing the inaugural session of a workshop organised by the National Museum in the city yesterday.



AMICO Laboratories organised a seminar titled "Laparoscopic Surgery in Bangladesh" at Hotel Sonargaon on Friday. Picture shows Dr Atai Rabbi, president of Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Bangladesh addressing the seminar.

US Embassy closed today & tomorrow

UNB, Dhaka
Officials of the American Embassy, including its Public Affairs Section, the Information Resource Centre, and the Student-Counselling Service will remain closed today and tomorrow on the occasion of Christmas, said a press release yesterday.

1221 more arrested

BSS, Dhaka
Police seized five firearms and seven bullets and arrested 1221 people during countrywide combing operation in the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday, a press release of the police headquarters said.

The arrested, 11 people were caught with arms and police lodged three cases under arms act during the time.
Four listed terrorists were also held during the drive, the release added.
Police also seized six explosives from across the country during the time.

Bijoy Mela begins in Manikganj

A Bijoy Mela began in Gopalpur village under Sattaria upazila in Manikganj on December 19 in celebration of the Victory Day, says a press release.

Organised by the Gopalpur Samity, the fair was inaugurated by the pro-vice-chancellor of National University, Prof Khalilur Rahman.

A discussion meeting titled "Let the new generation be inspired by the spirit of Liberation War" was also held.

President of Gopalpur Samity SA Basher presided over the meeting, and Prof M Morsheed Alam Chowdhury of the Habibullah Bahar College attended it as special guest.



Preparations for Bishwa Jtama are going on in full swing. The three-day event will begin on the bank of the river Turag in Tongl on January 19.

4 more CNG filling stations needed to check air pollution

BSS, Dhaka
The capital city needs at least four more Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) filling stations to save the city-dwellers from air pollution that has turned Dhaka into near "gas chamber".

"The programme to convert vehicles into CNG will be hampered unless it is supported by more filling stations to render adequate services to the existing CNG-run vehicles," said Manoranjan Bhakta, Managing Director of Southern Automobiles LTD the lone private sector CNG conversion plant.

At present, there are only six state-owned filling stations for CNG-run vehicles.

Two private companies had imported necessary kits and machinery to set up two more filling stations in the capital, but they need help from Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation in finding space for these, Bhakta said.

He said the government in a meeting with the private sector CNG conversion plants last month assured them that the Padma and Jamuna, the state-owned companies, would be motivated to allocate space in their filling stations to provide services to the CNG-run vehicles.

The government has already given permission to 13 private companies to set up CNG conversion units, but only one of them has managed to start functioning.

Bhakta said the car owners in the capital were very much enthusiastic about converting their vehicles, and his company, which started functioning only 15 days back, has already converted over 100 vehicles at its plant.

He also underlined the need for expediting the process of giving clearance to import CNG conversion kit and CNG cylinders to keep pace with the increasing demand for CNG conversion.

The government sources told BSS that the process of giving clearance as quickly as possible is under examination and would be completed soon.

Obituary

Sayedat Khatun (Lal Bibi), wife of late Moniruzzaman Khan of village Medinimondol under Louhajang upazila, Bikrampur, died in Los Angeles, USA, on December 14 at the age of 72, says a press release.

DHAKA TODAY

Rotary meeting
Rotary Club of Dhaka North holds its regular weekly meeting where the results of 2002-2003 election will also be announced. Venue: Gulshan Club. Time: 6.00pm.

Seminar on telecommunications
The Electrical and Electronics Engineering Department of Anshuliah University of Science and Technology organises a seminar on "Problems and Prospects: Telecommunications Sector in Bangladesh". Chairman of Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board AFM Nazmul Hasan Chowdhury will present the keynote paper. Venue: CIRDP auditorium. Time: 4.00pm.

Seminar on pharmaceuticals
Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Society organises a seminar on "Pharmaceutical Industry in Bangladesh: Challenges of the Next Century" with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Winter Garden, Sheraton Hotel. Time: 4.00pm.

Award ceremony
Rapport Bangladesh Limited holds its Report Management Award 2000 Ceremony with AKM Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources, as chief guest. Venue: Sheraton Hotel. Time: 7.00pm.

WEATHER TODAY

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

STOCK

Large table containing stock market data for December 23, 2001. Includes sections for Today's Market, Non Traded Issues, Turnover Leaders, Capital Gainers, Capital Losers, and various stock exchange listings.