

**INVITATION TO NETWORKING WITH MICROSOFT WINDOWS NT**  
Seminar at 3 pm on Sat 13 Dec 1997 at Melrose, Hotel Sheraton.  
to our booth A 16T during 11-13 Dec '97  
BOS TRADE SHOW  
Kindly call for registration for Seminar.

সি কম্পিউটার লিমিটেড  
THE COMPUTERS LIMITED

# The Daily Star

**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**  
WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA, BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN, MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE OF DIFFERENT TYPES.  
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.  
198, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.  
TEL: 005957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 881985

VOL. VII NO. 319 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 28 1404 BS. DHAKA FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1997 SHABAN 11, 1418 HIJRI 12 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE TAKA 9.00

## Gold worth Tk 47 lakh seized at ZIA

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Customs authority at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold chains worth Tk 47 lakh from a young man late Wednesday night.  
Police arrested Md Jalil for carrying the gold. Another person, Abdur Rashid, who went to receive Jalil at ZIA, was also held.  
Airport sources said the gold chains weighing 9,925 grams were hidden in seven batteries of two emergency halogen lights. Jalil, aged about 30, of Srinagar in Munshiganj arrived at ZIA by a Bangladesh Biman flight from Singapore at 10:51 pm.  
Customs team noticed Jalil's suspicious movement. See Page 12 Col 6

## Severe traffic congestion at 3 major ferry ghats

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Three major ferry ghats — Aricha, Daulatdia and Natakholia — experienced severe traffic congestion yesterday and the day before.  
A transport strike in some parts of the northern region of the country ended a few days ago and then more vehicles, mostly trucks, started to arrive at the ghats.  
On top of this, a number of BIWTC ferries were out of operation. See Page 12 Col 4

## Hasina spends busy day in Tehran

**TEHRAN, Dec 11:** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina spent a very busy day on the concluding day of the OIC summit here today meeting a number of dignitaries attending the summit, reports BSS.  
She met with Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad, Palestine President Yasser Arafat, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia Prince Abdullah, President of the Sudan Omar Hassan Ahmed Al-Bashir.  
During the meeting with Mahathir Mohamad the two leaders exchanged views on matters of bilateral relations. They also discussed the coming See Page 12 Col 4

## One killed as rival groups of AL supporters clash in Khulna

**From Staff Correspondent**  
KHULNA, Dec 11: A fierce armed clash between two rival groups of Awami League supporters at Khalishpur 'Bastuhara Colony' today left one person shot dead and two injured.  
The person shot dead has been identified as Inamul Huq, 35, a rickshawpuller. Police said supporters of 'Belal group' gunned him down at his house.  
The two injured persons are Liaquat and Fatema who belong to the 'Khokor group'. They were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital with bomb and bullet injuries. Police vigilance has been intensified in the area following the murder.

The Daily Star on the Internet <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

## Inside Today Article

**Voices and Vision**  
Column: Do I Dare by A Z M Obaidullah Khan Page 4

## Focus

The rape of a nation Page 7

**Business**  
President invites transnationals to invest in Bangladesh  
DSE price index continues to fall Pages 8, 9

# OIC condemns Israel for 'state terrorism'

**TEHRAN, Dec 11:** The world's Muslim nations condemned terrorism in the name of Islam and demanded that Israel stop building settlements in occupied Arab land and Jerusalem in a joint declaration today that ended their three-day summit, reports AP.  
The statement followed debate by delegates of the 55-member Organization of the Islamic Conference.  
The Tehran declaration sharply criticised Israel for what it called 'state terrorism' and supported the creation of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.  
In the spirit of the opening speech by Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, the declaration called for 'interaction, dialogue and understanding among cultures and religions.'  
The declaration also urged states to deny asylum to terrorists.

## Tehran Declaration adopted

The killing of innocent people is forbidden in Islam, said the five-page statement, a copy of which was obtained by the Associated Press. It was to be read at the closing session.  
The summit, which drew 28 heads of state, prime ministers and crown princes, served as a forum for Iran to forge ties with countries long wary of its 1979 Islamic revolution.  
The declaration called for 'full respect for the dignity and the rights of Muslim women and enhancement of their role in all aspects of social life in accordance with Islamic principles.'  
The declaration also criticised US attempts to penalize countries doing business with Iran and Libya.  
The declaration urged the United Nations to consider giving the Organization of the Islamic Conference a seat on the Security Council, a request Annan has already rejected.  
In all, 142 resolutions were adopted on the final day.  
The resolutions were drawn up by Muslim foreign ministers in a separate meeting here last week, and are divided into political, cultural and economic texts.

## Next summit in Qatar

**TEHRAN, Dec 11:** Muslim leaders meeting in Tehran agreed today to hold their next summit in the Gulf Arab state of Qatar in the year 2000, delegates to the Eighth Islamic Summit said, reports Reuter.  
They also agreed to hold a foreign ministers' meeting in the Doha in March.

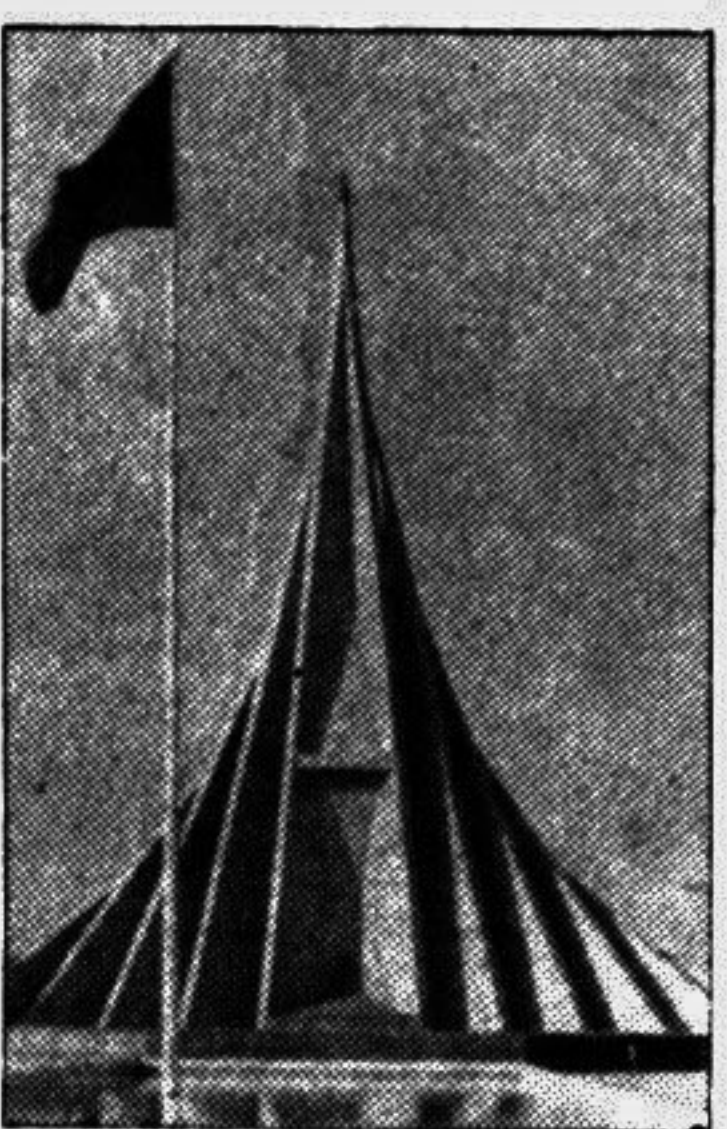
## BDR called out: Sec 144 imposed

# 7 killed as police open fire on clashing villagers in Habiganj

**HABIGANJ, Dec 11:** At least seven people were killed when police opened fire on the clashing villagers near Mashajan Bridge in Sadar thana of the district today, reports UNB.  
The dead were identified as Abdul Aziz, 35, of village Sultanshi, Siddique Ali, 45, of village Algoria, Ramesh Chandra Sutradhar, 45, Tota Mia, 40, and Jalal Mia, 35, of village Poil, Abdul Latif, 40, of Auspara and Abdus Salam, 35, of Teuiya in sadar thana.  
More than 100 people were injured in the day-long clashes. Most of them received bullet injuries and were admitted to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.  
District administration imposed section 144 in the troubled area and its adjoining places for an indefinite period. Para-military BDR was also called in to bring the situation under control.  
Witnesses said the clash occurred between the residents of Sharifpur and Sultanshi villages and the nearby villages, including Tetuiya and Ranganagar. It began on Wednesday as a sequel to assault of a youth at the Jatragan pandal few days back in village Sharifpur.  
The clash erupted again this morning after a bid to make a compromise between the feuding groups failed.  
The situation turned worse when a large number of people from village Poil rushed to the spot following a rumour that former Upazila Chairman Ahmedul Huq was held captive by his rivals.  
To quell the violence, police lobbed tear gas shells and opened fire on the feuding groups.  
Police Super Rangshadhar Tarafdar said 75 rounds of bullet and 62 tear gas shells were fired during the clash to disperse the mob.  
This correspondent found four bodies kept at the Sadar Hospital while three others at Sadar thana. The number of casualty might increase.

## BNP activists go into hiding Indefinite road barricade in CHT from today

**From Staff Correspondent**  
CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: The two-day hartal called by BNP and its allies ended today amid a tense situation in the three CHT districts while it passed off peacefully in Chittagong.  
BNP and its six allies called the hartal dawn-to-dusk today, and yesterday demanding cancellation of the CHT accord.  
Official sources said army and BDR personnel deployed at Rangamati yesterday following sporadic clashes were withdrawn today. But a large number of police personnel remained deployed in the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban to prevent outbreak of violence.  
Meanwhile, the Parbatya Sarbadaliya Oikya Parishad has decided to put up road barricades in CHT for an indefinite period from tomorrow demanding release of its leaders and activists arrested in the last two days.  
Sources concerned said a number leaders and activists of BNP and its allies at Khagrachhari and Rangamati had gone into hiding to escape arrest.  
Normal life was disrupted in the CHT and the port city today due to hartal. All kinds of vehicle stayed off the roads. In Chittagong, large number of rickshaws, however, were seen. See Page 12 Col 3



## 'Public hearing' on rape, killing by Pak forces

**By Staff Correspondent**  
A 'public hearing' on the incidents of rape and killing by the Pakistani occupation forces, Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams during the Liberation War will be held at the 'bakultola' of the Fine Arts Institute of Dhaka University today in observance of the Victory Day.  
Organised by Sammito Nari Samaj, the 'public hearing' will begin at 7:30 pm.  
Meanwhile, as the Victory Day approaches, the capital city is taking a festive mood with more and more socio-cultural and political organisations organising various programmes. See Page 12 Col 5



Naripakkha organised a Candle Light programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday in memory of the martyrs of Liberation War. — Star photo

## Indus Valley project not cancelled?

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Confusion remains over the Indus Valley project to develop the Gulshan, Banani lake area as Rajuk officials said they were yet to cancel the contract.  
Several weeks ago Minister for Housing and Public Works Mohammad Nasim told The Daily Star that the contract between the Singapore-based developer and Rajuk had been cancelled.  
But Rajuk officials yesterday said the contract was suspended, not cancelled.  
When contacted, Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haque said See Page 12 Col 1

## CHT peace accord BNP won't go to court, fight it politically

**By Staff Correspondent**  
BNP will not challenge the CHT accord in the court but face the government on the issue politically, party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP has said.  
"We're politicians, not mam-labaz. We aren't going to sue... We'll face the government politically," Bhuiyan told a press conference at the BNP central office in the city yesterday evening.  
Reiterating the BNP demand for scrapping the "unconstitutional" accord on the CHT without further delay, he said "The proposed regional council seems to be a body for a 'semi-province', totally different in structure from a local government body."  
Mannan Bhuiyan once again asked the government to go for a fresh treaty involving all concerned after discussing the matter in the Jatiya Sangsad. See Page 12 Col 6

## Khaleda opens JASAS 'Bijoy Mela' today

**By Staff Correspondent**  
The authorities have permitted the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS), cultural front of BNP, to hold its planned 'Bijoy Mela' at the Shokayu Munch in the city's Ramna Park to celebrate the Victory Day.  
BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to open the mela at 3 pm today. Party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told a press conference at the BNP central office here.  
JASAS could not start its See Page 12 Col 8

## ALCWC condemns BNP's 'terrorist activities' in CHT

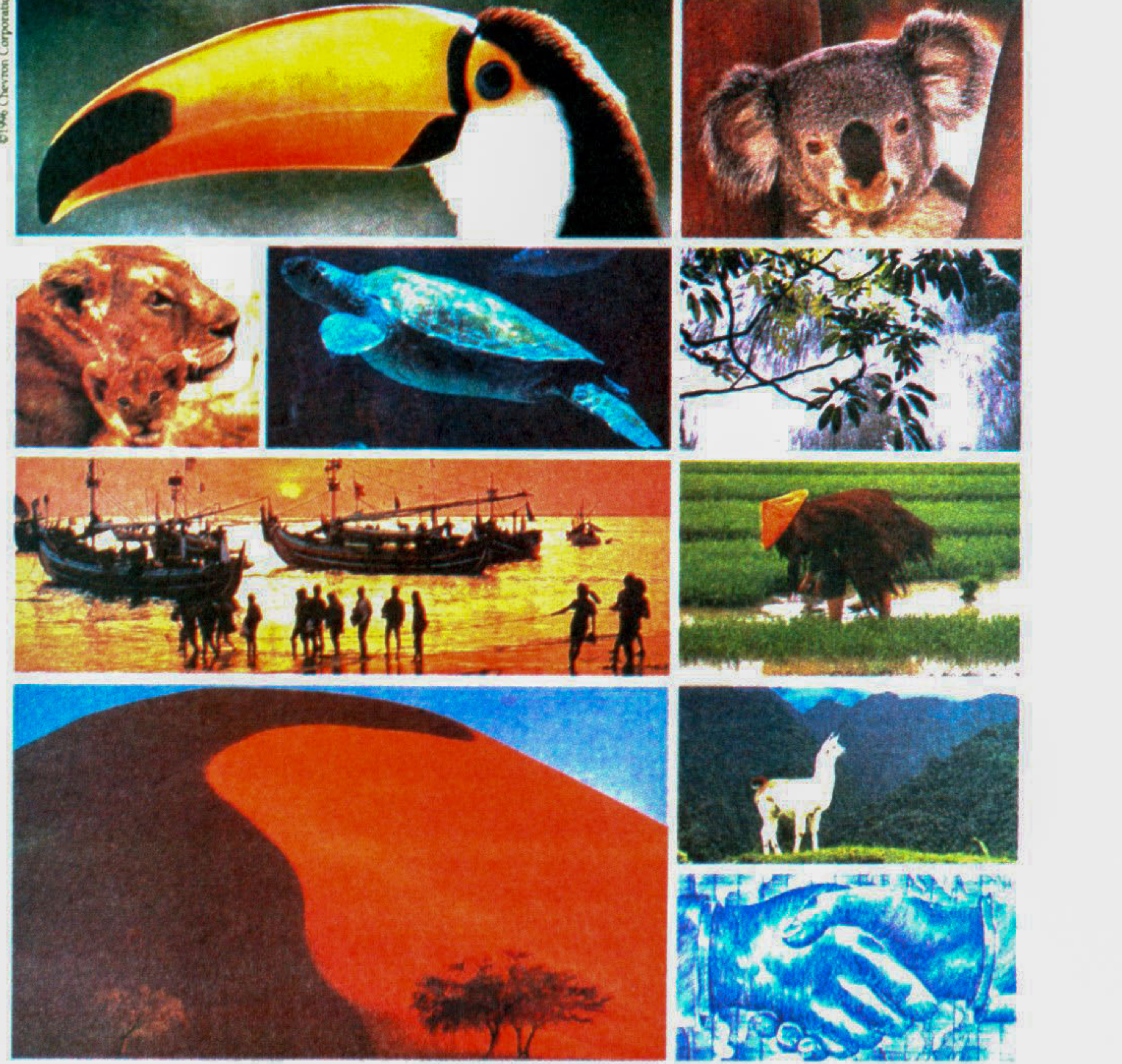
**By Staff Correspondent**  
Awami League central working committee (ALCWC) at a meeting yesterday took stock of the political situation prevailing in the country following the signing of a peace accord on the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).  
The meeting criticized the main opposition BNP and its allies for 'misleading the people by propagating against the accord'. It strongly condemned the 'terrorist activities' unleashed by BNP and Jamaat-Shibir in CHT in the name of hartal.  
Party central leaders also felt the necessity of a 'massive' central office in the city yesterday evening. See Page 12 Col 3

## Experts tell IPS roundtable in city

# Gas reserves not enough to meet country's future needs

**By Staff Correspondent**  
They questioned the justification of opening all the gas exploration blocks for bidding when the country does not have a proper plan or resources to purchase gas from the explorers in case of discovery. Neither the country is equipped to utilize the future gas resources, they observed.  
Former Energy Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain, former planning minister Dr. Moin Khan, Chairman of the Geology Department of Dhaka University Dr Badrul Imam, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad SM Akram, Imran Khan, MP, Barrister Moinul Islam and some others participated in the discussion.  
Former finance minister and Chairman of the IPS M Saifur Rahman chaired the Roundtable, moderated by Executive Director of IPS Dr Osman Haker Chowdhury.  
The present 10.8 trillion cubic feet gas reserve of the country will be exhausted by the year 2020 without even catering to the local needs properly. According to available data, the country could hardly double its recoverable gas reserve in future, they said.  
"We are not floating on gas and there is no evidence that Bangladesh has a prospective gas reserve of 80 trillion cubic feet," Mosharraf Hossain said commenting on a recent statement. See Page 12 Col 4

## While developing one resource, we carefully protect the others.



As one of the world's largest international petroleum companies, Chevron understands that how we conduct our business can affect the communities in which we work. For that reason we maintain some of the highest environmental standards on earth. In fact, our efforts, alone and in partnerships with others, have been officially recognized by countries including the United States, the People's Republic of China and Australia. Yet, nice as they are, we don't protect the environment for awards. We protect it for the future.

**Chevron**  
The symbol of partnership.

## Death of Sramik League leader BCL ransacks Pabna BNP office, observes hartal

**From Ranesh Maitra**  
PABNA, Dec 11: Bangladesh Chhatra League activists today ransacked the district BNP office, damaged vehicles and shops and called a four-hour hartal in the town protesting the killing of a Sramik League leader yesterday evening.  
The four-hour hartal from 2 pm was observed by and large peacefully.  
Abul Kalam Azad, organising secretary of the district Sramik League and storekeeper of the local Power Development Board office was shot dead at his office room by some unidentified assailants. Leaders of the Sramik League, labour front of ruling Awami League, blamed BNP for the killing.  
Protesting the killing, angry Chhatra League activists paraded the streets, carrying sticks and hockey sticks, ransacked the BNP office at Lahuripur and took away the signboard at about noon. They damaged one car, two mi- See Page 12 Col 3

## Punitive action against 6 WDB officers

Bangladesh Water Development Board has removed an engineer from service and taken punitive action against five other personnel on various charges, reports BSS.  
Firoz Montasher Ahmed, a sub-divisional engineer, was removed from service for his negligence of duty and misconduct, sources said yesterday.  
Montasher went to Bangkok on January 9, 1989 on 20-month study leave for pursuing higher education on 'water resources engineering' in Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), but he did not join his duty after his leave. Even he did not an- See Page 12 Col 8