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Euro is
born

BRUSSELS, Jan 1: Europe entered a new era today as 290 million people in 11 countries adopted a single currency which will sweep away their national money and give the continent a powerful influence on the world stage, reports Reuters.

The euro was born as the stroke of midnight ushered in the New Year, giving a huge swath of Europe a common currency for the first time since the Roman empire.

European Union leaders hailed the launch of the euro, which many believe will come to rival the US dollar as a trading and reserve currency, as historic and a great day for Europe.

See also page 8

Euro notes and coins will not circulate until 2002. Until then, the currency will be used mainly for electronic transactions. Consumers will be able to have euro-denominated bank and credit card accounts, mortgages and travellers' personal cheques.

Nonetheless, the euro is now the official currency of a vast area encompassing Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Portugal and Spain.

Bishwa Ijtema
begins Jan 30

GAZIPUR, Jan 1: The Bishwa Ijtema of Tablig Jamaat will begin on January 30 at Tongi here. Ijtema Committee sources told BSS today.

Lakhs of Muslim devotees including 10,000 foreigners, are expected to attend the three-day religious gathering.

Ijtema Committee sources said the work to set up tents is going on in full swing on the bank of the river Turag, the venue of the Bishwa Ijtema.

It will be the 33rd Ijtema in the country, the second largest Muslim religion congregation after the holy Haj, since 1966.

Another accused in Sohel murder case arrested

By Staff Correspondent Detective Branch of police arrested another accused in Sohel Chowdhury murder case from the city's Asad Gate area under Tejgaon since yesterday morning.

The arrested was identified as Harun-ur-Rashid alias Liton. 26, son of Tayab Ali Kand.

Film actor Sohel Chowdhury was gunned down in front of Club Tramps in the city's Banani area on December 18.

Police said he will be produced before court today.

The arrested person was charged in a number of cases, including terrorism, toll collection, and murder filed with Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur thanas, police added.

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Pak economy enters '99 with fall in growth rate
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Prayer Timings

January 2

Ramadan	Jan	Sehrif	Iftari
Fajr	5-17	5-22	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	4-00	4-15	
Maghrab	5-27	5-29	
Esha	7-00	7-15	

Source: Islamic Foundation

Sehri, Iftari timings

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftari
13	2	—	5-27
14	3	5-17	5-28
15	4	5-17	5-28

Source: Islamic Foundation

Power Timings

January 2

Ramadan	Jan	Sehri	Iftari
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