

# The Daily Star

on Friday

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DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 1999

35 days to the  
3rd Millennium

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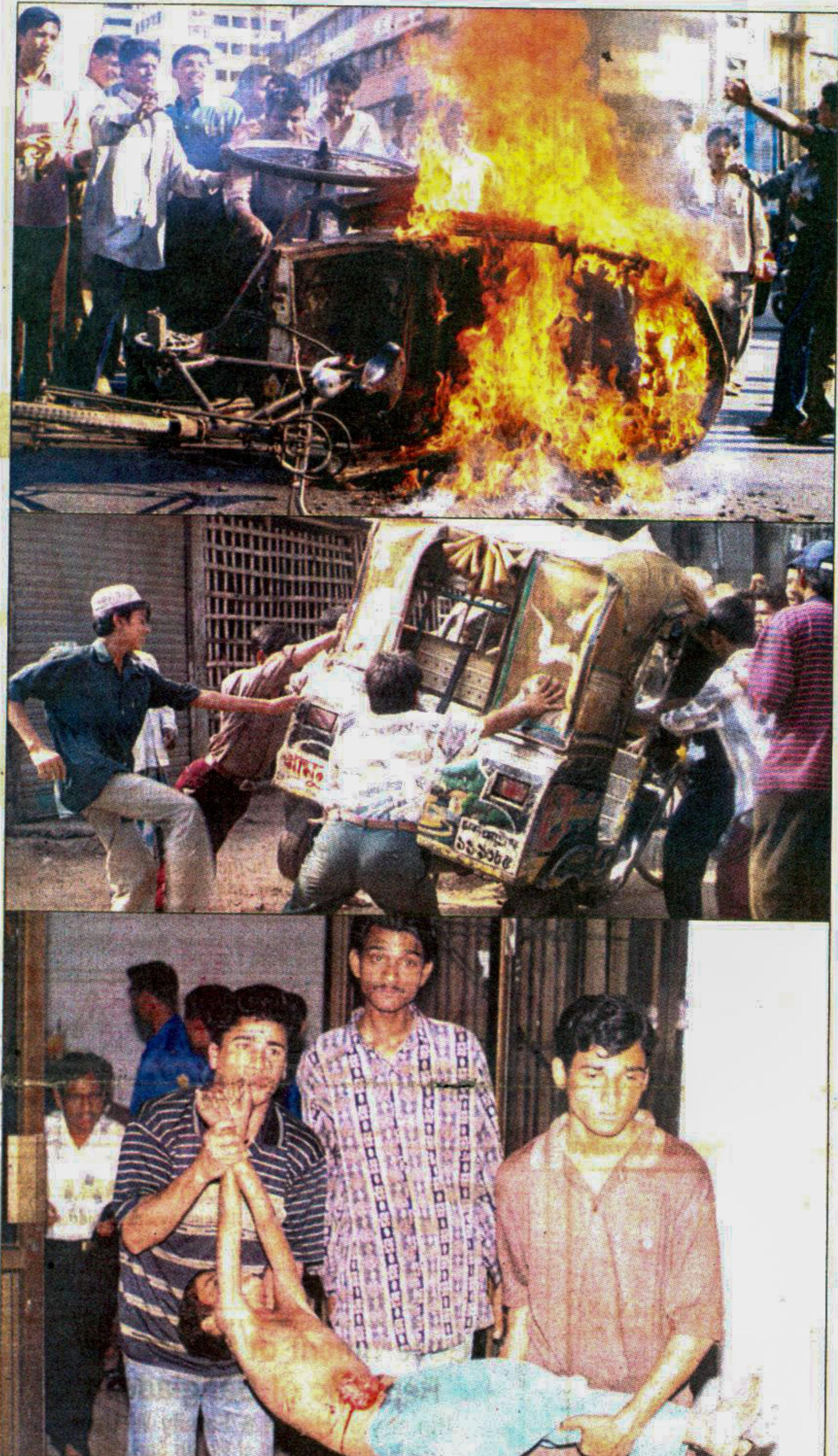
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### Delight in destruction

A rickshaw set ablaze (top), an auto-rickshaw being turned upside down (middle) and a minor boy writhing in pain from bomb injury during hartal hours yesterday. All these poignantly reflect the usual indifference of political activists to the life and property of commoners for whom they say they are out on the streets.

—Star photo: A K M Mohsin and Amran Hossain

## Hasina repeats no-hartal pledge, call for dialogue

KUMARKHALI, Kushthia, Nov 25: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today reiterated that her party would never call a hartal and again urged the Leader of the Opposition to come to talks to solve any problem re-nouncing politics of hartal, re-ports UNB.

"Please don't kill the people throwing bombs, don't create sufferings of the people calling unnecessary hartals. Join the politics of development, ask me any question you like in Parliament," she requested the leader of the Opposition in Par-

liament Khaleda Zia.

Addressing a big public meeting at Kumarkhal Degree College in the afternoon, the Prime Minister reiterated her overtur for dialogue with her political rival. "Don't loiter on the streets, come and join discussions to solve all problems."

She said rejecting the offer for talks, the Opposition Leader proved that they do not want development of the country. They do not believe dialogue and democracy.

Hasina said they do not do politics for the people, they do not want democracy. If they had faith in democracy, in the people, they could not call hartal so often, which only cause sufferings to the people.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Central Awami League leader Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, State Minister for Textiles K M Jahangir, Jilul Hakim, MP, Col (retired) Farook Khan, MP, and local leaders Zahid Hossain Zafar and Abdul Awal Miah also addressed the meeting presided over by thana AL President Abdul Jalil.

"I have already declared that I will not call hartal anymore, even if I go back to the opposition," said Hasina questioning the justification of opposition-sponsored strikes.

### Notice

Due to unavoidable circumstances arising out of yesterday's dawn-to-dusk hartal, we have been forced to truncate *The Daily Star* on Friday to 16 pages. We regret our valued readers' inconvenience.

—Editor

## Biman okays Citibank plan

By Shehab Ahmed

The Citibank would send the final proposal detailing the blueprint for privatisation of the Biman's 49 per cent share under a two million dollar World Bank aided project.

Of the 49 per cent 40 per cent shares would be offered to a strategic partner. Biman employees and officials would be given the nine per cent share under the plan, which is expected to be completed by June next year.

Citibank was selected from

short list of four western companies and banks that participated in a global tender.

The bank would also help the Biman to get a strategic partner to buy the 40 per cent stake in the airlines and help its expansion.

The airline flies to 24 destinations world wide with a fleet of four DC-10-30 aircraft, two A-310 Airbus, three F-86 and two ATP's and 5,500 employees and officials.

## Hartal claims one in capital, hurts 60

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and 60 people were injured, three of them bullet-hit, in incidents of violence in the capital and other parts of the country during the opposition-called dawn to dusk hartal yesterday.

Police detained 36 people in the city on charges of 'picketing and rioting'.

The BNP-led opposition alliance called the hartal demanding resignation of the Awami League government and fresh general elections.

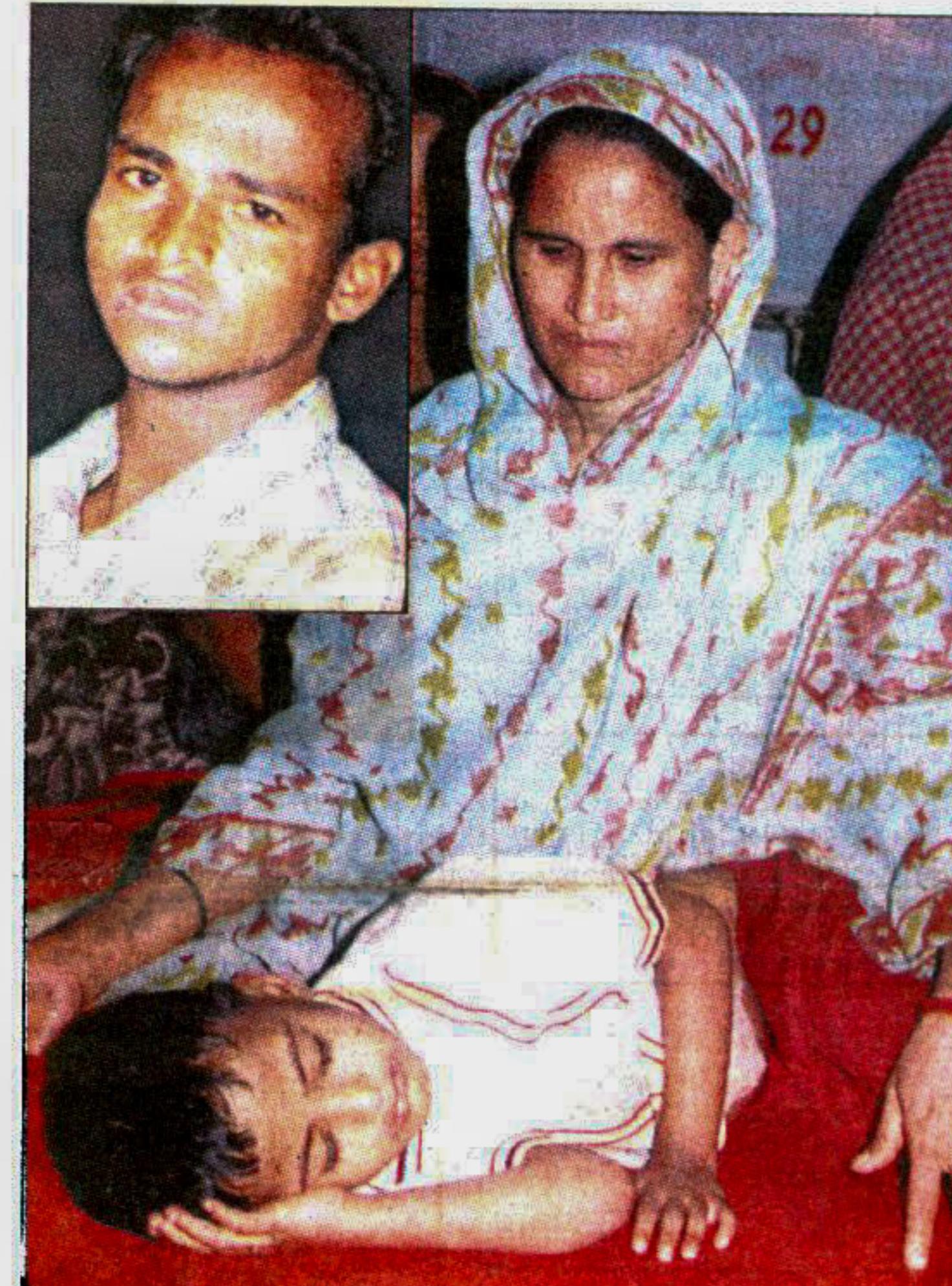
Nasu Miah, a truck driver

was killed when a petrol bomb was hurled on his vehicle at Shahjahanpur in the city at about 5:00 pm (although our Staff Photographer took a snap of the dead, we decided not to print it). The two helpers of the truck - Babul and Zakir - were also injured.

The three were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). Nasu, 30, was declared dead and critically injured Zakir was admitted to the hospital with burn injury.

Chase and counter chase

## Boy and the brute



### Sleeping off the trauma

First he was held hostage by a mugger for a safe passage and then stabbed. Five-year-old Anwar Hossain has survived but will he be able to leave behind the trauma?

—Star photo: Anisur Rahman

## CSE hopes to dodge Y2K

### Lone bourse in the world to trade through millennium chaos

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will try to bypass the millennium bug by going back to the manual trading system for the time being, just in case its automated procedure gets bogged down.

In the backdrop of worldwide fear of computer malfunctioning at midnight December 31, the CSE is set to begin mock manual trading sessions next month under the so-called 'open outcry system', now a thing of the past after the country's both bourses went online.

If that happens, CSE will be the only trading house in the world to keep open through vulnerable period, according to the Federation of International Stock Exchanges (FIBV).

CSE's wide-area network (WAN) system -- which currently links Dhaka, Sylhet and Chittagong -- is depended on the telephone system provided by the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB).

CSE officials say they are ready to face the glitches of the new millennium and have prepared a two-tier contingency plan to encounter millennium problems if the system fails.

"We have decided to maintain a contingency pool of computers with the brokers' module of the system loaded and a broker would not be allowed to trade from more than one terminal in case the networking system fails," according to Chief Executive Officer Waliul Maroof Matin of the CSE.

He says the members would be asked to bring in their own machine if number of traders exceeds the number of machines and, in case of failure in the main system, the CSE will revert to the manual 'open outcry' system.

The members would be asked to appear at CSE's local offices and take part in manual order matching system.

The trading period will be redefined for a brief period allowing trade for limited orders to be prescribed in an order form. The members will receive bid-offer limit or a sheet mentioning the circuit breaker for each company, the CEO said.

"The orders would be entered into the PCs at local offices which will be part of a central system and private cellular services would be used in case of a BTTB failure," Maroof said.

He said that a trading floor would be ready to auction one scrip at a time.

## Khaleda sees fall of AL govt soon

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has said success of the countrywide hartal yesterday made fall of this government imminent.

In a statement yesterday, she congratulated the countrymen for observing the hartal spontaneously and called on the government not to delay its resignation.

She said this "isolated government" has failed miserable, to run the country and has created fresh problems and increased suffering of the people due to its misrule and anti-national activities.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the ruling party has made the Jatiya

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## Shipwreck off Chinese coast kills 150

### Many more missing in freezing waters

BEIJING, Nov 25: A ferry pummelled by violent winds and towering waves caught fire and cracked open off the coast of eastern China, leaving more than 150 dead and many others missing, official media and local officials said today, reports AP.

The ship, the Dashun, wrecked amid gale-force winds late Wednesday near Yantai, in eastern China's Shandong province, as it headed for the northeastern port of Dalian carrying 312 passengers and crew, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

More than 150 people were killed and more than 100 others were missing, the government-run China News Service reported from Yantai. It said 36 people had been rescued. No foreigners were among the dead or missing, who were mainly from Shandong and China's northeast, it said.

"It was very tragic. The sea was covered with bodies," said a Yantai city fire brigade officer.

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## DCC hawks park

Mayor's office makes mockery of public proposition

By Staff Correspondent

DCC officials have revived plans for a hawker's market on an acre of the Osmany Oudiy, despite public opposition to the project three years ago.

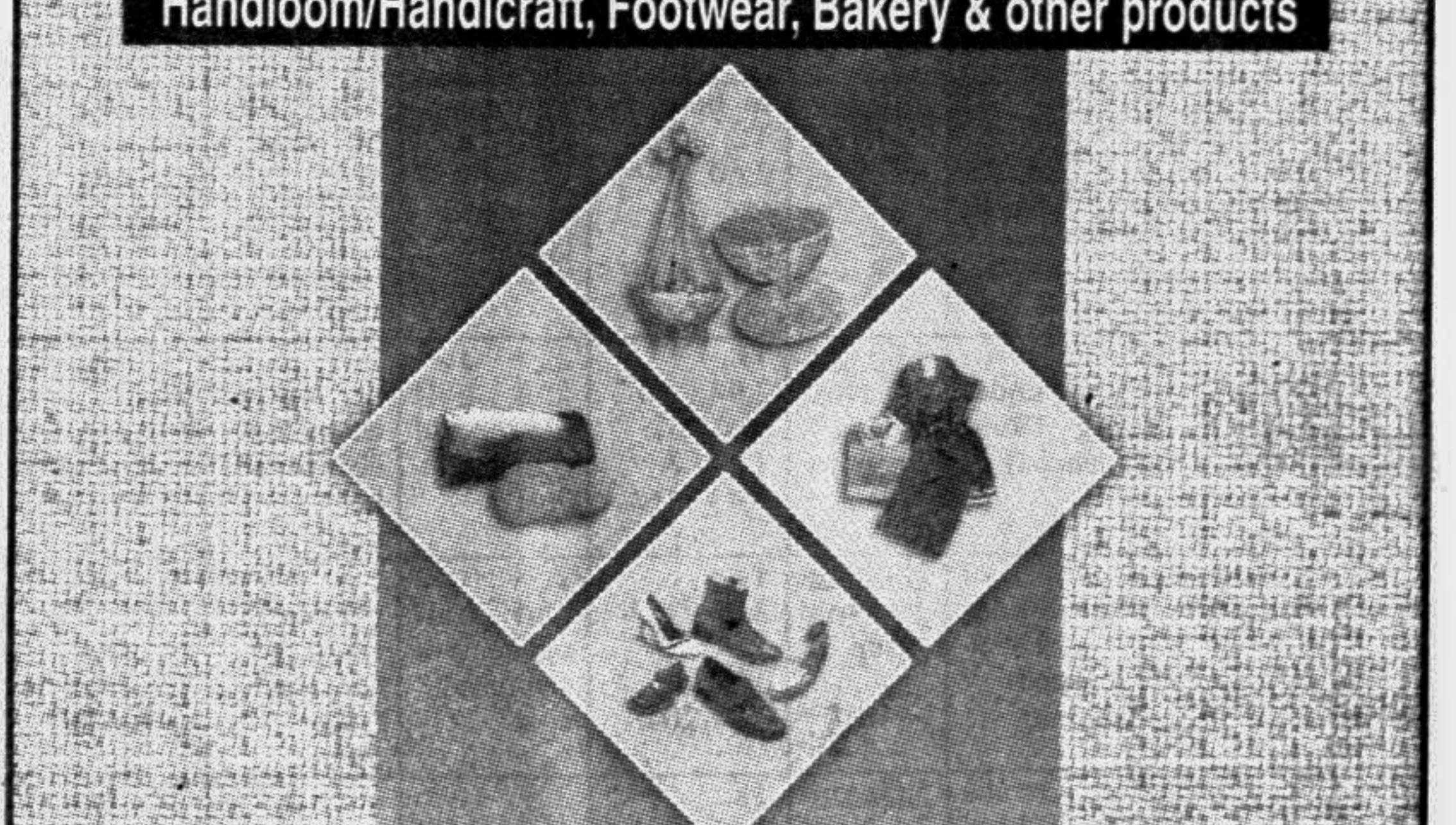
The mayor's office gave the green light to build a market on a piece of the park, the only one still dividing the old and new city, after the government shifted the construction site for Dhaka's new convention hall.

Mayor Mohammad Hanif said he couldn't recall any such move by his office. The mayor mixed a similar project in 1996.

"I can tell you what is happening at the Osmany Oudiy only after I talk to the Estate Officer," said Hanif.

He advised this correspondent to contact the Estate Department.

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10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday

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