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13 days to the  
3rd Millennium

POUSH 4, 1406 BS

RAMADAN 9, 1420 HIJRI

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## Convocation DU to honour PM, Amartya Sen today

By DU Correspondent

The 40th general convocation of the Dhaka University will be held on the campus today amidst tight security.

Everything is in place for grand ceremony that has cost the DU authorities about Tk two crore.

They have decided to confer honorary doctorate degrees on Nobel laureate Prof. Amartya Sen — "Doctor of Science" — and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina — "Doctor of Laws" — in the long-awaited convocation in almost three decades.

DU Chancellor President Shahabuddin Ahmed will preside over the convocation ceremony, which is the first since independence of the country.

See Page 12 Col 2

**Opposition backed  
student bodies  
call 6-hr hartal  
in city today**

By DU Correspondent

Student fronts of the opposition political parties have called a six-hour hartal beginning at 6 am in the city today, protesting DU decision to confer Honorary Doctorate Degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of opposition BNP, announced the hartal programme on Tuesday at a press conference at BNP office in the city.

Liaison committee of BNP-led opposition alliance later supported today's hartal.

Jatiya Party-backed Jatiya Chhatra Samaj (JCS) and Jamaat-supported Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) also called a six-hour hartal in the city today protesting the DU decision.

Ganotrik Chhatra Okya (GCO), a conglomeration of some left leaning student organisation, will stage demonstration on the campus today protesting the DU decision.

**Inside Today**  
Turkey in  
Europe

Column: The Horizon  
This Week  
by Arshad-uz Zaman  
Page 4

## Supplement

One page special supplement on National Day of Bhutan

Page 10

## Business

New Bangla TV channels delving into viewers' tastes to set business schemes

Creditors to sue  
Russian govt over  
debt default  
Pages 8 & 9

## Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
9	18	—	5:18
10	19	5:10	5:19
11	20	5:11	5:19

## Prayer Timings

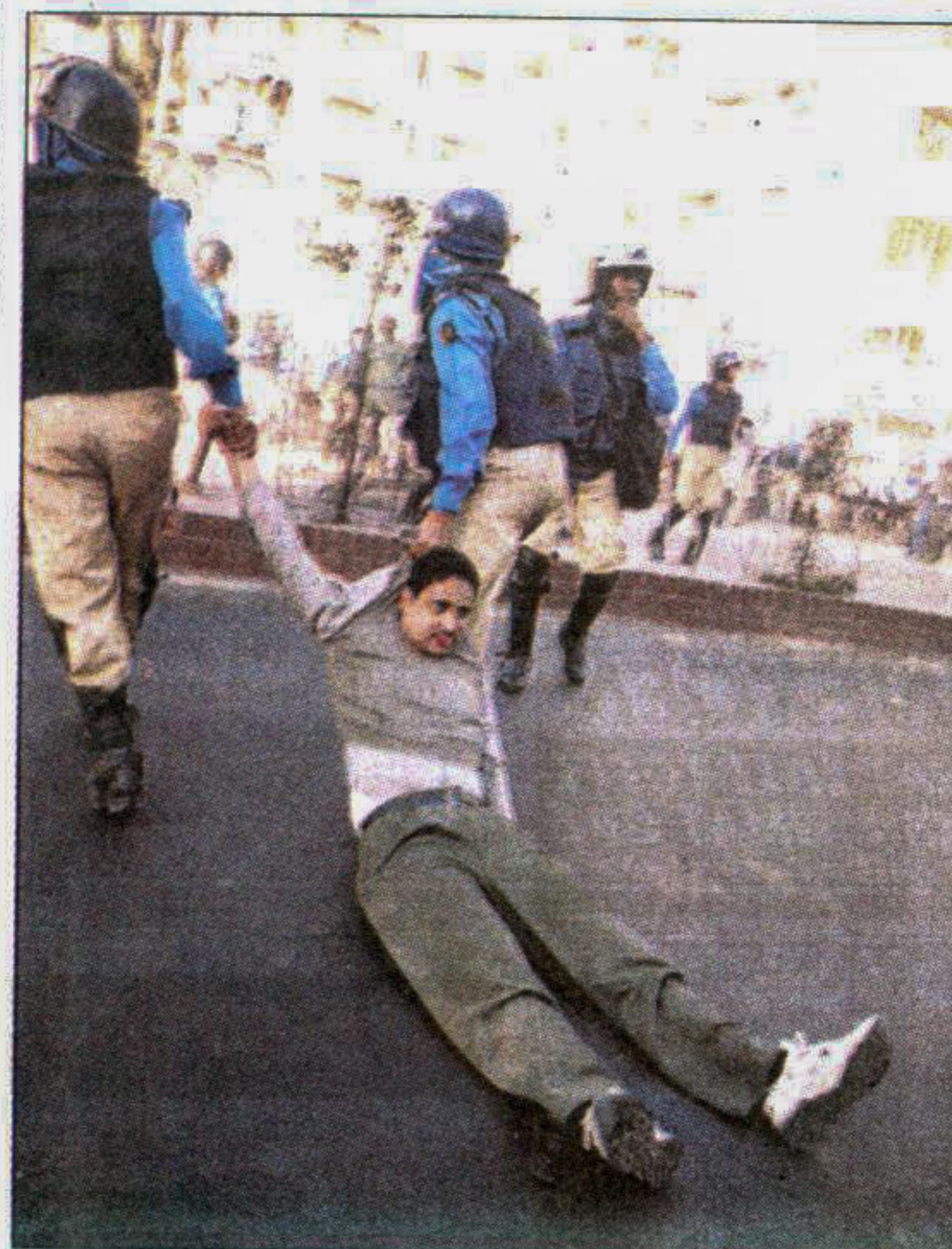
December 18		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:58	5:17	
12:45	1:15	
3:42	4:00	
5:16	5:22	
7:00	7:45	

Source: Islamic Foundation

See Page 10

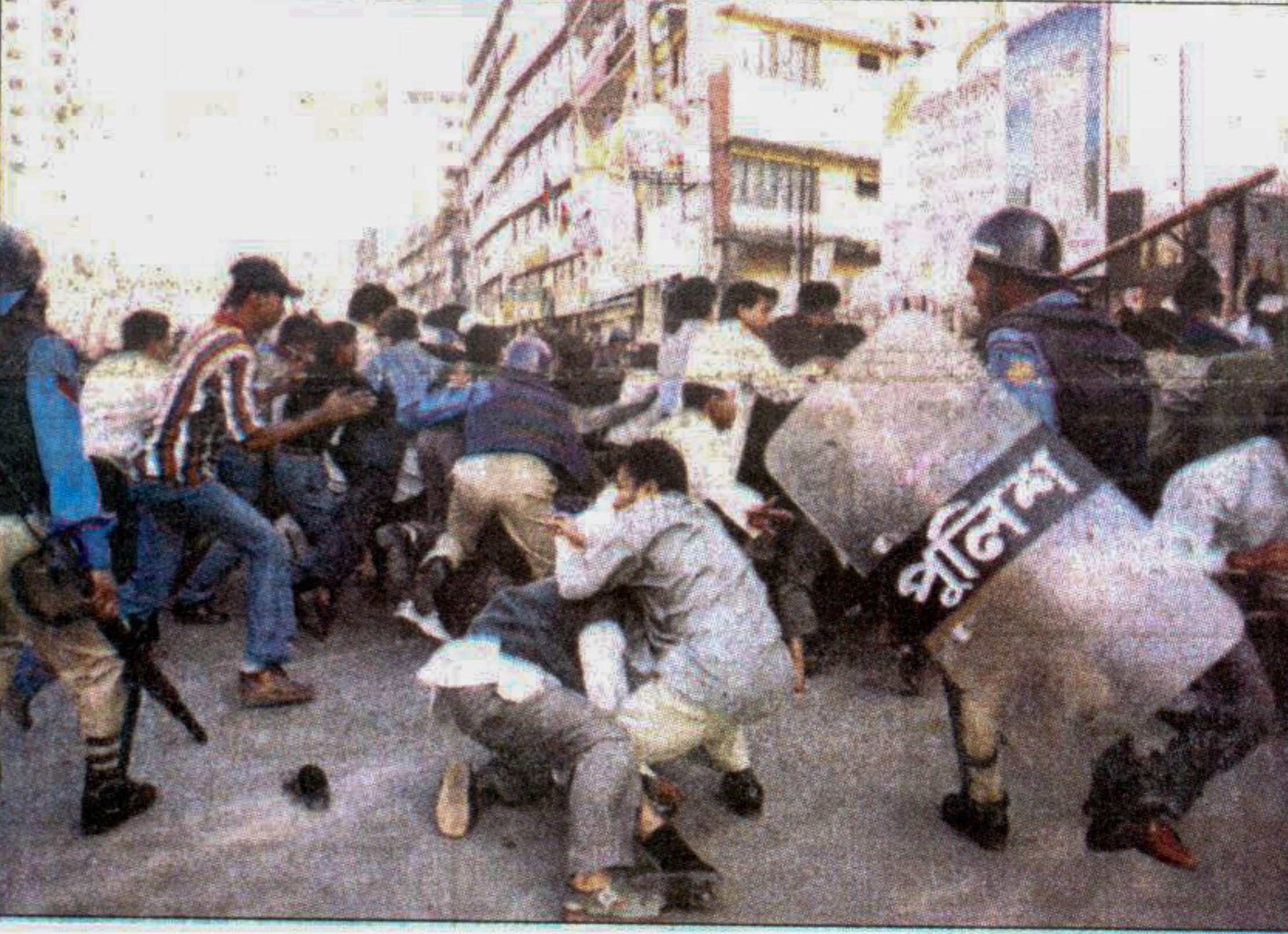
## Crackdown on students ahead of convocation

20 hurt, over 80 rounded up



Police drag JCD general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pinto to the van in front of the BNP office at Naya Paltan in the city yesterday.

— Star photo



See Page 11 Col 7

## BCL leader, Sramik Dal activist killed in Feni gunfight

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Dec 17: A local Chhatra League leader and a Sramik Dal activist were shot dead and 50 injured during a gunfight between BCL and JCD activists at Kaliraj Deegi village under Sadar thana here this afternoon.

The dead were identified as Anwar Hossain Hazari, president of Sadar thana BCL and newly elected commissioner of Feni Pourashava and Zakir Hossain, 23, an activist of the BNP labour front Sramik Dal, police said.

Anwar and Zakir died on the spot.

Anwar was shot in his head while Zakir in his eye.

UNB adds: 30 of the injured were shot during the two-hour-long gunfight.

See Page 11 Col 6

## Fire damages 50 hosiery shops in Narayanganj

By Staff Correspondent

A fire destroyed goods in more than 50 shops in three hosiery markets in Narayanganj last night, witnesses said.

Originating from a godown of a hosiery factory at about 9:30 pm, the fire spread to adjacent areas of Rail Gate 2, police and fire brigade officials said.

Power supply was cut off at Narayanganj town for about 45 minutes to avoid further spreading of the fire.

Nine fire fighting vehicles from Dhaka, Narayanganj, Postagola, Hajiganj and Demra rushed to the spot and doused the blaze in collaboration with police and local people after a one-hour battle.

An official said the fire was fully extinguished at about 11:30 pm.

See Page 11 Col 6

## Riot police deployed

### Rival Sramik League factions take position at Skid ghat

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 17: Riot police have been deployed at the Skid Ghat as two rival factions of Sramik League took position since early this morning for capturing leadership of Handicraft Workers' Union that was in grip of top terror Ershad Shikdar.

Both the factions have hired armed goons, said a source. Supporters of rival factions of the ruling party's labour front were chanting provocative slogans against each other at Skid Ghat at the time of filing this report this evening.

Meanwhile, tension grasped the officials and employees of the zonal office of the PDB fol-

See Page 11 Col 6

## Unocal discovers gasfield in Moulvibazar

US oil giant Unocal Corporation has discovered a major gasfield in Moulvibazar, reports BSS.

This is Unocal's third major gasfield discovered in Bangladesh which located in Block 14, said an announcement yesterday.

Unocal and its subsidiaries, Occidental of Bangladesh Ltd (OBL) and Occidental Exploration of Bangladesh Ltd (OEBL), have previously announced discoveries of significant gas resources at the Jalalabad gasfield, located in Block 13, and the Bibiyana gasfield.

See Page 11 Col 6



President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stand in solemn silence after placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar on the Victory Day.

— Star photo

## How to protect independence, consolidate democracy

By Staff Correspondent

The

nation

celebrated

on

Thursday

its

victory

in

the

nine-month

bloody

war

against

Pakistani

occupation

forces

28

years

ago.

The

Victory

Day

the

last

before

the

new

millennium

evoked

great

enthusiasm

amidst

fresh

pledge

to

protect

the

costly

independence

consolidate

democracy

and

deliver

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fruits

of

freedom

bucking

the

odds

created

by

the

anti-liberation

forces.

President

Shahabuddin

Ahmed

and

Prime

Minister

Sheikh

Hasina

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Mausoleum

at

Savar

at

dawn.

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