

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.

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

See Page 12 Col 2

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

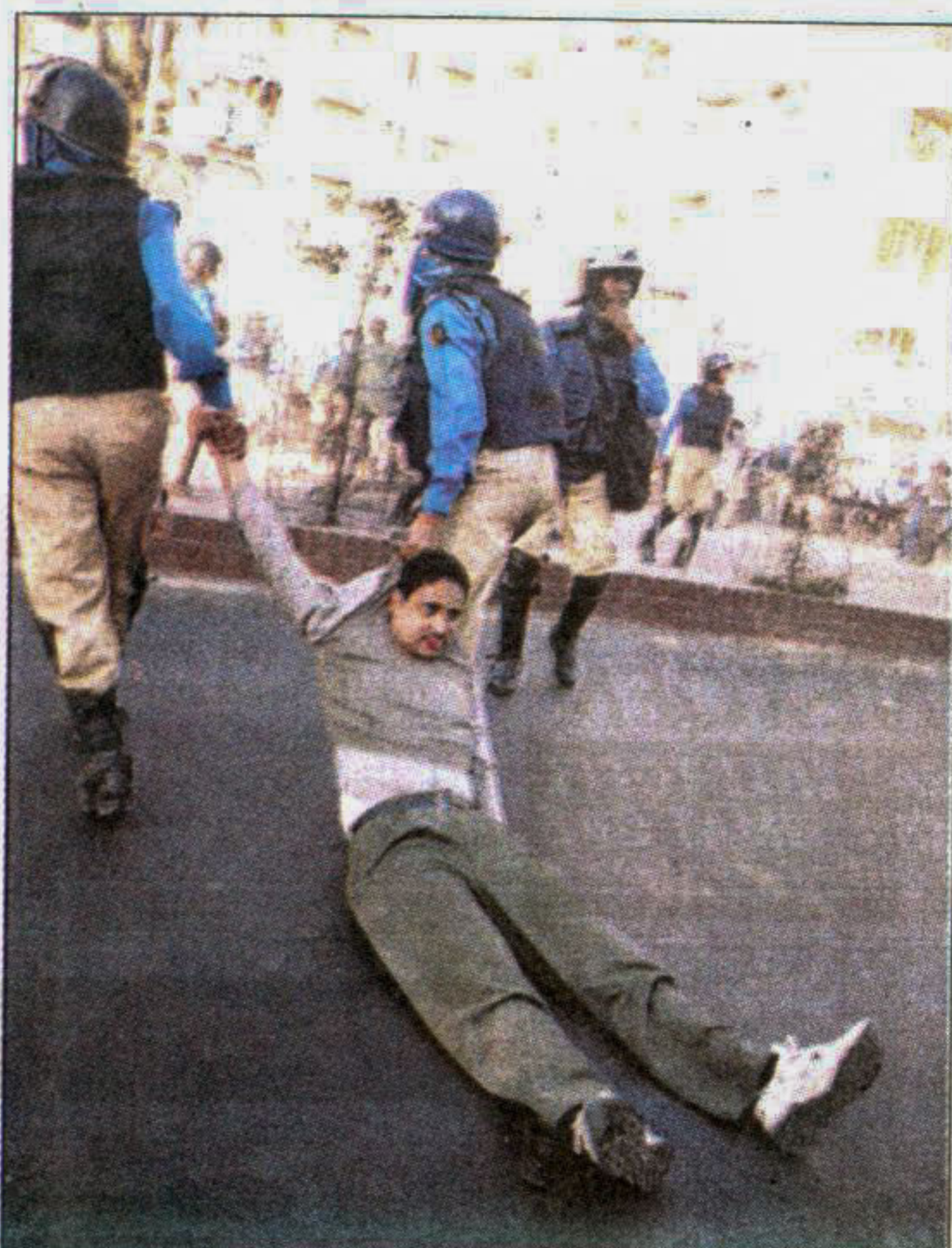
Prayer Timings

December 18		
Fajr	Azan	Jamaat
5:48	5:17	5:17
Zohr	12:45	1:15
Asr	3:42	4:00
Maghrib	5:16	5:22
Tarabi	7:00	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Crackdown on students ahead of convocation

20 hurt, over 80 rounded up



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

By Staff Correspondent

Police cracked down on Opposition-backed student activists in the city yesterday while they were agitating against conferring of honorary doctorate degree on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by Dhaka University at today's convocation.

The activists were drumming up support for a half-day hartal in the city today, called by the student bodies of opposition parties to protest the DU decision.

JCD President and General Secretary and more than 80 student activists were arrested during the crackdown, sources concerned said.

Over 20 activists were injured in the police action, eye witnesses said.

Five vehicles were set afire during clashes between activists and police in different parts of the city.

Police resorted to baton charge and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

The main trouble spots were Naya Paltan, Motijheel, Kakrail, Bijoynagar, Sheorapara, Saderghat and nearby areas.

UNB adds: "We are determined to make our hartal a success. The Prime Minister has no right to come to the university campus as she continued repression on students. Student community will give a befitting reply," acting

See Page 12 Col 5



Police club JCD men in a procession near Naya Paltan yesterday.

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.

The violence erupted at about 4 pm and "soon spread like forest fire," said a witness.

Among the bullet-hit persons are police SI Abul Kashem, constable Nabilul Haq, BCL leader and municipal commissioner-elect Shiblu, 25, JCD activist Noor Islam, 24, and Abul Kalam, 25.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in the town.

There were contradictory statements about the cause of the armed clash.

Police said the gunfight started after the JCD activists chased district BCL President Azharul Islam Arzoo on his way to the town from his residence and his supporters led by

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.



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.

3 party leaders discuss ways to resist CCC polls

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad and Jamaat Ameer Goolam Azam in an exclusive meeting yesterday discussed issues relating to the current movement.

They met after an iftar party hosted by Khaleda Zia at her 29 Minto Road official residence. Earlier, on November 30, the four opposition leaders had a high profile meeting.

Though the Leader of the Opposition hosted the iftar in honour of the political party leaders, but none from the ruling Awami League and left leaning alliance attended the programme.

Islami Oikya Jote chief Azizul Haq could not turn up at the function because of illness, but he sent his party's second man Muhiuddin Ahmed and joint secretary general ARM Abdul Matin.

After the iftar party and Maghrib prayer, the chiefs of

See page 11 col 7

Riot police deployed

Rival Sramik League factions take position at Skid ghat

From 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 Handling 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 following the presence of a

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

Vow 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 the fruits of freedom bucking the odds created by the anti-liberalisation forces.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina led the nation in paying homage to independence martyrs by placing wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar at dawn.

Thousands followed them in tandem as all roads led to the monument.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia also paid tributes to the national heroes laying wreaths at the memorial.

Thousands of people also flocked to the Bangabandhu Museum in the city to garland

the portrait of independence leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after Prime Minister Hasina paid respect to the father of the nation.

The president, prime minister and the Leader of the Opposition also issued separate messages on the eve of the V-Day.

The day was a public holiday.

At daybreak, the celebration

Chaotic situation at Jatiya Smriti Soudha

By staff correspondent

As thousands of people gathered at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha at Savar on the 29th Victory Day on Thursday to pay homage to the martyrs of Liberation War, unruly youths created a chaotic situation pushing people and throwing flowers in a disorderly manner.

Despite the presence of a

See page 11 col 7

began with a 31-gun salute. National flag was hoisted atop all government and private offices and buildings across the country.

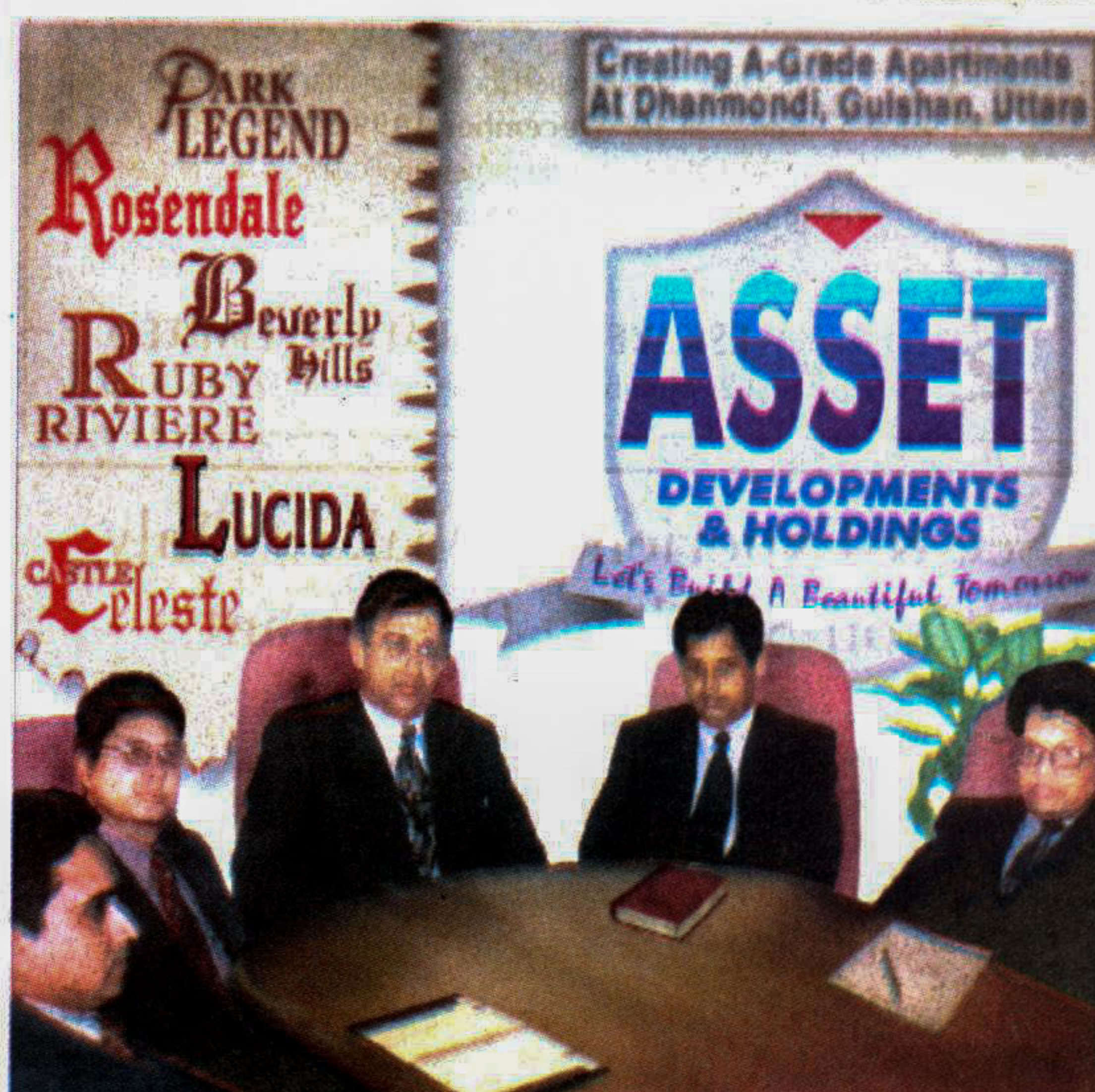
The government, political parties, socio-cultural organisations, professional bodies, educational institutions, student groups and others held different programmes like march past, victory processions, fairs, seminars, symposiums, discussions, cultural functions, film shows, sports and boat race, in the city and elsewhere across the country.

They also offered feteiha and prayed for peace of the departed souls as special prayers were organised in all mosques and other places of worships across the country.

Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television put up special programmes and the national dailies published special supplements highlighting significance of the day in national life.

Besides, the city streets were

See Page 12 Col 1



Asset Developments & Holdings a team of the most experienced and qualified technical and management professionals in the housing industry of Bangladesh held their Technical Directors Meeting recently at their Corporate Office for starting construction of several new apartment projects at Dhanmondi, Gulshan, Banani and Uttara. Mr Salim A Khan MBA, President & MD (centre) chaired the Meeting. Arch Tarique Hassan, Chief Architect & Director (first-R), supported by Engr Ali Asgar, Chief Engineer & Director (second-R), presented the main Technical Paper. Mr A Qudus Jewel, DMD (second-L) and Mr Sayyedul Absar, Director Finance and Admin (first-L) also participated in the Meeting.

সোনার দেশ

হাজার টাকায় একটি নিরাপদ ঠিকানা

একশ শতকের শহর ২০৬ টাউন এর জন্য মসৌনিত আব্দেনকারীগণের তালিকা আজকের দৈনিক ইত্তেফাকের ৮ ও ৯ এর পাতায় দেখুন

বাংলাদেশ ডেভলপমেন্ট কোম্পানী লিঃ (বিডিসি)
(পরিকল্পিত দেশ গড়ার অঙ্গীকার)

সোনার দেশ গড়তে সাহায্য করুন