

News

● What's on today ●

Film show: Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Parey* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium, Shahbag. Time: 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

Painting exhibition: Solo painting exhibition of Firoz will be inaugurated. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Exhibition: Shimul Khaled's fashion exhibition is going on. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Dress exhibition: The concluding day of Charu Chittagong's dress exhibition will be held. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

● and tomorrow ●

Human chain: Women For Women, a research and study group will form a human chain as part of the worldwide campaign for peace in the new century by International Commission for Women and The Guild Service. Venue: Central Shaheed Minar premises. Time: 11:30 am.

Fashion exhibition: An exhibition of fashion appurts by Avalon will be inaugurated. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 3:00 pm-8:00 pm.

Meeting: The Executive Committee of Jatiya Kabita Parishad will hold a meeting. Venue: Teachers lounge at TSC, DU campus. Time: 4:00 pm.

Weather

Fall in night temperature

Mild cold wave may sweep over Rajshahi and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Satkhira, Chuadanga, Mymensingh, Comilla and Sitakunda during the 24 hours commencing from 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

Met Office said dry weather will prevail over the country during next 12 hours till 6 pm today.

Weathermen forecast light or moderate fog over river basin in the early morning while slight fall in night temperature.

The country's highest temperature 28.2 degrees Celsius was recorded today at Cox's Bazar and Bogra and lowest 9.8 degrees at Satkhira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:15 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:35 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in Percentage		
	In Celsius	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka		26.3	12.2	71	51
Chittagong		28.0	16.2	74	73
Rajshahi		25.4	11.5	81	85
Khulna		28.0	11.6	78	71
Barisal		26.5	11.9	89	92
Sylhet		27.3	14.3	94	74
Cox's Bazar		28.2	18.0	74	62

HERE and THERE

Islamic Foundation

Bangladesh Islamic Foundation held *Qurankhwan*, *milad* and *doa mahfil* seeking divine blessings for the martyred freedom fighters at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque on Thursday, reports BSS.

Director General of the Foundation Mawlana Abdul Awal, officers-employees of the foundation and a large number of people participated in the function.

Special *munajat* was also offered for continued peace, progress and prosperity of the association and its activities.

Chaired by Mozaaffar Hossain Manik, the meeting was addressed by Zakaria Milon, Mafuz Rahman and the association's general secretary Fakrul Alom Kanchon. An *iftar* party followed the meeting.

Pesh Imam of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque Muffy Nooruddin conducted the *mujajat*.

College teachers' appeal

By DU Correspondent

Teachers of government colleges at a meeting yesterday urged the authorities to start the procedure regarding the promotion of teachers under a proper code of conduct.

They also criticised the existing rules regarding appointment and promotion in the education cadre.

The teachers were addressing a meeting of BCS General Education Promotion Coordination Committee at the Science College in the city.

Presided over by Sadat Hossain, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Selima Khutun, Shah Sufian, Saiful Islam, Abu Yusuf and Abdur Rashid, Sahana Azim and Firoza Sultana.

Tk 592 cr project to build roads in 3 hill dists

RANGAMATI, Dec 17: The government has undertaken a master plan to construct 955 km roads in the three hill districts at a cost of Tk 592 crore, reports UNB.

Officials said upon completion of the five-year project, to be implemented by Roads and Highway Department, 111 union headquarters will directly be linked with 25 thana and three district headquarters.

Works on the project are expected to begin soon, depending on the availability of funds as pledged by donor agencies.

Meanwhile, Ranirhat Bridge over the Ichhamati River on Rangamati-Chittagong highway is being repaired on an emergency basis.

To mark the day wreath will be laid and *fateha* will be offered at the *mazar* of the late poet at Banani Graveyard. *Qurankhwan*, *milad mahfil* and feeding of the destitutes will be held at the residence of the late poet's son tomorrow.

1810 arrested in combing operation

A total of 1,810 people were arrested and 34 illegal arms, 96 bullets and 25 bombs were seized in the last two days of countrywide combing operation by police, Bangladesh Rifles and Ansar forces, reports BSS.

The arrested included 946 people who were wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Appointment

Group Capt M Iqbal Hussain joined as the Chairman of CAAIB recently, says a press release.

Capt Iqbal joined the Air Force in 1970.

He was the recipient of the first Sword of Honour. He has over 4000 hours of flying to his credit. He is a category 'A' pilot and a Flying Efficiency badge holder.

He is a graduate of Defence Service Staff Course and attended his National Defence University Course in China. Prior to joining as Chairman, he was Director of Training in the AFD of prime ministers office.

Jehendah Ex-cadets Association (JEXCA) has organised a *milad mahfil* for the salvation of the departed soul of Brig Shabab Ashfaque tomorrow at 4:00 pm at Ami-Rum Commuter Centre at 77 Satmasjid Road, says a press release.

Milad mahfil

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accompanied by other leaders of the Bangladesh Awami League placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar to mark the Victory Day on Thursday.

—Star photo



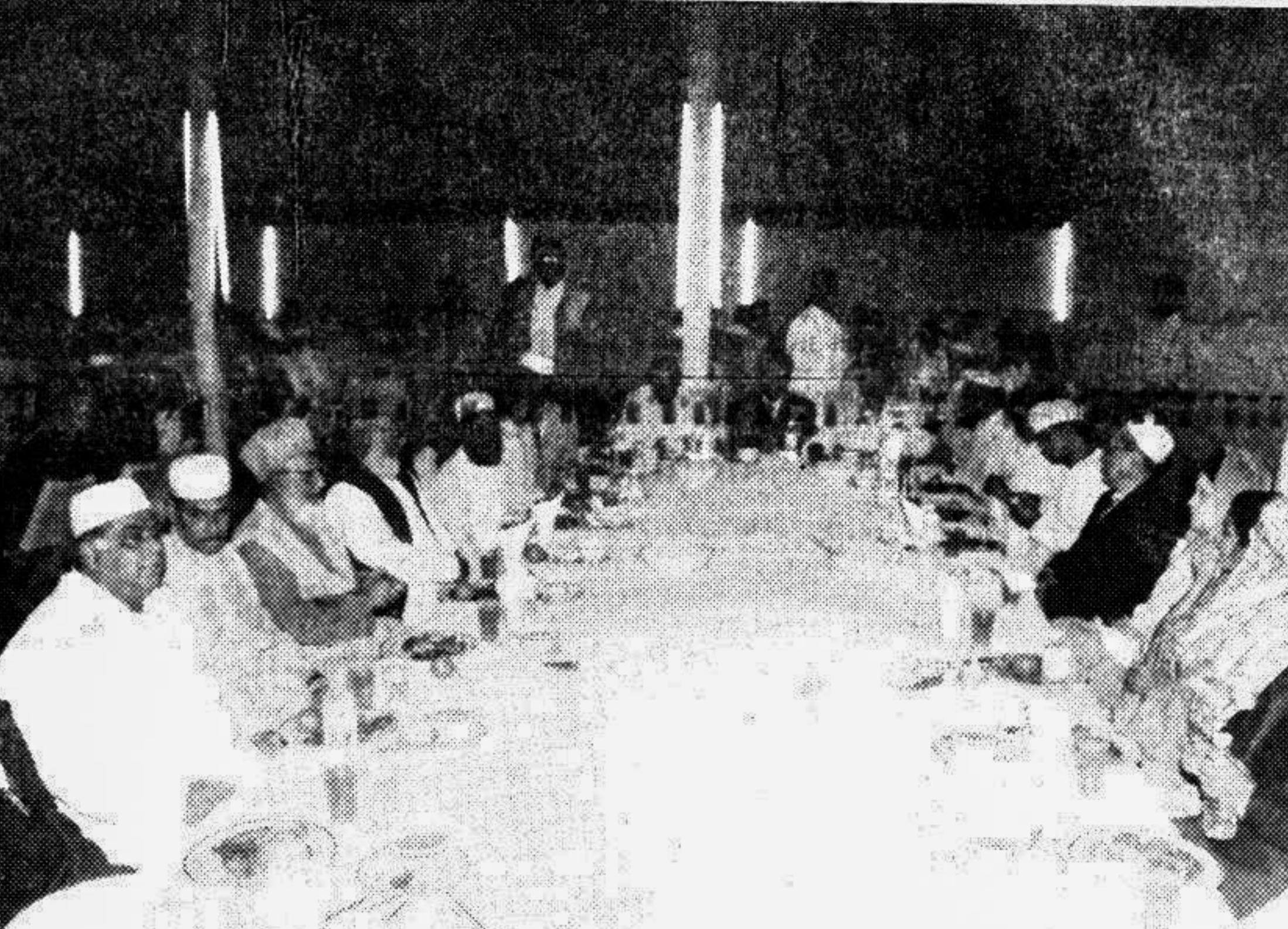
BNP leaders led by Khaleda Zia placing wreaths at the National Memorial at Savar in observance of Victory Day on Thursday.

—Star photo



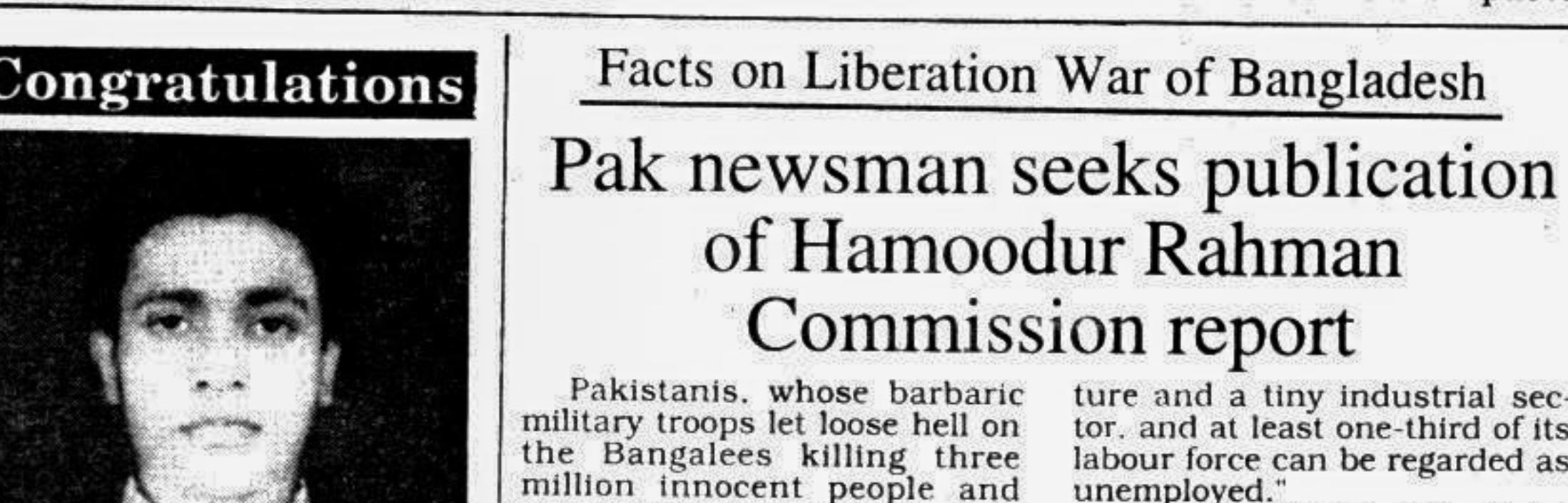
Combined flag contingent cruises round the parade ground to the rhythm of army band at the National Parade Square on the occasion of Victory Day.

—Star photo



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party at her Minto Road official residence yesterday which was attended by leaders of different political parties.

—Star photo



A general meeting of Bangladesh Crime Reporters Association was held at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting accorded a reception to BRCA president Parvez Khan on his winning a prize for investigative reporting.

The meeting also congratulated its three executive members who were elected to the executive committee of the DRU.

The meeting also discussed the draft constitution of the association and its activities.

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A 21-member Dhaka city unit executive committee of Chittagong Hill Tracts Hill Students' Council (CHTHSC) was formed yesterday with Zatan Marma and Ukkasing Marma as president and general secretary respectively.

The committee was formed in the 10th council of Dhaka city unit of CHTHSC which was held at the Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University.

Presided over by Ashok Kumar Chakma, the programme was addressed among others by Ushamoi Kheesa, Dharash Moni Chakma, Chaitali Tripura, Dhamaip Tripura.

Congratulations

Md Saiful Alam has stood 2nd class first in the BSS Honours (1997) examination in Political Science from Jagannath University College, held in 1999, says a press release.

Saiful is the youngest son of Md Shamsul Alam (Nilu Shikdar) and Monowara Alam of Choto Jirunia village under Morolganj thana of Bagerhat district.

Acknowledging the achievement, Md Saiful Alam said he is

honoured to be the first in the department of Dhaka University.

He is the first in the B.Sc honours examination from the same department.

He is the eldest son of Shabeb Ali and Jahura Ali of Anantapur village of Kumarapura under Phulpur thana of Mymensingh.

He was the recipient of the first Sword of Honour.

He has over 4000 hours of flying to his credit.

He is a category 'A' pilot and a Flying Efficiency badge holder.

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Unocal

From page 1

located in Block 12.

Two wells have been drilled and completed at Moulibazar by OBL.

The Moulibazar-2 was drilled to a total depth of 11,512 feet.

It encountered 98 feet of gas-bearing sands in two zones between 7,074 feet and 7,225 feet.

"On test, the wellhead flowed dry gas at a rate of up to 30 million cubic feet per day mmdcf from the upper zone and 23 mmmdcf from the lower zone," said the announcement.

"This Moulibazar gasfield discovery will contribute significantly to the natural gas resource base of Bangladesh," said Terry Budden, president and managing director of Unocal Bangladesh Ltd.

"By suppressing the truth and by distorting facts, nothing substantial can be achieved," he said.

Liaison body

From page 12

near the capital, Benazir is accused of ordering police to fire on a protest by members of the Islamic fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami party in June 1996.

Benazir was dismissed by the president in November that year on charges of corruption and misrule and is now living in London.

The case was lodged by the leader of Jamaat-i-Islami, Maulana Abdul Jalil.

A spokesman for Benazir's Pakistan People's Party said it was an attempt to harass their leader.

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Amartya Sen arrives

By DU Correspondent

Nobel Laureate Economist Prof. Amartya Sen arrived in the city yesterday to attend the 40th general convocation of Dhaka University.

DU Vice-chancellor Prof. A K Azad Chowdhury along with other senior teachers of the university welcomed Sen at the airport.

Dhaka University will confer Honorary Doctorate degree on him for his outstanding contribution to human knowledge in general and to the discipline of economics in particular.

Amartya Sen, who is accompanied by his wife, will receive "Doctor of Science" degree.

In his brief arrival statement Dr Sen, a second Bengal to earn Nobel Prize, after Tagore, said: "Although I was born in Shantiniketan, my forefathers were the children of Bangladesh soil and they studied at Dhaka University."

He unveiled his plans to spend part of his Nobel Prize money for the education of Bangladeshi and