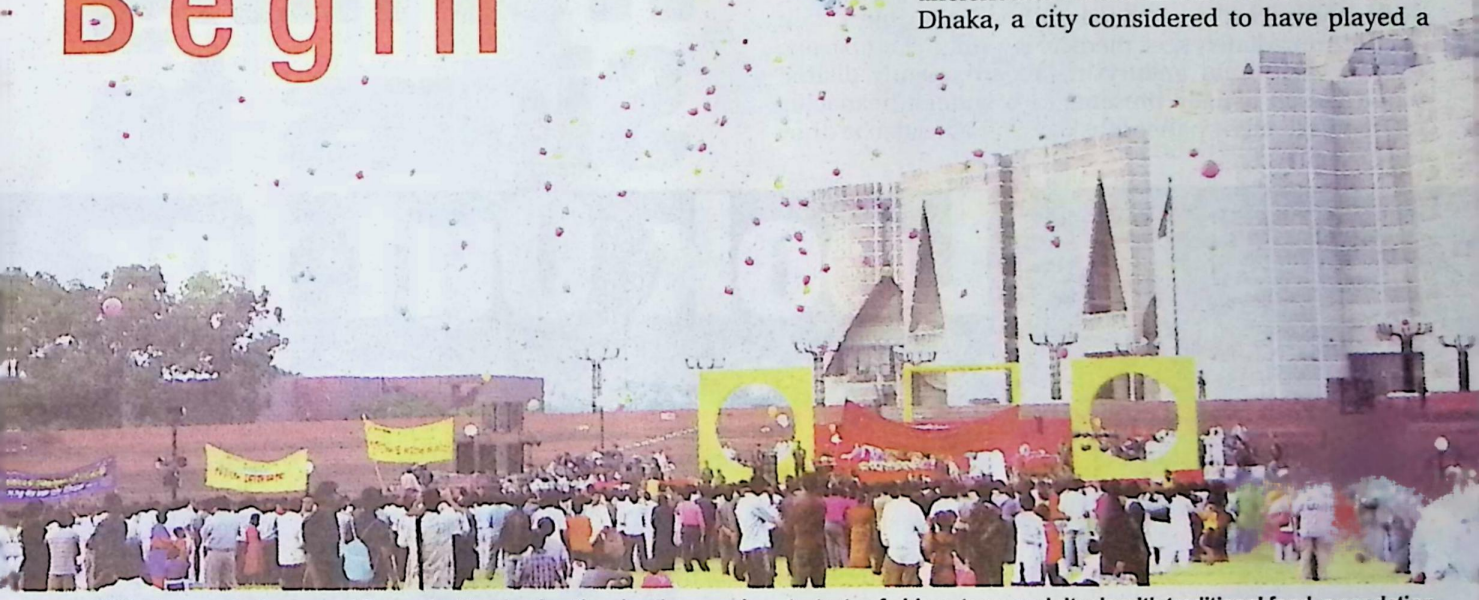
sary of the capital city should be observed in 2010, as Dhaka was announced as the capital in 1610. Many theorise that this confusion arose because of the fact that even though Dhaka was probably declared the capital of Bengal in 1608, the institutional transfer actually took two years.

The cultural programmes, events and competitions will be announced accordingly, which the present day *Dhakaites* will be able to attend and also participate in. The events will include traditional boat races, days dedicated to kite flying, poetry recitation, classical and folk music. A few of the many interesting events include sessions of *Mushaira*, an interactive gathering by *shayars* reciting *shers*, a popular form of poetry recital not only in Dhaka but also in the subcontinent and a cultural programme by the residents from the sweeper colonies in Dhaka. Even though the government plans to keep the programmes and their themes Dhaka centric, contemporary acts and music will also be included later on.

Even amidst the political uncertainties that shroud the atmosphere in the country, people are making an effort to rejuvenate the ancient and colourful cultures and rituals of Dhaka, a city considered to have played a significant role in the fields of trade and culture centuries ago within the subcontinent and to an extent in the world as well. It is only a matter of time untill people all over the country will exude the same attitude in building a better and liveable Bangladesh. ■

Begin



With pigeons, balloons and fireworks illuminating the sky, the crowds got a taste of old customs and rituals with traditional food, a car dating back to well past half a century, not to mention an elephant and its young owner looking for prospective customers.

