

Murtaza takes oath, demands elections in the PPP

KARACHI, Nov 8: The jailed brother of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto took his oath as a provincial parliamentarian today and promptly issued a veiled challenge to his sister's party leadership, reports Reuters.

Murtaza Bhutto was mobbed by supporters when he arrived in a police van at the Sindh Assembly for only his second public appearance since his arrest at Karachi Airport last week on return from Syria after 16 years in exile.

Hundreds of armed and mounted police surrounded the assembly building in this southern provincial capital and police marksmen took up positions on roofs of nearby buildings as a convoy brought Murtaza from the city's Landhi area.

The detained Murtaza pleaded innocence last Saturday to charges of terrorism dating back to 1981 over his hijacking of a Pakistani airliner.

"Long live Murtaza Bhutto," shouted supporters inside the assembly as Murtaza stepped out of the van and dozens rushed to embrace him and pay their respects.

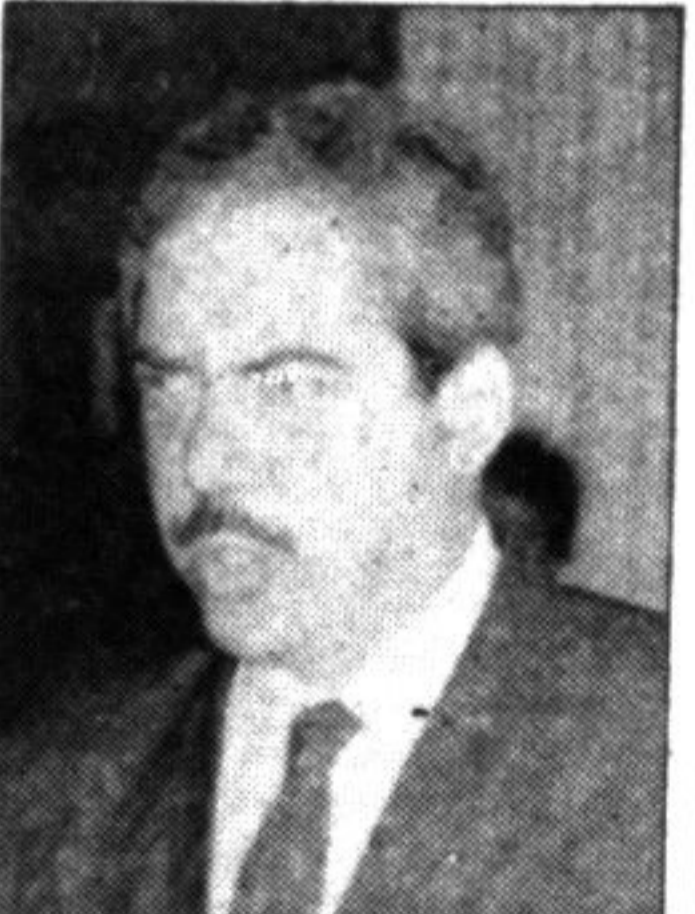
However, most members of Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) refrained from the traditional congratulatory

bench-thumping when Murtaza rose from his seat to take his oath as a member of the provincial parliament.

The 36-year-old only surviving son of Pakistan's first popularly elected Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was elected to the assembly in his absence as an independent in last month's polls.

"The terrorist courts are illegal and unconstitutional," Murtaza told reporters in the assembly.

"It is a shame that a democratic government is keeping this legacy of the martial law era of (General Mohammad) Zia-



Murtaza Bhutto

ul-Haq," he added. In a veiled challenge to Benazir, who took office 21 days ago, Murtaza demanded elections in the PPP which has been headed by their mother Nusrat Bhutto as chairperson and Benazir as co-chairperson since military rule was lifted in 1988.

"When the government says this is a democratic government that came through democratic processes, then why does it not hold elections inside the party?" Murtaza said.

His return is a source of intense embarrassment to Benazir who began her second term as Prime Minister last month and has split the family with Nusrat Bhutto openly supporting him.

Benazir has yet to comment on her brother's return. Murtaza has been remanded to appear in court again on November 13. He is also due to appear on November 18 on charges of allegedly leading an underground group Al-Zulfikar accused of bombing in several Pakistani cities in the 1980s.

Indo-Pak border clash kills 4

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: The Indian army has sent reinforcements to an area of the disputed Indo-Pakistani border in Kashmir following clashes which have left four Pakistani troops dead, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today.

The news agency quoted a senior Kashmir official as saying that the army reinforcements were deployed to back up members of the paramilitary Border Security Force in Ramgarh where fighting continued for a second day today.

Meanwhile, Pakistan denied today an Indian report that four Pakistani rangers have been killed by Indian border guards in Kashmir.

The claim is "absolutely baseless," a military spokesman said.



A Jordanian officer controls Palestinian women voters at the gate of a polling station at the Al-Bakaa Palestinian camp near Amman yesterday. [Story on page 5]. — AFP photo

AL sit-in tomorrow

The Awami League yesterday urged the people to join the November 10 sit-in at the Secretariat and build up a peaceful and unflinching resistance against corruption, misuse, terrorism and politicisation of the ruling BNP, reports UNB.

In a statement, acting president Abdul Mannan and general secretary Zillur Rahman said party chief Sheikh Hasina had already announced a programme for continuous agitation against the government's unbridled corruption, misuse and state-terrorism.

They also urged the party MPs to join the sit-in.

The November 10 sit-in is part of that agitation, they said. The Awami League leaders also recalled the sacrifice of one Juba League leader, Nur Hossain on the day in 1987, and said the spirit of Nur Hossain's martyrdom had stepped up the anti-autocracy struggle compelling the Ershad regime to quit.

Rohingyas celebrate accord

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 8: Rohingya refugees today celebrated the Myanmar-UNHCR agreement by holding processions and rallies at their camps at Ukhaia, Teknaf and Bandarban, reports UNB.

Refugees in their thousands also danced and chanted slogans expressing their joy at the signing of the agreement which ensures an international guarantee for their safe repatriation to Myanmar.

Myanmar signed the agreement with UNHCR in Yangon on Friday allowing the UN relief agency on its territory to supervise the repatriation process of the Myanmar Muslims from Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, officials of Bangladesh and Myanmar today held a meeting at the Myanmar frontier town of Muangdong and decided on a three-week repatriation of the refugees.

Commissioner for Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Golam Mortaza led the Bangladesh side at the meeting while the Myanmar side was headed by their Immigration Director Col. Than.

Some 548 Rohingya refugees today returned home, raising the total number of returnees to 46,227, officials said.

JP-BNP clash

From Page 1 Col 5

Police brought the situation under control at around 6 pm, but no arrests were reported.

Later in the evening the JP held a brief meeting near its Tongi office.

Of the injured, one Momin Khan, 57, was admitted to the Tongi Sadar Hospital with head injuries.

UNB adds: The Jatiya Party leaders yesterday warned of a one-point agitation to oust the government if their 7-point demands were not met.

"Fall of the fascist, autocratic government of the BNP is only a matter of time in the face of a united agitation by all democratic opposition parties," the JP central leadership told a news conference in the city yesterday.

The JP announced a Mass Demonstration Day on November 10 throughout the country in support of its 7-point demands. The party will also hold demonstrations in the city on the day.

Wood-Saifur

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The WB vice president is expected to lay stress on the Paris agenda goals for public administration reform for gearing up the implementation of various development projects undertaken by the government.

The WB executive is also expected to make the point that economically sound public sector investments could play an important role in stimulating private sector activity and employment generation in their country.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman is likely to brief the WB official about the progress attained by the present government and will ask him to firm up the funding of the Jamuna Bridge, second road rehabilitation and maintenance, river bank protection and coastal embankment rehabilitation projects, Finance Ministry sources said.

Rahman will also ask Wood to release the second tranche of the public resource management credit and declare the second industrial sector adjustment credit (ISAC II) effective urgently.

The WB executive last night called on Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf at the latter's residence and discussed the inter-sectoral population and nutrition project and progress in population control and health services in the country.



The Bangladesh Family Planning Association brought out a colourful procession in the city yesterday to mark the launching of the Dhaka Metropolitan Family Planning Publicity and Service Week. [Story on page 2] — Star photo

JKLF's 4-pt formula to end siege of Hazratbal

ISLAMABAD, Nov 8: A militant Kashmiri group proposed today a four-point formula to end the siege of Hazratbal Shrine, saying it had the backing of senior Kashmiri leaders, in the Indian-controlled part of Kashmir, reports AFP.

The plan has been sent to United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) said in a statement issued from its office in nearby Rawalpindi.

It suggests UN personnel replace Indian forces around the shrine and the embassy of any neutral country in New Delhi be assigned to "arbitrate" between the administration and the militants holed up inside.

The international Red Cross should be allowed to look after the besieged people whose "screening" into civilians and militants should be handled by clergyman and representatives of the all parties Hurriyat conference, an umbrella organisation of several Kashmiri groups.

A force from the United Nations Military Observers Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), already present in the region could be deployed around the shrine, the JKLF said.

Hartals: Khaleda

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Affair Sarwari Rahman, city unit general secretary Shaluddin Ahmed MP and a number of Juba Dal, Chhatra Dal and JASSAS leaders.

The meeting turned disorderly for a brief period when the supporters stood up to have a look at their charismatic leader upon her arrival on the dias at around 4:45 pm. More than 30 ministers and MPs took their seats among the audience.

The Awami League office, located just 300 yards from the meeting venue, was cordoned off to prevent any untoward incident. Some two hundred AL supporters, mostly the regular visitors to the party office, gathered in front of their Bangabandhu Avenue office. However, none of the prominent AL leaders were seen.

A security blanket was thrown over the area.

Prime Minister Begum Zia said that political disputes and problems should be resolved in Parliament. But sometimes "untrue" statements are being made on the floor of the House in Parliament.

"In fact, the opposition parties are puzzled at the outstanding success and development of the government, so they are calling frequent hartals to hinder the progress," Begum Zia said in her extempore speech.

She said that the BNP will stay in power for as long as the people desire. Giving a resume of her government's development activities, the Prime Minister said the government has now undertaken an employment generating programme under which one lakh people will be employed as school teachers in the next six months.

She said that the image of the country has been improved internationally because of the performance of the government. "As a people's government", Begum Zia, said "we drew international attention regarding the people's demand — the

"We hope that the UN chief would give due consideration to the proposals and take immediate steps to resolve the crisis", JKLF vice-chairman Raja Muzaffar said.

He said the proposals were formulated after consultations with senior leaders in the Indian part of Kashmir, whom he did not identify.

A senior Indian state government official, the father of a slain Muslim militant and a Kashmiri human rights activist are involved in talks to end the standoff between some 50 armed militants in Hazratbal and soldiers ringing the complex, which also contains some 70 civilians.

One shot dead

A 18-year-old youth was shot dead in the city's Maniknagar Bazar area under the Sabujbagh Police Station last night.

Mubarak Hossain was severely beaten up by a group of gangsters who later shot him and fled the scene at around eight last night.

Hossain was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

PM to visit Nepal by month end

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to pay an official visit to Nepal by end of November, highly placed sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

During a two-day visit, Begum Zia, the current chairperson of SAARC, will discuss with leaders of the Himalayan kingdom both bilateral and SAARC matters.

Body to formulate health policy

The government has formed a 29-member national committee for formulating health policy of the country, reports BSS.

Deputy Leader in the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury is the chief advisor of the committee while Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf is the chairman, according to an official handout yesterday.

The committee comprises the representatives of politicians, physicians, journalists, lawyers and members of other professions.

The terms of reference of the committee are to raise the standard of public health services and to attain this objective. It will prepare a report and submit to the government within the next six months.

The first meeting of the committee was held yesterday with Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury in the chair at the Sangsad Bhaban.

The next meeting of the committee will be held on November 27.

JSRP

From Page 1 Col 7

The bank was seeking additional jute sector cost reduction commitments from the government to offset the cost over-run of the proposed JSRP, caused by the wage hike. The government and the WB also disagreed about the extent of the cost increase of the project, primarily on account of enhanced re-trenchment benefits.

The three-year JSRP is designed to restore the viability of the jute sector through substantial capacity reduction, workforce rationalisation and debt restructuring.

The planned project stipulates the closure of nine public sector jute mills and the privatisation of another 18 of Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation's 31 units. The government has already closed down four of the jute mills and have also wound up the operations of the loss-making Bangladesh Jute Corporation.

The workforce of the BJMC has also been reduced by 16,000 from the existing 83,000, while another 20,000 workers are likely to be re-trenched under the project.

On restructuring the Tk 4,000 crore outstanding debts of both the public and private sector jute mills, one-third of the amount would be written-off while the rest of the amount would be reamortised for a period of 15 years.

The mills would also be provided with interim financing by individual banks, strictly under commercial considerations, as stipulated under the JSRP.

Last week, the Bangladesh Bank convened a meeting of the nationalised commercial banks dealing with the jute sector to formulate guidelines for providing interim current account financing to the jute mills after the JSRP is launched.

Hasina: China

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International Affairs Secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP were present in the meeting while Lee Cheng Gren led the Chinese side at the talks.

The Chinese leader praised the leadership of Sheikh Hasina in anti-autocracy movement and restoration of parliamentary democracy in Bangladesh.

Later Sheikh Hasina along with her party leaders visited the historic Great Wall of China and attended "Welcoming banquet" at Beijing Hotel as guest of honour.

On her arrival in Beijing on November 6, Hasina was accorded a warm and heartiest reception by the senior leaders of the Chinese government and the Communist Party. She was taken to "Forbidden City" by the Chinese leaders.

Vice President of the Foreign Affairs Committee of Chinese Communist Party and President of Sino-Latin American Association Ziang Go Huan hosted a dinner in honour of Hasina. They exchanged views on bilateral matters.

Solidarity Day

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peace, progress, prosperity and integrity of the country.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas visited the mazar of the hero of November 7, Ziaur Rahman, in the morning and offered wreath.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia along with her cabinet colleagues, members of parliament and BNP leaders also placed wreath at the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman at 9:25 am.

They offered fataha and prayed for the departed soul.

The Midnight File

Secret talks on Gaza, Jericho to continue

CAIRO, Nov 8: Israeli and Palestinian negotiators will continue secret talks in Cairo on Tuesday and could then move the dialogue back to Taba, official sources said. The delegates disappeared from public view today trying to resolve differences over self-rule in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho away from the news media, reports Reuters.

S Arabia bans Pak fish

RIYADH, Nov 8: Saudi Arabia is banning imports of frozen and fresh fish from Pakistan after reports of a cholera outbreak there. Ministry of Commerce official Ahmed Wassim said the ban was imposed after a World Health Organization advisory of cholera infections in Pakistan. The kingdom imports 4 million dollar yearly of Pakistani fish, reports AP.

BNP has lost right to stay in power: Mushtaq

The National Democratic Alliance of former President Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed Sunday said the ruling BNP had lost the capability of running the country and right to stay in power as well, reports UNB.

"The present government can no more be accepted as democratic or a nationalist force," the NDA Chairman told a news conference at the Freedom Party office.

In support of his contention, Mushtaq blamed the government for not scrapping the Special Powers Act, enacting Anti-Terrorism Act, failing to curb terrorism and solve unemployment and turning the country into a market of Indian goods under its free economic policy destroying local industries.

The NDA Chairman called for acceptance of its 9-point demand including scrapping of the "treaty of slavery", construction of Ganges Barrage, withdrawal of VAT, annulling all black laws, removing corruption, fixing fair price of farm produce and resolving unemployment problem.

The Press conference was also addressed by NDA Secretary General and former minister of Ershad government Anwar Zahid, Freedom Party leader Col (Rtd) Abdur Rashid, Major (Rtd) Bazul Huda read out the statement of Khandaker Mushtaq Ahmed.

The NDA leaders, however, didn't say whether the alliance demands resignation of the government or mid-term election. People and the future movement will decide the matter, Col Rashid told a questioner.

Khandaker Mushtaq, who was made a stopgap President for a brief period after the bloody coup in 1975, questioned if the objectives of

the strike began at 10 in the morning.

More than 50 teachers from Dhaka University, Jahangirnagar University, Agricultural University and the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) participated in the hunger strike programme called by the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA).

JU classes

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So far, six of the 21 accused students have been arrested by police. One of them was later granted bail.

Following the closure, the JU authorities resolved to strictly enforce its rules and regulations regarding the students' dormitories and to strengthen campus security.

Meanwhile, the postponed admission to the first year honours classes has also resumed.

10 Shibir activists held in Sylhet

SYLHET, Nov 8: Police arrested 10 members of the Islami Chhatra Shibir for allegedly attacking the Osmani Medical College unit president of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal Saturday night, reports UNB.

Hospital sources said seriously injured Mian who is admitted there was still in critical condition.

Varsity teachers observe token hunger strike

Teachers of different universities of the country yesterday observed a seven-hour token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar for uprooting campus terrorism.

The teachers also demanded arrest and trial of the terrorists involved in recent incidents of violence at the Jahangirnagar, Rajshahi, Dhaka and Islamic universities.

The strike began at 10 in the morning.

Aman price

filling the empty godowns in these districts through a better and more expanded procurement drive.

The silos in the northern districts are chock full because over the past couple of years the area has become a food surplus region.

TOURISM MONTH '93

Date	Programme
10.11.93 Wednesday 10.00 a.m.	Food festival & Pottery, Brass, Bell-metal, Cane & Wooden handicrafts exhibition & competition. Prizes: 1st: Dhaka-Bombay-Dhaka air ticket, 2nd: Dhaka-Rajshahi-Dhaka air ticket & 3rd: Tk.1,000.00 Prizbond.
12.11.93 Friday 8.00 a.m.	Fun Run (National Museum to Bijoy Sarani) Prizes: 1st: Dhaka-Chittagong-Dhaka air ticket, 2nd: Dhaka-Saidpur-Dhaka air ticket & 3rd: Tk.1,000.00 Prizbond.
13.11.93 Saturday 10.00 a.m.	Talking Bird and Aquarium Competition. Prizes (Talking bird): 1st: Dhaka-Calcutta-Dhaka air ticket 2nd: Dhaka-Sylhet-Dhaka air ticket & 3rd: Tk.3,000.00 Prizbond. Prizes (Aquarium): 1st: Dhaka-Jeddah- Dhaka, air ticket, 2nd: Tk. 5,000.00 Prizbond & 3rd: Dhaka-Chittagong-Dhaka air ticket.

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