



Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia presiding over a meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party at the Sangsab Bhaban yesterday. — PID photo

PM: military career

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Begum Zia said the Bangladeshi Army have earned reputation not only at home but also in the international arena and brought rare honours for the nation through their competence.

She said the EBR has earned appreciation from all by playing a positive role in protecting the country's independence as well as their services in nation-building activities and at times of natural calamities.

Congratulating the members of the 15th and 16th East Bengal Regiments, the Prime Minister hoped that they would try their best in maintaining the people's confidence reposed on them and will always be ready for any sacrifice at times of national needs.

Begum Zia recalled the tradition of handing over of flags and said, "Flag is the symbol of self-identity and self-respect. It is duty of all soldiers to protect its honour."

The Prime Minister recalled those who tirelessly worked for building the East Bengal Regiment, popularly known as the 'Tigers'.

She specially mentioned Major M A Gani, who formed the Regiment in 1948 and also remembered General M A G Osimany, Subedar Major Fateh Ali, Khurshid and Omar Mia and Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman for their contributions in building up the regiment.

Begum Zia also recalled the heroes of the regiment, including Birshrestha Sepoy Mohammad Mostafa Kamal and Hamidur Rahman, who sacrificed their lives in the Liberation War.

The Prime Minister announced a grant of Tk five lakh for the EBR welfare fund for servicemen and retired personnel of the regiment and their families.

Earlier, the Prime Minister reviewed a smartly turned-out

Export target revision

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earnings from the miscellaneous category of items — specialised textiles, household linen, ceramic ware and others — which is being reduced from a target of 142 million dollars to 115 million.

On the other hand, the export targets for the frozen food sector is being revised upward from 230 million dollars to 240 million while the target for jute goods, which is surprisingly showing a good performance, is being re-set at Tk 7.57 crore in foreign currency.

Begum Zia unveiled the plaque and went round the project area.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Tarique Islam, Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Chittagong City Mayor A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, were present.

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Jamaat warns of dire consequences

The Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday warned of dire consequences if the government fails to introduce a bill in the coming session of Parliament seeking constitutional provision for a caretaker government to conduct polls, reports UNB.

This is our final call to the government... If it fails to bring a bill in the next Parliament session it will have to bear the responsibility of terrible consequences," Jamaat leader Abbas Ali Khan told a rally at the Maghbazar Crossing.

Party activists assembled at the Maghbazar Crossing in the morning before proceeding towards the Prime Minister's office through the Tongi Diversion road in a procession. Police halted them near the FDC gate at the Sonargaon Link road.

The processionists tried in vain to remove the police barricade and later held a sit-in there till 1:30 pm. Paramilitary BDR were also deployed there to guard against untoward incidents.

Serb plane bombs Muslim-held Bihać

ZAGREB, Nov 9: A Serb plane from Croatia bombed Bosnia's northwestern Muslim-held town of Bihać today, the Muslim-dominated Bosnian army charged, reporting what would be a violation of the UN no-fly mandate for Bosnia, reports UNB.

It is one of two towers, financed by a Saudi grant, built after the 1991 cyclone had badly damaged the T&T tower here.

The two new towers — the other one is in the Agarbad area — were built at a cost of Tk 9.75 crore, including Tk 7.57 crore in foreign currency.

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From Page 1 Col 3 Treasury bench and the Opposition."

"It seems as if our MPs are craving to become ministers," Hasina commented. "We are not fighting to go to power but to ensure the people's right to vote for the candidates of their choices."

Announcing a two-day dawn-to-dusk hartal programme for Saturday and Sunday, the Opposition leader said the strike programme would be withdrawn if the government tabled the Bill in the Jatiya Sangsab on November 12.

About the resignation plans of the Opposition members, Hasina said, "Parliament is supposed to ensure the people's right. But in this parliament, we are ignored. If parliament cannot ensure the people's rights, why go to parliament at all?"

Defending her position, Hasina said, she was determined to implement the caretaker government system for three successive national elections after witnessing the brutal murders in Lalbagh during the mayoral elections in January last.

Many political and socio-cultural organisations have planned various programmes to pay befitting homage to this national hero.

Opposition's sit-in programme

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Moghbari to the Sonargaon Road.

Police used up over one hundred teargas canisters and fired rubber bullets at Mohakhali to disperse mobs.

Awami League leaders Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Khandker Mosharrif Hossain, and Salauddin Badal and Jatiya Party leader Barrister Maudud Ahmed were injured in the violence.

Maudud reportedly was hit by a rubber bullet on the right side of his back.

However, none of them needed hospitalisation.

The day's untoward incidents began around noon near Asad Gate when an AL procession under Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya tried to break the police cordon.

Over a dozen people were injured during intermittent clashes at the Manik Mia Avenue crossing near Asad Gate from around noon till almost four in the afternoon.

City AL leader Salauddin Badal was reportedly hit by a teargas shell in his chest while a photo journalist, Shamsul Haq Tenku, suffered a sprained ankle when running for cover during chases between the police and the agitators.

AL activists started pouring in to the area from 11 in the morning. They occupied the street from Sukrabad to the Manik Mia crossing holding rallies and processions. They also burned tyres and damaged two or three passing vehicles.

Witnesses said, as a violent procession reached the police barricade, some people hurled crackers at the police and BDR personnel without any provocation.

Immediately the police retaliated by lobbing teargas shells, forcing the processionists to run for cover in the nearby alleys. The two groups kept chasing each other, the police lobbing teargas shells and the agitators exploding cocktails and crackers for hours on end.

A police source said, about 50 teargas shells were used to quell the mob in the area. But no arrests were made there, he added.

Holding a rally there, the AL-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League leaders blamed 'terrorists patronized by the government' for the cocktail attacks.

The AL gathering, participated by a large number of supporters was peaceful when the Leader of the Opposition

Noor Hossain Day

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cratic party.

Students, workers, professionals as well as political parties had taken a renewed pledge to continue the struggle for democracy on November 10, 1987.

Noor Hossain, alongwith thousands of rebellious demonstrators, also took to the streets of the capital that day. In a gesture that epitomised the national aspirations for a democratic system of governance, he joined the anti-government procession with two Bangla slogans painted on his bare chest and back: 'Let autocracy go let democracy flourish,' they screamed.

While numerous processions brought out by different socio-political organisations readily appreciated Noor Hossain's novel way of registering protest, the then undemocratic State-machinery was not amused. The police, whom Ershad used so ruthlessly to repress his opponents, shot Noor Hossain at point blank range, killing him instantly. They also made him a martyr who gave his life so that democracy may flourish in this country.

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Samad-Ninian

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the ruling BNP's arguments, enumerated in an eight-page formula handed over to Sir Ninian on November 7, against the non-partisan caretaker administration.

Samad Azad also told Sir Ninian that incumbent prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia could not be expected to be neutral at the time of elections.

According to the source, Samad Azad also told Sir Ninian that Begum Zia, instead of going to Chittagong, could have stayed at her office yesterday during the Opposition sit-in and sent some of her cabinet colleagues to invite the Leader of the Opposition, who was leading the sit-in, for talks.

Samad Azad informed the Commonwealth Emissary that the Opposition had been left with no option but to press for a non-partisan, caretaker government for holding general elections.

Beginning at 9:30 am, the meeting lasted nearly 90 minutes.

Sheikh Hasina arrived at the spot around 2 pm. She addressed the assembled people and announced that she would leave for Bijoy Sarani where thousands of others were waiting defying the government ordering prohibiting the assembly of four or more persons.

Immediately after the leader of the opposition was allowed to pass through the police cordon in her car around 3 pm, the cocktail attacks resumed and continued for the next one hour.

At Bijoy Sarani, a number of AL Parliament members including Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Ra'zaq, AKM Yusuf and Suranjit Sengupta had gathered from around noon to defy

Sheikh Hasina.

A police source said over 40 teargas shells and rubber bullets were needed to quell the mob. Police also arrested 11 people from area and detained them at the Tejgaon police station.

Over 50 people, including two police constables, were injured during the clashes at Mohakhali. The two policemen were admitted to the Rajabagh Police Lines Hospital while three others, one who suffered a rubber bullet injury and two who suffered splinter wounds, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Jarhata-e-Islami men were debared by police at the Sonargaon Road where they



Jatiya Party activists set fire to a UN relief car at Mahakhali in the city yesterday. — Star photo

section 144. Sheikh Hasina also addressed a rally there.

The workers of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Juba League went on a rampage at Sheorapara around 1:30 pm where they damaged several vehicles. Police also used teargas to disperse the mob.

The Jamaat rally, presided by its city chief ATM Ahsanul Islam was also addressed by Maulana Abbas Ali Khan, Maulana Matiur Rahman Nizami and Maulana Abdus Sattar.

proceeded with a procession after holding a rally at the Maghbazar crossing around 11:30 in the morning.

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As a result of the Opposition's programme, traffic movement in the entire city went haywire, causing serious jams on most roads.

Inter-district buses and minibuses for Mymensingh, Tangail and Kishoreganj could not ply because of the sit-in programme.

At all points where the political workers staged demonstrations most of the shops and markets drew their shutters.

Ershad's trial

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, Nov 9: Sri Lanka's ruling party sought a mandate to resume peace talks with Tamil rebels in today's presidential election.

As voting began, the rebels attacked a military base, killing three soldiers, reports AP.

Another report from Pabna adds. Two people were killed and 20 injured, four seriously.

Five students from the two sides were reportedly injured during the clash which broke out after a meeting of the student leaders with the college authorities on the law and order situation on the campus.

Counting was to begin later today of votes cast at nearly 10,000 stations across the Indian Ocean island, except in the Tamil-dominated north and east.

The winner is not expected to be announced until Thursday.

Indo-Bangla border conference begins today

The Annual Border Coordination Conference between Bangladesh and India will begin today at Bangladesh Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (SP) this afternoon.

The people are fighting for establishing their rights and ensuring free and fair elections in the country.

Among others, Shamsur Rahman was also injured seriously. Advocate Shorab Uddin, Abul Basar, Mohammad Shahjahan, Shah Alam, Mohammad Kabir, Monzil, Emdadul Huq, Jakir Hossain, Shahidul Islam, Iqbal Hossain, Humayun Kabir were given first aid, the JP leader said.

JP leaders Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzam Hossain, Khaledur Rahman Tito, Abul Hasnat, Col (retd) Abdul Malek, attended the press conference.

Hartals

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BCS (Judicial) body postpones strike

The BCS (Judicial) Association has postponed its two-day work stoppage programme scheduled to begin Saturday for two weeks to give the government "reasonable time" for removing anomalies in the salary scale of BCS judicial cadre, reports UNB.

Fire brigade vehicles, newspaper offices, ambulances and food and medicine shops will be exempted from the strike, she said, adding that rickshaws will be allowed to ply in the city after 1 pm.

The AL will bring out a torch procession from Bangabandhu Avenue tomorrow evening to drum up supports for the two-day hartal, she said.

Acting chief of the Jatiya Party Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury announced the JP's two-day hartal programme similar to the AL's at gathering near the Mahakhali level-crossing while the programme of the Jatiya was announced at a press conference at the party central office.

LDF hartal

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leaders accused the BNP government of ignoring the people's demand for elections under a caretaker administration and resorting to repression on the opposition activists. They alleged that the present government was following the footsteps of the autocratic regime.

The Midnight File

Saddam calls special session of parliament today

BAGHDAD, Nov 9: Iraqi president Saddam Hussein convened a special session of parliament Thursday, as Russia said Wednesday that Baghdad would formally recognise Kuwait. Baghdad radio announced that parliament would meet at 10 am but did not specify the agenda of the session. An aide to Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev, who left Moscow for Baghdad today, said the Iraqi parliament would ratify Baghdad's decision to recognise Kuwaiti sovereignty, reports AFP.

4 Sikhs killed in foiled jailbreak

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: Indian police shot dead four Sikh extremists and injured 21 of their comrades when the group tried to escape from a north Indian jail, the United News of India (UNI) said today, reports Reuter.

8 killed, 50 hurt in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight people were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Mayura and Pabna yesterday.

UNB from Mayura reports, six people were killed and 30 others injured in a road accident near Krishnapur here on Magura-Kamarkhal road yesterday.

Police said the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus hit a microbus from behind at about 9:30 am. The bus fell into a roadside ditch after the collision.

Passengers of the microbus Lutfar Rahman, Abdus Sattar and Idris Ali, its driver Sharif Ahmed, and two bus passengers — Selina Begum, 30 and her daughter Doli, 4, of Shimulnagar of Sadar thana — died on the spot.