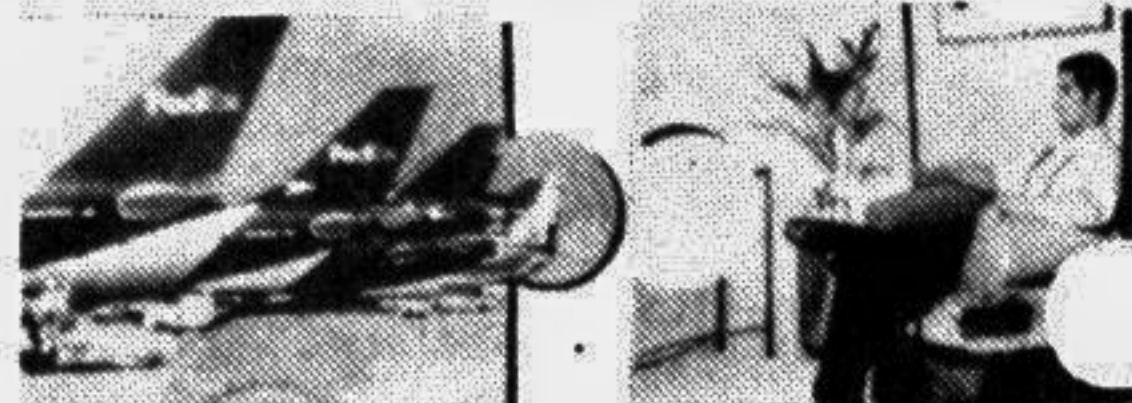


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Cricket matches to go ahead

Despite a 48-hour hartal called by the main opposition on Monday-Tuesday, the two remaining one-day cricket matches between Bangladesh and West Indies A team will be held on schedule, reports UNB. 'We'll do everything for holding the match unless there is any serious security problem,' BCB president and Deputy Minister for Shipping Saber Hossain Chowdhury told the agency at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. The visiting Caribbean A team is scheduled to play their second limited over match at Rajshahi on Monday and the third and last one at the Bangabandhu National Stadium here on Tuesday. The BCB president said both teams will fly for Rajshahi this afternoon.



Police in riot gear move towards the Shapla Square as smoke from burning vehicles clouds the city's business district on a half holiday (left). It all stemmed from Paltan Maidan where angry activists began with this car parked just outside the meeting venue. —Star photos

BNP observes November 7

The Bangladeshi Nationalist Party yesterday observed the 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day' through country-wide rallies, processions, demonstrations and cultural programmes, reports AFB. The city witnessed a violent scene as some people attacked a BNP rally, organised on the occasion of Seventh November at the Paltan Maidan. The BNP leaders yesterday termed the Seventh November 'a second birth of the nation' and called upon the nationalist forces to safeguard independence and sovereignty of the country. They urged the people to intensify the ongoing movement against the Awami League government for its 'misrule' and 'repression' on the opposition. To mark the occasion, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal observed the day as 'Sepoy-People Uprising Day'. The JSD held a discussion meeting at the Taher Auditorium yesterday evening. The ruling Awami League and its front organisations BNP goons' Truck drivers filed a case against those responsible for the incident, he said. Some local BNP leaders, when contacted, said that there was no clash between the party activists and truckers. They claimed that the road barricade was put up as per plan of certain quarters to stop people from attending the public meeting. When contacted, Saiful Islam, OC of Shiddirganj thana told The Daily Star that a case was filed by one Mohammad Ali on behalf of the truck drivers. The FIR accused seven persons - all BNP leaders and workers - for assaulting truckers and trying to take their vehicles forcibly from the stand. A similar road barricade at Kanchnpur had obstructed BNP's 'long march' towards the Chittagong Hill Tracts on June 9 for about 10 hours.

BNP meeting foiled

From Page 1 Supporters of the ruling Awami League and the BNP remained locked in clashes for quite some time until the meeting formally started at around 4 pm. A group of agitated activists also attacked some policemen, injuring one of them seriously, witnesses said. 'In fact, police were provoked into action,' one auto-rickshaw driver who witnessed the police action said. After Khaleda Zia reached the spot at 4:20 pm, the clashes groups moved towards the meeting venue where several crackers were blasted, prompting the police to act. With the meeting attendants in disarray, moving mostly towards the podium, police fired teargas shells on the crowd. BNP leaders on the podium raised full-throated slogans for Khaleda Zia and against prime

minister Sheikh Hasina. But the leaders themselves started jumping off the dais with Khaleda Zia taking the microphone. She could not continue as teargas reached the podium. The huge crowd jampacking the Paltan Maidan disappeared quickly. Several vehicles were found burning near the Bangabandhu Stadium gate. Parts of the Maidan's eastern iron fence and the one on the divider along Rajuk Ave were uprooted. The mob also stormed into the Rajuk building where it set fire to a number of vehicles including two buses, two jeeps and three motorbikes and damaged two cars and a microbus. Windownpanes, garden lights and flowerpots were also damaged there. The opposition workers also set afire several private air-conditioned buses, parked on the roads adjacent to the meeting venue, and damaged the bus ticket counters. Fire fighters reached the spot and put out the fire nearly an hour after the incidents. Tension in Paltan Maidan and its adjoining areas continued until evening when riot police and the BDR took control of the area.

Hartal

From Page 1 cessions coming from various directions to join the Paltan Maidan rally came under attack at different points in the city. Other programmes, announced by Khaleda Zia, include countrywide demonstrations today, a march towards the Sangsad Bhaban on November 16 and a mass hunger strike at Paltan Maidan on November 23. The former prime minister said the AL government 'mastered' in terrorism but 'failed totally' in running the affairs of the state. Khaleda Zia said the government had been giving provocative statements for quite a few days, which made it clear that rallies or processions would not be allowed. 'They (Awami League) declared that the streets would be occupied by them,' she said. Referring to attacks on offices of a number of newspapers yesterday, Khaleda Zia claimed that ruling party-men were behind the 'pre-planned' attack. Offices of Ittefaq, Banglar Bani and Inquilab came under attack from unruly activists. She alleged that failures and increasing support for BNP made the government go crazy. She charged Awami League with deviation from the path of democracy and failure to deal with a deteriorating law and order. Khaleda Zia referred to incidents of killing, rape, toll collection and other acts of terrorism and said the Opposition was not allowed to speak on the issues on the floor of the parliament. BNP chairperson also came down heavily on the government for 'corruption in relief distribution'. 'After the deluge, people are starving, selling their children for survival, committing suicide and there is an influx of people into urban areas,' she said. BNP leaders A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, MK Anwar, Moudud Ahmed, Khandakar Delwar Hossain and Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury assisted the party chief at the press conference while other senior leaders were present.

US lifts some sanctions against Pakistan, India

WASHINGTON, Nov 7: President Bill Clinton has decided to lift some of the sanctions citing a promise by both Pakistan and India not to conduct further nuclear tests, report agencies. As well US officials cited progress by India and Pakistan on curbing their nuclear weapons programme and a promise by both countries to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Clinton wrote Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif a letter telling him of the waiver, according to a foreign ministry statement issued in Pakistani capital Islamabad. The government now is hoping this will be a 'harbinger of the elimination of all sanctions, which Pakistan has consistently maintained are unjustified and counter-productive,' the ministry statement said. In his letter, Clinton assured Sharif that the US administration would 'exercise its influ-

ence with the international financial institutions to meet Pakistan's economic difficulties,' the statement said. This is good news for Pakistan, which is in the midst of troubled talks with the International Monetary Fund for a 5 billion dollar bailout package, without which Islamabad will surely default on its \$32 billion debt. Sanctions imposed against both Pakistan and India following underground nuclear tests in May hit this poor nation of 140 million particularly hard because of its heavy dependence on international borrowing. Clinton's decision would help restore lending to Pakistan by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. The announcement was made after two days of talks in Washington between Pakistani Foreign Secretary Shamsahad

Ahmad and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbot. But in newspapers in Pakistan today Shamsahad Ahmad made it clear that Pakistan will not sign the test ban treaty during Sharif's visit to Washington next month. 'We are not going to sign the CTBT at this moment,' the English language daily newspaper The News quoted Ahmad as saying. Pakistan has repeatedly said it would not be 'coerced' into signing any international nuclear treaty. The lifting of the sanctions, however, may be the signal Pakistan needed to sign. India's ruling BJP welcomed the decision, but it warned that New Delhi was not prepared to sign the CTBT immediately. 'The BJP feels that the US thinking is on the right direction and they will ultimately understand India's concerns and withdraw all the sanctions,' party spokesman Krishan Lal Sharma said.

One killed in violence

From Page 1 BNP meeting for details) A thick cloud of smoke hung on the area for some time that was visible from other parts of the city, forcing drivers of different vehicles, including buses to stop off the area. Panic gripped the city centre after sporadic clashes when BNP supporters were coming to their rally. Shopkeepers pulled their shutters as activists and police fought running battles. Witnesses said clashes took place in such areas as Noor Hossain Square (zero point), Golapshah Mazar, Bijnayagar, Naya Bazar, Siddik Bazar, Captain Bazar, New Market, Dhaka University campus, Chandkhari Pool, Jatrabari, Mahakhali, Farm Gate, Mohammadpur, Shanir Akhra and Tongi. Oli Miah was killed in Captain Bazar. His body was taken to Awami League office where it was kept for some time. The party accused a group of BNP supporters attacking the 56 ward Juba League office and shooting Walur Rahman with a sawed-off rifle. They also set the office on fire and left 14 others wounded, said a statement issued by AL general secretary Zillur Rahman, the LGRD minister. The namaj-e-Janaza of the deceased will be held at 10 a.m. at Paltan Maidan.

witnesses said. A small group of BCL workers stationed at TSC attacked another fleet of BNP vehicles coming from Nilkhet at around 4:30 pm. They fired a blank shot during the incident in the TSC area, witnesses said. The panic later spilled over to the surrounding areas like Palashi, Chankharpoil. Meanwhile, JCD sources said that the BCL workers had asked the activists of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal not to bring out any procession yesterday on the DU campus. The BCL leaders, however, denied the allegation. The JCD activists did not bring out any procession yesterday.

Zillur

From Page 1 shot dead Walur Rahman, who was the joint secretary of the Juba League, Ward Number 77, during the day. They also attacked various Juba League and Awami League offices and injured many local leaders. The injured party workers are - Mohammad Azad, Lutfur Rahman, Amir Hossain, Biman Babu, Swapan, Shahin, Golam Mostafa, Mohsin, Dulal, Abdulah, Abdul Malek and Razu Ahmed, he said. Condemning the killing of Walur and injuries of a number of party activists, he said that the terrorism was pre-planned ahead of the historic judgement in the Bangabandhu Murder Case. He criticised the 'politics of killing' by the BNP and called upon the opposition party to shun the path of terrorism.

Attack on BNP MP in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Nov 7: Alamgir Hyder Khan, MP, and twelve others were injured in an attack by the rival group at Faridganj this afternoon, reports UNB. Witnesses and police said the BCL activists attacked the BNP lawmaker when he was coming out of a meeting along with JCD activists at Faridganj WAPDA Rest House at 1 pm. Alamgir and the OC of Faridganj thana received injuries. The jeep of the MP was also damaged. BCL activists said Alamgir Hyder was holding a 'conspiratorial' meeting at the WAPDA Rest House.

Cricket

From Page 1 211. The face of the game changed rapidly when wicketkeeper Khaled Masood returned for a duck in the first ball of the 43rd over, and Akram Khan ran himself out while chasing for single in the next ball. Hasbul departed in the same fashion in the next ball, leaving Bangladesh tottering at 211 for eight in 44.3 overs. But Javed, who left the ground after sustaining an injury after scoring 22, playing confidently in unison with Enamul, helped Bangladesh reach the target without further damage. Enamul was later declared the man-of-the-match.

24-hr strike in jute, textile mills Nov 24

A 24-hour strike has been called in the country's nationalised jute, yarn and textile mills from 6 am on November 24 to press for a six-point demand by the workers, reports UNB. The demands include cancellation of the denationalisation policy, formation of a full-fledged 5th wages commission and payment of 60 per cent dearness allowance. The programme for the 24-hour strike was announced after a joint convention of Patkal Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad, Suta-Bastrakal Karmachari Federation, and Basra Shilpa Sramik League in the city yesterday. Presided over by Abul Bashar, the convention at the Sangram Parishad central office was addressed by Shahidullah Chowdhury, Lutfar Rahman, Shah Alam, Hafizur Rahman, Badrul Alam Khan Lavlu and Kamrul Anam, said a press release.

DSE drama drags on

By M Shamsur Rahman The DSE election committee is learnt to have decided to ask 'the aggrieved persons' to file their complaints with the election appellate board. Sources said the decision could not be announced and the letters issued as the election body meeting yesterday was postponed amid fast-spreading violence in Motijheel area in the afternoon. Earlier, a council member had suggested that the election committee allow all councillors to continue for another term and suspend election preparations. The dispute arose after the committee had decided to allow Chairman Rakibur Rahman to continue for another term. Rahman was one of the four to retire, decided through a lottery. Kazi Firoz Rashid, another victim of the lottery, is now contending the committee verdict in favour of Rahman.

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AL, BNP activists clash at Tongi: 15 injured

GAZIPUR, Nov 7: Chase and counter-chase between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Tongi Mill Gate area here today left at least 15 people injured, reports UNB. The clash erupted at about 3:30 pm when AL activists allegedly intercepted the motorcades of BNP activists heading for Paltan Maidan in the capital and attacked them with lathi. Angry people set a BRTC bus on fire and damaged a number of vehicles. Traffic on Dhaka-Tongi highway was disrupted for three hours following the clash and hundreds of vehicles remained stranded on.

Verdict today

From Page 1 tors, most of the 14 absconders kept on moving from one country to another during the last two and a half years. Of them, Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda is in a jail in Thailand on charge of shoplifting. His extradition is now under process. Khandakar Abdur Rashid and Risalder (ret'd) Moslemuddin are in Libya. Lt Col AM Rashed Chowdhury, Maj AKM Mahiuddin Ahmed and Maj Ahmed Sharif Hossain are in the USA. Lt Col Sharif Hujj Dalim and Dafadar Araraf Ali are in Pakistan. Captain Kismet Hashem and Captain Najmul Hossain Ansar are in Canada. Lt Col SHMB Noor Chowdhury in Germany and Lt Col Aziz Pasha is in Harare, Zimbabwe. The investigating officials, however, are yet to locate Captain Abdul Mazed and LD Abul Hashem Mridha, whom they termed 'traceless'. UNB adds: All the key installations have been put on high alert fearing sabotage by terrorists ahead of the verdict. Security in and around the makeshift court has also been strengthened, police sources said yesterday. About 40 armed policeman along with 20 other female police will be posted inside the court building today. Outside the court building, there will be two platoons of BDR and 40 armed police personnel. Armed police will also be posted on rooftops of all the buildings adjacent to the court. Security has also been beefed up in and around the residences of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul, Special Public Prosecutor Sirajul Huq and other public prosecutors.

Panic on DU campus

Our DU Correspondent adds: Panic gripped the Dhaka University campus and its surrounding areas yesterday afternoon as some vehicles carrying BNP supporters attacking the meeting venue under attack by the pro-AL Chhatra League (BCL) workers on the campus. The vehicles coming from Shahbagh were attacked by the BCL activists near TSC at around 4 pm. They beat up some BNP workers who jumped off the vehicles in the face of sudden attack by brickbats. BCL activists in a procession then went to Shahbagh Crossing and took position there. They obstructed the vehicles carrying BNP supporters and attacked some processions.



Hawkers League brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding death sentence for the killers of Bangabandhu and four national leaders. — Star photo

Series of quakes rock Afghanistan

KABUL, Nov 7: Kabul and surrounding districts were rocked by a series of earthquakes overnight, reports and residents said today, according to AFP. They said the tremors were accompanied by a number of explosions possibly linked to the country's massive underground gas resources.

PM: Give ideas to new investors

From Page 1 expanding trade and economy. She advised the business community to strictly maintain quality and international standard while exporting their goods. About innovative ideas for production, Hasina suggested investment in food processing industries and to develop agro-based industries, which will be viable for the entrepreneurs. She also suggested to add new items of agri-products in the export list and go in a massive way for setting medium, small and cottage industries. The Prime Minister advised the business leaders to give suggestions and guidelines to new investors and asked the FBCCI to arrange regular training for the small investors. She said the cottage industry will also be able to accommodate the women community, and give a new dimension to the country's economy. About curbing terrorism, Hasina said the government

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