



EC likely to appeal against HC order

By Staff Correspondent  
The Election Commission may appeal against the High Court order staying the election process of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations, official sources said yesterday.

The commission is likely to appeal against the stay order today, an EC official told The Daily Star last night.

The matter is under active consideration of the government, Attorney General Mahmudul Islam said yesterday, without confirming whether he would move against the High Court order today.

The HC also stayed operations of the final delimitation notifications of Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi city corporations following three writ petitions filed by six ward commissioners from three cities.

The HC stay order came on November 4, only four days ahead of the last day for filing nomination papers.

The BNP-led opposition alliance have threatened to resist the elections and called a 42-hour hartal from November 7 to preempt filing of nomination papers. Earlier it observed a dawn-to-dusk hartal on November 1 to protest against 'unilateral announcement' of the polls schedule.

The EC declared the schedule for the three city corporation elections on October 28, fixing December 6, as the day of polling.

**BNP's torch processions in city today**

BNP will bring out torch processions in the city today in support of 48-hour countrywide shutdown, beginning at 6 am tomorrow, reports UNB.

The processions will begin from 11 places of the city, including its central office, said a press release.

Other places are: New Market, Khilgaon, Mohakhali, Badda, Farmgate, Mohammadpur, Kafrel Bus Stand, Mirpur Town Hall, Pallabi, Shyampur, Uttara and Rampura.

City BNP will hold a joint meeting at its central office at 3 pm today.

**Senior World Bank official in city**

By Staff Correspondent  
Dr Eduardo Doryan, vice-president of Human Development Network of the World Bank, arrived in Dhaka yesterday.

During his six-day stay in the country, Dr. Doryan is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, relevant government officials, members of the civil society and academics said a WB official last night.

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**Prayer Timings**

November 6	
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Zohr	12:45 1:30
Asr	4:00 4:15
Maghrib	5:29 5:34
Esha	7:15 7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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55 days to the  
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KARTIK 22, 1406 BS

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## Colombo may issue letters today SAARC summit to be postponed

COLOMBO, Nov 5: Sri Lanka will postpone a seven-nation regional summit that India said should not be held due to the military takeover in Pakistan, a Foreign Ministry official said yesterday.

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**Nov 8 hartal may be withdrawn if polls cancelled: Opposition**

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance could consider withdrawing the countrywide hartal on November 8 if the government immediately cancels election of three city corporations scheduled for December 6, a spokesman of its liaison committee said yesterday.

The alliance called the hartal to protest cancellation of public holiday on November 7, 'the National Revolution and Solidarity Day', and on November 8 (up to 12midnight) to thwart submission of nomination papers for the three city corporation polls.

Briefing newsmen after attending the liaison body meeting, BNP leader Anwar Zahid said although the High Court stayed the election process for a week, the alliance could consider withdrawing the hartal for a week, but we do not know what will be the consequence of the case. Our programmes have no connection with the High Court order as the Writ has been filed on a different ground, Zahid said.

Replies to a question on possible relaxation of hartal for some hours for Kali Puja of the Hindus, he said the liaison committee didn't discuss anything about this. The committee will again sit at 7:30pm today.

were postponed in 1990 and 1992.

Jayasinghe, who heads the SAARC division in Sri Lanka's Foreign Ministry, said it was unclear when the conference would be rescheduled.

"I don't think a new date can be given," he said.

In Islamabad, the government of the new military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, accused India of interfering in the domestic affairs of another member nation, which violates the principles of the organisation.

Postponement of the summit avoids a potentially awkward meeting between India's Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Musharraf, who ousted the civilian government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup Oct. 12.

Musharraf is seen in India as the man who orchestrated the infiltration this summer of hundreds of irregulars and Pakistan army troops into

Indian-held Kashmir near the town of Kargil.

More than 1,000 combatants were killed in the 11-week mini-war.

Although Sri Lanka currently chairs the group, Nepal was to host the leaders of India, Pakistan, Bhutan, the Maldives, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

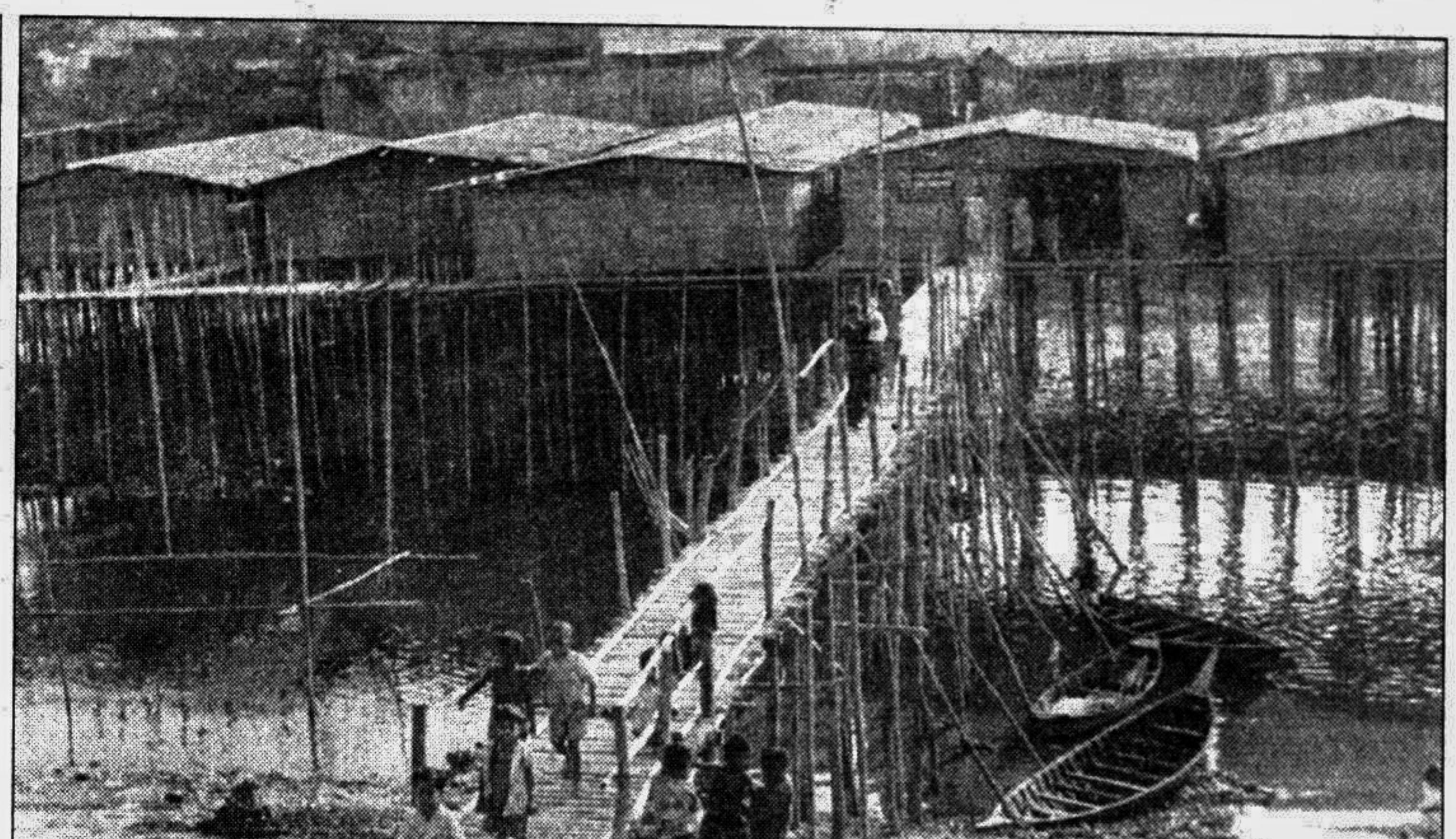
Before Jayasinghe's announcement, Nepal's Foreign Minister Ram Shrawan Mahat had flown from Katmandu to Bhutan to continue the process of delivering invitation letters.

The date of the summit is under question, and not the summit. We will hold the summit, Mahat said.

The seven heads of government or heads of state meet annually, primarily to discuss trade issues.

But the sidelines of the summits often are venues for personal contact and provide opportunities to break the ice.

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BURIGANGA UNDER SIEGE: Platform houses are mushrooming on the Buriganga with encroachers trying to consolidate their grip, choking the river slowly. But none is coming forward to protect the river.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

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**Inside Today**

**Hartal today**

**Feni Jubo Dal activist shot dead**

From Our Correspondent

FENI, Nov 5: A Jubo Dal activist was shot dead on Takia road in the town today.

The victim was identified as Nasiruddin Swapan, 28, son of late Abdul Khaleq of village Baraipur under Feni sadar thana.

According to police and witnesses, about six unidentified assailants attacked Swapan in his shop at around 3:30 pm and shot him in his chest and abdomen. He died on the spot.

Swapan's body lay there for one and half hours. Later, police recovered the body and sent it to Feni hospital for autopsy.

District BNP president Mosharraf Hossain and secretary Joymal Abedin, Jubo Dal president Syed Moazzem Hossain and secretary Kamrul Hossain Masud blamed the ruling party activists for the killing. They demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

District Jubo Dal and Chhatri Dal jointly called a day-long hartal in the town tomorrow protesting the murder.

**Newspapers should stop printing false news'**

**PM to accept constructive suggestions of Opposition**

Striking a reconciliatory note, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has invited the opposition to settle problems across the table with assurances that any wise suggestions would be accepted, reports UNB.

"Give up the oust government agitation... Let's resolve problems through discussion in Parliament. What's the use causing misery to people by calling unnecessary and issueless hartal?" she said yesterday speaking at a reception accorded to her by BFUJ and DUJ at the National Press Club on her winning the prestigious UNESCO peace prize.

Seeking opposition's cooperation in removing poverty and resolving the problems of the common man, the prime minister said: 'We want to run the country on the basis of consensus. We will gladly accept any wise suggestions from the

Opposition.'

In response to the opposition plea for her government's resignation, Hasina said: 'We'll do it at right time and hand over power to a caretaker government which will conduct free and fair elections.'

About early general elections as demanded by the BNP-led opposition alliance, the prime minister said she wanted to give election in 2000, but the opposition had turned it down.

"After their rejection, we said that voting would be held on time. Will you again demand elections in 2000?" she asked her opponents.

"Whenever we want to give, they say no, no," she said.

Hasina said since assuming power with people's mandate, her government had been working hard to improve economic condition of the poor through various people-oriented pro-

grammes.

"If people endorse our programmes, they would vote for us and if not, would choose another party," she said, adding that all powers belong to people and they would decide who are to run the country.

The function, chaired by BFUJ president Abul Kalam Azad, was also addressed by Sangbad Editor Ahmed Kabir, Jugantar Editor Golam Sarwar, ex-BFUJ president Habibur Rahman Milan and DUJ president Altaf Mahmud. BFUJ secretary general Akhtar Ahmed Khan read out an address of felicitation and handed it over to the prime minister while BFUJ secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan conducted the function.

Cabinet ministers, editors, diplomats and senior journalists attended the function among others.

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**Cancer Hospital**

**No drugs, lone cobalt machine out of order**

By Naimul Haq

Cancer treatment at the only specialised government hospital in the country has virtually stopped.

Director of the National Institute of Cancer Research and Hospital (NICRH) in the city Prof Fazle Elahi said the hospital has no chemotherapy drugs for the last two years. Its only cobalt-60 tele-therapy machine is also out of order since last week.

The Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD) stopped supplying about 35 drugs — mostly injectable — which cost about Tk 50 lakh a year, about two years ago. Since then, patients requiring chemotherapy get no treatment at the hospital, sources concerned said.

More than 70 patients, new and old, come to the hospital every day. About three-fourth of them suffer from cancer of lung, ovary, cervix, stomach, liver, lymphoma, thyroid, tonsil.

Prof Elahi said, "The health ministry had sanctioned over Tk 2 crore last financial year.

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Source: Islamic Foundation

Ripon, husband of murdered Mammi, coming out of court after giving judicial statement (left) and four other accused

— Star photo

**Husband describes how he murdered Mammi**

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 5: Mahmuda Sultana Mammi's husband, Abul Kalam Azad Ripon today gave a confessional statement before a first class magistrate here saying he killed his wife six days ago.

In the nine-page statement, the principal accused in the sensational Mammi murder case described how he strangled his wife and what led him to do so at the bed room of their Beparipara house in the small hours of October 30.