

VOL. IX NO. 293 REGD. NO. DA 781 ■ www.dailystarnews.com ■ DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 17, 1999 ■ 44 days to the 3rd Millennium ■ AGRAHAYAN 3, 1406 BS ■ SABAN 8, 1420 HIJRI ■ 16 PAGES PRICE: TAKA 6.00

Opposition calls another hartal on Nov 25

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday announced some fresh agitation programmes including a country-wide dawn-to-dusk hartal on November 25 to press its demand for immediate resignation of the government.

The component parties of the alliance will hold public meetings and stage demonstrations in all thana headquarters on November 20.

Opposition MPs will bring out a procession in the city on November 22 to protest an alleged attempt on the life of some BNP MPs in the city during a countrywide hartal on November 8 and the Prime Minister's "indecent and vulgar" remarks about the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

Announcing the programme

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Muggers hired hit-men to kill Dr Mosharraf

By Staff Correspondent

Snatchers hired professional hit-men to murder Dr. Mosharraf after he had made repeated demands to get back the stolen money, police revealed Tuesday. Last May, snatchers took away Tk 16,000 from the doctor on a mini-bus near the Colleger Gate.

Police said Mosharraf met with the snatchers and ward commissioner Ismail Hossain at Pallabi 12 several times to try and get his money back.

Mosharraf also tried to find the man he had suspected as the mastermind behind the incident, said police.

The thieves assured the doctor that they would return the money. However, Dr. Mosharraf, who was also a part-time botany teacher, was shot dead as he escorted his eight-year-old daughter to school Sunday morning at the Bat Tala on the Ring Road.

Police have arrested five people in connection with the killing and more arrests are expected in the coming days.

A police team went to Comilla to nab two suspects.

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It happens to politicians, Nasim tells Khoka

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday visited city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka at the BIRDEM hospital, where he is undergoing treatment after being wounded in police firing during the hartal on November 8.

The unscheduled visit by the home minister at 3:01pm surprised Khoka and newsmen present there. The minister entered Khoka's cabin, as the latter was waiting for physiotherapy. After sometime, the minister asked, "How are you feeling now?"

"I feel better now. But as long as I will live, I will fight against autocratic powers like yours."

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Prayer Timings

November 17

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-10	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-55	4-10
Magrib	5-23	5-28
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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Official talks Saudi Arabia assures full support to Hasina govt

Riyadh, Nov 16: Saudi Arabia today expressed its desire to enhance economic and political relations with Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The desire was expressed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during official talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz at Yamama Palace this afternoon.

During the first-ever bilateral talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Crown Prince assured that the Saudi government would continue to strengthen its relations with Bangladesh and provide fullest support to Hasina's government.

Briefing newsmen about the

45-minute talks, Foreign Secretary CM Shafi Sami said the Crown Prince reiterated his government's support to Bangladesh candidate Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury for OIC Secretary General. The election is due in 2001.

Shafi Sami said the talks were held in a very cordial atmosphere with the two sides reviewing relations between the two friendly and brotherly countries.

Hasina briefed the Crown Prince about her government's various initiatives, particularly in social sector, like housing, old-age pension and poverty alleviation programme.

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AL candidate
 unofficially
 declared
 elected

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday declared Awami League candidate Shawkat Momen Shahjahan unofficially elected in the Tangail by-elections held on Monday, reports BSS.

Shahjahan won the by-polls defeating his rival independent candidate Abdul Kader Siddique with a margin of 15,827 votes. Shahjahan bagged 75,975 votes while Kader Siddique got 60,148 votes.

The EC officials said polling in four centres out of the total 82 were postponed due to violence and allegations of irregularities. But the Awami League candidate was unofficially declared elected, as the total 13,452 votes of the centres would not affect the result after re-polling.

TANGAIL, Nov. 16: Abdul Kader Siddique and 19 other independent candidates who contested yesterday's by-polls in Tangail-8 parliamentary constituency today demanded immediate cancellation of the election result, alleging rigging.

But ruling Awami League candidate Shawkat Momen Shahjahan, who was officially declared elected by the Election Commission today, said he will go for legal measures if the election result is cancelled.

Shahjahan charged Siddique with creating panic during the voting hours that kept his voters away from the polling centres.

On the other hand, Siddique brought allegations against the

government that there was rigging in the polls.

The 19 independent candidates demanded cancellation of the poll results at a joint press conference at Tangail Press Club. They brought allegations of 'freestyle rigging' by the ruling party men. They did not allow presence of polling agents of other candidates in 62 out of total 82 voting centres, the candidates alleged.

Some local people said they are fearing flare-up of further violence in Sakhipur-Basail area.

Both Shahjahan and Siddique declared here today that they would hold separate press conferences at the Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka tomorrow afternoon.

The district administration imposed Section 144 at Sakhipur thana headquarters from dawn to dusk today as Siddique planned to hold a public meeting and Shahjahan's supporters planned to bring out a 'victory procession' from the same venue.

Siddique shifted his meeting venue to Kachua, about 5km from the thana headquarters.

Mollah Waheduzzaman, DC of Tangail who was the Returning Officer for the by-polls, told The Daily Star that Section 144 was imposed fearing confrontation between supporters of the Siddique and Shahjahan.

However their supporters brought out separate processions in Basail, one in the

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Police intercepted a joint procession of BNP, Jatiya party and Jamaat-e-Islami at Bijoy Nagar as it was proceeding towards Purana Paltan area in the city during yesterday's hartal.

—Star Photo by Anisur Rahman

Vajpayee fears for Sharif's life

NEW DELHI, Nov 16: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee warned today that his deposed Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif might be executed by the country's military rulers, reports AFP.

"If there is no timely international intervention, then Sharif might end up the way Zulfikar Ali Bhutto did," Vajpayee was quoted as saying by the Press Trust of India (PTI) as he spoke to reporters on his plane returning from the Commonwealth heads of state summit in Durban.

While publicly denouncing the overthrow of Sharif, Washington has made

it clear that it is willing to give the new regime in Islamabad time to fulfil promises to put the economy back on track and root out corruption.

According to Vajpayee, some developed nations at the Durban summit had wanted to take a softer stance against Pakistan, but were outnumbered by countries from Asia, Africa and the Caribbean.

"On the question of restoration of democracy in Pakistan the Commonwealth's view has become more emphatic with our intervention at the summit. It will not be compromised at all," said Vajpayee.

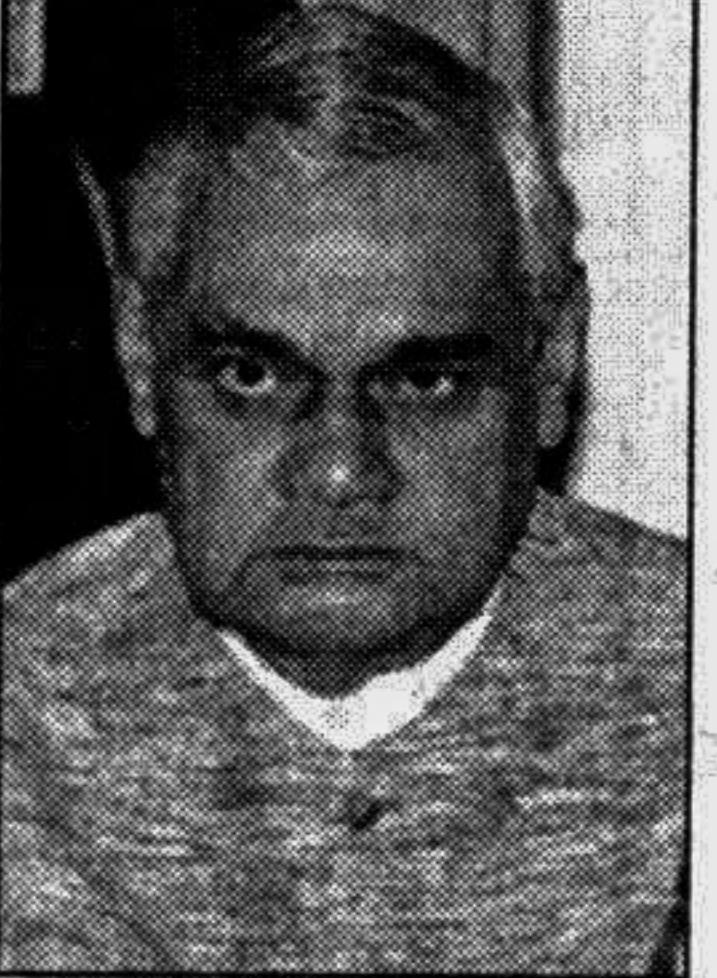
The Indian position at the summit was that early elections should be held in Pakistan and all political prisoners, including Sharif, should be released.

Report from Islamabad says: Former Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif, deposed in a coup last month, faces a string of charges including treason and conspiracy to murder, according to a copy of the accusations received today, reports AFP.

Sharif has been in military detention since he was ousted by Army Chief General Pervez Musharraf on October 12.

Police say he will soon be arrested and brought before an

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Mob torches a firm office, clashes with police

Two burnt alive, 100 injured in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SOURCES said.

Police fired five rounds of tear gas shells and four blank shots to bring the situation under control. A contingent of police has been deployed as tension is prevailing in the area.

The sources said Monika International, a private firm engaged in construction of some big bridges on the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway, engaged village in its construction work. The village is about 60 miles from Sylhet town.

Hearing this, about 25 people from nearby Charnbari Banglabar village went to the site of the firm at Naljuri Alubagan this morning and demanded jobs.

Some employees of the firm reportedly chased them and confined five of them inside the office. Others informed the vil-

lagers of the matter immediately.

At about 11 am, about 2000 villagers in a procession went to the firm's office and gheraoed it. They alleged that, the company officials had long been cheating the local people in the name of giving jobs. The employees of the firm tried to resist but failed.

The agitated people pelted stones and went on the rampage, damaging about 20 vehicles including private cars and trucks, parked near the office. At one stage, they set the company's office on fire.

When police reached there after about an hour the villagers also clashed with them.

Bodies of two persons were recovered later.

Anniversary of Bhasani's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The 23rd anniversary of death of Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani will be observed in the country today with due respect.

Different socio-political and cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to observe the death anniversary.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and leader of the opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia, in separate messages on the occasion paid rich tributes to Moulana Bhasani.

The day's programmes include holding of discussion meetings, *milad mafails* and laying of floral wreaths at the grave of the Moulana.

Opposition BNP has chalked out programmes to observe the day. Party leaders will place wreaths at the *mazar* of the greatest leader and hold a discussion meeting in the afternoon.

Jatiya Party will offer *fateha* and hold a discussion meeting at its central office in the afternoon in observance of the day.

To mark the day, Bangladesh Workers Party will place wreaths at the grave of Moulana Bhasani and hold a discussion meeting at its office in the afternoon.

Police say he will soon be arrested and brought before an

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Row over fishing:
 Two shot dead in Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 16: Two persons were shot dead today centering a row over fishing in a remote village under Tahirkhanda in Sunamganj district.

According to villagers of Bardal Natunia, several fishermen were fishing in a small ditch at the village at about 10 in the morning when a group of armed men led by one Fazlul Haque, who claimed to be a local leader, arrived there and asked them to stop fishing. Haque said they were fishing without his permission. But the fishermen said the ditch was outside the leased area.

More villagers reached the spot and protested Haque's claim. At one stage, Haque fired on the villagers killing Abdur Rashid, 45, one of the villagers, and Abdul Karim, 25, one of his accomplices.

Haque immediately went to the police station and filed a case accusing the villagers of killing his accomplice Abdul Karim. But villagers alleged that he intentionally fired at

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Cancel poll results, demand Siddique, 19 other candidates

From Reaz Ahmad and Mizan Ali

government that there was rigging in the polls.

The 19 independent candidates demanded cancellation of the poll results at a joint press conference at Tangail Press Club. They brought allegations of 'freestyle rigging' by the ruling party men. They did not allow presence of polling agents of other candidates in 62 out of total 82 voting centres, the candidates alleged.

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