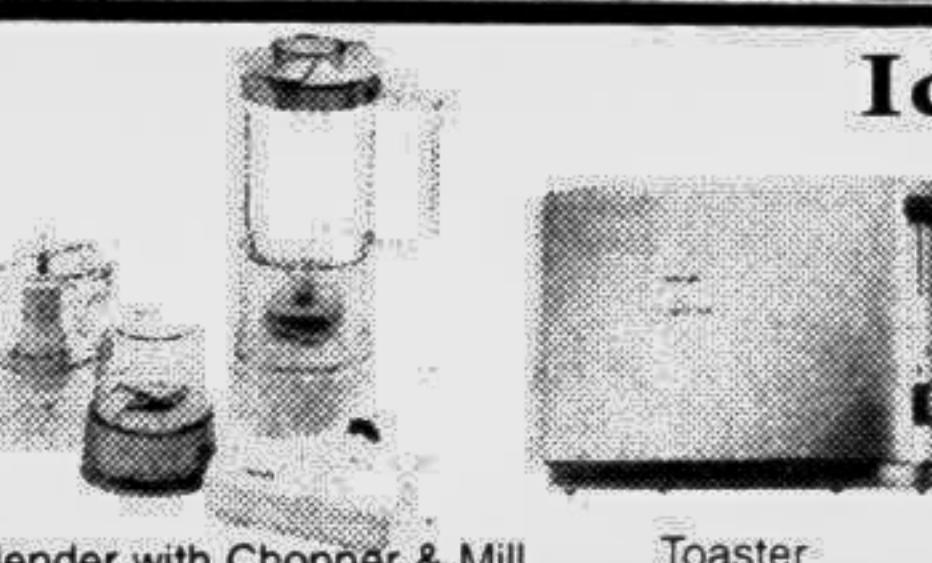




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President pays last respect

— Star photo

## Begum Sufia Kamal

From page 1  
family sources said.

"Being inspired by the ideology of Begum Rokeya, Sufia Kamal led the Muslim women to the path of progress for three decades," the President said in the message. "He was a poet who earned blessings of Rabindranath Tagore, Kazi Nazrul Islam and Saugat Editor Mohammad Nasiruddin."

Recalling her role in anti-autocracy movements, the President said she held women rallies and led processes during the mass upsurge in 1969.

She had been the president of Mahila Parishad since 1970 and was associated with so many socio-cultural and literary organisations, he said.

"It is needless to say that the death of Sufia Kamal has created an irreparable loss to the movement for welfare of women," Shahabuddin said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message said the nation lost a courageous matriarch who fought lifelong for establishing truth, justice and democracy.

Deeply shocked at the death

of the poet, Hasina said Begum Sufia Kamal, pioneer of women renaissance, was a personality who was dauntless, incorruptible and respected by all.

"She was the beacon of the great Language Movement and Liberation War and inspiration in all democratic movements of the nation."

Sufia Kamal strongly condemned the killing of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and was always vocal for the trial of the killers, Hasina said.

She was a social reformer and was against all forms of fanaticism, fundamentalism and autocracy, the Prime Minister said.

Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia also expressed her deep shock at the death of the poet.

In her message, she said literary works of Begum Sufia Kamal have glorified the Bangla literature.

The former prime minister also expressed her sympathy with the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

**Restaurant, house ransacked by alleged AL activists in city**

By Staff Correspondent

A group of people posing themselves as ruling party activists allegedly ransacked a restaurant and the residence of its owner twice on Friday at Bangshal in old part of the city that resulted in injury of three aged women, relatives of the victims said.

The affected family members alleged that Kotwali police refused to register a case in this regard. Rather they asked them (members of the family) to file a general diary, Kotwali police, however, denied the allegation last night.

According to family members of late Chan Mia, the gang led by one Bashir Ahmed attacked their restaurant and residence at about 2 pm. Bashir Ahmed earlier lost two cases in the court of law regarding the possession of the restaurant.

The attackers damaged the restaurant and assaulted a number of its employees.

The goons also attacked the residence and looted valuables. When the women of a house tried to resist them, the attackers assaulted 60-year-old blind wife of Chan Mia, his daughter Manjura Begum and his daughter-in-law Nurjahan, family members alleged.

The goons, including Kalu — said to be the general secretary of Awami League ward no 71, again attacked the residence of late Chan Mia in the evening and threatened the family members with dire consequence.

None, however, was arrested in this connection till last night.

**Opposition stages demonstrations in city, thana headquarters**

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance yesterday staged demonstrations in all thana headquarters across the country to press its demand for resignation of the government and early parliamentary polls.

As part of the programme, the BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote organised separate rallies and brought out processions in support of their demands.

Some other smaller parties — Jatra, Democratic League, PNP and NDA — also organised rallies and brought out processions.

In capital Dhaka, main opposition BNP staged rallies and demonstrations in Ramna, Kotwali, Lalbag, Kamrangir Char, Hazaribagh, Tejgaon, Mirpur, Pallabi, Gulshan, Cantonment, Badda, Sabujbag, Motijheel, Demra, Sutrapur, Khilgaon and Shyampur thanas.

Central and thana unit leaders addressed those rallies and led processions that paraded different city streets and lanes with anti-government slogans.

**Pakistan**

From page 1  
said the ousted premier was confident and his physical condition was improving.

"Today, he has gone through the newspapers and now is aware of the international events and the happenings in the country."

Sharif has not yet been formally charged.

On Friday he insisted he was innocent as he appeared at the anti-terrorism court. "I did not conspire in a hijacking," Sharif told the Karachi court during the 20-minute hearing on Friday.

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## Two AL men shot dead in Feni

From Our Correspondent

**FENI, Nov 20:** Two activists of the front organisations of ruling Awami League were shot dead and three others injured in two separate incidents here last night.

The dead were identified as Mohammad Faruq, 25, a BCL activist and Abu Ahmed alias Abu 32, a Sramik League activist.

According to police and witnesses, a group of unidentified assailants called BCL activist Faruq and Azad out of a tea shop at village Madhupur in Feni thana at around 8:30 pm and shot them point blank.

Local people rushed them to Feni Sadar Hospital where Faruq died after midnight.

The injured BCL activist Azad was shifted to Pangu Hospital in Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.

After the incident, gunshots and bomb blasts rocked Mohammadpur and nearby villages.

In another incident, a group of unidentified gunmen attacked the house of Sramik League activist Abu Ahmed alias Abu at village Alarpur under Daganbhuiyan thana at about 9:30 pm.

They opened fire on Abu, his father Tazul Islam and brother-in-law Saiful.

Abu died on the spot while his father and brother-in-law were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital with bullet injuries.

Police could not find out the reasons behind the killings till filing of this report at 6 pm today.

Abu's body was sent to Feni hospital for autopsy.

District BCL President and General Secretary blamed BNP activists for the killings, but BNP denied the allegation.

Professor Joynal Abedin, General Secretary of Feni district BNP said the killings were sequel to internal conflict of the ruling party.

## Will Khaleda be there today?

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia did not decide until 10:30 last night whether she would attend the Armed Forces Day function today (Sunday) at the Senakunia.

A close aide of the BNP Chairperson told The Daily Star over telephone that chances of her attending the programme were 'slim'.

Some top leaders found the BNP Chairperson 'not interested' to attend the function because most of the high ranking BNP leaders, like M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, had not been invited.

Another reason for her not attending the function was the casual manner in which the present army authorities delivered the invitation card. A messenger reportedly left the invitation card at the reception, outside her Cantonment residence. On previous occasions, an officer from the Armed Forces Division carried the invitation letter, the aide pointed out.

Unlike in the previous years, this time Khaleda Zia did not receive any invitation card as the widow of a freedom fighter, Lt Gen Ziaur Rahman, BU.

She had received two cards for the past several years — one as the widow of Ziaur Rahman and the other as the Leader of the Opposition in the past four years the aide said.

Despite repeated attempts, army authorities could not be reached for comments.

Another source said that the Leader of the Opposition had not yet finalised her daily schedule for today till the time of writing this report.

Clashes between police and BNP activists were reported from Mohammadpur and Tejgaon areas. Clash and counter-clash between police and Islami Shashantaran Andolon were reported from Muktangon area.

Rafikul Islam, OC of Ramna Police reportedly lost his walkie-talkie during the clash that began at about 5:30 pm and lasted for about half an hour, police and witnesses said. The traffic in the area was interrupted during the period, witnesses said.

Police said unruly elements ransacked some vehicles passing through the area during that time. They swung into action to restore normalcy. None, however, was arrested.

At one stage during the clash and counter-clash police baton charged the activists, lobbed tear gas shells and used rubber bullets. Walkie-talkie of the OC got lost during the clash and counter-clash, police said adding that it remained missing till the writing of this report last night. The activists also damaged some way-side stalls of vendors.

Abdul Latif Chowdhury, joint secretary of Islami Shashantaran Andolon told The Daily Star that they held a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram yesterday afternoon amidst resistance from police.

Later they brought out a procession from the North Gate which was led by their leader

Moulana Syed Mohammad Faizul Karim, Pir of Charmonia, he said. Marching up to the press club, the processionists moved towards the zero point through Bijoynagar. Police swooped down on the processionists when they reached Muktangon, firing tear gas shells and rubber bullets, he added.

A BNP press release said police swooped down on a party procession after it was brought out from Mohammadpur town hall and three persons were picked up. Police denied the arrest. But police sources acknowledged that in certain areas of the city processionists were asked to divert their processions like the one which tried to go towards Farm gate on VIP road from Tejgaon.

**BNP MPs to bring out procession in city tomorrow**

By Staff Correspondent

BNP legislators will bring out a procession tomorrow from its Naya Palton office in the city to mobilise public support for its oust-government movement, said a press release.

Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will lead the procession.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon the party MPs to be present at the BNP office by 10:00 am to make the programme a success.

**Quit before more rigged polls: Khaleda**

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has demanded of the government to step down immediately before holding any more 'rigged' polls.

In a statement yesterday, she said that the recent parliamentary by-election in Tangail was a manifestation of the government's continued practice of rigging.

The former prime minister castigated the government for 'stealing votes' in all elections held after the June 12, 1996 general election and termed the latest one in Tangail a 'naked show of rigging'.

She alleged that the results of the Tangail election were pre-set and the government forcibly defeated 'rebel' Awami League leader Abdul Kader Siddique.

Khaleda said the government has found rigging as the last resort to cling to power and the Chief Election Commissioner has been assisting it in 'stealing votes' in the polls.

**Armed Forces Day**

From Staff Correspondent

**War of Liberation.**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also the Defence Minister, will also lay wreath at Shikha Anirban.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen M Mustafizur Rahman, Naval Chief Rear Admiral A Taher and Air Chief Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed will lay wreath at the Shikha Anirban separately.

Chiefs of the three services will pay courtesy call on the President at Bangabhaban. They will also pay similar call on the Prime Minister at the PM's Office at Armed Forces Division in the Dhaka Cantonment.

A reception to gallantry award winning freedom fighters and members of the shahed families will be held at Prime Minister's Office at Dhaka Cantonment.

The Prime Minister will meet the family members of seven Bir Shreshthos — Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Zahangir, Shaheed Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rauf, Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Shaheed Sepoy Muhammad Mustafa Kamal, Shaheed Ruhul Amin, Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matiur Rahman and Shaheed Lance Naik Noor Mohammad Sheikh on the occasion.

She will also meet freedom fighters holding Bir Uttam, Bir Bikram and Bir Protik awards and their nearest ones.

Similar receptions will also be hosted by the Chiefs of Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force at their respective service headquarters.

In the evening, the Prime Minister will host a reception at Sena Kunja.

Evening receptions will also be held at Chittagong, Comilla, Jessor, Mymensingh, Bogra and Rangpur cantonments.

**Lathials attack police, loot rifles**

From Staff Correspondent

**BARISAL, Nov 20:** At least 50 people including seven police personnel were injured and three rifles with 15 bullets were looted in an armed clash between the lathials and police over paddy harvest at Char Fenua under Mehdinagar thana of the district today.

According to police and witnesses, about 500 lathials came to the area to loot paddy at around 11 am.

When the on-duty policemen led by SI Abu Taher tried to resist the lathials they attacked Abu Taher and some other policemen and snatched three rifles with 13 bullets.

During the encounter, sub-inspector Shakil received bullet injuries. Police managed to arrest Abu with a German made pistol. Abu also received bullet injury in one of his legs while others in escaped the scene. Further details were not immediately available.

## B'baria polytech student, trader murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

A student of Brahmanbaria Polytechnic Institute was stabbed to death at Tejgaon and a stone trader was shot dead at Jurain in the city yesterday.

Police and hospital sources identified the dead as Zahir Alam Suman, 20, the student, and Mukhlesur Rahman, the trader.

Some top leaders found the BNP Chairperson 'not interested' to attend the function because most of the high ranking BNP leaders, like M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, had not