

# Bush, Vajpayee vow to fight global terrorism

AFP, Washington

President George W. Bush Friday shrugged off criticism of the US-led war on terror from visiting Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee as both leaders vowed to fight the global scourge and improve relations.

"My administration is committed to developing a fundamentally different relationship with India one based upon trust; one based upon mutual values," said Bush. "It's an important relationship for our country."

Vajpayee assured Bush of his "complete support" in the war on terrorism and declared their first face-to-face meeting since the president took office in January as "an extremely rewarding experience."

Vajpayee's meeting with Bush comes a day before the US president is due to meet President Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan in New York, on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Washington has had to walk an even finer line in South Asian geopolitics since terror attacks on New York and the Pentagon on September 11 that killed around 5,000 people.

US policymakers must reconcile a long-term goal of developing ties with India with their need for Pakistan's help in the battle to bring suspected terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden to justice.

Underlining those tensions, Bush came under sharp questioning from an Indian reporter who asked whether American lives were

worth more than Indian lives, a reference to Pakistan's alleged support for "cross-border terrorism" over the border with the disputed Kashmir region.

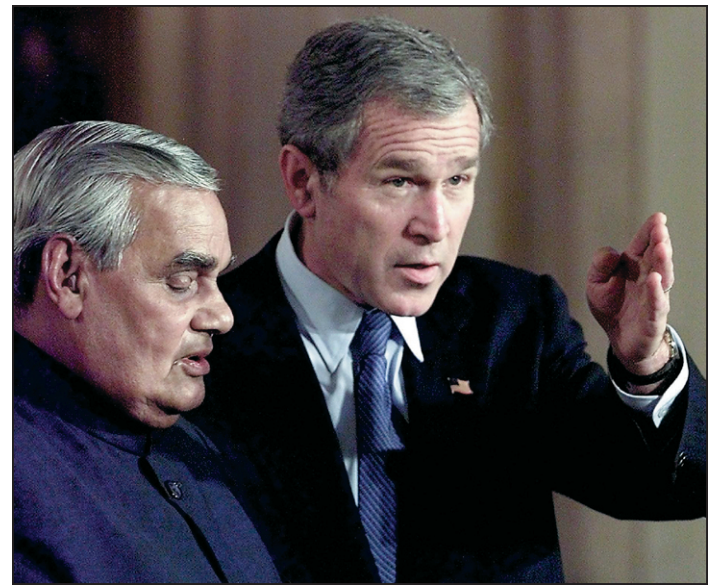
"There's one universal law, and that's terrorism is evil. And all of us must work to reject evil. Murder is evil, and we must reject murder," Bush said, vowing to condemn any future such attacks.

Interrupted by the reporter, Bush firmly insisted: "Our coalition is strong because leaders such as the prime minister fully under-

stand that we must reject terrorism in all its form and murder and all its causes in order for the world to be peaceful." Friday's meeting came after Vajpayee told the Washington Post the US military campaign against Afghanistan's Taliban rulers for refusing to hand over bin Laden "cannot be described as fully satisfactory."

Prodded by a reporter, the president waved off the report, saying his talks with Vajpayee were a m o n g

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US President George W. Bush (R) and Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee answer questions during a press conference at White House yesterday.

## Police rescue 23 BCL activists from wrath of JCD at JU

JU CORRESPONDENT

JCD activists yesterday encircled 23 BCL leaders and activists at JU administrative building and tried to assault them.

Police rushed to the spot, rescued the BCL leaders and activists and took them to Savar thana.

However, the rescued BCL men were released at about 4pm.

Campus sources said the BCL leaders and activists led by varsity unit president Mehedi Jamil entered the administrative building at about 12.15 pm. They met the vice-chancellor and sort security of their leaders and activists on the campus.

They also urged the authorities not to hold the examinations keeping BCL men out of the campus.

Leaders and activists of BCL JU unit left the campus following AL's debacle in the October 1 election. They did not return yet fearing attacks by JCD men.

Tension gripped the campus yesterday when JCD activists encircled the BCL leaders and activists at the administration building.

They asked the authorities to hand over all the BCL men to them.

"We will punish the BCL terrorists who had assaulted our activists, both male and female, on the campus during the last five years", Ashrafur Alam Jewel, President of JCD JU unit said.

## Election debacle Prepare lists of officials, party insiders: Hasina

UNB, Barisal

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party members to prepare lists of officials as well as party insiders who had "worked for party's election debacle."

"The party will take action against those who betrayed the party from within. No betrayer will be spared, stern action will be taken against those who stabbed in the back," she told a party meeting at the local circuit house yesterday.

Hasina also urged for preparing a list of officials of the administration, police and army who, she thinks, were behind the defeat of Awami League in the October 1 elections.

"Make a list of them, we want to show the nation how the election was rigged, we want to show the observers what they did not see, we will publish a white paper," she told party workers on the last day of her organisational tour of Southern Bengal.

"Also prepare a list of tortured people, we want a report on the entire election," she added.

The Awami League chief alleged that there were different versions of the voter list, and asked the defeated candidates of her party to register cases with the election tribunal by November 19.

She also asked for forming legal aid committees to help party leaders and workers being harassed and tortured in different parts of the country and for raising funds for those committees.

Hasina said the party would be reorganised from the grassroots level and every committee will be constituted afresh. "We will hold the national council shortly and the party will have to be reorganised before that," she said. She also asked for forming committees of Awami Ulema league everywhere.

She directed the party members to unmask the character of BNP-Jamaat axis but suggested that all religious people not be considered as fundamentalist. "Contact anti-Jamaat Islamic forces to make people know the character of Jamaat."

She said there was always propaganda against Awami League that it is anti-Islamic. But, she said Awami League did the maximum for Islam and

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## One killed, 5 shot in Khagrachhari

UNB, Khagrachhari

Tribal terrorists fired at a running pickup van killing a young man and injuring five others at a place 7 km away from here on Dighinala road at 4 pm yesterday.

Quoting witnesses police said the pickup carrying passengers was going to Dighinala. While passing through the rubber garden, terrorists coming out of the bush asked the driver to stop.

As the driver refused to oblige. The gunmen fired from behind eight bullets at the vehicle killing Rahmat Ullah, 20, on the spot. Tapan Chakma, 21, Sunil Kanti Chakma, 14, Kalachi Chakma, 20, Bidhshi Chakma, 27, and Sadhon Chakma, 22, were shot.

On information police rushed to the spot and sent the victims to the hospital where doctors declared Rahmat Ullah dead. He hails from Dighinala thana bazar area.

## Deadline ends Only 5 arms surrendered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deadline for surrendering illegal firearms ended yesterday.

Earlier the government had offered clemency to those terrorists who surrender their firearms between November 1 to 10. Sources said only five arms were surrendered within the period.

Sources at the police headquarters said the deadline may be extended for another week.

The government plans to launch an extensive operation

## Hearing of Shazneen case Nov 17

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka, yesterday adjourned the hearing of Shazneen rape case till November 17.

Judge Mohammad Shah Alam Miah passed the order as he did not get any instruction from the High Court regarding new timing of the court till yesterday.

The government has fixed the weekly holding on Fridays and changed working hours effective from yesterday.

However, both the parties and complainant of the case, Mojibur Rahman, were present in the court for hearing.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman of Transcom Group, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998.

Latifur Rahman, filed a murder case with Gulshan thana on April 24, 1998 accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid a domestic help at his house.

Mojibur Rahman filed a rape case with Gulshan thana after six months investigation into the murder case.

All the accused Shahid, Hasan, Badal, Shaniram, Minu and Parvin were produced before the court yesterday.

Advocate A B M Sharfuddin Khan Mukul and Mahubub Ahmed appeared for the state while Advocate Mosarraf Hossain Kajol and M A Kamrul Hasan Khan Aslam for the accused.

The murder case, pending with the first Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka was earlier stayed by an order of the Supreme Court. The order will remain valid till disposal of the rape case.

The trial of the case began at the Special Court on July 9 last year.



Inhospitable habitat...fishes in Gulshan Lake are dying due to pollution of water. Fish cultivators alleged that toxic waste streaming into the lake from nearby areas has polluted the lake water. But the authorities concerned are yet to ascertain the

## Global economic recession PM urges business leaders to face challenges unitedly

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said that an economy-friendly environment is a prerequisite to advance the nation towards development and progress.

Pointing to the dismal global scenario and economic recession, she urged the business community to unitedly face the challenges.

"You are all sons of this soil and our fate is inexorably connected with the good and bad of the country," the Prime Minister said while exchanging views with leaders of the business community yesterday evening.

A delegation of FBCCI led by its president Yusuf Abdullah Harun met with her in her office.

Khaleda Zia pointed to the steps already taken including reduction of bank interest rate, interest on

export credit and said, "We have taken up a 100-day programme to overcome problems in the economy, law and order, gas and power."

She asked the business community to look into the possibilities of exporting non-traditional items including agro-based products and IT related matters.

Khaleda Zia also said that her government will provide incentives to exporters to encourage more exports.

She assured the delegation of looking into the problem when her attention was drawn to the recent rise of Biman freight charges for vegetable export.

On the problem of rising cross border smuggling which affects domestic products the Prime Minister said apart from restrictive measures people should be made

aware of the adverse impact of smuggling on the economy.

The Prime Minister reiterated her call to Awami League to join Parliament.

Besides FBCCI president, vice president Mohammad Ali and 13 directors of the executive committee of the apex body took part in the discussion.

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## 4 murdered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including a listed criminal of Kamrangirchar area, were murdered in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

The dead were identified as Bashir, a listed criminal, Noor Mohammad, a construction worker, Razan, 23 and Nasima, 26, a housewife.

Sources said Bashir, son of Abdul Aziz, was killed following feud over sharing of toll money among the criminals of Kamrangirchar area.

The duty officer of Kamrangirchar thana said some of Bashir's accomplices took him to a two-storey building at Barogram Khalidkhat at about 2:00pm. They stabbed him in different parts of his body. He died on the spot. Police said Bashir was an accused in two cases of extortion and mugging.

His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Unidentified miscreants chopped to death Razan, son of Abul Kalam Azad at east Shekhdi at Gobindapur under Demra

thana.

Police said the miscreants swooped on Razan while he was standing in front of a roadside shop at about 1:30pm. He was a tenant of one Rawshan Matbar of the area.

His body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy and a murder case was filed with Demra thana.

In another incident, unidentified miscreants gunned down contractor Noor Mohammad near his house at Kadamtali in Shaympur at about 3:30pm.

Witnesses said armed men spread bullets on him, leaving him critically injured. He was rushed to the DMCH where he died soon after admission.

Police said Mohammad might have been killed for not paying toll to the miscreants. A murder case was filed.

UNB adds: Uttara police yesterday recovered the body of a 26-year-old woman from a house in the Uttara.

The body of Nasima Akhter, wife of Abul Hossain of Dakshinkhan area, was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

## JS session resumes today

BSS, Dhaka

The sitting of the first session of the 8th Jatiya Sangsad (JS) resumes at 4 pm today after a recess of four days.

The 8th Jatiya Sangsad went on its maiden session on October 28.

Members of the main opposition Awami League, however, are remained absent from the session from the very beginning.

## Lower courts didn't function yesterday

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Although the government has announced Saturday as a workday the lower courts in the city remained closed yesterday.

The courts under the District and Sessions Judge and the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate did not get any written order from the High Court yesterday regarding new office timing.

On November 5, the cabinet meeting fixed a one day weekend on Fridays and changed working hours.

The lower courts across the country follow the instruction of the High Court. But the court did not send any circular till yesterday regarding the new timing of the lower courts.

When contacted, District and Session Judge Mohammad Siddiqur Rahman said the got an instruction from the High Court regarding new timing of the lower courts over telephone at about 12:30 pm.

The High Court directed him to follow the new timing from next Saturday.

## News Analysis

# BJP, Congress set for face-off over new anti-terrorism law

## POTO could set the tone for UP assembly polls

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The war of attrition between the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the main opposition over the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) heats up with each passing day in the run-up to the winter session of Indian parliament, which begins less than two weeks from now.

The two sides are headed for a face-off, with the government of Atal Behari Vajpayee set to convert the ordinance into a parliamentary bill and push it through both houses

of the parliament - the Lok Sabha (lower) and the Rajya Sabha (upper). The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) does not have majority in the Rajya Sabha.

Over the past few weeks, the BJP has raised the pitch of the campaign in favour of the ordinance and given enough indications that it will make battle against terrorism a major issue in the forthcoming assembly elections in the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh. Elections in the most populous Indian state is due some time in March or April

next year.

That the anti-terrorism ordinance is going to be the new mantra of the BJP, desperate to retain power in Uttar Pradesh, was signalled by the leadership's speeches at last week's national executive meeting in the holy Sikh town of Amritsar.

The ball was set rolling by none other than Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani, considered spokesman of the BJP hardliners, when he said at the Amritsar meeting that

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