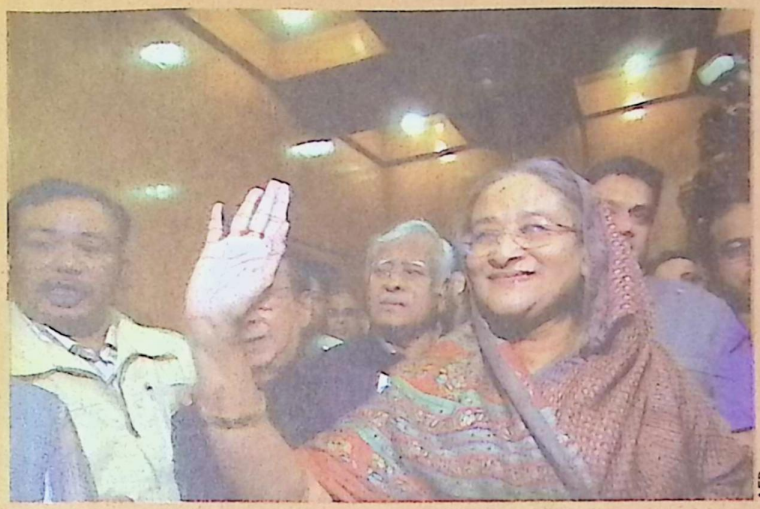


AFP

Hasina returns

Awami League president, Sheikh Hasina, returns home to a rapturous welcome, and is greeted by thousands of cheering supporters on May 7, bringing an end to the 20-day effort of the military-backed interim government to force her to stay abroad. The caretaker administration issued a press note on April 18, imposing restrictions on her entry into the country, but it lifted the ban after a week in the face of intense criticism at home and abroad.

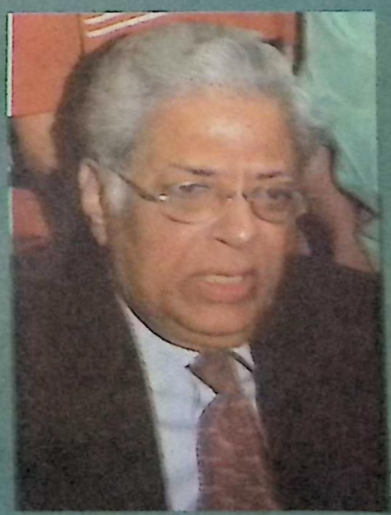
BBC

Who's the boss?

In an interview with BBC, the head of the emergency government, Dr. Fakhruddin Ahmed, reiterates that his administration -- not the military -- is in control of the country. Contradicting commentators who assert that the army now wields ultimate power in the country, Dr. Ahmed tells the BBC that the army is working only in aid of his interim civil administration, and has played an important role in maintaining law and order and combating crime since he came to power in January.

Election time-table

The EC announces that it intends to finish preparing the voter list with photographs in eight months and assesses that the number of voters will not exceed 7.5 crore, about two crore less than the number on the last electoral roll. By increasing the number of teams that will register voters at voter registration camps across the country to 12,000, the EC believes it will be possible to complete the task by March or April next year. The new plan, however, triggers a debate about whether prospective voters will respond favourably to the new methodology.



STAR