



16 YRS OF PEACE ACCORD

The writer who witnessed the signing says it mustn't remain on paper only

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EGYPT VOTES ON CHARTER

Draft bans religious parties, gives more power to military

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RIP PAUL WALKER

"Fast & Furious" series star is killed in a fiery fast-car crash

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UN warns against further violence

Reminds political leadership that perpetrators of political violence faced prosecution in other situations; EU for acceptable polls formula

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Deeply worried by the escalation of political violence in Bangladesh, a senior UN official yesterday cautioned the country's leaders, reminding them that the perpetrators of political or election related violence had faced prosecution in other situations.

Noting that Bangladesh is a state party to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay said, "In other situations, we have seen cases of political or election related violence where the perpetrators of such acts -- including political leadership -- have faced prosecution."

"Whatever their differences, political leaders on both sides must halt their destructive brinkmanship, which is pushing Bangladesh dangerously close to a major crisis," she said in a statement issued from Geneva yesterday.

On a similar note, the European Union has urged political leaders of the two rival camps to refrain from any actions that could spark further violence.

"The EU calls on the leaders of all political parties to agree on a mutually acceptable formula so as to facilitate the holding of elections which fully reflect the wishes of the people," Catherine Ashton, high representative of the EU for foreign affairs,

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...both sides must halt their destructive brinkmanship, which is pushing Bangladesh dangerously close to a major crisis



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Another bus burns after opposition activists set it alight on Sat Masjid Road near Dhanmondi Road-15 in the capital yesterday.

Put an end to violence

Businesses urge political parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Top business leaders yesterday pleaded with the major political parties to immediately sort out their differences and put an end to the ongoing deadly violence for the sake of the economy and the country.

"Political parties will carry out political activities. We have no problem with that. But nobody has the right to destroy the garment sector," said Kazi Akram Uddin

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Blockaders continue targeting trains

More than 100 passengers hurt as train derails after tracks damaged; more clashes

STAR REPORT

Over 100 passengers were injured as the Dhaka-bound Mohanagar Godhuli derailed after blockade supporters removed fishplates from the rail track in Burichang upazila of Comilla yesterday.

Seven out of 13 compartments of the intercity train veered off the route in Pachora area near Rajapur Rail Station

around 7:30pm, halting Dhaka-Chittagong rail link on the second day of the opposition's 72-hour blockade.

Md Shahidullah, officer-in-charge of Laksam rail police, has been suspended for failing to ensure monitoring of the rail line at the site and give the authorities prior warning, officials say.

Shafiqur Rahman, acting station master

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Blockade may stretch till Thursday

RASHIDUL HASAN and PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

The BNP-led 18-Party alliance is likely to extend its ongoing 72-hour country-wide blockade to Thursday. The roads, rail and waterways blockade that started Saturday morning is scheduled to end at 6:00am tomorrow.

"But we are really frustrated with the way the government is behaving

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Troubled BNP faces leadership crunch

Overwhelmed by cases, its leaders are on the run or behind bars

RASHIDUL HASAN

The BNP is in a leadership crisis as many of its senior leaders are behind bars, while those out are either on the run to avoid arrests or too old for active politics.

In addition, party sources say, the top brass of its Dhaka city unit remains inactive fearing police action.

All these have left BNP chief Khaleda Zia struggling to pick a leader to guide the party through, particularly after acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has gone into hiding to escape arrest, the sources add.

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PHOTO: FOCUS BANGLA

Mokhlesur Rahman being taken inside Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Pickets hurled a home-made bomb at him near Titumir College in Dhaka and it landed on his head blowing off part of his skull.

Man injured critically by crude bomb

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mokhlesur Rahman was at a wrong place at a wrong time, unfortunately.

After his midday prayers, he was going to his office at Mohakhali in the capital. As soon as he came near Titumir College, a cocktail hit him and blew a part of his head away, all out of the blue.

The incident happened around 2:30pm yesterday, just three days after Anwara Begum, 42, died being similarly hit by a bomb from a rally in the capital's Khilgaon.

Doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital said Mokhlesur's condition was critical and needed intensive care unit support.

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No extension

CEC says about deadline for nomination filing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) would not extend the time for submission of nomination papers for the upcoming national election, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday.

"The last date for submission of the nomination papers is December 2. The date will remain unchanged," he told reporters at the EC Secretariat.

"We have information that many candidates have already collected nomination papers; we hope that they will be able to submit nominations within the deadline," he added.

When asked whether the EC would change the polls schedule in case main opposition BNP joins the election, the CEC said: "If there is a political consensus, we will con

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Postpone polls schedule

Fakhrul asks EC; 16 BNP leaders sued for Malibagh arson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday in a statement called upon the Election Commission to postpone the polls schedule immediately and urged it to take steps for holding a "meaningful" election.

He alleged that the incumbent government was running the country illegally and un-constitutionally.

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CURBING ACC POWER

Dev partners concerned

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The development partners have sent letters to the President and the Speaker expressing their concern over the new provision requiring the Anti-Corruption Commission to obtain government permission before filing corruption cases against civil servants.

On November 10, the Jatiya Sangsad passed a bill to introduce the controversial provision for the anti-graft body.

A finance ministry official said a copy of the letter was also sent to the finance minister where the development partners said the provision was not of international standards.

On behalf of all development partners, Neal Walker,

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