



# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

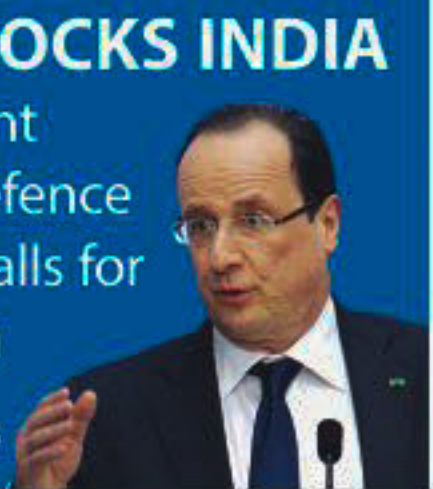
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PLUS 4-PAGE SPECIAL ISSUE ON BANGLADESH CERAMIC INDUSTRY THE SHINING STAR  
MUHARRAM 12, 1440 HJRI

HOLLANDE ROCKS INDIA

Ex-French president hints at graft in defence deal, opposition calls for Modi's resignation

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Your Right to Know

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## Greater unity taking shape

*BNP, 9 of its allies share stage with Dr Kamal's Oikya Prokriya and B Chowdhury's Juktofront at citizens' rally to press for common demands*

GOVT ASKED TO MEET 3 DEMANDS BY SEPT 30

- Formation of a polls-time neutral govt thru' talks with political parties
- Taking effective steps for reconstituting the Election Commission
- Dissolution of parliament before the announcement of election schedule

RASHIDUL HASAN

Several top BNP leaders shared the stage with Dr Kamal Hossain and Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury at a citizens' rally in the capital yesterday and extended full support to Jatiya Oikya Prokriya's three-point demand including formation of a polls-time neutral government.

The Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, a platform led by Dr Kamal, issued an ultimatum from the rally for the demands to be met by September 30.

The other two demands are effective steps for reconstituting the Election Commission and dissolution of parliament before the announcement of the election schedule.

The rally was also joined by leaders of nine other components of the BNP-led 20-party alliance, Juktofront led by Badruddoza Chowdhury, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal led by ASM Abdur Rab, Nagorik Oikya led by Mahmudur Rahman Manna and left leaning Ganosamhati Andolon.

This was the first time since the 2014 general election that they were seen together on one stage. The development came three months before the next parliamentary polls.

The leaders voiced support for the demands and held their joined hands aloft, urging a greater national unity among all democratic forces.

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## Impossible to meet their demands

Says Tofail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed yesterday said the three demands made by Dr Kamal Hossain-led Jatiya Oikya Prokriya were "un-constitutional".

Jatiya Oikya Prokriya [national unity process] yesterday issued a September-30 deadline for the government to meet its three-point demand, which include steps for formation of an election-time neutral government.

"What they [Jatiya Oikya Prokriya] demanded is absolutely unconstitutional and it is totally impossible to fulfill. The next election will be held in accordance with the constitution," he told The Daily Star over the phone last night.

Tofail, also the commerce minister, outright rejected the notion of dissolving parliament or "resignation of the government".

A polls-time cabinet would be formed under the leadership of Prime

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Injured soldiers lying on the ground after a gun attack on a military parade in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz yesterday. The parade was for marking the anniversary of the outbreak of its devastating 1980-1988 war with Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

PHOTO: AFP

## Terror hits Iran's pride

*29 killed, more than 60 injured in attack on military parade of Revolutionary Guards; Khamenei blames Gulf states, US allies; president vows 'crushing' response; IS, regional group claim responsibility*

AGENCIES

Iranian Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday accused US-backed Gulf Arab states of carrying out an attack on a military parade that killed 29 people, almost half of them members of the country's elite Revolutionary Guards.

Khamenei said the terrorist attack in the southwestern Iranian city of Ahvaz was the continuation of plots hatched by US stooges in the region to create insecurity in the country, reported PressTV.

Khamenei ordered security forces to bring to justice the "criminals" behind one of the worst attacks ever against the Revolutionary Guards, who answer to him.

The allegation will almost certainly ratchet up tensions with Iran's regional rival Saudi Arabia and its Gulf allies, who along with the United States have been working to isolate the Islamic Republic.

"This crime is a continuation of the plots of the regional states that are puppets of the United States, and their goal is to create insecurity in our dear country," Khamenei said in a statement published on his website.

He did not name the regional states he believed were to blame. Israel is also a key US ally opposed to Tehran.



State television said the assault, which wounded more than 60 people, targeted a stand where Iranian officials had gathered in the city of Ahvaz to watch an annual event marking the start of the Islamic Republic's 1980-88 war with Iraq.

An Iranian ethnic Arab opposition movement called the Ahvaz National Resistance, which seeks a separate state in oil-rich Khuzestan province, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Islamic State militants also claimed responsibility. Neither claim provided evidence. All four attackers were killed.

Women and children also died in the assault, state news IRNA agency reported.

Brigadier General Abolfazl Shekarchi, a senior spokesman for Iran's armed forces, said the attackers had hidden weapons in an area near the parade route several days in advance.

"All four terrorists were quickly neutralised by security forces," Shekarchi told state television. "A four-year-old girl and a wheelchair-bound war veteran were among the dead."

Attacks on the military are rare in Iran.

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From left, BNP leader Moudud Ahmed, former adviser to a caretaker government Mainul Hosein, Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, JSD President ASM Abdur Rob, BNP leader Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, and Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Zafrullah Chowdhury join hands at a citizens' rally organised by Jatiya Oikya Prokriya at Mahanagar Natya Mancha in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

## Editors denounce passage of Digital Security Bill

*To form human chain on Sept 29; govt urged to remove inconsistencies in new law*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council) yesterday expressed its deep regret at the passage of the Digital Security Bill 2018, which it considers to be against media freedom and freedom of speech guaranteed by the constitution.

To protest against the bill, passed on Tuesday, the parishad will form a human chain at 11:00am on September 29 in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the parishad held at The Daily Star Centre and chaired by Reazuddin Ahmed, founding editor of News Today.

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 10 COL 5

## Stay united, stop infiltration



STAR REPORT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned AL leaders and activists not to let opportunists infiltrate the party.

"They [the opportunists] will not be with the party in bad times. Only the real activists will ... [I] don't want to see any house within a house. No pocket committees will be allowed," he said at a rally in Cumilla's Daudkandi.

The rally was organised as part of a two-day roadshow of the ruling party ahead of the national elections likely in December.

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*Quader asks AL ranks at 'road rallies', says errant party men won't get nominations*

## 3rd Death Anniversary

On 22nd September 2015, **Nurjahan Begum (Pakhi)**, the second daughter of Late Abul Khair, the founder of Abul Khair Group had left us by the will of Almighty Allah the beneficent. Remembering her memories we pray for the salvation of her departed soul with our distressed heart and request all our friends, relatives and well-wishers to pray for her from the core of the heart. May Almighty Allah the beneficent bless her with eternal bliss of paradise. Ameen.

**Bereaved Family Members**

## Crunch time for confused Tigers

SAKEB SUBHAN from Dubai

Confused seems to be the word for Bangladesh in their ongoing Asia Cup campaign. After a bright start on September 15 when they won the opener by 137 runs against Sri Lanka in Dubai, they now stand on the brink of possible elimination in today's Super Four encounter against a vibrant Afghanistan.

The match will begin at the Sheikh Zayed Stadium in Abu Dhabi at 5:30pm (Bangladesh time), when it will be imperative that Mashrafe Bin Mortaza and

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we **Congratulate**

Our Hon'ble Chairman on Receiving the Prestigious  
**BANGLADESH BANK REMITTANCE AWARD 2017**

Heartiest congratulations to **Mr. Mohammed Mahtabur Rahman**, Chairman- NRB Bank Limited and Chairman & Managing Director- Al Haramain Perfumes Group of Companies for receiving **Bangladesh Bank Remittance Award 2017** for the **5th consecutive year** in recognition of his immense contribution in remitting highest foreign currencies to the country.