



THE KANCHPUR-MEGHNA-GUMTI BRIDGES ARE BEING BUILT WITH HIGHLY DUCTILE GRADE 420 BSRM ULTIMA BARS

BSRM Ultima



BNP plans big for its rally

Still waits for permission

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP is likely to outline its stance on the upcoming national elections and forging of greater national unity at its rally in the capital scheduled for tomorrow.

The party, which is yet to get permission for the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan, wants to stage a massive showdown tomorrow to send a message to the ruling alliance about its popularity and strength, said BNP insiders.

It will place a seven-point demand and a 12-point vision at the rally, they mentioned.

The seven-point demand includes formation of non-partisan election-time government, dissolution of parliament, deployment of the army and no use of electronic voting machines (EVMs) in the polls, and release of arrested BNP men.

In its 12-point vision, the party says if voted to power, it will not pursue politics of vengeance, and that it will establish democracy and good governance. Besides, it will not allow any separatist or terrorist organisations to use Bangladesh's territory to carry out criminal activities for other countries.

"We will give statements on our party's future strategy and programmes ... we will also place our charter of demands," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told this newspaper yesterday.

As part of greater unity process, leaders of Juktofront and Jatiya Oikyo Prokriya have already placed their demands. The BNP also wants to place its demands before joining the greater unity process.

At a programme at Mahanagar Natya Mancha on September 22, Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Badruddoza Chowdhury announced that they would work together with other political parties to forge greater unity.

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Students, hired as part-time artisans, are busy crafting ornaments at a factory of Milon City Gold in Jhenidah. The jewellery house produces items such as earrings, necklace and bangles, which are supplied to some 15 districts.

PHOTO: STAR

Jhenidah's jewellery town

Over a dozen ornament factories employ thousands

AZIBOR RAHMAN, Jhenidah

Costume jewellery makers in Jhenidah meet a significant demand of affordable fashion pieces. The factories employ thousands of artisans.

Milon City Gold in Moheshpur upazila is known across the country for quality jewellery. The entrepreneur realised that there was a gap in the market -- jewellery was either expensive or really cheap. His plan was to produce quality jewellery at affordable prices.

Its Director Milon Hossain set up two factories in 2005. The factories now employ 500 people.

Over the years, the trained artisans had spread out and now there are 13 similar factories in three unions, employing about 10,000 workers, Milon said.

The products are sold in 15 districts, including Joypurhat, Dinajpur, Sylhet,

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Attack on FB exposed info of 50m users

The social media company says

CNN ONLINE

An attack on Facebook discovered earlier this week exposed information on nearly 50 million of the social network's users, the company announced Friday.

The attackers exploited a feature called "View as" that lets users see their Facebook page the way someone else would. The attackers could then potentially use it to take over the accounts and use them exactly as if they were the account holders.

Facebook (FB) said it does not know who the attackers were or where they were based. It also said it has already fixed the issue and informed the FBI and other law enforcement, as well as lawmakers and regulators. It has also informed the Irish Data Protection Commission about the breach, a step required by Europe's GDPR regulations. The commission said it received the notification, but expressed concern with its timing and lack of detail.

More than 90 million users were forcibly logged out of their accounts by Facebook and had to log back in on Friday

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ROHINGYA CRACKDOWN Hold members of security forces accountable

US urges Myanmar govt

REUTERS, Washington

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo urged Myanmar's government to take concrete steps to investigate human rights abuses against Rohingya Muslims and hold accountable members of its security forces and others for any involvement in those actions, a State Department official said yesterday.

Pompeo gave the message at a meeting with Myanmar government minister Kyaw Tint Swe on Thursday at the UN General Assembly in New York, after the recent release of US and UN reports chronicling atrocities in the military crackdown last year, which sent almost 700,000 minority Rohingya Muslims fleeing to neighbouring Bangladesh.

The State Department report issued earlier this week accused Myanmar's military of waging a "well-planned and coordinated" campaign of mass killings and gang rapes but stopped short of describing it as genocide or crimes against humanity.

UN investigators issued a report in late August accusing Myanmar's military of acting with "genocidal intent" and calling for the country's commander-in-chief and five generals to be prosecuted under international law.

Pompeo "urged the government of Burma to take concrete steps to investigate the human rights abuses chronicled by the US Documentation Report and UN Fact Finding Mission and to hold accountable members of the security forces and others responsible for these acts," State Department

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'TRESPASS' Indian court defers verdict in case against Salahuddin

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A Shillong court yesterday again deferred the verdict delivery in a case filed against BNP leader Salahuddin Ahmed for illegally entering Indian territory.

The court, which was scheduled to deliver the verdict yesterday, fixed November 15 for announcing the judgment, Salahuddin's personal secretary Nurul Islam Helali told The Daily Star.

With this, the court of Judge DG Khar Singh has deferred the date for delivering the verdict five times.

Quoting Salahuddin's lawyer SP Mohanta, the BNP leader's nephew Safwanul Karim said the court concluded hearing of

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Laser reveals new Mayan structures



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have uncovered tens of thousands of Mayan structures, potentially changing our understanding of the ancient civilisation.

The newly found evidence gives an insight into the lives of millions of people that have remained largely mysterious until today.

It was discovered using high-tech Lidar technology, which uses pulses of laser light to map land cover and topography in 3-D. That land is usually covered in dense woodland, making surveys of the area difficult.

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Man killed in 'gunfight' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

A suspected drug peddler was killed in a "gunfight" with Rab in Rajshahi early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Hasibul Hossain, 37,

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SIBL Social Islami Bank Limited

PRAYER TIMING SEPTEMBER 29

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha AZAN 4-35 12-45 4-15 6-00 7-30 JAMAAT 5-10 1-15 4-30 6-05 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Loggers raze trees in the hills

SANJOY KUMAR BARIUA, Bandarban

A gang is cutting down trees illegally from a village common forest (VCF) in remote Dri Mro Para in Bandarban's Alikadam.

VCFs are used for water source conservation and as sources of livelihoods and other needs of ethnic communities in the hilly areas of Chattagram Hill Tracts.

Dri Mro, karbari (village chief) of Dri Mro Para, said the loggers threatened the villagers with death as they protested tree felling.

Tong Yoi Mro, another villager, said they were facing a serious water crisis as the illegal logging was destroying water sources.

"How will we survive? We have to leave our ancestral homes if the logging continues," he said. "All 12 families of our para are facing threat of eviction."

Villagers alleged that Md SEE PAGE 13 COL 5



A group of workers sawing wood after felling trees illegally in the village common forest (VCF) of remote Dri Mro Para in Bandarban. The unabated plundering poses risk of deforestation as well as eviction of the local ethnic communities whose livelihood depends on the forest.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

MIDDLE EAST PEACE EFFORT Abbas rejects 'biased' US

Lambasts Trump for closing PLO office in Washington

AFP, United Nations

Palestinian leader Mahmud Abbas tore into the Trump administration Thursday, refusing to accept the United States as the sole mediator in the Middle East conflict, a day after Donald Trump promised a "very fair" peace plan.

The 82-year-old Palestinian Authority president used his address to the UN General Assembly to lambast the United States for closing the Palestine Liberation Organization office in Washington, recognising Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, moving its embassy and slashing Palestinian aid money.

Speaking a day after the US president said he favoured a two-state solution to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and vowed to unveil a new peace plan within months, Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu hailed Trump for his "unwavering support".

Abbas, however, said Trump had forfeited his right to be regarded as a neutral broker.

"We will also not accept sole American mediation in the peace process," he said, accusing the former real estate tycoon of being "biased" towards Israel since taking office in January 2017.

"With all of these decisions, this administration has reneged on all previous US commitments, and even undermined the two-state solution," Abbas told the world body in a nearly 40-minute speech.

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