



Health Minister Mohammad Nasim, also the spokesperson for the Awami League-led 14-party alliance, addresses the activists of the parties during a rally at Mahanagar Natya Mancha in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Padma bridge to be named after PM

Says Quader

UNB, Shariatpur

The under-construction Padma bridge will be named after Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, said Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader yesterday.

He said this while talking to journalists as he visited the project site at Jajira upazila of Shariatpur in the afternoon.

Quader, also the general secretary of Awami League, said 70 percent work of the main bridge and 59 percent of the overall project have already been completed.

The premier will inaugurate the 60 percent work completion of the project including its approach road on Mawa-Bhanga stretch in Madaripur, 1.3km river protection work, box slab on railway of Padma bridge and six-lane approach road connecting Bhanga on October 13, the minister said.

"The work of Padma bridge has been delayed due to natural calamities. Otherwise, it would have been completed in proper time," he said.

# Manifesto for a better Bangladesh

## Youth Leadership Summit 2018 ends on high note

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Participants of Youth Leadership Summit have prepared a manifesto highlighting four key areas -- revamping the country's education system, creating new jobs, increasing their engagement in public spheres and actions against corruption.

Following the three-day summit, they presented the proposals before politicians of different parties during a panel discussion at the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center yesterday.

Lack of proper education, skills development scopes and employment opportunities are some of the most important challenges for the youths, they said.

Corruption in public and private institutions is also another important challenge, which is a hindrance to development, they said and demanded scopes for greater youth engagement in matters related to policy issues.

Bangladesh Youth Leadership Center (BYLC) organised the programme with the theme "Desh Amar, Dayitto Amar" (my country, my responsibility), attended by some 400 university students and young professionals from across the country.

The manifesto, a declaration of priorities and aspirations that included 40 policy recommendations, will be used as an advo-

cacy tool to drive youth development on a national level, said a BYLC statement.

BYLC said it will form a youth advisory council over the next few months to make progress on the manifesto by engaging with government bodies and policymakers.

Politicians of different parties promised to incorporate the proposals in the manifestos they are preparing ahead of the national polls.

"As a representative of the youth, I will work towards including your demands in our party manifesto," said Barrister Shah Ali Farhad, a member of Awami League's central international affairs sub-committee.

Tabith M Awal, national executive committee member of BNP, said issues like education, employment and social inclusion are vital. "We will surely incorporate those in our manifesto. We think voice of youths should be stronger," he said during a panel discussion.

He said youths are always told that they are too young to make a difference, but politics needs to be more inclusive.

Waseqa Ayesha Khan, MP, vice president of Mohila Awami League, and Dr Manisha Chakraborty, member secretary of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, Barishal,

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6



Youth leaders promise to work together for the development of the country at the Youth Leadership Summit, which concluded at BICC auditorium yesterday. Prof Mizanur Rahman, left, moderated the event. Second from left, Dr Manisha Chakraborty, Shama Obaed, Waseqa Ayesha Khan, Shah Ali Farhad, and Tabith M Awal.

PHOTO: STAR

## Addressing sexual violence in Bangladesh, UN to work jointly for Rohingyas

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh and the United Nations will jointly address conflict-related sexual violence committed against Rohingyas forcibly displaced from Myanmar.

A "Framework of Cooperation" was signed in this regard on Friday.

Pramila Patten, special representative of the UN secretary-general on sexual violence in conflict, said, "I believe that through this... the Rohingya survivors of sexual violence will benefit from enhanced service-delivery, accountability and protection."

The framework focuses on five priority areas, according to a message the news agency received from New York.

They include improving access of Rohingya survivors of sexual violence to medical and psychosocial support services; capacity building of the justice and security sector on the prevention of trafficking, including the prompt identification of victims; and engaging with religious and community leaders to combat stigma against Rohingya survivors of sexual violence and their children who may be born of rape.

## Unite to resist 'election farce'

Says B Chowdhury

UNB, Dhaka

Jukta Front Chairman AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday urged the democratic forces to unite to resist any "election farce" and restore people's voting rights.

"Democracy will be exiled forever if the elections see engineering and force in the future. We must carry out our struggle to ensure people's rights," he said.

Speaking at the council session of Bangladesh Muslim League, the Jukta Front chief further said, "Pro-democratic forces must wake up and raise their voices... We won't accept any farcical election. Restoring people's voting rights should be the number one priority."

The 9th national council of Bangladesh Muslim League, one of the country's oldest political parties, was held at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh.

Badruddoza, also president of Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh, alleged that people's voting right was snatched through the January 5, 2014 election through which 154 MPs were elected without people's votes.

He accused Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

## An app to help the visually impaired read

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A smartphone application called "Accessible Doc Reader" -- to assist visually impaired people to read document files on mobile phone -- was launched yesterday.

Innovation Garage Limited, a local tech-based company, developed the application with assistance from VIEW Foundation, a non-government organisation, and jointly arranged the launching programme at Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka.

The Doc Reader application can be downloaded from Google Play Store free of cost. A visually impaired person can use this app to go over document files written in Unicode fonts, said its developers. The app reads out text to the user.

The tech company claimed such application was developed for the first time in the country.

Innovation Garage Limited's Managing Director Ashiqur Rahman Amit said they will make the app's source code open to all

within a few days, so that anyone can contribute to its improvement.

"We work to invent technology for visually impaired people, to ensure their accessibility to the modern amenities. As part of our endeavour, we developed the Doc Reader," Ashiqur said at the programme.

He also said they will unveil a pdf reader for the visually impaired on Pahela Baishakh, on the occasion of Bangla New Year.

Speaking as chief guest at the inauguration ceremony, Dhaka University (DU) Vice Chancellor Prof Akhtaruzzaman said the app will be of much help to the visually impaired, especially students.

He also assured of DU's assistance in promoting the use of the app among visually impaired students.

Several visually impaired college and university students, including from Dhaka University, tried out the app at the programme.

The app can be downloaded from: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.innovationgarage.accessibledocreader>



A student with visual impairment tries out the mobile app, "Accessible Doc Reader", which enables its users to read document files in Unicode fonts. The app available on Google Play Store has been developed by Innovation Garage Ltd with assistance from VIEW Foundation. It was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Md Akhtaruzzaman at Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

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