



"There is a mental block and to overcome this hurdle it's important for us to win a tournament."
MASHRAFE BIN MORTAZA [PAGE 15]



"The Digital Security Act will not only gag people's voice, it will also give the authorities legal protection for doing so."
ZONAYED SAKI, CHIEF COORDINATOR OF GONOSAMHATI ANDOLON. [PAGE 3]



"And then we fell in love, okay? No, really -- he wrote me beautiful letters, and they're great letters."
TRUMP SWOONS OVER LETTERS FROM NORTH KOREA'S KIM. [PAGE 8]

BNP focuses on polls, unity

Rolls out 12-point goal to be 'fulfilled' if voted to power, places 7-point demand, announces 2-day agitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urging party men to prepare for both the election and movement, the BNP yesterday unveiled a 12-point goal and promised to accomplish those if voted to power through the upcoming parliamentary polls.

From a rally in the capital, the party also presented a seven-point demand, including unconditional release of Khaleda Zia, saying these would be the basis of forging a "greater unity" among political parties.

Announcing the next course of action to press for the demands, the BNP said it will stage rallies and submit memorandums to the deputy commissioners and divisional commissioners in district and divisional headquarters on October 3 and 4 respectively.

THE GOALS

- Ensuring good governance
- Establishing rule of law
- Ensuring checks and balances
- Making ACC effective
- Modernising armed forces

It also explained what it will do if it takes office, after remaining out of parliament since 2014, when it boycotted the 10th parliamentary polls.

The party's 12-goal includes establishing good governance, rule of law, and checks and balances, modernising armed forces, and freeing the Anti-Corruption Commission of political influence and making it effective.

"We will fulfil the promises if we go to power," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said in his address at the rally, held at Suhrawardy Udyan.

Addressing the party activists and supporters, senior BNP leaders said people from all walks of life should be united to oust the "fascist" government because a conspiracy is on to hold another "farical"

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



Thousands of people gather at BNP's grand rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital. The party at the rally presented a seven-point demand, including unconditional release of its chief Khaleda Zia.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

AL launches 'anti-anarchy' campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will start a week-long campaign across the country from today to caution people about possible activities to create anarchy and incite violence.

AL lawmakers and leaders have been directed to conduct the campaign.

The decision came yesterday afternoon from an AL secretary-level meeting at AL President Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi office.

Four teams headed by the party's four joint general secretaries would conduct campaigns in the capital.

Briefing reporters after the meeting, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said his party would counter the BNP's activities politically.

If the BNP resorted to violence like it did in 2014, the administration would take action, he said.

Earlier in the day, the roads, transport and bridges minister told a press

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Journos' concerns to be raised at cabinet

Assures law minister at meeting between Sampadak Parishad and 3 ministers, an adviser; more discussions to follow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday committed to placing the serious concerns of editors, journalists and media practitioners before the cabinet meeting to work out amendments to the recently passed digital security bill to make the law acceptable to all.

At a meeting with the Sampadak Parishad (Editors' Council), a platform of editors of national dailies, the minister also promised to sit with the editors and journalists in this regard.

"The next cabinet meeting, scheduled for October 3, may not discuss the issue as it already has many other agendas for discussions. But the concerns of the Editors' Council will be placed before the cabinet meeting after this one," he told reporters

after the meeting.

Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu, Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology Minister Mustafa Jabbar, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's media adviser Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury and acting secretary of Information Ministry Abul Hossain were also present at the three-hour meeting at the information ministry. Thirteen 13 editors of different dailies joined the discussions.

Inu had invited the Sampadak Parishad for talks over their concerns about the much-debated bill after the Council announced it would form a human chain before the Jatiya Press Club on September 29 protesting the passage of the bill.

However, upon the request from the information minister, the Parishad

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Atmosphere congenial for elections

Says PM

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the atmosphere for polls is wonderful in the country.

During an interview with the Voice of America in New York on Saturday, she said people are excited about the polls and they believe it would be free and fair, and that they would be able to properly elect a government.

The prime minister said over the last five years about 6,000 elections to local bodies had been held and if anyone examined those, it would be clear that the atmosphere for polls exists in the country now and that the current Election Commission is capable of conducting the polls.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

CRESCENT'S Tk 3,443CR BAD LOANS

Janata now goes for auction

Mortgaged property, goods of 5 of the group's concerns to be put up for sale

JEBUN NESA ALO

Saddled with Tk 8,300 crore loans to two business groups, most of which have gone bad, Janata Bank has moved to auction property and goods of one -- Crescent Group.

Crescent alone has Tk 3,443 crore in defaulted loans with Janata, most of which was given to the group through irregularities in connivance of the bank's top executive down to branch managers, which Bangladesh Bank had detected earlier.

The other group, AnonTex, has defaulted on loans of Tk 557 crore in June, putting the state-run bank in a precarious situation.

To recover the defaulted loans, Janata, through advertisements on newspapers yesterday, announced separate auctions of the mortgaged property and leather goods of the five firms of Crescent, which swindled money from the bank through fake export bills.

Bidders have to submit applications to the bank's head office or local office concerned by October 31.

Neither Janata officials nor Crescent Group high-ups could give the total market value of the mortgaged property and goods.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

QUAKE-TSUNAMI Death toll hits 832 in Indonesia

Mass burials begin to stave off disease

AFP, Palu

The death toll from Indonesia's quake and tsunami disaster nearly doubled to 832 yesterday and was expected to rise further, prompting authorities to announce mass burials in a desperate attempt to stave off disease.

As shattered survivors scoured make-shift morgues for loved ones, and authorities struggled to dig out the living or assess the scale of the devastation beyond the city of Palu, grim warnings came that the eventual toll could reach thousands.

"The casualties will keep increasing," said national disaster agency spokesman Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, whose agency announced the jump in the toll from 420 earlier.

"Today we will start the mass burial of victims, to

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



An aerial shot taken yesterday of the damage after a 7.5 earthquake in Palu, Central Sulawesi Province, Indonesia. Inset, A destroyed bridge in Palu.

Six killed in 'shootouts' in a single day

STAR REPORT

Six alleged criminals including two suspected drug dealers were killed in separate "gunfights" in three districts early yesterday.

A "drug dealer" was killed in Narayanganj, two alleged criminals -- "a drug trader and a robber" -- were killed in Cox's Bazar in "gunfights" with police, while three suspected robbers were killed in infighting in Bandarban, law enforcers claimed.

At least 413 people have been killed in custody, shooting and incidents of shootouts involving law enforcers in the last nine months, according to rights body Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK).

Narayanganj police claimed that Ali Nur, 50, an accused in at least 20 cases and a listed top drug dealer, was killed in a "shootout" with the law enforcers in Sonargaon upazila.

Morshed Alam, officer-in-charge of Sonargaon police, said the "shootout" took place when a patrol team raided Chilarbagh area.

'SHOOTOUTS' AND CUSTODIAL DEATHS JAN-SEPT 2018

LAW ENFORCERS INVOLVED	PEOPLE KILLED
POLICE	286
RAB	123
BGB & RAB	3
ANSAR & RAIL POLICE	1
TOTAL	413

SOURCE: AIN O SALISH KENDRA

PHOTO: REUTERS

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4