

# Oikya Prokriya planning rally, human chain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikya Prokriya will hold a series of programmes, including rally and human chain, in the coming days as the government did not take any initiative to meet its demands within the stipulated timeframe.

The platform on September 22 issued an ultimatum to the government to meet its three-point demand, including formation of a polls-time neutral government, by September 30.

Leaders of the platform said its Convener Dr Kamal Hossain, now in Thailand for treatment, would announce the programmes upon his return.

"We have planned to form a human chain in front of the Jatiya Press Club ... the next course of action will be announced from there," ABM Mostafa Amin, member-secretary of Jatiya Oikya Prokriya, told this newspaper yesterday.

He also alleged that the authorities concerned didn't give them permission to hold a rally in Mymensingh town yesterday.

Asked, Mahmudur Rahman Manna, member-secretary of Juktfront and convener of Nagorik Oikyo, said Juktfront and Jatiya Oikya Prokriya want to hold a rally in

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# Ctg Hizb ut-Tahrir ameer arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rab yesterday arrested a leader of banned radical outfit Hizb ut-Tahrir with a huge quantity of leaflets and Islamist books in Chattogram city's Chandaona area.

The arrestee, Tanjib Hossain Shiblu, 30, of Sitakunda upazila, is the ameer of Chattogram region, said Shaheda Sultana, senior assistant director of media wing of Rab-7.

Acting on a tip-off, members of Rab-7 conducted a drive in Chandaona area around 6:00pm and held Tanjib from in front of Swadhinata Park, the Rab official said.

The law enforcers also recovered a good number of organisational leaflets and Islamist books from his possession.

Tanjib stands accused in a case filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act with the city's Kotwali Police Station in 2011, said Shaheda, also assistant superintendent of police.

# AL launches

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conference at his ministry office that the Election Commission had decided to announce polls schedule in the first week of November.

He also said the BNP and its allies' demands for a non-partisan and neutral government during the national election was "totally illogical".

"If the government takes any decision to meet their demands, it will not conform to the constitution. And there is no scope to amend the constitution within this [period of] time," Quader said.

A polls-time government would be formed later this month, he said.

The BNP and its allies do not need a non-partisan and neutral government. They need a participatory, credible, and free election, the minister said.

So, the BNP and its allies need a neutral EC to conduct the election. The government, meanwhile, will do the routine tasks and not take any policy decisions, he added.

A peaceful situation prevails in the country now, he said and asked why the BNP was demanding "an emergency government".

The press conference was held a few hours before the BNP rally in the capital.

He alleged that the BNP and its allies were trying to create anarchy.

Asked whether the government would take any initiative to get the BNP to take part in the election in case the party decided to boycott it, Quader said, "This is not something to invite to."

The BNP, as a political party, has the right to participate in the election and the government cannot stop it, he said.

On Friday, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad urged all political parties and alliances not to nominate anyone who have in the past worked against the interest of minority communities.

Asked about the AL's position, Quader said, "Why would anyone with communal mindset be a public representative in Bangladesh? Some of their [parishad's] demands are logical and we don't want any communal people nominated [in the election]. So we do not have any disagreement with their demands."

# BNP focuses on polls, unity

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election like that of January 5, 2014.

"Our movement will continue till our demands are met," said Mirza Fakhrul, who read out the demands and goals.

The demands also include dissolution of parliament ahead of the polls, resignation of the government and formation of a non-party polls-time administration based on talks with all political parties.

"People from all walks of life and of different opinions should forge unity against the government," Fakhrul added.

The party has been trying for a "greater national unity" to mount pressure on the government to hold a free and fair election.

Earlier, Dr Kamal Hossain's Jatiya Oikya Prokriya and Badruddoza Chowdhury's Juktfront pledged to work together. On September 22, senior BNP leaders shared a stage with the two veteran leaders and representatives of some smaller parties.

At yesterday's gathering, Mirza Abbas, a standing committee member, said, "The government is trying to foil the unity process. If it [the process] succeeds, it will be good, but if fails, we have to continue our movement."

CHAIR FOR KHALEDA

The rally kicked off around 2:00pm in the presence of thousands of supporters and activists -- calling for the release of Khaleda, return of party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman and election under a non-partisan interim government.

An empty chair was kept at the centre stage, symbolising the absence of the BNP chairperson, who is now behind bars after conviction in a corruption case.

As the main speaker, party's standing committee member Khandakar Mosharrar Hossain urged government officials to carry out their duties inde-



The centre chair on stage is left empty at the BNP rally yesterday. Party leaders made the symbolic gesture as their chief Khaleda Zia is in jail.

PHOTO: STAR

said.

Speaking at the rally, BNP standing committee member Moudud Ahmed alleged that the government is ruining the election atmosphere fearing debacle in the upcoming polls. "Everyone has to be aware of the government attempt to foil the election."

Countering some AL leaders' statement that they will resist BNP on the streets, Moudud said, "We will also resist. This time we will not leave the ground."

He said they tried to have Khaleda released through legal battles but failed, as the government interfered in the

press freedom".

"Police have been given the power to arrest people without warrants under this law -- which is unprecedented," he said. "The law has been enacted to cover up the misdeeds of the ruling party."

Jamiruddin Sircar, another standing committee member, said, "The ongoing movement will stop only when the government will step down."

Senior BNP leader Abdul Moyeen Khan said, "The government has turned into an autocratic regime and none of the autocratic regimes across the world stayed in office forever. All the democratic forces should be united to corner the Awami League."

Nazrul Islam Khan, another central leader, underscored the need for a "greater unity" to free Khaleda and force the government to hold the upcoming national election under an impartial election-time administration.

"We can't have our demands met if we fail to form a greater national unity."

In November last year, the party held a public rally in Suhrawardy Udyan where Khaleda Zia was present.

BNP leaders alleged that a number of party men were arrested from the meeting venue and many party leaders and activists were barred from arriving at the venue.

THE GOALS

If elected, the BNP said, it will not allow any terrorist group to use the territory of Bangladesh to carry out criminal activities targeting any other country.

Its other goals are appointment of judges in a transparent way and independence of judiciary; freedom of media; security and fundamental rights of citizens; maintaining the policy of "friends to all, malice to none" in maintaining relations with foreign countries, and ensuring better living standards of low-income people; national consensus ending politics of vengeance.

DEMANDS

The party will press for army deployment with magistracy power at all polling centres during the upcoming national polls; presence of local and international observers during elections, and reconstitution of Election Commission and discarding any plan to use EVM.

Besides, it wants release of opposi-

## SEVEN-POINT DEMAND

1. Release of Khaleda, withdrawal of cases against her
2. Dissolution of parliament before polls
3. Formation of non-party polls-time govt based on talks with all parties
4. Army deployment with magistracy power at all polling centres
5. Reconstitution of EC and not using EVMs in polls
6. Ensuring presence of local, int'l observers during elections
7. Release of opposition party leaders and withdrawal of false cases against them; not filing political cases and arresting opposition men in connection with old cases; withdrawal of cases against quota protesters, safe road campaigners

tion leaders, scrapping of their punishment and withdrawal of false cases lodged against them; end to filing political cases and implicating opposition party men in new cases from the first day of announcement of the election schedule; stopping arrest of opposition men in old cases; withdrawal of cases against quota and safe road protesters and journalists who took to the streets.



A BNP activist, who was on his way to the rally, protests while being dragged away by police. The photo was taken from the city's Shahbagh area yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

pendently and not to follow "illegal orders" of the "illegal Awami League" government.

"Please stand beside the people. There is nothing to fear as we do not believe in the politics of vengeance," he said.

The BNP leader said there would be no election without Khaleda and people will not accept any such election, he

lower court. "So there is only way to get Khaleda Zia released and that's taking to the streets."

The former law minister also said if his party wins the polls, Digital Security Act will be scrapped within a week.

The law, dubbed draconian by democratic forces of the country, is "contradictory" to the constitution, Moudud said, adding that it is "a severe blow to

# Janata now goes for auction

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The five firms are -- Crescent Leather Products, Crescent Tanneries, Lexco Limited, Rupali Composite Leatherwear and Remax Footwear.

Two brothers -- MA Kader and Abdul Aziz -- are the main beneficiaries of Crescent.

Aziz is the chairman of Remax Footwear while Kader is the owner of the four other companies. Aziz is also the owner of Jaaz Multimedia, a production house of Bangla movies.

Contacted, Janata Bank Managing Director Md Abdus Salam Azad said the bank went for auction as Crescent failed to keep its commitment to repatriate export proceeds.

The borrower had committed that it would repatriate a significant portion of its export proceeds of Tk 30 crore by September, but it failed, he said.

Moreover, it also could not keep its commitment to bring back \$500,000 in export proceeds every week.

The client could not even continue paying regular instalments for the loans taken from Janata, Salam mentioned.

Talking to this correspondent, Crescent Group Chairman MA Kader admitted that they failed to repatriate export proceeds of \$500,000 a week, which they had promised to the bank.

He, however, claimed that export proceeds of \$700,000 were repatriated in the last two months.

Kader could not give the market value of the Group's property mortgaged to the bank.

In a recent probe into Janata Bank, the central bank found that Crescent skimmed off at least Tk 765 crore in the name of exports from the state-run Janata and the BB from January last year to February this year.

Janata gave Tk 684 crore to Crescent in advance against 653 overdue export bills.

As of March 30 this year, Janata's Imamganj corporate branch disbursed Tk 2,760 crore in loans to Crescent's

COMPANY	OUTSTANDING LOANS
Remax Footwear	Tk 1,093.45cr
Crescent Tanneries	Tk 170.58cr
Rupali Composite Leatherwear	Tk 887.85cr
Crescent Leather Products	Tk 863.74cr
Lexco Limited	Tk 430.36cr

SOURCE: JANATA BANK

five companies, which was 98.4 percent of the branch's total loans.

The other large borrower, AnonTex Group, which was given loans of Tk 5,500 crore in violation of the banking rules, defaulted on loans of Tk 557 crore in June.

In an investigation into Janata in January this year, BB unearthed the

visited the region yesterday afternoon, urging a "day and night" effort to save all those who can be saved.

But disaster agency spokesman Nugroho indicated sheer power of will may not be enough.

"Communication is limited, heavy machinery is limited... it's not enough for the numbers of buildings that collapsed," he said.

Still, as dire as the situation in Palu was, it was at least clear. In outlying areas, the fate of thousands is still unknown.

Indonesian Vice-President Jusuf Kalla said the final death toll in the north of Sulawesi island could be in the "thousands" since many regions have still not been reached.

Indonesia's Metro TV yesterday

broadcast aerial footage from a coastal community in Donggala, close to the epicentre of the quake. Some waterfront homes appeared crushed but a resident said most people fled to higher ground after the quake struck.

"When it shook really hard, we all ran up into the hills," a man identified as Iswan told the TV.

The 7.5-magnitude quake struck Friday, sparking a tsunami that ripped apart Palu's coastline.

Save The Children program director Tom Howells said access was a "huge issue" hampering relief efforts.

"Aid agencies and local authorities are struggling to reach several communities around Donggala, where we are expecting there to be major damage and potential large-scale loss of life,"

# Councillor

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attend an arbitration and did not return home that night.

On Saturday afternoon, Islam filed a general diary with Zakiganj Police Station in this regard.

Habibur Rahman Hawladar, officer-in-charge of Zakiganj Police Station, said police were looking for him but had no leads as yet.

On September 6, a local doctor went missing from the same village after a group of people claiming to be from the Detective Branch (DB) picked him up from his house.

The doctor Mahfuz Alam, 30, son of Abdul Mannan of Koskonokpur village Zakiganj has been shown arrested in a case filed with Shahjahanpur Police Station of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) a couple of days after he went missing, the OC of Zakiganj Police Station said.

Meanwhile, 24-year-old Emad Uddin Suhin, who went missing from Tilagarh area in Sylhet city on the evening of September 5, is still missing.

Suhin, son of Md Romiz Miah of Shankarpur village of Kamalganj upazila in Moulvibazar, arrived in the city to visit a relative that day and went missing 10 minutes after he talked to his relative over phone from Tilagarh area.

Akhter Hossain, officer-in-charge of Shahporan Police Station, said police have not yet found any trace of the man.

Another youth went missing from nearby Habiganj on September 6. Sajjad Hossain, 22, son of freedom fighter Idris Ali of Paschim Noagaon of Sayestaganj upazila in Habiganj, is a third-year honours (political science) student of Murari Chand College in Sylhet city.

He was later found by Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) and returned home on September 18.

Hossain went missing while on his way to college.

His brother Mizanur Rahman said Hossain was returned by the police and the family was not told any details of why he went missing or what happened between September 6-18.

Another youth, Abul Bashar Kahar, 24, son of Abdul Wahab of Noshiorpur village of Balaganj went missing on September 5 night from Kadamtali area in the city.

On September 8, three days after he went missing, he was discovered near Osmani Medical College Hospital. Kahar was found to be quite ill and was admitted to the hospital.

In another incident, in nearby Companiganj area, a young man returned home on Saturday, 12 days after he went missing on September 18.

Jahidul Islam Biplob, 30, son of late Abdul Khaleque of Islampur village of Companiganj went

missing while returning from his business around 10:00pm.

Abdul Hai, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, said Biplob told police that he had not returned home as he was angry with his mother.

the bank would go up if the loans given to the two clients could not be recovered, he added.

According to BB data, massive loan irregularities at Janata pushed up the defaulted loan rate to 21.95 percent (Tk 8,596 crore) in June this year from 14.10 percent (Tk 5,345 crore) in December last year.

Janata saw a drastic fall in profitability indicators as it incurred a loss of Tk 1,600 crore in the first six months this year. The bank made a profit of Tk 97 crore last year, according to BB data.

The state-run bank's credit growth increased sharply in the last one year whereas its deposit growth saw an opposite trend.

Janata's deposit growth was 1 percent in June this year while it was 5.54 percent in the same month last year. The bank's credit growth surged to 12.71 percent in June this year, and it was 10.65 percent in the same month last year, shows the data.

Howells said.

The national disaster agency said it believed about 71 foreigners were in Palu when the quake struck, with most safe.

Three French nationals and a South Korean, who may have been staying at a flattened hotel, had not yet been accounted for, it added.

Getting enough aid in may prove a problem.

Satellite imagery provided by regional relief teams showed severe damage at some of the area's major ports, with large ships tossed on land, quays and bridges trashed and shipping containers thrown around.

A double-arched yellow bridge had collapsed, its ribs twisted as cars bobbed in the water below.