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Oikyafront plans events nationwide

Rallies to call upon people to join fight for 'restoration of democracy'

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The Jatiya Oikyafront, the newly floated alliance of BNP and several other parties, wants to move forward with a series of programmes urging people from all walks of life to join the "fight for the restoration of democracy".

Senior leaders of the alliance say they want to begin with public meetings at all divisional headquarters from next week. And the first one could be in Sylhet.

Except for Jamaat-e-Islami, all the components of the BNP-led 20-party combine are likely to join the programmes announced by the Oikyafront, according to sources in the BNP.

Formed after weeks of talks and intense negotiations, the alliance promised to bring sweeping reforms in governance system if voted to power.

Its four other components are Gono Forum, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rab), Nagorik Oikya and Forward Party.

"We have little time on our hands. Our programmes will begin at the end of this week. We will observe the programmes countrywide," Dr Kamal Hossain, chief of Gono Forum, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Zafrullah Chowdhury, founder of Gonoshasthaya Kendra, who was involved in the process of forging the alliance, said they want to hold at least three public rallies in Sylhet, Rajshahi and Chittagong cities.

"All the top leaders of the alliance will address the rallies," he said. "We hope the government will give us the permission."

If the government does not allow the public rallies, the

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Sakurjan Begum and her husband Abdul Aziz collecting bitter gourds from their farm on a plot of leased land in Manikganj's Diara Bhabanipur village. Inset, 50-year-old Nurunnahar, who has been into vegetable farming for more than two decades, tending to plants at her farm in the same village. The photos were taken recently.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Ctg landslide kills 3

Another killed in wall collapse amid heavy rain triggered by cyclone Titli

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A landslide, triggered by heavy rainfall following cyclone "Titli", claimed three lives of a family and another man died in a wall collapse in Chattogram city early yesterday.

The three victims -- Jelekha Begum 65, her daughter Nur Jahan, 45, and four-year grandchild Nur Aysa -- hailed from Laxmipur. They lived in the

slope of a hill at Feroze Shah Colony under Akbarshah Police Station.

The other victim, Nur Alam Nantu, 35, of Gaibandha, was a rickshaw puller. Nantu was killed when a brick wall of another house collapsed on his tin-roofed shanty in Hill View area of Rahman Nagar.

Rahima Begum, a neighbour of the landslide victims, told The Daily Star that all the seven

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Two rescue workers searching for bodies on the site of a landslide that killed three members of a family at Feroze Shah Colony in Chattogram city. The photo was taken yesterday morning. PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

#MeToo shakes entertainment, political, media world in India

STAR REPORT

A year after the fall of US movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, a flurry of allegations of sexual misconduct and inappropriate behavior has shaken the Indian media and entertainment industries as the #MeToo movement finally beginning to take shape in the world's largest democracy.

The ongoing public naming and shaming have revolved around incidents ranging from lewd behavior, suggestive text messages and, in some cases, clear instances of sexual abuse.

In one high profile case, a Bollywood production house has been dissolved following sexual harassment allegations against one of its co-founders.

A leading comedy outfit popular with Indian millennials was also shaken when a comedian it worked with faced harassment allegations, while in the media industry, allegations of inappropriate behavior saw a prominent Delhi-based political journalist lose his position pending an internal investigation, according to reports.

Allegations have also been leveled against a minister in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government.

Even Rahul Johri, CEO of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI), was named in an account shared by Indian author Harnidh Kaur on Twitter. The

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Frozen in time

Shrine hidden under ash for 2,000yrs found in Pompeii



MAIL ONLINE

An ancient shrine frozen in time for 2,000 years has been uncovered in the ruined city of Pompeii.

The altar space was perfectly preserved in volcanic ash following the devastating 79 AD eruption of Mount Vesuvius, which laid waste to the city and killed 16,000 people.

Photos of the site show deep blood-red walls and paintings of bulls, as well as enchanted garden scenes of delicate birds, trees and snakes.

Archaeologists described the shrine, known as a lararium, as 'exceptional', and are now excavating the ruins to uncover more about the people who used it.

In ancient Roman times, lararia were altar spaces at the entrances of homes of the well-to-do where offerings and prayers were made to the gods.

Massimo Osanna, head of the Pompeii archaeological site, described the discovery as a "marvelous and enigmatic room that now must be studied at length."

The room, which has not yet been fully excavated, is embedded in the wall of a small house and features paintings of Roman gods key to household rituals.

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ZIA CHARITABLE TRUST

Trial to go on in Khaleda's absence: HC

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday cleared the way for continuing trial in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case against BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in her absence.

The HC bench of Justice Obaidul Hasan and Justice SM Kuddus Zaman passed the order rejecting Khaleda's review petition.

"Now there is no legal bar to continue the trial proceedings of the case in Khaleda's absence," said Anti-Corruption

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SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Sinha granted political asylum in US, claim media reports

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US State Department on Saturday reportedly approved an application of former chief justice Surendra Kumar Sinha for political asylum.

Some Bangla newspapers and online media in New York and Bangladesh have run reports in this regard, although The Daily Star could not verify it independently.

On September 30, Justice Sinha sought political asylum in the US citing risks to his life in Bangladesh.

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Taliban attacks kill at least 22

District police chief in Afghan province among dead

REUTERS, Kabul

Taliban militants killed at least 22 security forces, including a district police chief, in separate attacks on security checkpoints in two Afghan provinces, officials said yesterday, ahead of parliamentary elections set for this week.

The Taliban have ramped up attacks in strategic provinces in their battle to expel foreign forces, topple the Western-backed government and restore their version of hardline Islamic law.

The police chief of Mizan, a district in southern Zabul province, was killed in armed clashes with Taliban insurgents on Saturday night, the provincial governor, Rahmatullah Yarmal, said.

In the western province of Farah, Taliban fighters killed 21 troops at two checkpoints in the district of Posht-e Rud.

The Taliban captured 11 soldiers and seized their weapons,

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