



**"The poor are not getting any protection and justice from the state. The state is becoming hostage to some neo-rich and looters."**  
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY LEADER SANJEEB DRONG. (PAGE 3)

**"This section [of Sarkari Chakori Ain] will weaken the Anti-Corruption Commission Act and its [ACC's] activities."**  
FORMER CABINET SECRETARY ALI IMAM MAJUMDER. (PAGE 1)

**"It was carried out poorly and the cover-up was one of the worst in the history of cover-ups."**  
TRUMP RIDICULES SAUDI RESPONSE FOLLOWING KHASHOGGI KILLING. (PAGE 8)

## Unite for fair polls

**Oikyafront urges people at its first rally held in Sylhet, vows to wage peaceful agitation**

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and DWOHA CHOWDHURY from Sylhet

Leaders at the Jatiya Oikyafront's maiden public rally yesterday asked people to unite for ensuring a free and fair election and "restoring" their right to vote.

They said they would wage a peaceful movement to realise their seven-point demand and achieve their 11 goals. They urged the government to have dialogues with the opposition parties for the sake of free and fair polls.

"We are now united and our victory is sure and certain," said Dr Kamal Hossain, a top leader of the alliance, while addressing the rally at Sylhet's Registrar's Office ground in Bandarabazar.

"People should unite, not political parties. The people are the owners of the country and you have to strengthen people's unity to restore this ownership," said Dr Kamal, also president of the Gonoforum.

There is no alternative to people's unity for "ousting the autocratic government from office", he said.

He urged all to spread the message of the seven-point demand and 11 goals to villages, upazilas, and districts and make people realise that the country belongs to them.

The seven-point demand includes holding of the

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Jatiya Oikyafront leaders join hands on the rally stage yesterday afternoon at Sylhet Registrar's Office ground. Thousands of people joined the first ever rally of the newly formed alliance.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

## OIKYAFRONT RALLY Cops go after BNP men

**250 held in Sylhet in 2 days, over a dozen in Chattogram**

STAR REPORT

Centring yesterday's Jatiya Oikyafront rally, police allegedly picked up over 250 BNP leaders and activists in Sylhet city in the last two days.

Law enforcers detained around 200 people after the rally at Registrar's Office field in the city's Bandarabazar. BNP chairperson's adviser Khandakar Abdul Muktaadir was among them, said Sylhet district BNP President Abul Kahar Shamim.

He added that police arrested 68 more party leaders and activists on Tuesday night.

Police yesterday produced the 68 before a Sylhet court showing them arrested in different sabotage cases filed with six police stations in Sylhet metropolitan area. The court sent them to jail.

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## Three AL men 'abducted' in Narayanganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Three ruling party men, including a union level Jubo League leader, have been traceless since they were whisked away in a microbus in Narayanganj's Rupganj upazila yesterday afternoon, their family members said.

The three are Shafiqur Rahman Badal, 45, president of Kayetpara union Jubo League, Shakil Mia, an activist of Awami League's youth wing, and Shakil, a Chhatra League man.

Panic gripped the area following the incident that came four days into the recovery of four bullet-hit bodies in Araihazar upazila of the district. The families of the four alleged that they had been picked up by some people who had identified themselves as detectives.

Narayanganj police said they did not pick up the three.

Citing witnesses, Badal's cousin

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## Vote AL to power for another term

**PM urges people, pledges to eliminate injustice, militancy, drug menace if her party returns to office**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in parliament yesterday urged people to vote for the Awami League again to ensure peace and security achieved through the elimination of injustice, militancy, and the drug menace.

If voted to power again, Hasina said she would ensure extradition of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, sentenced to life in the August 21 grenade attack cases, now in London.

"If Allah wants, if we can come to power again through the election, we'll definitely be able to bring Tarique Rahman back and execute the [court] verdict," she said while replying to a supplementary question from treasury bench lawmaker Fazilatun Nasa Bappy.

"This is why I seek blessings and votes from the people so that we can remedy this injustice and execute the verdict ...," the PM said.

She said, "We are negotiating with the British government to bring him back. Tarique has been in the UK since late 2008."

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## Mainul sued under Digital Security Act

**AL leader files case over defaming Masuda Bhatti**

STAR REPORT

An Awami League leader yesterday sued barrister Mainul Hossain under the Digital Security Act for "dishonouring journalist Masuda Bhatti and the female community".

Advocate Sumona Akhter Lily, a member of the AL's youth and sports related sub-committee, filed the case with the Cyber Crime Tribunal in Dhaka.

Taking cognisance of the case, Judge Ash Sams Joglul Hossain of the tribunal directed the officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station to register it as a regular case.

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## PASSAGE OF SARKARI CHAKRI BILL 2018

## Govt officials given shield from arrest

**Prior govt approval needed for detaining them on charges related to their job**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parliament last night passed the Sarkari Chakri Bill-2018 with a discriminatory provision, which makes it mandatory for the Anti-Corruption Commission to take permission from the appropriate authorities before arresting any government official on charges related to their job.

The bill was passed by voice vote despite serious objections by 10 lawmakers from the main opposition Jatiya Party and one independent MP.

They said the provision that makes it compulsory for the ACC to have approval before detaining any public servant "is a black provision and is in conflict with the constitution".

They proposed that the House invite

public opinion on the bill before its passage, but the proposal was rejected.

"Article 27 of the constitution says all citizens are equal in the eye of the law. But the law has a black provision regarding the arrest of government officials for committing crime and corruption," said JP MP Selim Uddin.

This law has made government officials "super citizens", which will create a class system in society. This is totally against the spirit of the constitution, he added.

"It is a compromised law, which goes against the idea of establishing rule of law," Shamim Haider Patwary, another JP MP, told the House before the vote began.

Yet another JP lawmaker, Fakhru Imam, said, "Everyone is equal before the law. But this law didn't uphold this spirit."

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## Bangladesh among 'best value travel destinations' Says Lonely Planet

STAR REPORT

Bangladesh ranked seventh in the Lonely Planet's Top 10 "Best Value" travel destinations for 2019, which showcased the top ten places for affordable adventures, UNB reports.

Lonely Planet, the world's largest travel guidebook publisher, said Bangladesh "creates astonishingly few ripples given everything it has to offer" and focused on the country's diverse and exciting cities.

It also added that Bangladesh had always been an inexpensive country for tourist and had many things to offer, such as "Asia's longest beach (and an emerging surf scene) at Cox's Bazar, and the mangroves and wild tigers of Sundarbans National Park."

The travel publisher also highlighted Bangladesh's numerous Unesco World

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Bangladesh openers Liton Das (L) and Imrul Kayes cross over for a run during their 148-run partnership, which set up a series-clinching seven-wicket win in the second ODI against Zimbabwe at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## Clinical Tigers seal series

MAZHAR UDDIN from Chattogram

The mantra of putting a collective approach ahead of individual heroics paid dividends as a clinical Bangladesh clinched the three-match ODI series with a game to spare, handing Zimbabwe a comprehensive seven-wicket defeat at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury stadium in Chattogram yesterday.

Mohammad Mithun applied a devastating finishing touch as, with three runs required, he smashed a six off the first ball of the 45th over to ensure Bangladesh reached the modest 247-run target with 35 balls to spare.

Mushfiqur Rahim was unbeaten on 40 and the experienced wicketkeeper-batsman also crossed 10,000 runs across all formats in international cricket during his knock.

However, opener Imrul Kayes was surely left cursing himself after he missed the opportunity to record back-to-back centuries. He was dismissed on 90 off 111 balls with seven fours. The left-hander went for a big shot off Sikandar Raza's bowling and was caught at long off when the Tigers required just 35 runs to win.

After forming a 120-run opening stand with Mehedi Hasan Miraz in the final of the Asia Cup last month, Liton Das this time joined hands with a proper batsman in the form of Imrul and the pair added 148 runs to set the platform for the chase.

Liton was adjudged leg-before without scoring a run off the fourth ball of the innings off Kyle Jarvis only to be

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