



"We should always keep in mind the issue of pollution while setting up industries. So, we have to take active measures for waste management."

PRIME MINISTER SHEIKH HASINA SAID WHILE INAUGURATING SAVAR TANNERY



"We have to fight back, otherwise there is no point in playing Tests this way."

SKIPPER MAHMUDULLAH RIYAD SAID AFTER BANGLADESH'S DEFEAT TO ZIMBABWE (PAGE 6)



"We have to protect ourselves with respect to China, Russia and even the United States of America."

FRENCH PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON SAYS AS HE BATS FOR A "REAL EUROPEAN ARMY" (PAGE 8)

Movement if talks fail

Oikyafront leaders tell Suhrawardy Udyan rally, urge grassroots to prepare for polls, agitation; 2nd round of talks with Hasina today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikyafront has threatened to intensify agitation through a series of programmes, including a road march towards Rajshahi from the capital tomorrow, if the ruling Awami League does not accept its proposals in their second round of parley today.

The Oikyafront, an alliance of the BNP and several other parties, made the announcement from a rally at the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday afternoon.

Its top leaders called upon the activists of the combine's components to prepare for the national election and agitation simultaneously.

The rally was held around 18 hours before an 11-member delegation of the alliance sits with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and other ruling party leaders to discuss some contentious issues relating to the polls.

If the discussion fails to yield a positive outcome, the Oikyafront will take to the streets tomorrow morning and march towards Rajshahi for mobilising public support to put pressure on the government for ensuring a free and fair parliamentary election, said leaders of the new combine.

This means when Hasina will be speaking at a press

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Jatiya Oikyafront leader Dr Kamal Hossain addressing a rally in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday. The newly formed alliance organised the rally as part of its programmes to press home the seven-point demand, including holding of the next national election under a nonpartisan government.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Won't accept BNP charter until disposal of plea at HC

Says CEC, cites HC order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In line with a High Court directive, the Election Commission will not accept BNP's amended constitution until a petition in this regard is disposed of, Chief Election Commissioner KM Nurul Huda said yesterday.

"We will have to follow the High Court's order regarding amendment to the BNP's constitution," he told reporters after a training programme at the Election Training Institute in the city's Agargaon.

On October 31, the HC directed the EC not to accept the BNP's amended charter until the disposal of a plea against the amendments.

Md Mozammel Hossain, who claimed to be a BNP activist in the capital's Kafrul area, filed the plea with the EC on October 30, requesting the commission not to

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The ball now in PM's court

Left parties say after talks at the Gono Bhavan

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and ABDULLAH AL NAYEEM

Leftist parties in talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night demanded that parliament be dissolved and the election be held under a neutral caretaker government.

"We have placed our demands. The ball is now in prime minister's court.

Everything now depends on her," said Communist Party of Bangladesh President Mujahidul Islam Selim after the dialogue at the Gono Bhavan.

A 16-member Left Democratic Alliance (LDA) delegation, led by Saiful Huq, general secretary of Revolutionary Workers Party, entered the prime minister's official

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Four technocrat ministers resign

Hours before, PM asked them to step down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

All four technocrat ministers in Sheikh Hasina's cabinet tendered their resignation to the Cabinet Division yesterday, hours after the prime minister asked them to step down.

They are religious affairs minister Matiur Rahman, expatriate welfare and overseas employment minister Nurul Islam BSc, science and technology minister Yeafesh Osman and telecommunications and information technology minister Mustafa Jabbar.

The prime minister's instruction came at an unscheduled discussion at the cabinet meeting held at the Prime Minister's Office.

"According to an apex court observation, there is no scope for inclusion of unelected individuals in the election-time cabinet," Hasina was quoted by a senior minister as saying at the meeting.

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Election schedule earlier this time

EC in the past took nearly a month to announce schedule after start of 90-day countdown

SHAKHAWAT LITON and RASHIDUL HASAN

The Election Commission seems to be in an unusual hurry to announce the schedule for the next parliamentary polls.

None of the four previous ECs had come up with polls schedule in such haste since the June 1996 polls.

After the beginning of 90-day countdown to hold the polls, each of the past ECs had taken one month on average to announce the schedule.

This time, things look very different.

The 90-day countdown began on October 31. And according to the constitu-

tional provision, the EC must hold the parliamentary polls on or by January 28.

The commission, led by KM Nurul Huda, had earlier decided to announce the polls schedule on November 4, only four days after the beginning of the countdown.

It, however, refrained from doing so in the wake of a request from Jatiya Oikyafront and the ongoing talks between the ruling and opposition parties.

The EC on the same day said it would unveil the schedule on Thursday.

The demand for delaying the announcement of the polls schedule is getting stronger.

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22 top cops promoted

5 become addl IG, 17 DIG; more promotions soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) approved the promotion of 22 top police officials yesterday.

Five deputy inspector generals (DIG) will be promoted to the rank of additional inspector general of police and 17 additional DIGs to the post of DIG.

Another committee will sit today to approve the promotions of 230 police officers to the rank of superintendent of police (SP), said police and ministry officials.

The move comes after police had pressed for the promotions of several hundred officials to the ranks of SP and Addl IG for several months leading up to the 11th parliamentary polls.

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People walk as vehicles bound for the capital are caught in a tailback in Savar's Salehpur bridge area around 11:00am yesterday. Inset, a cop checks the luggage of a bus passenger at a checkpoint, about two kilometres away from the bridge, near Gabtoli Bus Terminal. Such checking was done at several entrances to the capital as the Jatiya Oikyafront organised a rally yesterday. Story on page 2.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Zimbabwe roar, Tigers whimper

MAZHAR UDDIN from Sylhet

When Ariful Haque was the last batsman to be dismissed, top-edging Wellington Masakadza to wicketkeeper Regis Chakabva, he and the rest of the Bangladesh team were probably unaware that there were still a lot of spectators queuing up outside the ground to watch the first Test ever to take place at the Sylhet International Stadium.

Those who did manage to get on the fourth day yesterday could only witness wild celebrations from the Zimbabwe cricketers, who handed the home side a comprehensive 151-run defeat within three and a half days of the first Test and register their first away Test win after 17 long years.

Among Bangladesh's 83 losses in 109 Tests so far, yesterday's defeat against Zimbabwe will surely haunt them for a long time as the Tigers were completely outplayed in their

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স্মরণ

মীর জাহির হোসেন

এনসিসি ব্যাংক লিঃ এর উদ্যোক্তা পরিচালক ও সাবেক চেয়ারম্যান

মীর জাহির হোসেন-এর ৯ম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী আজ।

আমরা তাঁকে গভীর শ্রদ্ধায় স্মরণ করছি এবং তাঁর বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনা করছি।

পরিচালনা পর্ষদ এক ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ

এনসিসি ব্যাংক

স্বপ্নের সন্ধে, বন্দনায়।