



AL national council likely in December

Says Obaidul Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said the party's next national council might be held in December.

"The national election will be held in 2023 or 2024. So, the party will have to be built as a more well-organised and smarter one ahead of the next parliamentary polls," he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was speaking to journalists at a programme at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office marking the distribution of member collection books of its organisational units.

He said Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had dreamt of building "Sonar Bangla".

The AL would be made more disciplined and well-organised under the leadership of Bangabandhu's daughter Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to materialise the dream, he added.

The ruling party general secretary said party leaders concerned have been given directives to make strides towards removing all sorts of internal wrangling in all organisational units across the country.

Mentioning the distribution of member collection books among

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PHOTO: AFP

Bangladesh opener Mahmudul Hasan Joy pulls one during the third day of the first Test against South Africa in Durban yesterday. The 21-year-old carried the Bangladesh innings – 298 all out for a 69-run first-innings deficit – with a 137 off 326 deliveries, in the process becoming the first Bangladeshi batter to score a Test century against the Proteas. Later, the hosts reached six for no loss at stumps.

BEATING BUS DRIVER TO DEATH

Who were those plainclothes men?

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

On the night of April 22, 2019, a group of 14 to 15 men in plainclothes intercepted a bus in Chattogram city's Shikalbaha area and beat up the driver in front of the supervisor, helper and all the passengers.

After they left, critically injured Jalal Uddin, 50, the driver of Shyamoli Paribahan, was rushed to Chattogram Medical College Hospital, where doctors

declared him dead.

Two days later, Jalal's brother Jewel Hossain filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station over the incident.

According to the case statement, those men came in a microbus, an SUV and a car and introduced themselves as members of the Detective Branch of police. Some of them were carrying handcuffs, walkie-talkies and pistols.

They searched the bus for yaba pills but

found nothing, it added.

Several witnesses said the same to police investigators.

The death sparked widespread protests at that time with Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation (east) and Chattogram Zilla Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation enforcing a 24-hour transport strike.

They demanded arrest and punishment

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Russia retreats in northern Ukraine

Confirms Kyiv; Red Cross heads for Mariupol for more evacuations

AFP, Kyiv

Ukraine yesterday said Russian forces were making a "rapid retreat" from northern areas around the capital Kyiv and the city of Chernigiv as the Red Cross prepared for a fresh evacuation effort from the besieged southern port of Mariupol.

Russian forces now appear to be focusing attacks in the east and south, a day after thousands of people from Mariupol and surrounding Russian-held areas escaped in a convoy of buses and private cars.

"Russia is prioritising a different tactic: falling back on the east and south," Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak said on social media.

He said that, while Russian forces appeared to be pulling back from Kyiv and Chernigiv, their aim was to "control a vast stretch of occupied territory and set up there in a powerful way".

"Without heavy weapons we won't be able to drive (Russia) out," he said.

President Vladimir Putin ordered Russian tanks into Russia's pro-Western neighbour on February 24 and Ukraine estimates 20,000 people have been killed in the war so far.

More than 10 million have had to flee their homes.

In Kyiv, the government confirmed that the body of a well-known

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ESSENTIAL ITEMS Govt's greed, syndicate behind price hike: BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday alleged that the government failed to arrest the price hike of daily essentials and provide relief to the people.

It also complained that the prices of daily commodities have spiked due to the government's greed.

The party made the allegations at a "token hunger strike" in front of Jatiya Press Club, organised by Dhaka North and South city BNP units, protesting the rising prices of daily essentials and all-encompassing corruption.

"Prices of daily commodities have skyrocketed due to the government's greed and syndication," BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said at the programme.

He said the "unelected" Awami League government has created a

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