



"Education is in a deep crisis. Instead of being the great enabler, education is fast becoming the great divide."

UN chief Antonio Guterres



BNP working at a synchronous movement

Drafts 9 demands, holds talks with other opposition parties

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP has finalised the draft of a nine-point demand, aiming to wage a "simultaneous movement" with different opposition parties and platforms to force the government to step down and pave the way for a free and fair election.

According to the draft, the opposition party demands that the current government hand over power to a neutral one.

The other demands include the dissolution of the existing parliament; reconstitution of the Election Commission; arrest of price hikes of essentials; scrapping of the Digital Security Act, the Special Powers Act and all other black laws; and withdrawal of "false" cases filed against political leaders, ams and journalists, sources said.

"Our talks with different political parties are going on. It is not possible to say exactly when the discussions will end. Basically, they will go on as the movement progresses."

Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku,
a member of the BNP Standing Committee.

The party also demands that the enforced disappearance victims be returned to their families and those responsible be tried. It seeks formation of a commission to find out those who have laundered money abroad.

The draft was finalised at a meeting of the BNP Standing Committee at BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan office on Monday night. The party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman presided over it through video conferencing.

"We have finalised the draft of our demands through which we will move forward to wage a simultaneous movement. We will hold discussions with the opposition political parties and platforms to finalise the strategy of a simultaneous movement," a BNP standing committee member told The Daily Star yesterday, seeking anonymity.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The members of Bangladesh's SAFF Women's Championship winning team were in jovial mood as they spent the day out shopping before going to a reception held at the Bangladesh high commission in Kathmandu yesterday evening. The team will return home today.

PHOTO: BFF

'We shed tears of joy'

Maria says on eve of team's return after historic SAFF triumph

ANISUR RAHMAN

"After a lot of hard work, we enjoyed last night to the fullest. We shed tears of joy and we danced on the bus all the way to the hotel," Maria Manda told The Daily Star over phone from the breakfast table in Kathmandu yesterday,

the morning after the women's team made history by clinching a maiden SAFF Women's Championship title.

"We took a lot of photos with the trophies and medals, we kissed the medals time and again, we enjoyed every moment. It was an unforgettable night for all of us," added the 19-year-old, who played a pivotal role in midfield.

Although the players follow a strict diet, yesterday they were afforded the luxury of chocolate.

"We ate a lot of chocolate after the team meeting with the madam [Mahfuza Aktar Kiran]. She willingly distributed it and we really enjoyed," the Mymensingh native added.

The women in red and green usually go to bed after an early dinner considering their early training time, but there was no timeframe for dinner or even yesterday's breakfast. The girls had an almost sleepless night celebrating their greatest triumph.

Touching on the team's mentality in Kathmandu, Maria said: "We always believe in ourselves. We believe that we can do something whenever we take

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Gunshots now heard from Ukhiya

MOHAMMAD JAMIL KHAN and MOHAMMAD ALI JENNAT, Cox's Bazar

As firing and mortar shelling in Myanmar were now heard from Ukhiya border of Cox's Bazar yesterday, the local authorities warned the boat owners of not carrying Rohingyas amid fear of their fresh entry.

Residents of Bandarban's Naikhongchhari said they also heard gunshots which they suspected came

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Act to stop Myanmar's unlawful activities

Dhaka calls upon int'l community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

As Dhaka calls upon the international community to use their influence to stop Myanmar's unlawful activities at the Bangladesh border, Naypyidaw continues to blame the Arakan Army and ARSA for the problem.

Summoning the Bangladesh ambassador to Myanmar, Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury, on Monday, its foreign ministry said the Arakan Army and Arakan

Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) have been carrying out attacks in the border areas deliberately to damage the cordial relations between the two countries.

The development comes after the Bangladesh foreign ministry on Sunday summoned the Myanmar envoy for the fourth time since late August, briefed the ASEAN diplomats in Dhaka the following day and the representatives of the rest of the foreign countries yesterday.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Ignoring a traffic sign, a bus drops off passengers at the ramp of Mohakhali flyover in the capital yesterday. Picking up and dropping off passengers by buses is a common scene at this point. The passengers also dart across the road, putting their lives at risk.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCE 'Victims' voices should be heard'

UN working group urges Dhaka to address allegation conveyed last year

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances has urged Bangladesh to respond to a general allegation conveyed last year on the alleged forced disappearance that took place at the hands of the Rapid Action Battalion, and the undue pressure on human rights organisations.

"Attention needed to be given to implementing the recommendations of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and victims' voices should be heard," said Luciano Hazan, chair of the Working Group.

He made the comments at an interactive dialogue of the Human Rights Council held with the Working Group in Geneva on Tuesday, according to the UN meeting summary posted on Tuesday night.

Concluding her visit to Bangladesh on August 17, then UN human rights commissioner Michelle Bachelet highlighted the need for an impartial, independent and transparent investigation into these allegations, accompanied by security sector reform.

Bachelet also said inviting the UN Working Group on Enforced Disappearances to visit Bangladesh would also show a commitment to decisively address this issue.

"As the biggest contributor of uniformed personnel to UN

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

\$1b WB loan unlikely this fiscal year

Visiting top official of the global lender tells govt

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh's request for additional budget support of \$1 billion from the World Bank is unlikely to come through this fiscal year, dashing the government's hope of meeting a portion of the budget deficit with cost-effective funding.

The Washington-based multilateral lender conveyed the update during the three-day visit of Martin Raiser, its recently appointed vice president for South Asia, The Daily Star has learnt from people familiar with the discussions, who requested anonymity to disclose sensitive deliberations.

This fiscal year, the country is on course to receiving \$500 million in budget support from the Washington-based lender under two programmes: 'Bangladesh Green, Resilient and Inclusive Development Policy Credit (GRID-DPC)'

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Obituary



"Alhaj Mohammad Nasir Uddin Biswas"

Chairman and Managing Director
Nasir Group Of Industries

The family Members and the Employees of Nasir Group are deeply saddened for the death (12-09-2022) of Prominent industrialist "Alhaj Mohammad Nasir Uddin Biswas", Chairman and Managing Director of Nasir Group of Industries.

His sudden departure has left a huge Emptiness in the industrial sector. We pray to Almighty Allah for the salvation of his departed soul. May Allah grant him Jannatul Ferdouse, Ameen.