



DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 2022

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXII No. 272

KARTIK 8, 1429 BS

www.thedailystar.net

RABIUL AWAL 27, 1444 HJRI

16 PAGES : Tk 15.00

Now AL plans to flaunt strength

Countrywide rallies in Nov; electioneering to start thru national council in Dec

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

As the recent BNP rallies drew huge crowds in different cities, the Awami League is now preparing to hold rallies and other programmes across the country from next month apparently to show its strength.

In November, the ruling party will hold councils in eight districts followed by rallies in the towns, said AL insiders.

Apart from this, the government is likely to open 100 new bridges to traffic in the first two weeks of November. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina may remotely inaugurate three of those bridges in rural areas and address rallies there.

Currently, the party is holding councils at district, upazila and union levels. Rallies are also being held in those places.

The AL's youth front Jubo League on Saturday announced it will hold a grand rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in the capital on November 11 to mark its 50th anniversary.

The rally will be an answer to BNP's "anarchy", said Jubo League Chairman Sheikh Fazle Shams Parash.

The AL also plans to organise a rally at Suhrawardy Udyan in mid-December with a "gathering that will astonish all", sources said.

In the third week of December, the party's triennial national council will be held at the same venue to pick the next leadership.

"Through our national council, we will begin our election campaign, and the organisational activities will continue until the polls," AL presidium member Kazi Zafarullah told The Daily Star.



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Virat Kohli pumps his fist and lets out a scream in joy following the winning run as Pakistan players look dejected at the end of their Twenty20 World Cup fixture at the Melbourne Cricket Ground yesterday. The former India skipper played an incredible, unbeaten knock of 82 runs off 53 deliveries as India snatched a thrilling win off the last ball of the game. **"A treat to watch" on page 11.**

PHOTO: AFP



Half a century gone chasing recognition

Martyred 'Guerrilla Hafiz' never named on official list of freedom fighters despite his family applying eight times since 1974

AHMAD ISTIAK

Syed Hafizur Rahman was part of a band of youths who were trained in urban guerrilla warfare to carry out covert operations and strike fear into the hearts of the Pakistan occupation army during the Liberation War.

The Crack Platoon, as they were called, executed a series of high-risk subversive attacks on army convoys and key installations in Dhaka. Their primary mission was to make the rest of the world take note of the freedom struggle being waged by this nation in 1971.

Hafiz, as a member of this guerrilla group, detonated mines in six different locations across the capital to destabilise Dhaka as part of a night raid in June-July.

His expertise in laying mines and ability

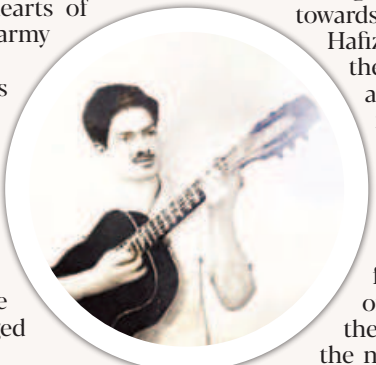
to plan effective ambushes had earned him the nicknames "Guerrilla Hafiz" and "Mine Hafiz" within his ranks.

With every successful mission of the freedom fighters, the country inched towards glorious independence, but Hafiz was not there to witness the victory as he was tortured and killed by the Pakistan military at one stage of the war.

Fifty-one years have now passed since he answered the call of duty and laid down his life to free his homeland. Many of his comrades also made the ultimate sacrifice during the nine months and were later honoured as martyred freedom fighters.

As shocking as it may sound, this token of respect, which pales in comparison to

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Journalists not bound to divulge sources

HC says in a verdict on graft news

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The High Court has observed that journalists and the media are constitutionally and legally authorised to expose corruption, including money laundering, in public interest, and they are not legally bound to disclose their sources.

"Corrupt people are responsible for breeding, creating and sustaining an atmosphere of graft with impunity. Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law; leads to violation of human rights; distorts markets; erodes the quality of life; and allows organised crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish."

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Xi secures 3rd term

Fills his inner circle with close allies; Putin, Kim Jong Un congratulate him

AFP, Beijing

Xi Jinping secured a historic third term as China's leader yesterday and filled his inner circle with close allies, achieving after a decade in power complete dominance over the ruling Communist Party.

The party's Central Committee elected Xi as its general secretary for another five-year term, bringing the country back towards one-man rule after decades of power-sharing among its elite.

"I wish to thank the whole party sincerely for the trust you have placed in us," Xi told journalists at Beijing's Great Hall of the People after the closed-door, rubber-stamp vote was announced.

Xi, 69, was also reappointed head of China's Central Military Commission, keeping him in charge of the People's Liberation Army.

He is now all but certain to sail through to a third term as the country's president, due to be formally announced during the government's annual legislative sessions in March.

Yesterday's developments cement him as the most powerful leader since Communist Party founder Mao Zedong.

In a wide-ranging acceptance speech yesterday, Xi made signature remarks celebrating China's rise as a global power and its success under his rule.

"The world needs China," Xi said. "After more than 40 years of unflagging efforts towards reform and opening up, we have created two miracles – rapid economic development and long-term social stability."

Six of Xi's proteges and allies were also unveiled yesterday

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Railway sues '150 BNP men' for vandalism

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Some 150 to 170 unnamed "BNP men" were sued for vandalising Khulna Railway Station on Saturday.

Station Master Manik Chandra Sarker filed a case with Khulna Railway Police Station the same night.

No one was arrested in the case until last evening, said Rabiul Hasan, superintendent of Khulna Railway Police.

According to the case statement, the BNP men took position at the main gate of the station. Around 11:50am on Saturday, an executive magistrate, senior railway officials and policemen urged them to move away from the main gate.

The BNP men did not comply with the magistrate's request, and instead became violent. They broke 25 large glass doors of the main gate and windows with sticks and by hurling brick chunks.

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