



The more the odds, the bigger the rally

At Barishal gathering, BNP asks people to 'take back Bangladesh'

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and
SUSHANTA GHOSH from Barishal

As tens of thousands of BNP supporters defied all odds and joined the rally in Barishal yesterday, the party asked them to unite and fight against the "illegal regime" to save the country.

People want to break free from the clutches of this government, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, urging the followers to join the movement.

"Our position is very clear. Our acting chairman said take back Bangladesh and it will be settled on the streets ... We will form a national government if we are voted to power. We are not alienated from the people. We remain connected to the people," he told the mammoth rally at Bangabandhu Udyan in Barishal.

Tension ran high in the city as incidents of violence were reported from different places in Barishal.

BNP's International Affairs Secretary Ishraque Hossain claimed nine people were injured when his motorcade was attacked in Barishal.

BNP leaders alleged that a group of about 50 Awami League men stopped the vehicle of Ishtiaque Aziz Ulfat, president of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal, at Gournadi Bus Stand and forced him to return to Dhaka.

As BNP leaders and activists travelled to Barishal from the districts in the region in the days leading up to the event, several incidents of violence were reported in Bhola and Patuakhali.

Although the event was scheduled to begin at 2:00pm, it started around 11:00am. In small processions, the supporters joined with placards, festoons, banners, drums, and vuvuzela.

Amid the transport strike, BNP supporters travelled by boats, motorcycles and even on foot to reach the city.

Addressing the rally, Fakhrul said "Hasina [Prime

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An activist wearing sheafs of paddy, the electoral symbol of the BNP, at the opposition party's rally at Bangabandhu Udyan in Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

IMF conditions to be synced with WB, ADB

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

The International Monetary Fund will be coordinating its conditions for the prospective \$4.5 billion loan with the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank to accomplish holistic reforms.

For that end, the visiting IMF staff mission on Thursday held a meeting with the country teams of the WB and the ADB, according to three people familiar with the discussions, who requested anonymity to disclose the contents of the closed-door dialogue.

"While the Bangladesh economy is not in as dire a position as Sri Lanka and Pakistan's, the alarm bells have started ringing. Now is the time to take corrective actions," said one of the participants in the meeting, which took place at the InterContinental Dhaka.

At present, a \$1 billion loan from the WB and an \$800 million loan from the ADB are in the works.

To get the loans approved and the funds disbursed, the government needs to take prior actions and work

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CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION Bangladesh needs \$230b till 2050

COP 27 expectation: Now time to walk the talk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has a National Action Plan ready on climate change stressing the need for \$230 billion over next 27 years till 2050 to enhance its adaptation capacity, as the COP 27, the biggest climate event, kicks off today in Egypt to tame the rising temperature.



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AL won't go easy on BNP in December

Warns Obaidul Quader

STAR REPORT

Saying that the Awami League would take control of the streets in December, the month of victory, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday warned that the ruling party won't go easy on the BNP then.



He made the remarks at a "peace procession" organised by Dhaka north city AL in the capital's Badda in the afternoon.

"We are now going easy on the BNP. But this will not be the case in December. The final game will be played

then," he said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, said, "Games will be played against vote-rigging, corruption, looting and misrule [of the BNP]. Games will be fought against the killers of August 15 and also against the BNP, the mastermind of August 21 grenade attack."

The BNP has been holding rallies in the divisional cities protesting the price hike of essentials and fuel, recent killings of five party men in police firings, and also demanding release of its Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

Rallies have so far been held in Chattogram, Mymensingh, Khulna, Rangpur and Barishal. The rest of the rallies are scheduled for November 12, 19, 26, December 3 and 10 in Faridpur, Sylhet, Cumilla, Rajshahi and Dhaka.

Earlier, yesterday morning, Quader inaugurated the triennial council of Cumilla city AL on the Town Hall premises.

Speaking at the event, he said there were more people at the AL council in Cumilla than at the BNP's Barishal rally.

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