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Govt having sleepless nights

Says Fakhru at Rajshahi BNP rally about Dec 10 gathering

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA and ANWAR ALI from Rajshahi

The BNP yesterday said the government was in constant "fear" of the party's December 10 rally in the capital and that it was having sleepless nights.

"They [Awami League] are talking among themselves that there will be a change of government on December 10. It does not have any confidence in the people and that's why it is in constant fear," said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir.

He was addressing a massive divisional rally at Rajshahi city's Madrasa ground, which was joined by party men and supporters from eight districts of Rajshahi division.

Fakhru said they want to hold the Dhaka divisional rally in front of the BNP's Nayapalton central office on December 10 like they held rallies there before.

"Nothing happened there previously. But today they know that they have committed many misdeeds and that's why they are in constant fear of the BNP and the people of the country."

Speaking at the rally, senior and mid-ranking BNP leaders asked the audience to join the Dhaka rally to show no confidence in the government.

Police gave BNP permission to hold the rally at Suhrawardy Udyan but the party said they wanted to organise the event at Nayapalton.

Fakhru yesterday alleged that the government was

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BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir addressing a mammoth rally at Madrasa Maidan in Rajshahi city yesterday. Thousands of people joined the divisional rally from eight districts. Fakhru urged his party men to join the Dhaka divisional rally on December 10.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Checkpoint set up in front of Khaleda's home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police set up a checkpoint in front of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Gulshan residence in the capital after 9:00pm yesterday.

Asked about the matter, Abdul Ahad, deputy commissioner (Gulshan) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, yesterday said, "Police started setting up checkpoints in different areas of Gulshan tonight. These are part of a special drive to arrest drug peddlers, militants and criminals."

Syruul Kabir Khan, a member of the BNP chairperson's media wing, said police stopped the vehicle of Khaleda's physician FM Siddiqui and thoroughly checked it as he came out of the residence.

Police last night surrounded three hotels and three hostels in Dhaka's Banani area suspecting them to be militant hideouts and dens for drug dealers.

Economic crisis is not war-driven

Say economists at BIDS conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The present economic crisis is not just because of the Ukraine war but a build-up of legacy issues, economists said yesterday.

"There is a narrative that the economy would be normal if the Ukraine war would not happen. However, there are legacy issues that make it difficult to solve the current situation," said Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at the Centre for Policy Dialogue.

Bhattacharya's comments came at the concluding session of the annual conference of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies held at the capital's Lakeshore Hotel.

The legacy issues comprise the banking sector's poor health, energy shortage, low revenue collection and depleting reserves.

"Were the tax to GDP ratio higher, the government would have been in a comfortable situation. If the efficiency of public expenditure was better, we would have a better result with the limited resources."

He also gave examples of poor energy planning and project implementation.

"The policymakers are saying that the present economic turmoil will dissipate in three months, but a global recession is looming large in 2023. So, it would be one of the toughest years in the recent decades where three problems will be the cause of tension: food, fuel and finance."

Bhattacharya proposed a package for two to three years where some steps should be taken with the coordination of all stakeholders.

"No one thought that such an impact was coming after the Covid," said Salman F Rahman, private industry and investment adviser to the prime minister.

The rising energy prices -- in a manner not seen in recent decades -- had the worst impact on the economy. At the same time, the Federal Reserve raised the interest rate, which was also not expected.

"So, we observed pressure from two sides."

At present, there is a little surplus in the

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Noab pleads with govt to save newspapers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (Noab) during its most recent meeting expressed deep concern over the crisis facing the newspaper industry. Specifically, the members expressed fear as the prices of materials, imported and locally produced, required by the industry have increased by 100 percent.

"The newspaper industry, recognised to be in the service sector, has long been in crisis. A main reason behind this is the difference between the production cost and selling price," reads a statement Noab released yesterday.

"The ongoing war in Eastern Europe caused a

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A MONTH INTO FARDIN'S MURDER

Family waits for closure with no hope in sight

MUNTAKIM SAAD and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The books he used to read, the shirts he used to wear, the bed he used to sleep in and the prizes he won are constant reminders of Fardin.

It has been a month since his life was brutally cut short but Fardin Noor Porosh's family are yet to come to terms with his death.

His mother now watches recordings of his debate competitions. She still believes that Fardin would be travelling to Spain to participate in another debate competition. He would wear the black gown and hug his mother on the day of his graduation from Buet in a couple of years.

"When I went to Buet campus a few days back, I thought that my Fardin would call me. But that was not to be...It's like an eternal emptiness," his father Kazi Nooruddin Rana, told The Daily Star in a heavily choked voice at his Demra residence.

His family last saw him on the afternoon of November 4. On his way out, Fardin, a third-year student at Buet's civil engineering

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Pele moved to palliative care


AGENCIES

Football legend Pele has been moved to palliative care in a hospital, a Brazilian news outlet reported on Saturday morning.

Pele, 82, is "no longer responding to chemotherapy" and is being treated only for symptoms such as pain and shortness of breath, Folha de S.Paulo reported. He was admitted to the Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein to

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Obituary



Mr. A. B. M. Ghulam Mostafa, aged 88, former Minister and Member of Bangladesh Parliament and former Secretary to the Government of Bangladesh, passed away peacefully at home on 3 December 2022 due to old age complications.
Inna lillahe wa inna ilaihe rajeun.
His Namaz-e Janaza will be held at Gulshan Central Masjid (Azad Mosque) on Sunday, 4 December 2022 after Asr Prayers.
All well-wishers are requested to attend the Namaz-e Janaza and pray for the departed soul.

Security high in Ctg for PM's rally

F.M. MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

The law enforcers have beefed up security in Chattogram as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, is scheduled to address a rally in the port city today.

The rally venue, Polo Ground, and its adjacent areas are full of personnel of different security agencies to ensure safety of Hasina.

Chattogram Metropolitan Police deployed more than

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UP chairman shot dead in Narsingdi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals shot a union parishad chairman was shot dead at the Raipura upazila in Narsingdi yesterday afternoon.

The deceased, Jafar Iqbal Manik, 50, was the chairman of Mirzachar union in the

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জয় বাংলা জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু

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