



## We want your blessings

Says PM at Ctg rally, asks for votes for boat

### STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday alleged that the BNP wanted someone to put it in power without an election because it knows well that the people will not vote for murderers.

"They [the BNP] want something which will help them assume power after dislodging the Awami League government... They never bother with the people's wishes. The BNP has two 'virtues': killing people and rigging ballot," she said.

Hasina, also the ruling Awami League president, was addressing a mammoth rally at the historical Polo Ground in Chattogram, reports UNB and BSS.

It was her second rally outside the capital after she launched the AL campaign for the 12th parliamentary election at a rally in Jashore on November 24.

Hasina said, "They [the BNP] don't care about the people. When the Awami League assumes power, it works for the people."



Referring to the arson attack unleashed by the BNP-Jamaat from 2013-2015, the PM said Khaleda Zia and Tarique Zia will one day have to answer why they killed and burnt innocent citizens.

About the BNP's Dhaka rally on December 10, Hasina, said, "Pakistani occupation forces had started killing intellectuals from December 10 in 1971.

But unfortunately, this 10th December is the most favorite date for the BNP. Since they perhaps were collaborators of the Pakistani occupation forces, they perhaps want to occupy Dhaka city on December 10 and oust the Awami League government."

The AL president once again sought vote for her party in the election which is likely to be held in early 2024.

"We want your blessings and cooperation so that the war criminals and killers can't play with the fate of Bangladeshi people after coming to power again."

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England's Jordan Henderson celebrates scoring the team's first goal with two other goalscorers – Harry Kane and Bukayo Saka – during their 3-0 win in a Round of 16 fixture against Senegal at Al Bayt Stadium in Al Khor yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS



### Goalkeepers stealing everyone's thunder



### ASHAQ UL MUSHFIQ

Argentina fans around the globe were expressing gratitude after Lionel Messi's last dance in the FIFA World Cup was extended by at least one more week following a 2-1 win over Australia in the Round of 16 on Saturday.

However, although Messi's left-footed magic has again stolen the headlines, those fans must be thankful to another man.

Had it not been for a big split block in the 97th minute by Argentine shot-stopper Emiliano Martinez, who has earned the adoring nickname 'Bajpakhi (falcon)' from many of Bangladesh's Argentina loyalists, the scenario would probably have been very different for the Albiceleste.

But that was only a glimpse of the numerous goalkeeping manifestos issued throughout the World Cup.

Argentina themselves

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**TODAY'S MATCHES**

Japan v Croatia	9:00pm
Brazil v South Korea	1:00am



PHOTO: BSS

A huge crowd waving at Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, not in frame, as she gets on the stage of a grand rally at the Polo Ground in Chattogram city yesterday. Hasina, also the Awami League president, inaugurated 29 development projects and laid the foundation stones of six other schemes in Chattogram during her campaign rally there.

## England book France clash in last 8

### REUTERS, Al Khor

England overcame a pedestrian start to surge to a comfortable 3-0 victory over Senegal on Sunday as goals by Jordan Henderson, Harry Kane and Bukayo Saka swept them into a mouth-watering World Cup quarter-final clash with holders France.

England took a long time to impose themselves on the African champions, a team they had never faced before, and survived a couple of scares before two goals late in the first half changed the feel of the night and it was no contest after the break.

The absence of the suspended Idrissa Gueye and injured Cheikhou Kouyate left Senegal's midfield too

underpowered to pose problems for England.

With Sadio Mane missing the tournament through injury the Africans also lacked a cutting edge to trouble an England defence that kept a third successive World Cup clean sheet for the first time in 20 years.

Although it was eventually a convincing victory, England will need to have a look at how and why they took so long to impose themselves.

For most of the first half they were slow and static and a series of misplaced passes gifted Senegal chances. The best of them fell to Boulaye Dia and only the strong left arm of keeper Jordan Pickford prevented the Africans taking the

lead. With the relentless Senegalese drummers spurring their men on, England's normally vociferous fans were silent - and had nothing to lift them.

They found their voice after 38 minutes though when England finally injected some pace, breaking down the left through Phil Foden and Jude Bellingham, who crossed for late-arriving Henderson to stroke home the opener.

Kane had an almost identical chance minutes later and though he sidefooted over, his goal drought at this tournament came to an end in emphatic style in first-half stoppage time.

Bellingham again surged from

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## BNP budes on rally venue

Asks for alternative to Suhrawardy Udyan

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP is no longer hell bent on holding its December 10 rally at Nayapaltan and it wants to avoid confrontation with the government over the venue.

The BNP will consider if the government offers an alternative other than Suhrawardy Udyan, party insiders said yesterday.

The BNP may propose Kakrail, Arambagh, Fakirapool or Shanti Nagar intersection as alternative venues that are not far from the BNP central office in Nayapaltan, they said, adding that they would not hold the rally outside the city.

A confrontational situation was about to arise as the BNP was

determined to have the rally at Nayapaltan and the government was forcing it to have it at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

Addressing a press conference at the central office, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday said 1,031 BNP leaders and activists got arrested over the rally since November 30.

However, police yesterday said that they arrested at least 1,356 people on various charges in just 24 hours amid a 15-day special drive that began across the country on December 1.

According to a Police Headquarters (PHQ) database, 2,321 raids were conducted across the country during the period and a total

of 358 cases were filed against them, said Monzur Rahman, assistant inspector general at the PHQ.

At yesterday's press conference, Fakhru said, "Our Dhaka rally will be the most successful and peaceful one. We urge the government not to create instability by trying to divert our programme to a different direction."

He added that BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas on Saturday called upon the government to offer a venue other than Nayapaltan and Suhrawardy Udyan.

"If we get any suitable alternative we will consider it, but the venue cannot be Suhrawardy Udyan or on

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## Provide funds to depositors as per demand BB to banks

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday asked banks to provide funds to depositors based on their withdrawal demand such that the confidence in the banking sector remains unbroken.

After some misinformation was spread on social media platforms about the banking sector, jumpy depositors withdrew their money from banks, Selim RF Hussain, chairman of the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh told reporters after a meeting with the central bank.

"That amount is now coming back," said Hussain, also the managing director of Brac Bank.

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## Mehedi, Shakib lead Tigers to thrilling win

### ABDULLAH AL MEHEDI

It was edge-of-the-seat stuff at the end and it came against the backdrop of a low-scoring encounter as Bangladesh put their ODI mettle to use to seize victory from the jaws of defeat with a thrilling one-wicket win over India in the first of the three-match ODI series at Mirpur yesterday.

Spectators turned up in droves to the Sher-e-Bangla Stadium, despite cricket having to take a backseat to the ongoing FIFA World Cup with fans staying up late to watch an Argentine win just the night before against Australia.

When the Tigers found themselves at 136 for nine, needing 51 runs with just a wicket left, and a mountain to climb, a majority of fans were on their way out.

But Mehedi Hasan Miraz and Mustafizur Rahman had other ideas and, having seen their team fail so many times in tight contests, used their ODI mojo to good effect.

While Mehedi is considered a genuine lower-middle order batter, PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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মহান বিজয়ের মাসে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড অর্জন করেছে আইসিএমএবি'র বেস্ট কর্পোরেট অ্যাওয়ার্ড (গোল্ড-1ম স্থান)

দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব কস্ট এন্ড ম্যানেজমেন্ট অ্যাকাউন্ট্যান্টস অব বাংলাদেশ (আইসিএমএবি) কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ICMAB Best Corporate Award - 2021 (Gold-1st Position) অর্জন করেছে জনতা ব্যাংক লিমিটেড।

বানিজ্যমন্ত্রী টিপু মুন্শি, এমপি মহোদয়ের নিকট হতে অ্যাওয়ার্ড গ্রহণ করছেন ব্যাংকের মাননীয় চেয়ারম্যান ড. এস এম. মাহফুজুর রহমান, এমডি এন্ড সিইও বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা মোঃ আব্দুল হালিম আজাদ এবং সিএফও (ডিএমডি) মোঃ নুরুল আলম এফসিএমএ, এফসিএ।

এই অর্জনে ব্যাংকের পরিচালনা পর্ষদ, সম্মানিত গ্রাহক স্তম্ভন্যায়ী, রেমিট্যান্স যোদ্ধা ও কর্মীদের অভিনন্দন।

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