



A hopeful prospect

BNP rally likely at Kamalapur stadium or Mirpur Bangla College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a welcome development, the BNP and Dhaka Metropolitan Police last night seemed to have considerably bridged their differences over the venue for the opposition party's December 10 rally.

The BNP said it may now hold the rally either at Bir Shrestha Shaheed Sipahi Mostafa Kamal Stadium in the capital's Kamalapur or on the Government Bangla College premises in Mirpur.

The two sides held a two-hour meeting at the DMP Headquarters as the city remained tense following Wednesday's clash in Nayapaltan that left one dead and scores of others injured.

"We demanded Kamalapur stadium as the rally venue. They [DMP] proposed Mirpur Bangla College ground," BNP Vice Chairman Barkatullah Bulu told reporters after the meeting, adding that the party will pick either of the two.

He and other BNP leaders later visited Kamalapur stadium and Bangla College to weigh the pros and cons of the places.

The BNP standing committee held a virtual meeting with the party's acting chairman Tarique Rahman to inform him about the situation, sources said, adding that Tarique was also briefed about different aspects of the two possible venues.

Bulu and other BNP leaders then met Mirza Abbas at his residence, and the latter said the decision will be made after further discussions with the standing committee and the city committees.

After the meeting with the BNP delegation, Harun or Rashid, additional commissioner of DMP, said, "We discussed the two possible venues and they were okay with either. They will visit ... and so will we. One of the grounds is likely to be fixed for the rally."

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Harun or Rashid
Additional Commissioner,
DMP



BNP activists looking through the windows of a packed prison van on Dhaka court premises yesterday. Police picked them up from the Paltan area on Wednesday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

AL under fire from allies

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

The ruling Awami League yesterday drew heavy flak from its left-leaning allies for ignoring them in taking many crucial political decisions and also for already starting "electioneering" for the next national polls.

At a meeting of the 14-Party alliance, they said the AL calls them only when it faces a crisis, said top leaders of the AL-led alliance.

The leftist parties also said they are disappointed that the AL does not give them space in the government and does not attach importance to the alliance.

The meeting was presided over

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885 BNP men sued in 5 cases

Over 2,000 unnamed people also accused

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday sued 885 BNP and its associate bodies' leaders mentioning names and more than 2,250 unnamed individuals over Wednesday's clash at Dhaka's Nayapaltan.

A man was killed and over 50 others, including four journalists, were injured in the clash in the Nayapaltan area on Wednesday. Dhaka Metropolitan Police claimed that 47 cops were injured in the clash.

Subsequently, police filed five cases filed with Paltan, Ramna, Motijheel and Shahjahanpur police stations.

In the cases, identical charges were brought against the BNP leaders including Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie, Amanullah Aman, Shamsur Rahman Shimul Biswas and Abdul Qader Bhuiyan Jewel.

The charges are: unlawful assembly blocking the road, deterring police from carrying out their duties, attack on police with an intent to kill, damage to properties, creating panic among the public and

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Hit back if anyone tries to attack

Hasina asks leaders of AL, associate bodies

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday ordered her party leaders and activists to stay vigilant everywhere and hit back if anyone tried to attack them.

"We were beaten up for 21 years since 1975. We were beaten up from 2001 to 2007. This time the hand that wants to beat us will have to be broken. The hand that wants to torch things must be burnt in that same fire. They must be made to feel the pain of burns."

The PM made the remarks while addressing a joint meeting of the AL and its associate bodies at the AL



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Prime Minister
Sheikh Hasina

headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue. She joined virtually from the Gono Bhaban.

"Our leaders and activists should remain prepared in every area so that they cannot resort to torture anymore," she said, reports BSS.

Hasina said, "The media who are now queuing up [behind the BNP] ... so many of the channels ... they are here thanks to me ... If I hadn't opened it up, many people would not have had jobs. Many would not have been able to do business too."

"These media would have been taken to task or beaten up if they had written anything against [the then ruling party]. Even then, why so much flattery? I have no idea. I'll see how servile they can get. Those who are now trying to curry favour with the BNP, we will see to them."

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POLITICAL VERBATIMS



"No more gatherings will be allowed on the streets, blocking roads and causing public sufferings. We will also not do so ... We will not attack, but if any provocation is made, we will give a befitting reply."

Obaidul Quader
AL General Secretary



"BNP's Dhaka divisional rally will be held at Nayapaltan. If we get any proposal of an acceptable alternative, we will consider it."

Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir
BNP Secretary General



"Police neither attacked nor vandalised anything in the BNP office, but conducted a search. BNP activists were there when police entered the office. The way the police were attacked ... What would you do, if you were a police officer?"

Asaduzzaman Khan
Home Minister



"We have long been saying that the BNP wants to create chaos, not hold a rally ... You see how BNP men attacked police in front of their party office in Nayapaltan on December 7, and how they set fire on vehicles, including BRTC buses, on Tuesday night."

Hasan Mahmud
Information Minister

DESERT FEST Dream clash casts a shadow on quarters

SAMAMA RAHMAN

A dream match-up for an entire generation is on the cards, with Brazil and Argentina finally on a collision course for the semifinal.

While fans from a previous generation may remember the 1990 World Cup Round of 16 clash between the two arch-rivals, which Argentina won 1-0, later fans may only remember a handful of Copa America encounters between the two sides, denied of a potentially generation-defining World Cup clash.

That anticipated semifinal may have already sent tongues wagging, but the path to the final four is

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Fitting stage finally set for eternal rivalry

ATIQUÉ ANAM from Doha

Every four years as the FIFA World Cup comes around, people in Bangladesh and across the entire world cross their fingers for a clash between two of the most loved and decorated countries in world football -- Brazil and Argentina. But like all good things perhaps, this one specific match comes way too rarely on the grandest stage of all.

The two teams have crossed paths only four times in the World Cup so far and never in a final, despite having won a combined seven titles and having appeared in 12 out of 21 finals. In fact, all four times they have met have come in either the second round or the Round of 16, the last of which came 32 years ago, when a cherubic Claudio Caniggia scored the winning goal for Argentina on the end of a brilliant run from Diego

Maradona.

The games between the two neighbours have produced a fair bit of drama and excitement, hence, it's only fair for people to long for a Brazil v Argentina match.

That wish will come true if these two nations cross their respective hurdles tonight -- Brazil against Croatia and Argentina against the Netherlands -- in the first two quarterfinals of Qatar 2022.

Given the confidence and spirit these two sides have shown on their way to the last eight, barring that extraordinary defeat for Argentina against Saudi Arabia, there won't be many betting against a South American clash in the semifinals. Even the two teams exuded confidence ahead of their respective matches.

Why wouldn't they? Brazil are

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WE DEEPLY MOURN

FOR THE DEMISE OF FORMER CHAIRMAN OF CONFIDENCE GROUP, PIONEERING OFFICER OF THE OPERATION KILO FLIGHT OF BANGLADESH AIR FORCE DURING THE LIBERATION WAR, INDEPENDENCE AWARD RECIPIENT

SHAMSUL ALAM (BIR UTTAM)

1947 - 2022

