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Century-old temple crumbling away



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Pompeo says US averted India, Pakistan nuke war



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Ramadan items already get costlier



As the age-old bridge on the Karnaphuli becomes too risky for large vehicles, the authorities are making arrangements for ferries to carry buses and lorries between the Chattogram city and Boalkhali upazila. The government will officially inaugurate three ferries at the end of this month.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

JAMA'ATUL ANSAR Secretariat, jail on shortlist of targets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secretariat, Kashimpur jail, the premises of a court or law enforcers – new militant outfit Jama'atul Ansar Fil Hindal Sharqiya had planned to launch a major attack on either of these targets.

Amid the attention the attack would get, the militants would “launch” itself by releasing a video made over the last one year featuring their members and leaders receiving firearms training.

Investigators have learnt about this plan after interrogating arrested military wing chief of Jama'atul Ansar, Mashukur Rahman.

With the help from the Kuki Chin National Front (KNF), an armed group in the hill tracts, six members of the militant outfit learned how to make explosives, said a Rab officer who interrogated Mashukur.

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DC CONFERENCE

Stay alert to curb market manipulation

Ministers ask deputy commissioners about prices of essentials during Ramadan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The deputy commissioners have been asked to remain alert to corruption in their districts and take strict measures against manipulation of commodity prices during Ramadan.

The directives came at the DC conference held at the capital's Osmani Memorial Auditorium yesterday.

In seven sessions that took place on the second day of the three-day conference, ministers and state ministers discussed various issues with the DCs.

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Mohammad Moinuddin Abdullah directed the DCs to inform the authorities concerned about any form of corruption as soon as possible.

“The DCs have many sources to learn about corruption. We've told them to inform the appropriate authorities about any corruption taking place and take necessary legal action in this regard.”

He said corruption stands as an obstacle in the country's path to becoming a developed nation.

“We have asked them to work sincerely to prevent corruption and help the country progress,” he said at a press briefing after a session.

The ACC chairman also said they will take action against anyone involved in corruption, irrespective of their identities.

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- Guidelines underway for battery-run rickshaws on highways
- Legal action must be taken against bike riders without helmets
- Action must be taken to stop selling rice in plastic bags
- Monitoring on commodity price manipulation needed

AL yet to swing into action

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader has said his party is only rehearsing and the BNP's movement would be gone once the “game” begins in full swing.

“We are yet to start the game; this is just the beginning. What would happen to their mass movement when the game will be played?” said the AL leader.

He said the BNP now have leaders and activists with them, but not the people. “They also don't claim of having the people's support.”

Quader made the comments while addressing a rally, organised by the Dhaka city south AL, in front of the party headquarters on Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday.

Though the rally was organised to mark the Mass Uprising Day yesterday, senior AL leaders in their speeches talked about the BNP as the ruling party held rallies in the city apparently to counter the opposition's programmes.

The BNP held rallies in the capital and other divisional cities and district towns

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BNP goes for fresh agitation

To hold rallies at divisional headquarters on February 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday announced that it would hold divisional rallies on February 4 as part of the ongoing simultaneous movement by the party and its like-minded political platforms.

The opposition party made the announcement from a rally in front of its Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital. The Dhaka north and south city units of the party organised the event marking the “democracy killing day”.

Traffic was disrupted on one lane of the road in front of the BNP office as the other lane was blocked during the rally.

Speaking at the programme, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir announced that the party will stage divisional rallies on February 4 protesting the “killings and repression” by the Awami League government, and demanding the prices of essentials and electricity be cut.

“The incumbent government has restored Baksal [one party rule] in disguise of democracy. Now it is plotting to hold an election of mockery and drama, but people will not allow such an election this time,” he said.

Fakhrul alleged that the AL killed democracy, and it was destroying people's hopes and dreams every day. “This Awami League government must be unseated through a movement.”

Criticising the ruling party for announcing counter-programmes on the day of BNP's demonstrations, he said the AL was doing this out of “fear of losing power”.

About the coming presidential election, the BNP leader said, “Which presidential election is going to be held? The president doesn't have any power. The president cannot do anything without having the opinion of the prime minister. That's why we have put forward a proposal for state

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‘Please point out my failures, I'll correct them’

PM asks Jatiya Party in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the main opposition in parliament to point out if there was any failure on her part and said she would correct herself accordingly.

The premier was replying to a question from Jatiya Party lawmaker Fakhrul Imam.

“People will judge the successes and failures, it is not my responsibility to judge that. Why would I fail if I work with honesty and specific goals for the welfare of the people?” she said.

Hasina also asked the Jatiya Party to find out her failures saying, “When you are so interested, please point out my failures, and I will correct them.”

The premier said she has worked for the welfare of the grassroots people after the formation of the government.

“People are getting the benefits now. Elderly people will know the radical changes in Bangladesh in the last 14 years,” she said.

But, today's generation will not know that, she added.

In response to a question from ruling party lawmaker AKM Rahmatullah, the PM said after the killing of Bangabandhu, Ziaur Rahman seized power illegally and freed the war criminals.

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BNP leaders and activists turn up in droves at a rally in front of the party's Nayapaltan headquarters in the capital. The opposition party organised rallies in Dhaka and other divisional cities and district towns yesterday to mount pressure on the government to accept its 10-point demand, including national election under a non-party caretaker government.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

EC not upset by suspension of EVM project

Says CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday said they were not disappointed over the suspension of a proposal for buying two lakh electronic voting machines.

“An election commissioner already made comments on the issue; we don't want to reiterate this,” he said while talking to reporters at his Election Commission office.

“It's not my personal matter; there's nothing to lose hope or become disappointed. A decision has been made by the government that it will not be able to provide EVMs due to the overall economic condition. There is nothing to react,” the CEC said.

The Planning Commission on Sunday returned to the EC the project proposal of

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