



Govt planning to con people with early polls

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said that the Awami League government might be devising a different strategy to con the people again by going for an early election.

Speaking at the party's sit-in programme, he called on people from all walks of life to be vocal against the misdeeds of the government if they want to get rid of AL's repression and suppression. "They (government) won't go easily. A meeting was held in the Election Commission the day before yesterday (Thursday) where the Chief Election Commissioner talked about taking all measures for the election, if necessary for early an election. That means they now want to take a different strategy," the BNP leader said. As per that strategy, he feared that the government will hold an early election and announce themselves the winners "as they did in the past by fooling people". "We would like to clearly say that people won't allow any of your (government's) strategies to succeed, and they won't fall into any trap. This time the public will put up a resistance and foil all your plans," Fakhrul warned the incumbents.



SEE PAGE 7 COL 4



The KD Ghosh Road area of Khulna city took on the appearance of a battleground yesterday after a clash broke out between police and BNP men during the party's sit-in protest to press home their 10-point demand. With police charging batons and firing tear shells, and BNP men throwing brickbats, the two groups chased each other around.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Prothom Alo, BNP 'supplement' each other

Says Quader

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that an attempt was made to implement the agenda of a certain quarter to catch fish in troubled waters through a report of Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

"The Prothom Alo ran the report quoting a labourer. It is time to think about whether it is a statement of an ordinary labourer or one given by the Prothom Alo," he said.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, made the remarks before attending a joint meeting of the party at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital.

Coming down heavily on the newspaper, he said the Prothom Alo and the BNP "supplement" each other.

"Their target is Sheikh Hasina, [their] target is the government and the people. The target is to foil the next election."

He said on the Independence Day, the media in every country encourage its people to love the country in a new way through running inspiring news on that country.

"But the Prothom Alo is trying to incite frustration and anger among the young generation by presenting false news before the nation."

"There is no doubt local and foreign conspiracies are aggravating the political crisis. There is no doubt this

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2



BM CONTAINER DEPOT BLAST

8 unidentified bodies still in mortuaries

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

Eight bodies, charred in the fire at BM Container Depot Limited in Chattogram's Sitakunda, have been kept in different mortuaries for almost nine months without being identified.

Besides, there is no significant headway in the case filed by police against eight officials of BM depot over the officials' sheer negligence that killed 51 people and injured 250 on June 4, 2022.

Ashraf Siddique, sub-inspector of Sitakunda Model Police Station, filed the case on June 8, 2022. The name of BM depot's owner was excluded from the case documents.

The Detective Branch of Chattogram district police is now investigating the case.

Asked, Md Asaduzzaman, additional superintendent of police (DB and Industrial zone) in Chattogram, said, "We will be able to tell you who is responsible for the incident once the investigation is over."

DB Inspector Mostaq Ahmed Chowdhury, also the investigation officer of the case, said the bodies were kept in mortuaries as they were yet to be identified.

"We have tested the DNA samples with the missing people's family members, but none of the samples matched."

Asked, he said, police did not arrest any of the accused till the filing of this report. "Our investigation is still ongoing."

The eight accused are Nurul Akter, deputy general manager (operations), Khaledur Rahman, manager (admin), Abbas Ullah, assistant admin officer, Md Nasir

"We have matched the DNA samples with the missing people's family members, but none of the samples matched."

Uddin, senior executive (admin and complains), Md Abdul Aziz, assistant manager (inland container depot), Saidul Islam, in-charge (container freight station), Nazrul Islam, container freight station, and Nazmul Akter Khan, deputy general manager (sales and marketing).

Police filed the case under Sections 337/338/304(ka) and 427. In the case statement, police

said the deaths and casualties were due to the fire and explosion that happened because the accused stored hazardous chemicals in the depot without taking any necessary and precautionary steps. The negligence of the accused damaged their wealth and properties.

A probe committee, led by Chattogram Additional Commissioner Mohammad Mizanur Rahman, mentioned 20 recommendations to avoid recurrence of any such incident in its 19-page report with 300 pages attachment.

Following the report, Mohammed Delwar Hossain, deputy secretary of Cabinet Division, on July 25 last year, issued letters to eight departments including the commerce ministry, energy and minerals ministry, defence ministry, shipping ministry, and ministry of industries.

The probe committee also proposed to fulfil the DCIO (DG Cargo Inspection Office) with trained manpower and asked to field inspection of the cargo before issuing NOC.

Apart from that, appointment of trained manpower by exporter

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

Plants make clicking sounds

Study finds

CNN ONLINE



Plants make popping sounds that are undetectable to the human ear, according to recordings made in a new study — and they make more sounds when thirsty or under other kinds of stress.

The research shakes up what most botanists thought they knew about the plant kingdom, which had been considered largely silent, and suggests the world around us is a cacophony of plant sounds, said the study co-author Lilach Hadany.

She said she had long been skeptical that plants were completely noiseless.

"There's so many organisms that respond to sound, I thought there was no good reason for plants to be deaf and mute," said Hadany, a professor at the School of Plant Sciences and Food Security and programme head of the George S Wise Faculty of Life Sciences at Tel Aviv University.

To figure out whether plants actually were emitting sounds, Hadany and her team commissioned soundproofed acoustic boxes.

The researchers placed tobacco and tomato plants in the boxes, rigged with ultrasonic

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2

NSU student dies in bike crash



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A business student of North South University was killed early yesterday after a lorry ramed into a motorcycle in the capital's Lalbagh Beribadh.

Sanjida Akter Tamanna, 27, was a final-year student of BBA.

She was going home to Kamrangirchar from Kalabagan, riding as a pillion passenger of the motorcycle of a ride-hailing service, police said.

She died around 1:00am at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, around three

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1



The once-bustling Shimulia launch terminal in Munshiganj is now almost deserted. Since the opening of the Padma Bridge, the area's business and employment have been steadily declining. Most water vessels now sit idle, where as more than 300 speedboats and launches used to operate there daily ferrying people and goods across the river.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

UNSC concerned over Russian nukes in Belarus

Moscow's UNSC presidency 'symbolic blow': Kyiv

AGENCIES

The UN Security Council was divided Friday as Western nations expressed concern about Moscow's announcement it will deploy tactical nuclear weapons in neighbouring Belarus, but permanent Council member Russia remained defiant.

Meanwhile, a top Ukrainian official yesterday criticised the 'symbolic blow' of Russia assuming the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council.

"It's not just a shame. It is another symbolic blow to the rules-based system of international relations," Andriy Yermak, the Ukrainian president's chief of staff, wrote in English on Twitter, reports Reuters.

Russia took over the presidency of the UN's top security body yesterday, which rotates every month. The last time Moscow held the post was in February 2022, when its troops launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

China and Brazil, for their part, condemned nuclear proliferation in general as the UN Security Council met to discuss the March 25 announcement from Russian President Vladimir Putin, according to AFP.

"This is a further blow to the arms control architecture, to strategic stability in Europe, and to international peace and security," French Ambassador Nicolas de Riviere said at the meeting requested by Ukraine, which has been

SEE PAGE 7 COL 4