



The BNP, left, and the ruling Awami League, right, held massive rallies in the capital's Nayapaltan and Baitul Mukarram national mosque areas yesterday. From the rallies, the BNP formally announced its one-point movement demanding parliamentary polls under a non-party interim government, while the AL reiterated that there will be no election unless under Sheikh Hasina. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN, RASHED SHUMON

Rohingyas for stronger US role in repatriation

Urge visiting US under secy to increase aid
MOKAMMEL SHUVO and PORIMOL PALMA

Rohingyas have urged a stronger US role for their safe and sustainable repatriation to Myanmar when Uzra Zeya, under secretary for civilian security, democracy and human rights, visited the camps in Cox's Bazar yesterday.

They expressed gratitude to the Bangladesh government and the people for sheltering more than a million Rohingyas who fled a brutal military campaign in the Rakhine State of

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Quit, pave way for free, fair election

BNP asks govt at a rally in city, announces one-point movement for non-partisan admin

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Announcing a one-point movement for polls under a non-party interim government, the BNP yesterday asked the government to step down right away and pave the way for conducting the election freely and fairly.

The party declared it will hold marches in all city and district headquarters on July 18 and July 19 in the first programme as part of the one-point movement.

Apart from the BNP, 36 like-minded political parties also announced a one-point movement to press home the same demand.

"There is no more demand. The only demand is resignation of the government, dissolution of parliament, and an election under a non-party interim administration..." said Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, secretary general of BNP.

He was addressing a massive rally, organised by

the BNP's Dhaka north and south units, in front of the party's Nayapaltan central office.

"I am announcing the programme, on behalf of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman, to free the nation [from misrule]. It's a historic moment as other political parties who are with us in the movement are also making similar announcements."

Fakhrul said the BNP and like-minded parties, who are carrying out an anti-government movement, have unanimously decided to make a joint declaration on a simultaneous one-point movement from their respective positions.

He called upon all other democratic political parties to come forward so they, together with the people, can wage an irresistible movement to establish a government of the people by unseating the "fascist and autocratic" government.

RELATED STORY, PHOTOS ON PAGE 2 SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

- March from Dhaka's Gabtoli to Jatrabari on July 18
- From Abdullahpur to Bahadur Shah Park on July 19
- In metropolitan cities and district headquarters on July 18

No polls unless under Hasina

AL declares at a rally in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has said there will be no election unless it is held under Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The announcement came from a huge "peace" rally near Baitul Mukarram mosque yesterday. At another rally only a kilometre away, the BNP vowed to unseat the government through a one-point movement.

Speaking at the "peace" rally, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said, "We, too, have a one-point demand. Our one-point demand is election under Sheikh Hasina."

"The game is on until the election... Take to the streets whenever you are asked," he told the rally organised by Dhaka city (north and south) units of the AL apparently to counter the BNP rally in Nayapaltan.

The archrival parties held the rallies at a time when delegations from the USA and the European Union are here to assess the environment ahead of the national election, slated for January next year.

Quader, also the road, transport and bridges minister, said, "BNP leaders hate Sheikh Hasina because they know they will lose if they participate in the election."

Referring to the foreign delegates, he said, "You want free and fair elections. We want that too. Anyone trying to obstruct free and fair elections will be resisted."

The ruling AL will continue to hold programmes until the polls, he said, asking the party's associated organisations to organise rallies regularly.

Thousands of supporters started to throng the venue before the event started around 2:30pm. Activists came in droves from Savar, Dhamrai,

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EU team explores election laws

Also enquires about media practices

STAR REPORT

The EU Election Exploratory Mission sought to know about Bangladesh's electoral laws and procedures at a meeting with Law Secretary Md Golam Sarwar yesterday.

Speaking to The Daily Star after the meeting, Golam Sarwar said, "I told them that a free and fair election is possible under the present Election Commission as the legal structure to this effect is sufficiently strong."

He also told the mission how the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners were "appointed under the country's law in a very transparent manner" – selected by a committee led by a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

He further said there was no such EC recruitment law in other countries in the subcontinent.

"I informed them that the judicial magistrates work under the Election Commission's supervision during the polls period and that the commission's power to stop voting has been enhanced after the amendment to the Representation of the People Order. They [the mission] were satisfied," the law secretary added.

"I told them that a probe committee is formed under a joint district judge for every constituency once the election schedule is announced. The committee will perform duties till the election result gazette is issued,

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

বিমনিপ্লাহিবি রাহ্মানিবি রাহীম

আপনার উদারতা ছিল আকাশ সমান ও প্রচেষ্টা ছিল নির্ভিক
সৈনিকের মত; কঠোর পরিশ্রম ও দক্ষতার জন্যই আপনি
নিজেকে ছাড়িয়ে আলোকিত করেছেন সমগ্র জাতিকে

বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধা ও কিংবদন্তি শিল্পোদ্যোক্তা
মো: নূরুল ইসলাম
(মে ৩, ১৯৪৬ - জুলাই ১৩, ২০২০)

তৃতীয় মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে আমাদের

বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা

‘যতদিন বেঁচে আছেন বা থাকি
আসুন সবাই মিলে এই দেশের জন্য কিছু করি’
— নূরুল ইসলাম

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