



Nobody will put you in power, join elections

14-party tells BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Conspiracies are being hatched but no external forces will put BNP in power, said 14-party alliance leaders yesterday, urging the opposition party to take part in the next national election.

They said this while speaking at a “peace rally” organised by the ruling Awami League-led combine protesting the “terror and anarchy” by BNP.

“They [BNP] are lodging complaints with foreigners thinking that they will put them in power. No one will be able to put you in power without an election,” SM Mannan Kachi, general secretary of Dhaka city (north) AL, told the rally in Amir Complex area of the capital’s Uttara.

He alleged that BNP and Jamaat want to halt the democratic process and the development trend of the country in the name of movement. They want to assume power without taking part in polls.

To “counter” BNP’s yesterday’s processions, the alliance on Thursday night said they would hold the “peace rally” in Uttara.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 2
PHOTO ON PAGE 3



A lane of the busy street between Kamalapur and Motijheel remains closed to traffic due to installation of utility cables underground. Since the street has become narrow, commuters face congestion at peak hours.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

BRITISH-ERA LAWS

Indian govt proposes overhaul

REUTERS, New Delhi

India’s government moved three bills in the lower house of parliament yesterday aimed at overhauling some colonial-era criminal laws, ranging from the controversial sedition law to strengthening laws that protect women and minors.

On the last day of the monsoon session of the parliament, Federal Home Minister Amit Shah presented bills to repeal and replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act, many implemented by the British before the country’s independence in 1947.

The new legislation “will aim to give justice, not punishment,” said Shah, adding that the overhaul was imperative as the colonial laws have been at the core of the criminal justice system for over a century.

The bills will be sent to a parliamentary standing committee for deliberations before passage.

Some legal experts said the bills, if approved by Parliament, may create disruptions and add complexity to the legal process as courts will have to figure out procedural implications and positions on tens of thousands of existing trials.

BNP’S PROCESSIONS

Quit playing games with polls: Fakhrul

Party to declare fresh programmes in 2 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP will announce fresh programmes in a couple of days to press home its one-point demand for the resignation of the government, said the party’s Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

The Awami League government has destroyed all the achievements of the nation’s independence, he told a rally in the capital’s Badda, from where several thousand activists marched to Chowdhury Para.

“They have destroyed democracy, the economy, and the educational institutions. What they have destroyed the most is the country’s judiciary. Using the judiciary, they are punishing our leaders and activists in false cases,” he said.

However, incarceration and torture will not stop the movement, he told the rally.

The BNP will not let the AL play games with the national election, he said, “If you do not step down on your own, you will be brought down...”

The AL wants to hold an election that resembles the ones held in 2014 and 2018, he said.

The election must be held under a new Election Commission, he said, adding that no election could be held under the Sheikh Hasina-led government.

At another rally held by Dhaka city (south) BNP on Kamalapur Road, BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas said, “Many of our leaders and activists have been injured in police firing, and many have lost their eyes. Sheikh Hasina is resorting to torture to stay in power.”

The Election Commission has lost the constitutional right to hold an election, he added.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1
PHOTO ON PAGE 3

PRICES OF ESSENTIALS

Key ingredients getting out of reach for many

Eggs, chicken, onions, potatoes become dearer

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Although the prices of some daily commodities have decreased, middle- and low-income families are still struggling to make ends meet due to the recent hike in prices of essential grocery items such as eggs, chicken, onions, and potatoes.

According to the Trading Corporation of Bangladesh, prices of eggs and broiler chicken increased by almost 10 percent within a month.

A dozen eggs cost Tk 170 yesterday at the retail shops, compared to an average of Tk 150 just a month ago.

People with limited means are now resorting to buying eggs that get cracked during transportation because they are sold cheaper.

Jomila Khatun, a slum dweller of the capital’s Tejgaon area, went

to buy eggs from local shops, but to her surprise, she found retailers selling eggs at Tk 15 a piece.

She then decided to buy two cracked eggs for Tk 10 a piece. “Earlier, they [cracked eggs] were Tk 6 a piece. But even a piece of cracked egg now costs Tk 4 more.”

When I fry cracked eggs, I frequently find tiny shell fragments in them. I’d rather not buy them, but I don’t really have much of a choice,” said Jomila, wife of a rickshaw puller.

E k h l a s Hossain, a CNG-run autorickshaw driver, went to the Mirpur-2 kitchen market with Tk 1,000, hoping it would be enough to buy the things on his list, but he had to cut back on shopping when he learned the price of eggs and chicken had risen.

“Sonali chicken was Tk 270 per kg last week, but it is now Tk 300 per kg,” he said, adding that he bought a dozen eggs for Tk 160,

which was earlier Tk 145.

The sole breadwinner in his family of four, Ekhlās wanted to buy his children some treats like biscuits, milk, and bananas because they enjoyed them.

However, he was sad to say that he failed to do that much for his two children.

“I thought I’d be able to save some money as green chilli, ginger, and oil prices had decreased. But, at the same time, other essentials got more expensive,” said a disappointed Ekhlās.

Hawladar, an egg retailer from Mirpur-2, said people were buying fewer eggs because of their high price. “My daily sales have dropped to Tk 6,000 from Tk 10,000.”

Broiler chicken was sold yesterday in the capital’s kitchen market for Tk 185 per kg, compared to the average price of Tk 170 per kg around this time last month.

Speaking to this newspaper, Bangladesh Poultry Association President Sumon Howlader said the unusual rise in egg and chicken prices is the result of a syndicate of large businessmen manipulating

SEE PAGE 7 COL 6

Tiger visits forest office in Sundarbans



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

Once again, a wild tiger has been seen roaming leisurely on the premises of a forest department office in the Sundarbans.

A forest guard named Mostak Ahmed filmed the tiger at the Kachikhali Sanctuary Office of Sarankhola Range and uploaded the video on social media on Thursday.

Mostak told reporters that after he woke up in the morning on Tuesday, he saw the tiger right in front of the barracks.

“I was startled by the tiger. After taking in the initial shock, I started filming the magnificent animal with my phone. After a while, the tiger walked towards the forest,” he said.

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1

IS attack in Syria kills 26

AFP, Beirut

At least 26 soldiers have been killed in war-torn Syria’s east, a monitor said yesterday, the deadliest in a new wave of attacks blamed on Islamic State group jihadists.

Despite losing their last piece of territory in Syria in 2019, IS has maintained hideouts in the vast Syrian desert from which it has carried out ambushes and hit-and-run attacks.

IS “members targeted a military bus” in Deir Ezzor province on Thursday, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, as remnants of the jihadist group escalate their attacks.

The latest attack killed “26 soldiers and wounded more than 10 others”, some of whom in critical condition, said the Britain-based group which relies on a network of sources inside Syria.

The Observatory said “dozens of (other) soldiers” were missing after the attack in which the jihadists surrounded the bus and opened fire in Deir Ezzor province’s Mayadeen area, in Syria’s vast Badia desert.

The official Syrian news agency SANA said the “terrorist attack” had caused a number of military casualties, citing an unnamed army source.

Syrian government forces and their allied pro-Iranian armed groups deployed in Deir Ezzor were on high alert yesterday morning, the Observatory reported.

The Observatory’s Rami Abdel Rahman said IS “has recently been escalating its deadly military attacks... aiming to cause as many deaths as possible”.

By doing so, the jihadists are trying to send “a message aimed at showing the group is still active and powerful despite the targeting of its leaders”, he told AFP.



Local boatmen have their boats prepared beautifully for the weekend as the monsoon rain has filled the Pukaria beel to its brim in Sylhet’s Baishtila, making it a popular destination for visitors from around the city. They charge Tk 250-400 for an hour’s ride.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Foreigners being misled by BNP

Says Momen

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday said the BNP is misleading foreigners by providing them with wrong information about the country.

He made the remark while addressing journalists after inaugurating 12 development projects in Sylhet Sadar upazila in the afternoon.

“Our opposition party [BNP] told them [foreigners] that the Hindu population halved in the country in the last 10-12 years during Sheikh Hasina’s regime and that it happened due to persecution. But in reality, the Hindu population increased by 1 million during this period.

“They [BNP] also said the Christian community has been wiped out from Bangladesh. Some of them

SEE PAGE 7 COL 1