



# AL rolls out new programmes to counter BNP

Rallies to be held in Dhaka, other districts from Sept 23 to Oct 4

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League will hold programmes in the capital and other districts from September 23 to October 4 apparently to counter BNP's demonstrations on the streets.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif announced the programmes after a joint meeting yesterday.

This development comes a day after BNP unveiled a series of rallies and road marches, starting yesterday, to press home its one-point demand -- resignation of the government and national polls under a non-partisan administration.

The issue of BNP's 15-day programme was discussed at the joint meeting between AL secretaries, leaders of Dhaka city units and top leaders of the party's associate bodies. The meeting was held at the AL president's Dhanmondi office, said meeting sources.

As part of the AL's programmes, a rally will be held at the south gate of the Baitul Mukarram national mosque on September 23. Dhaka (north) city AL will organise a rally in Uttara and Dhaka (south) city AL a rally at Jatrahari on September 25.

On September 27, Gazipur city AL will hold a rally at

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**WELCOMING AUTUMN ...** When “sharat” starts in the month of Ashwin, it's almost like the clouds descend as Kans grass flowers, known as Kanschul, spread through the lands. Against the blue sky, the flowers sway with the autumn winds, providing an amazing spectacle for all. The photo was taken at Khulna's Dumuria upazila area yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



**SYED SALAHUDDIN ZAKI (1946-2023)**

## Adieu, giant of Bangla cinema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ekushey Padak recipient, national award winner and eminent filmmaker Syed Salahuddin Zaki passed away at United Hospital in the capital's Gulshan on Monday.

He was 77.

The news of his demise was confirmed by Channel i's Managing Director Faridur Reza Sagar.

According to Zaki's colleagues, he suddenly

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## This govt will be forced to step down

Mirza Abbas tells BNP rally in Keraniganj

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas yesterday urged people to get ready to oust the government from power through movement in the coming days.

Addressing a rally in Keraniganj, on the outskirts of the capital, the BNP leader said he was there to ask the residents of Keraniganj to join its ongoing one-point movement demanding the resignation of the Awami League government.

“We will create such a situation across the country that this government will be forced to step down. Prepare yourselves for that day,” said Abbas while speaking at the rally ahead of a procession in front of party's Jinjira office.

The rally, organised by Dhaka district BNP, began around 3:00pm with offering of prayers for the quick recovery of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

From 2:00pm, BNP leaders and activists started gathering at the venue in

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## Passerby now on life support after murder suspect attacked

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals fired at and stabbed a suspect in the film actor Sohail Chowdhury murder case in the capital's Tejgaon Industrial Area on Monday night.

Their knife and gun attack on Tariq Sayeed Mamun, 54, also left two people injured.

Bhuban Chandra Shil, 55, a lawyer, was passing the area on a motorbike when a stray bullet hit his head. He is on life support.

Jayshree Rani, a sister-in-law of lawyer Bhuban, said Bhuban hails from Noakhali and lives in a hostel in Arambagh.

“We came to know about him getting shot from police,” she said. Pedestrian Ariful Haque was stabbed.

Mamun got out of jail on bail about three months ago. He had been in prison for 26 years.

Sources said Mamun was returning to his Tollabagh home from a bar in Moghbazar and when the car he was travelling in reached BG Press area, seven to eight criminals on motorbikes intercepted the vehicle.

Mamun got out of the vehicle amid the hail of bullets and ran but the criminals chased him down and stabbed him in the neck and back, said Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Tejgaon Industrial Police Station.

Mamun was taking treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on Monday but police did not disclose where he was yesterday.

Police officials suspect that the attackers are loyal to top-listed criminal Sanjiddul Hassan Emon, who is now serving a 17-year sentence and is also an accused in the Sohail Chowdhury murder case.

Mamun was once Emon's partner in crime, they said, adding that they had a fall out after Mamun got out.

Talking to reporters at his office, Harun-Or-Rashid, chief of Detective Branch of DMP, said Emon appeared before a court on September 12 where he met Mamun. Emon threatened him then.

“Within a week, Mamun was attacked. Mamun is under our watch. We talked to him. Initially, it is believed that Emon might have had the attack carried out,” he said.

The government on December 27, 2001, published a list of 23

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## TACKLING DENGUE Govt to buy 2m bags of IV fluids from India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has decided to purchase 2 million bags of IV fluids, or injectable saline solution, to address the market shortage of this essential medicine used to treat dengue patients.

According to a health ministry official, a direct procurement proposal to buy 1.2 million bags of sodium chloride and 800,000 bags of glucose saline will be placed before the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs today.

Hossain Ali Khandaker, additional secretary of the health ministry told The Daily Star that as part of this purchase, they already received a consignment of 300,000 saline bags from India.

Md Nurul Alam, deputy director of the Directorate General of Drug Administration, told The Daily Star that as part of this purchase, they already received a consignment of 300,000 saline bags from India.

Prof Ahmedul Kabir,

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## Dhaka had better address Europe's concerns

Experts say European Parliament's resolution on rights issues a credible threat to exports

PORIMOL PALMA

The European Parliament resolution on rights issues in Bangladesh adopted last Thursday is a warning for Dhaka before the EU takes actions that will hurt Bangladesh, said economists and international relations analysts.

They said Europe's concerns over human rights, democracy and civic rights are not new, but they now align with the US's.

Analysts said instead of ignoring and confronting them, Bangladesh should strengthen its engagement with the EU and address the genuine concerns that the EU has.

“I think the European Parliament resolution has heightened the level of risks. If they are not happy with the upcoming elections, they may consider suspending the GSP [Generalised Scheme of Preferences] facility,” said Prof Selim Raihan of the Economics Department at Dhaka University and executive director of the South Asian Network on Economic Modelling (SANEM).

The resolution adopted on September 14 expressed concern at the “deteriorating human rights situation” in Bangladesh and called on the government to restore a safe and enabling environment for NGOs, human rights defenders, activists, and

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**Analysts say that the European Parliament's resolution is “qualitatively different”, especially as it talks about EBA. It is a “credible threat”.**

## US wanted to know about Shahidul murder case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A delegation of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) yesterday wanted to know from the BGMEA leaders about the progress in the labour leader Shahidul Islam murder case and the labour rights situation in the garment sector.

The delegation enquired about the issues at a meeting with the leaders of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association at its headquarters in the capital's Uttara, the association said in a statement.

Shahid, president of the Gazipur unit of Bangladesh Garments and Industrial Workers Federation, was beaten to death outside Prince Jacquard Sweater Ltd in Tongi on the night of June 25.

The USTR, the chief trade negotiating body for the American government, also wanted to know about trade unionism, progress in the reform to the labour law and the minimum wage for garment workers.

The government earlier this year formed a wage board for apparel workers to recommend a fresh minimum wage

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**Mohammad Zafar Sheikh ran his small grocery store in Mohammadpur Krishi Market in the capital for 26 long years. However, it all went up in flames when the market was ravaged by a fire on September 14. From the ruins, Zafar managed to salvage a few products yesterday. He sat in front of his burned down shop and sold as much as he could, earning around Tk 1,100, to remind himself that he could, perhaps, restart his life.**

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Stand against Russia 'genocide'

Zelensky tells UNGA

AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in a wartime trip to the United Nations yesterday urged the world to stand firm against Russia's “genocide,” as he told skeptical developing nations they had a stake in Kyiv's victory.

Taking the rostrum of the UN General Assembly in his trademark military fatigues, Zelensky renewed an invitation for world leaders to join a “peace summit” to end the war on Ukraine's term.

“For the first time in modern history, we have the chance to end the aggression on the terms of the nation which was attacked,” Zelensky said in a speech met with applause led by Western nations but many empty seats.

“This is a real chance for every nation -- to ensure that aggression against your state, if it happens, God forbid, will end not because your land will be divided,” he said, but with sovereignty upheld.

Zelensky lashed out at Russia for what Ukraine says is the deportation of thousands of children. The practice has led the International Criminal Court to issue a warrant for the arrest of President Vladimir Putin of Russia, which says it is taking war orphans into foster care.

“Those children in Russia are taught to hate Ukraine, and all ties with their families are broken,” Zelensky said,

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