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Of stolen gold and clueless cops



BNP leaders and activists attending a rally near the party's Nayapaltan office in the capital. It was organised to press home the party's one-point demand of holding the upcoming election under a neutral government.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Awami League leaders and activists gathered near the south gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital for a "peace and development rally" yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Step down or face non-stop movement

BNP asks AL govt; announces 'grand rally' in Dhaka on Oct 28

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday announced that it would hold a grand rally in the capital on October 28 as part of the final phase of its anti-government movement.

There will be non-stop programmes from October 28 with the aim of forcing the government to step down, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir told a rally in the capital's Nayapaltan yesterday.

He urged the ruling Awami League to make the decision to quit during the Durga Puja holidays next week, paving the way for holding the polls under a non-partisan administration.

"Otherwise, we, along with the people of the country, will oust you," Fakhrul called upon the party supporters to join the rally on October 28, saying, "There will be many obstacles. We will defy those and make the movement a success."

The ruling party is now using social media to mislead people, and state machinery to spread anti-BNP propaganda, he alleged.

At least 96 BNP activists and leaders across the country were sentenced to different terms in prison over the last few months to keep them away from election-related activities, he claimed.

He further said law enforcers detained 250-300 leaders and activists ahead of yesterday's rally.

BNP standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury said, "We are in favour of dialogue, but not while the Awami League is in power. We will participate in dialogue after ousting the Awami League government."

BNP's Dhaka city units organised the rally yesterday to press home the demands for the unconditional release of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and resignation of the government.

Hundreds of BNP leaders and activists attended the rally on VIP

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EC hopes parties will arrive at a consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman hopes political parties will reach a consensus for the sake of people's voting rights.

"The nation is speaking in favour of political consensus. We want to move forward. It is everyone's responsibility..." he told reporters at his office.

"Political parties have more responsibilities because they will participate in the election. They must think about what is good for the country and the people."

He urged the political parties to participate in the election and create an environment for voters to exercise their voting rights.

Nobody wants to remain in uncertainty, he said, adding that the parties should find a solution to the current political problems.

The 12th national election is likely to be held in early January 2024.

"The current situation is conducive to an election."

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It's final: PM to head polls-time govt

Says Quader, threatens counter action if BNP enforces blockade

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League yesterday threatened to go for a "counter-blockade" if the BNP chooses any programme of that sort.

It also vowed not to allow the opposition activists to take to the streets.

The government will conduct a free, fair, and peaceful election, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said, adding that the US announced visa restrictions on those who would obstruct a free and fair election.

"We will see what measures our friends [US] will take against those who will announce blockades," he said, adding that those who announce blockades are anti-people.

Quader was addressing the party's "peace and development rally" next to the south gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in the capital.

The AL's city units arranged the rally marking the 60th birth anniversary of Sheikh Russel, the youngest son of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

"Our message from this event is clear: Sheikh Hasina will not resign during the election. She will lead the election-time government," Quader said.

"The caretaker government system is dead. It has been buried in the Azimpur graveyard. The system will never return."

Quader said people are in real trouble due to the price hike of essentials, but the prices have increased globally.

"We are the victims here. Big powers are increasing the prices, which is why prices are being hiked locally. But today, the IMF

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Govt removes river commission boss

It comes 3 weeks after he criticised a female minister from Chandpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The tenure of National River Conservation Commission Chairman Dr Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury ended halfway as the government cancelled his appointment yesterday, less than a month after he said a female minister from Chandpur was lending support to the syndicate extracting sand from the Meghna river.

The public administration ministry in a gazette said the government cancelled his appointment "in public interest".

Manjur, who previously worked as a Scientific Officer at Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission, was made the River Commission chairman in February last year for three years.



Dr Manjur Ahmed

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HEATWAVE IN BANGLADESH

Older people bear the brunt

1,430 died during 2017-2021

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around 1,430 people, aged 65 and up, have died between 2017 and 2021 from heat-related causes, which have accelerated due to climate change, said a study revealed yesterday.

The number is a whopping 148 percent higher than what it was between 2000 and 2004.

Titled "Impacts of climate change on health in Bangladesh", the study was conducted by the Grantham Research Institute on Climate Change of London School of Economics (LSE) and the Environment and Centre for Climate Change Economics.

According to the study, the health risk to millions of people has been on the rise in Bangladesh due to the impact of climate change.

It said the summer of 2021 experienced a 0.49 percent rise in temperature compared to 1986-2005. Consequently, the number of days experiencing heatwaves has increased by 12 days, leading to higher heat-related deaths.

"Vulnerable people, including the young and the elderly people and those with health issues, suffer significantly during extreme heat and heatwaves," the report said.

Apart from heatwaves, other effects of climate change –

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NZ bring down high-flying Afghans

AFP, Chennai

New Zealand made it four wins from four at the Cricket World Cup on Wednesday with a 149-run thrashing of Afghanistan who came crashing back down after their shock win over defending champions England.

The Black Caps scored 288-6 with Glenn Phillips, Tom Latham and Will Young all making half-centuries as Afghanistan paid a heavy price for five dropped catches.

Rahmat Shah top scored for Afghanistan but his 36 runs occupied 62 balls before his team were dismissed for just 139 in 34.4 overs.

Phillips hit 71 off 80 balls, Latham 68 off 74 and opener Young 54 off 64 balls to lift New Zealand from a precarious 110-4 after they were sent in to bat on a slow pitch.

Mark Chapman fired a rapid 25 off 12 balls with two fours and a six as New Zealand scored 62 runs in the last five overs.

Afghanistan dropped as many as five catches.

These included Young being dropped by Rahmat Shah off Fazalhaq Farooqi before he had scored in the first over while skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi let off Rachin Ravindra on nought and Latham on 38.

New Zealand were off to a slow start of 30 in the seventh over when Mujeeb Ur Rahman removed Devon Conway for 20.

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New Zealand captain Tom Latham (L) and Glenn Phillips run between the wickets during their 144-run partnership in their World Cup fixture against Afghanistan at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday. Both batters scored half-centuries as the Kiwis won the match by 149 runs.

PHOTO: AFP

Can memories of 2007 spark Tigers into life?

AL-AMIN

Does Bangladesh stand a chance to win their World Cup game against an imposing India at the Maharashtra Cricket Association Stadium in Pune today?



ডাক বিভাগের ডিজিটাল লেনদেন

Strength and statistics would heavily speak in favour of the hosts, who won their first three games, including comfortable wins against five-time champions Australia and bitter rivals Pakistan.

The Tigers, on the other hand, lost their way after an impressive victory in their opening game against Afghanistan. They suffered

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