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BNP to woo all,
plans to form a
single platform

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

After enforcing a series of blockades and hartals, BNP is now planning to bring all political parties boycotting polls under a single platform to press home its demand for general election under a non-party neutral government.

Party sources said the ongoing anti-government movement will enter into the next phase on December 18 when the campaigning for the January 7 polls will begin.

“We are planning to form Sarbadalio Sangram Parishad comprising all political parties boycotting the polls.”

A senior BNP leader

The movement programmes will include hartals, blockades, rallies, and demonstrations which the BNP and its allies will use to discourage voters from casting votes.

“We are waging a simultaneous movement along with different political parties. We are ready for talks with the political parties who are yet to join the movement,” said Nazrul Islam Khan, a BNP

standing committee member.

BNP and its like-minded parties have already started talking among themselves about intensifying the ongoing movement.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has talked with the parties that are staying away from the polls to bring them under a single platform, party insiders said.

According to sources, two leaders of Ganatantra Mancha, a platform of seven political parties, are opposing the idea because they have reservations about Jamaat-e-Islami’s inclusion in the platform due to ideological differences.

Wishing anonymity, a senior BNP leader said they are planning to form “Sarbadalio Sangram Parishad” comprising all political parties boycotting the polls.

Zonayed Saki, chief coordinator of Ganasanghati Andolan, a component of Ganatantra Mancha, said they are discussing ways to intensify the movement.

“We call upon all political parties to join the simultaneous movement for the greater interest of the country,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Ruhul Kabir Rizvi, senior joint secretary general of BNP, said all opposition political parties have taken to the streets with an aim to restore democracy and people’s voting rights.

“We all are on the same page with

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Bangladesh Maruf Mridha celebrates after taking a wicket during his side's four-wicket win over defending champions India in the second semifinal of the ACC Under-19 Asia Cup in UAE yesterday. The memorable victory earned Bangladesh a place in Sunday's final against hosts UAE.

PHOTO: ACC

People’s rights, equality
not fully established yet

Prof Serajul Islam Chy says Bangladesh still
lacks characteristics of democratic society

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Choudhury has said people’s rights, equality, and justice are yet to be fully established in Bangladesh.

“The country still has the structure which was left behind by Pakistan and the British. After the country’s independence, we had hoped for a change, but it didn’t happen. We still see rich people laundering money

abroad like the wealthy people did in the colonial states,” he said.

“Changes cannot be brought only through elections. Changes will come through social revolution. To make this happen, a cultural revival is a must,” he said, adding that the university teachers will have to play a role in this regard.

The noted academician made these remarks yesterday at a memorial lecture

SEE PAGE 10 COL 5



Hamas fights
back in Gaza

Israeli strikes kill dozens
more in Khan Younis, Rafah

AGENCIES

Israeli forces and Hamas fought fierce battles throughout Gaza yesterday, witnesses said, suggesting Israel’s ground offensive was meeting stiffer resistance as the US nudged its ally to change a strategy that has inflicted a huge civilian death toll.

Residents in the small enclave reported fighting in Sheijaia, Sheikh Radwan, Zeitoun, Tuffah, and Beit Hanoun in north Gaza, east of Maghazi in central Gaza and in the centre and northern fringes of the main southern city of Khan Younis.

Hospitals in Deir al-Balah, Khan Younis and Rafah reported dozens of dead yesterday including two children. Four people were killed in an Israeli air strike on a house

PHOTO ON PAGE 2

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১৬ ডিসেম্বর
মহান বিজয় দিবস



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Anup
Ghoshal
no more

AGENCIES

Noted Bengali singer Anup Ghoshal, who immortalised the songs in several Satyajit Ray’s musicals, died yesterday. Ghoshal was 77.

He had been hospitalised for the past several days at a private hospital in south Kolkata for old age ailments and died due to multi-organ failure

SEE PAGE 10 COL 2

Star
SPORT

First BD-
NZ ODI
tomorrow

Bangladesh are set to return to their preferred 50-over format, but the ghosts of the World Cup would still be haunting the Tigers as they take on a revamped New Zealand side in the opening fixture of the three-match ODI series in Dunedin tomorrow, hoping to end a winless rut on New Zealand shores in white-ball formats.

STORY ON PAGE 11



Bangladesh Shipping Corporation is commemorating its founder and Father of The Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and all those martyred freedom fighters and heroic soldiers of the Great Liberation War whose sacrifices, valiant struggles and chivalry brought us an independent, sovereign and self-reliant Bangladesh.

On the occasion of the 52nd anniversary of this historic victory, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation is extending greetings to all.

Commodore Md Ziaul Hoque
(TAS), OSP, ndc, afwc, psc, BN
Managing Director

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মহান বিজয় দিবস ২০২৩ উপলক্ষে
দেশবাসীকে জানাই
আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

একটি সুখী, সমৃদ্ধ, ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্রমুক্ত স্বপ্নীল ও ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার অঙ্গীকার এবং সম্ভ্রাসমুক্ত পরিবেশ প্রতিষ্ঠার প্রত্যয় নিয়ে বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ নিজস্ব উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি এবং ২৮টি ন্যস্ত বিভাগের বিভাগীয় কার্যক্রমের সমন্বয় সাধনসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যাদি গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন করছেঃ

- ১) শিক্ষা
- ২) স্বাস্থ্য সেবা
- ৩) কৃষি
- ৪) মৎস্য ও প্রাণি সম্পদ
- ৫) ক্ষুদ্র ও কুটির শিল্প
- ৬) যোগাযোগ
- ৭) পানীয় জল ও স্যানিটেশন
- ৮) সমবায় ও সমাজ সেবা কার্যক্রম
- ৯) জীবাশ্ম ও সংস্কৃতি বিষয়ক কর্মকান্ড
- ১০) স্থানীয় পর্যটন
- ১১) আইসিটি সেক্টর উন্নয়ন এবং
- ১২) মানব সম্পদ উন্নয়ন ইত্যাদি।

একটি উন্নত, সমৃদ্ধ, আধুনিক ও সম্প্রীতির মডেল জেলা হিসেবে বান্দরবানকে গড়ে তোলাই হলো আমাদের দৃঢ় অঙ্গীকার-

ক্য শেহা
চেয়ারম্যান
বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ

জিডি-১৯৫১