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PARTIES BOYCOTTING POLLS 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

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

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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



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

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Bangladesh updates US on labour rights

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka has updated Washington on the steps taken by Bangladesh to improve labour rights and agreed to remain engaged on the issue.

Bangladesh Ambassador to the US Muhammad Imran discussed the matter during a meeting with Julie Su, acting US secretary of labour, in Washington DC yesterday on the sidelines of an event organised by the US Department of Labor.

They discussed the current labour situation in Bangladesh and steps taken by Bangladesh to improve workers' rights, according

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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 Shejaija, 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

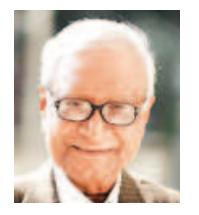
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People's rights, equality not fully established yet

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.



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

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PHOTO ON PAGE 2



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

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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.

Blogee

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

Managing Director



বাংলাদেশ শিপিং কর্পোরেশন
সরকার প্রতিষ্ঠান জৰুৰ ও বাস্তুত মোটোরু মিলিয়নের মতো

Bangladesh Shipping Corporation
Committed for People & Government Participation in Sea Transportation

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

১৬ ডিসেম্বর
মহান বিজয় দিবস

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মহান বিজয় দিবস ২০২৩ উপলক্ষে
দেশবাসীকে জানাই
আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা ও অভিনন্দন

একটি সুখী, স্মৃদ্ধ, ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্র্যুক্ত শ্বেতীল ও ডিজিটাল বাংলাদেশ গড়ার অঙ্গীকার এবং সত্ত্বাসমূক্ত পরিবেশ প্রতিষ্ঠান নিয়ে বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ নিজস্ব উন্নয়ন কর্মসূচি এবং ২৮টি ন্যস্ত বিভাগের বিভাগীয় কার্যক্রমের সময়সহ সাধনসহ নিম্নবর্ণিত কার্যাদি গ্রহণ ও বাস্তবায়ন করছে:

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

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

ক্ষেত্র
চেয়ারম্যান

বান্দরবান পার্বত্য জেলা পরিষদ