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## BNP once again vows national unity govt

Participants in the election, movement  
to be taken aboard, says Fakhrul

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If voted to power, the BNP would form a government of national unity and ensure representation from the parties that would participate in the polls and those who protested against the last autocratic regime, said the party's Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday.

"We have talked about forming a national government with the participation of those who are involved in the elections as well as the movement," he said at the concluding session of the programme titled 'White paper and thereafter: Economic management, reforms and national budget'.

The BNP has been talking about a national unity government. Most recently, in September last year, its acting chairman Tarique Rahman

**"We want both economic and political reforms. But as a democratic political party we want to place greater emphasis on political reforms."**

BNP Secretary General MIRZA FAKHRUL ISLAM



said his party envisions a future where the country is governed by a national government to fully harness the power of national unity.

Yesterday's event was organised by the White Paper Committee 2024 in collaboration with Citizen's Platform for SDGs Bangladesh at the Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Fakhrul said, "We want both economic and political reforms. But as a democratic political party, we want to place greater emphasis on political reforms. The recent mass uprising made one thing clear: there is an intense desire among the people for change. They want to see Bangladesh as a truly happy and prosperous country, to improve their standard of living."

With the support of the people, the BNP would work to make Bangladesh a prosperous country.

But without changing the political structure, fulfilling the aspirations would be quite difficult, he said.

The party's 31-point reform agenda includes limiting the term of the prime minister to two terms, bringing in a balance of power between the PM and the president, and introducing the bicameral parliament system, which is a two-house legislative system similar to the British parliament.

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This photo of a construction site at Titipara, Kamalapur, shows the six-lane underpass project, which is being implemented at a cost of around Tk 100 crore. Upon completion, this infrastructure will allow vehicles to navigate smoothly via the underpass while trains can run uninterrupted on the railway lines above.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Tension flares  
at border in  
C'nawabganj  
3 Bangladeshis hurt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tension flared at the Chapainawabganj border yesterday following an altercation between Indian and Bangladeshi citizens over the cutting of tree branches within Bangladeshi territory.

The incident occurred near BGB's Chouka and Kironganj border outposts in the Binodpur union of Shibganj upazila.

According to witnesses, local farmers were harvesting wheat in their fields near the zero line when a group of Indians entered Bangladeshi territory and began cutting branches from mango trees.

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## 65pc people want local polls before nat'l election

Finds BBS study on electoral reforms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 66 percent of the people favour local government elections before the next national polls under the interim government, a Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics study has found.

The study also found 70 percent of the people support non-partisan local government elections, compared to 28 percent who prefer local elections to be partisan.

BNP against holding local polls before nat'l election

Nagorik Committee favours local polls under interim govt

Yunus said govt preparing for both polls

The state statistics agency conducted the National Public Opinion Survey on Electoral Reforms at the request of the Electoral Reform Commission.

Conducted from December 20-22, the survey on 46,080 households picked one adult (18 or older) respondent per household. Published on Friday, the study is available on the reform commission's website.

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## Add more female cops to the force

Police Reform Commission also  
proposes floating stations

SHARIFUL ISLAM

The Police Reform Commission has proposed floating police stations to combat crimes on waterways, increasing the number of female police for a women-friendly service, and modernising the force with technology driven strategies and advanced forensic technology to enhance the accuracy and efficiency of case investigations.

The introduction of floating police stations has been suggested to ensure round the clock surveillance and swift action against crimes like robbery, smuggling, and trafficking on 24,140 km of waterways across riverine districts like Barishal, Chandpur, Shariatpur, Khulna, and Bhola.

The Police Headquarters would oversee the project's implementation, determining the location of these

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