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BNP discusses polls, regional stability with Russian envoy

UNB, Dhaka

Most foreign countries, including Russia, are waiting for an elected government in Bangladesh through a credible election, said BNP Standing Committee Member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury yesterday.

Khasru made the remarks while briefing reporters following a meeting between BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Russian Ambassador to Bangladesh Alexander Khozin at the party chairperson's Gulshan office.

Khasru and the party's Organising Secretary Shama Obaed also attended the meeting.

"They (Russia) wanted to know how soon the elections could be held," said Khasru.

Foreign countries feel
SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



The Krishnachura trees, crowned with blazing orange blooms, turn the everyday street into a canvas of fire and beauty. The photo was taken yesterday near Chandrima Udyan.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Khaleda to land at 10:30am tomorrow

BNP plans grand reception with affiliated bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Khaleda Zia is set to return to Dhaka at 10:30am tomorrow on a special air ambulance sent by the Emir of Qatar, following four months of medical treatment in London.



BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi announced the return at a press briefing yesterday at the party's Navapaltan office, outlining extensive preparations to receive her, alongside designated locations for affiliated bodies to line the route from the airport to her Gulshan residence.

According to party sources, the air ambulance, carrying Khaleda, her medical team, and close family members – including Tarique Rahman's wife Dr Zubaida Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko's wife Syeda Sharmila Rahman – is scheduled to depart London's Heathrow Airport at 6:15pm (London time) today.

Strict restrictions will be enforced along the route, said Rizvi, adding that walking or motorbike processions accompanying the chairperson's convoy will not be permitted.

Affiliated bodies of the BNP – such as Chhatra Dal, Jubo Dal, Mahila Dal, etc – will line designated points along the route from Hazrat Shahjalal International

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Barrister Abdur Razzaq no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent jurist Barrister Abdur Razzaq passed away while receiving treatment at a private hospital in Dhaka's Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon. He was 75.

He breathed his last 4:10pm at Ibn Sina Specialized Hospital. He was admitted to the hospital on April 19 as he was suffering from cancer.

Razzaq, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court, left behind his wife, two sons and a daughter, and a host of admirers to mourn his death. Advocate Mohammad Shishir Manir, a junior lawyer to Barrister



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Air purifiers for Dhaka: hope or hype?

DNCC to set up 25-30 such industrial devices in public places to curb pollution; experts skeptical

HELEMUL ALAM

The Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) plans to install industrial-grade air purifiers at around 30 public locations to tackle air pollution in the capital.

However, experts have criticised the initiative, calling it an ineffective approach that avoids addressing the root causes of Dhaka's severe air quality issues.

They argue that such devices will have minimal impact on the city's heavily polluted air.

Talking to The Daily Star earlier, DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azaz said around 25-30 purifiers will be set up in 25 to 30 public spaces under a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative, sponsored by a foreign philanthropist. In return, DNCC



While a purifier may reduce pollution within a small perimeter, it won't have a significant impact in an open environment like Dhaka, where air constantly moves. I have no confidence in this approach. It's not a real environmental solution.

Mostafizur Rahman
Professor at JU's Dept of Environmental Sciences

may allow limited advertising rights on the devices.

The market price of each purifier is around Tk 50 to 60 lakh, said Azaz, adding, "Just like 80 trees purify the air, each device will do the same."

Installation is set to begin soon under a pilot project. "We've already received the proposal. Based on the pilot's outcome, we will consider expanding the project. Even then, costs will be covered through CSR funding, with our only expense being electricity," he said.

"We expect to sign a memorandum of understanding within one or two weeks," he said.

Azaz said many of the proposed sites are under other agencies, but they have agreed to hand over the locations.

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2018 QUOTA PROTESTS

Former DU VC, proctor sued over attack, arson

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case was filed yesterday against 13 individuals, including former Dhaka University vice chancellor Prof Md Akhtaruzzaman and former proctor Prof Golam Rabbani, over alleged attacks, arson at the VC's residence, and subsequent repression during the 2018 quota reform movement.

Mohammad Rashed Khan, general secretary of Gono Odhikar Parishad, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station, naming 13 people and about 500 unnamed leaders and activists of the banned Chhatra League.

Speaking to reporters

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4

'Four-year term, 2-time cap for PM' Propose 12-party alliance, BASAD at dialogue with consensus commission



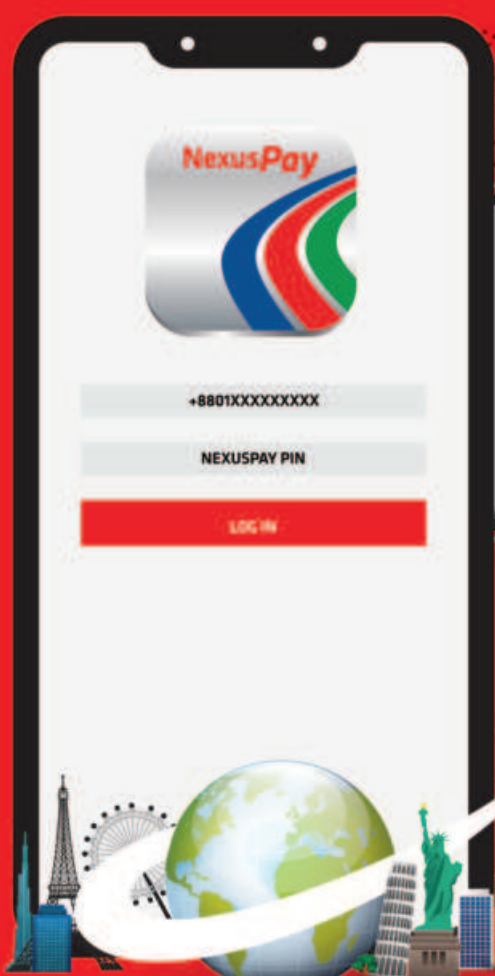
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 12-party alliance has expressed support for the proposed National Constitutional Council and a proportional representation-based upper house, as recommended by the Constitutional Reform Commission.

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Samajtantrik Party (BASAD) has proposed limiting the terms of both the prime minister and president to four years, with a maximum of two terms for any individual as prime minister.

The National Consensus Commission held separate dialogues with the 12-party alliance and BASAD at the LD Hall of the National Parliament yesterday.

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