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This time our fight is against corruption

Says Jamaat ameer at Suhrawardy Udyan rally

MD ABBAS and RASHIDUL HASAN

From its mammoth rally in Dhaka yesterday, the Jamaat-e-Islami vowed to wage war on corruption if it gets the people's mandate in the next general election.

"What will a future Bangladesh be like? I say there will be another fight. One battle has been fought against fascism. There will be

If MPs are elected from Jamaat and form the government, no MP or minister will take government plots or ride tax-free vehicles.

Shafiqur Rahman,
chief of Jamaat-e-Islami

another fight against corruption," Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman said at the rally.

"We will do whatever necessary and win that fight collectively by uniting the strength of the youth," he said.

Seen as a display of its strength, it was Jamaat's first-ever "National Rally" at the historic Suhrawardy Udyan since independence.

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Tens of thousands of supporters turn up for Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami's national rally at the Suhrawardy Udyan held yesterday to press home the party's seven-point demand. *Inset*, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman speaks while seated on the stage floor, after having collapsed twice while addressing the rally.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN/STAR

NCP's rallies foiled after Patwari's jab Nahid Islam says no godfather will be allowed to emerge again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Two rallies of the National Citizen Party (NCP) were foiled before they were held in Cox's Bazar yesterday following controversial remarks made by the party's Chief Organiser Nasir Uddin Patwari earlier in the day.

The rallies, which were supposed to be held in Chakaria and Eidgaon upazilas, were obstructed by BNP activists enraged by the comments allegedly referring to the party's Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed.

Patwari made the comments at a gathering at Shaheed Daulat Maidan of Cox's Bazar Public Library as part of its July protest march.

Addressing the event, he said, "Under the Awami League, Naravanganj once had a famous 'godfather' -- Shamim Osman. Now we hear a new 'godfather' has arrived in Cox's Bazar from Shillong, and he's grabbing land and extorting people."

Without naming anyone, he added, "He doesn't even understand what 'reform' is... The people of Cox's Bazar will resist these so-called reform-opponents who don't understand public sentiments."

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STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday cast doubt on the motives of those questioning the interim government's ability to hold the upcoming national election.

Speaking virtually at an event honouring the role of private universities during last year's uprising, he said such remarks can no longer be viewed as isolated and urged democratic political parties to remain vigilant against any attempt to delay the polls.

Tarique noted that a series of violent and unexpected incidents in recent times has cast doubt, to some extent, on the interim government's capacity to manage



the situation. He, however, questioned whether certain quarters, with support from within the interim government, were taking advantage of the situation and deliberately trying to create instability.

Citing public conversations on social media and elsewhere, he said people are also sensing "something fishy".

"There is hardly any scope now for dismissing these questions raised by some quarters on the interim government's capability to hold a national election as isolated," he said.

"I also call upon the people, all democratic political parties, and those involved in the movement to stay alert and

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UN HUMAN RIGHTS OFFICE IN DHAKA

Focus will be on human rights only Says CA's office

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The mission of the UN Human Rights Office in Bangladesh will focus on addressing serious human rights abuses and will not pursue any agenda outside the country's established legal, social, and cultural framework, the Chief Adviser's Office said yesterday.

"The UN has committed to operating with full respect for Bangladesh's cultural and religious realities," it added, amid criticism from some leftist and rightist political parties.

The statement came a day after the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Bangladesh's foreign ministry.

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Asad Alam Siam signed the MoU to open the mission here for three years.

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