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Tarique warns of ‘covert autocracy’, calls for unity

UNB, Cumilla

A covert autocracy could emerge in Bangladesh if democratic and nationalist forces fail to remain united ahead of the national election, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday.

“In the past 15 years, the nation has seen another form of autocracy, and people have eventually removed it. If we cannot make the people understand the ground reality, if we fail to remain united, then in the coming days a hidden autocracy could emerge in the country.”

Tarique’s comments came at the biennial council of BNP’s Cumilla South District unit at the Town Hall field in Cumilla.

“If we do not all unite now, if the democratic forces fail to unite, if we cannot unite the people of this country, then just as autocracy gripped the nation after independence, and just as after the 1/11 events and the so-called 2008 election, a fascist autocracy mounted the shoulders of the country, the same could happen again.”

Tarique called upon the BNP leaders and activists across the country to put aside all divisions and work shoulder to shoulder.

“We have no alternative but to unite. This must be our pledge and our oath.”

The party’s task ahead is to rebuild and reconstruct the nation with united efforts.

He compared the nation to a house, saying that just as many workers together can build a beautiful home, rebuilding the



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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and his daughter Deena Yunus pose for a photo with US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump at a reception hosted by the US President in New York on September 23. The photo was shared on the chief adviser's verified Facebook page yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

Feminism in Bangladesh is a fight to be human

Speakers say at book launch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Feminism in Bangladesh is not confined to women's rights but rooted in the struggle to be human, to uphold ideals, and to carry forward the unfulfilled promises of the Liberation War, speakers said at a programme yesterday.

They made the remarks at the launch of a book titled “Naribadi Hoye Othar Golpo” (Stories of Becoming Feminist), organised by anti-discrimination non-profit organisation Pragroshor, at Chhayanaut Institute in the capital's Shankar area.

In her welcome speech, Pragroshor Executive Director Fouzia Khandaker Eva said many had questioned the title of the book, but it was chosen to reflect a larger truth. After reading out the opening lines, she added this book was the first part of

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Make ‘political investment’ for Rohingyas

Khalilur urges global community

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman has called on the international community to make “political investment” in Myanmar for Rohingya repatriation, saying the situation in Rakhine State is getting better.

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Yunus calls on int’l community for poll support

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus called on the international community to support the country's upcoming general elections scheduled for February next year.

“We need your guidance – your advice, support and moral strength will be invaluable,” Yunus said while meeting with dozens of global leaders on Friday on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly.

Leaders offered their full support to Yunus and the interim government, according to a press release from the Chief Adviser's Press Wing. They also expressed readiness to provide their expertise and assistance to Bangladesh during this pivotal time.

The delegation was led by former president of Latvia Vaira Vike-Freiberga and included Borut Pahor, former president of Slovenia; Boris Tadić, former president of Serbia; Egils Levits, former president of Latvia; Charles Michel, president emeritus of the European Council and former prime minister of Belgium; George Papandreou, former PM of Greece; Rosen Plevneliev and Petar Stoyanov,

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Section 144 amid blockade over rape of Khagrachhari girl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

The local administration yesterday imposed Section 144 in Khagrachhari as tensions flared during a dawn-to-dusk road blockade in the district, demanding justice for the rape of a schoolgirl.

According to an order signed by District Magistrate ABM Iftekharul Islam Khondokar, the restriction on public gatherings will remain in effect for an indefinite period.

The order states that Section 144 has been imposed to prevent potential untoward situations due to a significant

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