

Menon urges army to play non-political role

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon yesterday urged the leaders and activists of 14-party combine to prepare for tougher agitation and greater sacrifice for the sake of free and fair election.

Speaking at a discussion at Barisal District Bar Association auditorium in the morning, he also called upon the armed forces to play impartial, non-political and non-controversial role at this critical moment.

Menon said the 11-point demand including the reconstitution of the Election Commission must be achieved through mass movement.

He said the transfer of officials in civil and police administration by the caretaker government is being carried out as per the blue print of 4-party alliance.

Menon said the oars and sticks are not weapons, these are traditional symbol of eternal Bengal which were shown and carried by people during the mass movement in 1971.

Presided over by Advocate Shawkat Hossain Hiron, city AL convenor and district 14-party coordinator, the discussion was also participated by Talukdar Md Yunus, Anisuddin Shahid, Laskar Nurul Huq, Golam Masud Bablu, Mujibor Rahman of AL, Abdul Hye Mahub of JSD, Hiron Kumar Das Mithu of Gano Forum and Shanti Ranjan Das and Nurul Huq of Workers' Party.

PROF TAHER MURDER CASE

Charge sheet yet to be submitted

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

The charge sheet in the Prof Dr S Taher Ahmed murder case is yet to be submitted although six months have elapsed after the completion of investigation into the murder of the Rajshahi University (RU) teacher.

The submission of the charge sheet is being delayed as the police high-ups are yet to give the investigation officer (IO) a green light in this regard.

Family members of Prof Taher alleged that the delay is a ploy to save the prime accused, RU Islami Chhatra Shibir President Mahbulul Alam Salehi.

"I met Khoda Bux Chowdhury, presently the Inspector General of Police, several times in the recent past when he was in charge of the monitoring cell of the home ministry for sensational cases. He told me that submission of the charge sheet would be delayed due to the lack of a key witness," Taher's son Sanjid Alvi Ahmed told The Daily Star.

Four accused — Jahangir, Salam, Nazmul and Prof Mia Muhammad Mohiuddin — were arrested within a week of the murder in February.

On February 1, Taher went missing just after he reached Rajshahi from Dhaka. His body was found in the sewer behind his campus house in the morning of February 3.

According to judicial confessions

made by three accused and judicial statements given by five witnesses, out of 43, Prof Mohiuddin and Salehi plotted the murder for their personal and political gains and Jahangir, Salam and Nazmul committed the crime.

Sources in the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) said the IO was recently asked not to submit the charge sheet until a 'direct witness with regard to Salehi's involvement' is found.

"Mystery of the murder has been unravelled. We are now waiting for the high officials' nod," IO Achchanul Kabir said but declined to elaborate. He had sent a draft charge sheet to the home ministry on May 10 for approval.

Taking advantage of the delay in submitting the charge sheet, Prof Mohiuddin has appealed for the transfer of Tk 30,000 from his bank account to his wife's while three other accused prayed for withdrawal of their judicial statements, court and jail sources said.

In June, former Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Naim Ahmed was transferred to Rajshahi DIG post after he told journalists that the police are ready to press charges against the accused.

Jamaat-Shibir leaders had strongly criticised the former RMP Commissioner in open meetings for implicating Salehi in the case. After his transfer, Salehi was freed on bail.

'Ensure participation of all parties in next polls'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government should take effective and visible steps to ensure participation of all parties in a free and fair election, Jatiya Party (JP) (Monju) leaders observed at its presidium meeting at its Lalmatia Central Office in the city yesterday.

Besides, JP Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju and Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam apprised the members of the latest political scenario of the country, including the forthcoming election, programme of the 14-party line up, activities of the caretaker government and the diplomats, says a press release.

Abdur Rahim, Begum Kamrunnahar Zafar, Shah Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury and Col (Retd) Dr Abdul Latif Mollik were also present.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia along with her party leaders places wreaths on the grave of late president Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Hundreds of accused get bail in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Hundreds of accused in cases lodged in the district in connection with political clashes and lawlessness after the hand over of power by 4-party alliance have been granted bail.

A total of 22 cases were lodged against more than 1300 leaders and activists of both 4-party coalition and 14-party combine in the district.

The cases were lodged under different non-bail able sections of arms act, explosive act, speedy trial act and criminal procedure code.

However, maximum accused appearing before the courts were granted bail by the magistrates within a week.

Police Super Abdur Rahim said investigation will continue impartially to arrest the real miscreants.



Former finance minister M Syeduzzaman speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday. On his right is Abul Ahsan and on his left are Laila Kabir, M Mujibul Haque, M Shahjahan, Syed Monzur Elahi and Prof Anisuzzaman. Members of Nagorik Committee 2006 briefed journalists about their recommendations for the caretaker government for bringing amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972. (Story on Page-16)