

# Law and order appears good now: PM

UNB, Dhaka  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the law and order appears good now and actions are being taken immediately after any occurrence.

Hasina said this while she was speaking at a discussion marking the 35th death anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

The prime minister said prices of essential commodities remain stable this Ramadan compared to the prices of 2006-08.

She said Gen Zia had encouraged the killers of Bangabandhu while Khaleda made them MPs. She also mentioned that there are charges against Khaleda's two sons by US federal court.

Hasina said when the people live in good condition, BNP-Jamaat does not feel good and issues threat against the government.

About the existing power crisis, she

dismissed criticism that the government is doing nothing in the power sector. As head of the government, she said, she has curtailed some procedures to quicken the process of power generation.

Already work orders were given for generation of 2,500MW of electricity, she said, adding that problem is being tackled by setting up quick rental power plants.

Hasina, however, referred to administrative 'impediments' her government has been facing in accomplishing various tasks because of "politicisation of the administration by the BNP-Jamaat government."

Terming the August 15 as a black day, Hasina said the defeated forces of 1971 had not only assassinated Bangabandhu but also assassinated his ideals and aspiration of the Bengali nation. She said the August 15 was followed by the killing of four national leaders.

The prime minister said anti-constitution usurpers of power killed

innumerable people and members of the armed forces. She said some 600 Air Force officers were killed by the military dictators.

Those who could not accept the country's independence staged the August 15 massacre, she said.

Hasina said trial of the killers of Bangabandhu has been completed and the trial of war criminals has started. "Insha-Allah, trial of the war criminals will also be completed."

She again accused the BNP-Jamaat of pushing the country towards ruination by patronising corruption and militancy. "We will salvage the nation and bring smile to the face of the common people by completing the unfinished tasks of Bangabandhu," she said.

Dhaka City AL acting president MA Aziz presided over the discussion. Kamal Ahmed Majumdar MP, litterateur Selina Hossain and economist Abul Barakat also spoke at the meeting.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia talks to journalists in front of the VIP gate of Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the city yesterday prior to her departure for Saudi Arabia to perform Umrah. (Story on Page 1)

## Saudi support for Pak flood-hit people

METRO DESK

Saudi nationals have raised a fund of 400 million Saudi Riyals for the flood affected people of Pakistan, says a press release of the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka.

The fund was raised at the instruction of the custodian of the two Holy Mosques King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz.

The instructions came within an hour of the disaster for opening air bridge between the Kingdom and Pakistan for providing immediate food assistance. The kind Royal instructions have also been issued to organise public campaign through Saudi air channels to encourage the Saudi nationals for providing monetary support to the affected people in Pakistan which reached 400 (four hundred) million Riyals.

Directives have also been given for establishing two field hospitals with a capacity of 400 beds with all facilities to provide emergency medical services and medicines for the needy.

In accordance with instructions, a Saudi team of civil defence force has been sent with all equipment to participate in rendering assistance for the stranded people by the flood and rain in Pakistan.

The Saudi air and sea ports are still providing assistance in all possible ways to the people of Pakistan.

## Ershad can be tried under army act

Says Anisul Huq

UNB, Dhaka

Former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad can be brought to justice under the Army Act, 1952 on charges of "mutiny and insubordination" as he usurped power overthrowing the then president, the supreme commander of the defence services of Bangladesh.

Advocate Anisul Huq, an eminent jurist, said this to the news agency yesterday.

The offence (mutiny and insubordination), under section 31 of the Army Act, is punishable by death.

Anisul, a senior lawyer in criminal law, said that the higher courts' judgments on the fifth and seventh amendments to the Constitution that declared illegal the promulgation of martial law, made an identical observation that the military usurpers should be suitably punished.

The parliament may enact a law in this regard,

he added, referring to the apex court judgments.


As to how Ershad can be put on the dock, Anisul said neither the constitution nor the existing Penal Code provides for this.

There is no specific provision under the Penal Code to try and punish a military usurper.

Besides, article 35 (1) is the main impediment to putting Ershad on the dock. It says: "No person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act charged as an offence."




On March 24, 1982 the then army chief Lt Gen HM Ershad usurped state power overthrowing the elected government of Justice Abdus Sattar of BNP. He put the country under the martial law, suspending the constitution on the pretext that members of the ruling party were ignoring their duty to the state and bickering for power amongst themselves, thus jeopardizing national security and sovereignty.

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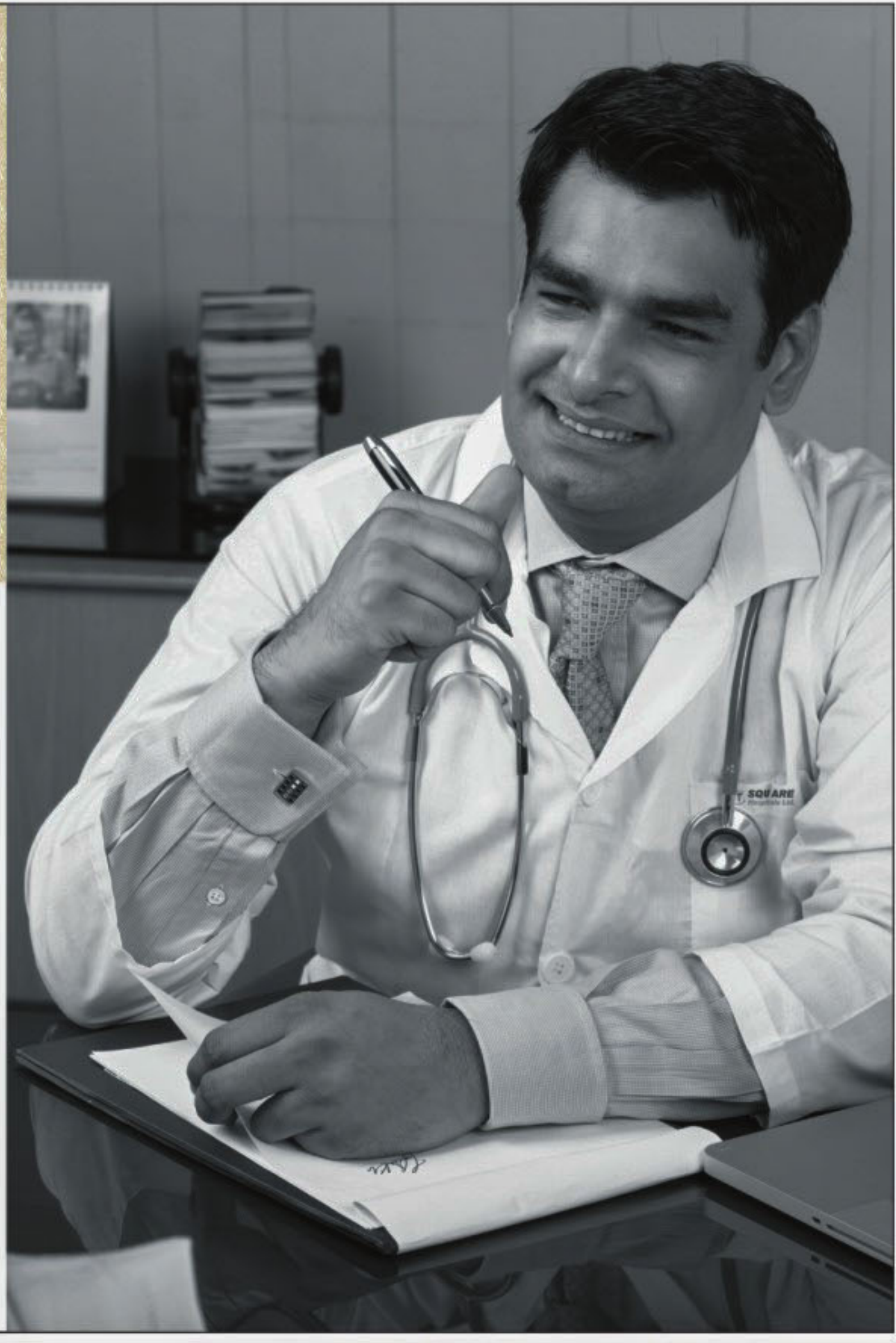


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