

**BDR MUTINY TRIAL**  
**Chief prosecutor slams HRW report**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming the Human Rights Watch (HRW) report on the BDR mutiny trial "fabricated and unnecessary", the chief prosecutor yesterday said the report encouraged the accused to create chaos and act unusually.

"There was a sort of resentment among the BDR members over food served during the trial, meeting relatives in the courtroom, setting up more washrooms and removing fetters during trial. But there was no allegation of torture," Chief Prosecutor Anisul Huq told reporters yesterday.

HRW's July 4 report termed the trial fundamentally flawed and the accused as the prey of gross human rights violations.

HRW officials also called upon the government to immediately halt the trial and disband Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) for torturing the accused at Rab headquarters.

Anisul claimed that none of the erstwhile Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) members were kept under Rab custody.

"Their (HRW's) representatives never visited the court or the accused BDR members," he said.

Afterwards, one of the defence counsels, Faruk Ahmad, claimed that the report was prepared on real facts and interviews with relatives of the accused and the defence counsels.

On July 9, the accused BDR members began shouting in the courtroom challenging the validity of the trial.

The judge stopped the trial for around one hour and 45 minutes and sat with the defense, prosecution and BGB officials



Women parliamentarians of South Asia attend the closing ceremony of South Asia Women Parliamentarians Conference: Women Leading for Gender-Responsive Governance at Radisson Blu Hotel in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

**Govt to set up cooperative markets across country**  
**Says Nanak**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cooperative markets will be established across the country to ensure fair prices of farmers' produce, said State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak yesterday.

"We have taken steps to eliminate middlemen between producers and consumers to make sure that the farmers are not deprived of fair prices for their products," he told reporters after a meeting with the deputy commissioners at the ministry.

He said there are instructions from the prime minister in this regard, and the government has already turned many BDR shops into cooperative markets in the capital and more are in the offing.

Refuting allegations of conflicts between

lawmakers and DCs, Nanak said they have their own rules of business and operate accordingly.

He asked the deputy commissioners to promptly repair the damaged roads and other infrastructure damaged by the recent floods.

After a session with the DCs, Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury told reporters that she asked the DCs to directly inform the ministry if any problems arise in the field levels. "We shall immediately take actions."

She also asked the DCs to encourage farmers in the northern region to grow more high value crops that require less water during dry season, as there is water shortage.

In the southern region, there is no shortage of water in dry season, and so the farmers in that region should be inspired to grow rice during dry season, she said.

**Doctors lobby for posting in Dhaka**  
**Says PM's health adviser**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors, posted outside Dhaka, come back in the capital through lobbying despite the prime minister's repeated warnings in this regard, said Prime Minister's Adviser on Health and Social Welfare Prof Modassar Ali yesterday.

"In our country, you can't stop lobbying," he told The Daily Star in reply to a question about doctors not staying in remote areas and thus depriving patients of health services.

Emerging from a meeting with deputy commissioners (DC) at the Secretariat last night, Modassar categorically blamed the DCs who informed him about acute manpower shortage at the government hospitals across the country.

"When you are deputy commissioners you raise the issue of manpower crisis but when promoted you create a bureaucratic tangle in manpower recruitment," he told the DCs.

Modassar advised the DCs to change their mindset in this regard.

He, however, admitted his failure to execute PM's verbal commitment to the doctors to give incentives to their children when posted in remote areas.

**6 killed, 20 injured in road accidents**

METRO DESK

Six people including three children were killed and 20 others injured in road accidents in Mymensingh, Jessore, Magura and Sherpur on Tuesday and yesterday.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports, three people were killed and 20 others injured in a road accident on Mymensingh-Sherpur highway at Chandpur in Phulpur upazila yesterday.

Two of the dead were identified as Hazi Abdur Rahman, 50, and Habibur Rahman, 15.

Police said the accident took place when a bus fell into a roadside ditch after colliding head-on with another bus around 2:15pm.

Of the injured, eight were rushed to Phulpur Upazila Health Complex, and two were admitted at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital.

Our Benapole correspondent reports, a

boy was killed on the spot when a motorcycle hit him on Jessore-Norail highway in Jamdia area in Jessore sadar upazila yesterday.

The victim was Tanvir ahmed, 5, son of Dipu Ahmed of the area.

UNB reports, two children were killed in road accidents in Magura and Sherpur districts on Tuesday.

In Magura, schoolgirl Rumi Khatun, 11, was killed on the spot when a bus hit her on Jessore-Dhaka highway at Shotokhali village in Shalikhra upazila.

Police said a bus of 'Hanif Paribahan' hit Rumi from behind while she was crossing the road.

In Sherpur, a boy was crushed under a truck while he was crossing a road in Dhonakusha area in Nakla upazila. The victim was Atique, 6, son of Kalam Mia of the area.



Everest conquerors MA Mohit, Nishat Majumder and Wasfia Nazreen with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at a reception the party accorded to them at its Gulshan office in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: BNP

**Bus strike called off**

STAR REPORT

Bus owners withdrew their indefinite strike yesterday, seven hours after they halted operations on the Munshiganj-Narayanganj-Dhaka routes.

Narayanganj-Munshiganj District Bus, Minibus, Truck and Covered Van Owners' Association called the strike around 6:00am protesting the plying of Raf Raf Paribahan buses on these routes illegally.

Raf Raf Paribahan was operating buses from Panchabati to Gulistan on Dhaka-Narayanganj-Pagla road without route permit, said the association President Mukter Hossain.

The strike was called off around 1:00pm after local administration assured the bus owners that steps would be taken to halt the bus services of Raf Raf Paribahan until it receives the route permit, report our Narayanganj and Munshiganj correspondents.

During a meeting with the bus owners at Narayanganj DC office, the administration also assured the bus owners to evict all counters of the Paribahan.

**AL not sincere about electoral pledges**

Observes Shujan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led government could not implement most of its electoral pledges due to a lack of political will and sincerity, observed speakers at a discussion yesterday.

The government's popularity declined over the years as it could not take any confidence building measure to implement the promises in the electoral manifesto, "A Charter for Change", they said.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), a non-government organisation working for good governance, organised the discussion, "Charter for change and the government's three and a half years", at Jatiya Press Club.

During discussions over the government's failure in curbing corruption and controlling price hike of essentials, former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder stressed the need to make Anti-Corruption Commission more effective.

He also emphasised on monitoring to end the influence of middlemen and control the price hike of commodities.

Politicisation, political blame game, inappropriate foreign policies and influence of ruling party men were the major impediments to implementing the pledges, said noted columnist Syed Abul Maksud.

He suggested that the government should form an independent commission to investigate into the corruption allegations over the Padma bridge funding.

Maksud also urged the National Human Rights Commission chairman to stop giving speeches and pressurise the government into investigating different incidents of human rights violations.

Former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) M Sakhawat Hussain said a fair poll was impossible under the existing constitutional provision which allows lawmakers to remain in office during the polls.

The latest amendment to the constitution last year introduced provision No. 123 (3) (A), stating that the parliamentary polls will be held within 90 days preceding dissolution of the House.

"The present Election Commission takes us as rivals and does not deem it necessary to amend the RPO (representation of the people order), which we had proposed during our tenure," said Shakhawat.

"Irrelevant" comments of some ministers tarnished the government's image, he viewed.

BNP standing committee member Lt Gen (ret'd) Mahbubur Rahman said Bangladesh was slowly losing friends due to the government's wrong foreign policies.

Although the AL pledged to establish a new political culture, intolerance and an attitude of envy continue to spread, said Shujan Secretary Prof Badiul Alam Majumdar.

Shujan acting president M Hafizuddin Khan chaired the function where former lawmaker Prof Abdul Mannan also spoke.

**Burglary at temple in capital**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted valuables including around two tolas of gold ornaments, 70 tolas silver from a temple at KG Gupta Lane in the capital's Sutrapur area yesterday, temple authorities said.

Shyamal Bhattacharya, priest of the Lakshmi Narayan Bigroho Jeu temple, said the robbers also took away Tk 30,000 from its donation box.

The priest said he found the missing of valuables after opening the temple's main gate around 7:30am.

He locked the main gate of the temple around 11:00pm on Tuesday.

Mahbubur Rahman, sub-inspector at Sutrapur Police Station, said they detained three people in connection with the incident.

A case was filed with the police station.

**JU students raise money for Padma bridge**

JU CORRESPONDENT

Students of public administration department at Jahangirnagar University have raised a total of Tk 5,087 for construction of Padma Bridge as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has declared to finance the bridge construction from the country's own sources.

On behalf of the department, its Chairman Prof Mahmudur Rahman handed over the money to Vice-Chancellor Prof Anwar Hossain yesterday.

Smuggled wood seized

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized smuggled wood worth around Tk 10 lakh and arrested two persons from Oxygen area in Chittagong city yesterday.

The elite force in a drive at wood market seized a wood-laden truck and held Monir Hossain and Mohammad Idris, said a press release.



Hawkers occupy a major portion of a road obstructing traffic in the capital's Gulistan. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

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