Son of another freedom fighter and commander of the Bangladesh Liberation Front Sheikh Fazlul Haque Mani, Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh says that one way of reducing the economic and population burden on the capital is to decentralise the country. He hopes that the government will be able to establish an urban development ministry in every big district that will solely deal with the problems and development work of its city. This will ensure that projects are run in a coordinated, planned manner.

A coordinated organisation is a must for more reasons than one. Even though there are city development organisations such as Dhaka City Corporation, RAJUK and the Ministry of Housing and Public Works, their work is centred on the entire country, thus it becomes difficult to focus on individual cities. Moreover, whenever there is any work to be done, conflicts arise between organisation like the City Corporation, Water and Sewage Authority (WASA) and RAJUK, as they try to determine and stake a claim on their areas of expertise and responsibilities. Thus, most works are either left midway due to such conflicts or remain tied in bureaucratic hassles.



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Barrister Fazle Noor Taposh

"We first need to decentralise Dhaka and identify the capabilities of the other cities of the country. Each city can be turned into economic and financial success stories if we can focus on how they can contribute to their local and national development," says Taposh.

Taposh also criticised the current state of student politics, stating that he has always been vocal against their violent activities during the meetings of the ruling party. "Students who were involved with politics in the 1950's or '60s had a complete understanding of politics. They acquired knowledge about various issues before deciding to engage in politics. However, at present, student politicians enter politics without any education, knowledge or political orientation. When we saw that student politicians of Dhaka College were creating havoc, we decided to close our student body wing in that college. We need organisational reform in student politics if we want the current lot of student leaders to follow the path of their predecessors."

Meanwhile the young politician is trying to make changes, albeit modest, in his constituency, Hazaribagh. There were no fire stations in Hazaribagh in the last 20 years or so. Taposh made sure that such a basic emergency service was made available in his constituency since his appointment as a member of the parliament. Moreover, work is almost complete on the installation of a drain system in Jigatola, which falls under Taposh's constituency of Dhaka-12.

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