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Quader rightly pointed out ill practices

Say Ctg AL leaders; central leaders term his comment indecent

STar Report

Awami League leaders have given mixed reactions about party General Secretary Obaidul Quader's remark that when the party would lose power, the AL men would have to be on the run with all the money they have been making.

Several AL leaders in Chittagong said Obaidul "rightly pointed out the ill practices" by some party men, while some central leaders said he should not have made such comments.

It is indecent to talk like that in public, said the leaders in Dhaka, asking not to be named.

Two of the six central leaders The Daily Star spoke with yesterday said Quader, also the road and bridges minister, was talking "rubbish" recently for media coverage.

However, one secretariat member of the AL said grassroots leaders and workers were happy about the comment because they were against making money using the party's name.

At a meeting in the port city on Saturday, Quader warned party men that those who were making money would have to go into hiding when the party would no longer be in office.

"Power doesn't last long. I request you not to abuse power. Money will not be with you for long. You have to think about it," he said.

One party leader in Dhaka said Quader would be sidelined if he continued to make such "rubbish" comments.

Quader is well-known for his public comments, often triggering debates and criticisms.

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The rickshaw-van puller hauls a heavy load in scorching summer heat with the help of a rubber belt, one side of which is fastened around his shoulder and the other tied to the vehicle. The photo was captured in the capital's Shantinagar yesterday.

PHOTO: AnISUR RAHMAN

Rule of law not fully established

Says the chief justice

Staff Correspondent

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday said the rule of law has not been fully established in Bangladesh, which the neighbouring countries have succeeded in doing.

"Once upon a time, the law of Pakistan was termed Ayub's constitution... The rule of law exists even in that country but we could not fully establish it yet. Not to mention India, Sri Lanka and Nepal that are far ahead," he added.

The chief justice made the comments while speaking as the chief guest at a function organised to inaugurate the Department of Land Law and Management at Jagannath University.

In Pakistan, he said, the SC controls the transfer and promotion of lower court judges, a system which is not followed in Bangladesh. That's why the chief justice here has to speak up.

He added that in developed countries, even in SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

Eid bonuses for war heroes

Partha Pratim Bhattacharjee

The celebration of Eid will be more joyous for the freedom fighters as the government has decided to give them Eid bonuses.

Around 2.12 lakh freedom fighters will get two annual bonuses which are equal to their monthly allowances.

The decision came at a meeting between the finance and the liberation war affairs ministries with Finance Minister AMA Muhith in the chair at his ministry yesterday.

"We have decided to give the freedom fighters two Eid bonuses, equal to their monthly allowances. It was their long-standing demand and it is being met today [Sunday]. Besides, there was a directive from the prime minister in this regard," Liberation War Affairs Minister AKM Mozammel Huq told The Daily Star.

He said the war heroes would get the bonuses of the last year as well.

The minister added that they sought Tk 400 crore from the finance ministry, and the finance minister agreed.

"The finance ministry would soon issue a circular in this regard," said Mozammel.

In September last year, the government had decided to more than double the monthly allowances for injured freedom fighters and those recognised for valour,

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Trump blasts media, critics in Pennsylvania

Skips White House correspondents' dinner where he was roasted by comedian, journalists

Reuters, Harrisburg, Pa.

US President Donald Trump hit the road on Saturday to celebrate his first 100 days in the White House with cheering supporters at a campaign-style rally, touting his initial achievements and lashing out at critics.

In an hour-long speech Trump lambasted the media and predecessor Barack Obama, boasted of his support for US industry and the military, and vaunted his foreign policy positions including on confronting North Korea, earning cheers from the crowd in Pennsylvania.

The president held the campaign-style rally -- in a state that helped tip the election in his favour -- while snubbing a traditional White House correspondents' dinner taking place late Saturday, where he had risked being roasted by comedians.

Declaring himself "thrilled" to be far from "the Washington swamp" and the "very boring" dinner, the president sneered at "fake news" CNN and the "failing" New York Times.

"They are a disgrace," he said.

The black-tie affair in Washington was headlined by veteran investigative journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who gained fame in the Watergate scandal that prompted the resignation of former President Richard Nixon.

Woodward rebuffed the president's relentless barbs against news outlets. "Mr President, the media is not fake news -- let's take that off the table as we proceed," he said.

"Whatever the climate, whether the media is revered or reviled, we SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



Shazneen Murder Case Court issues Shahidul's death warrant

Staff Correspondent

A Dhaka court yesterday issued the death warrant for Shahidul Islam, convicted in the Shazneen rape and murder case.

The warrant came five days after the Supreme Court rejected Shahidul's petition for reviewing its earlier judgment that upheld his death penalty.

Judge Shafiqul Azam of the Second Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression issued the warrant after receiving the full SC verdict.

Abdul Baten Chowdhury, a tribunal staff who took the death warrant to the authorities of Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj around 5:15pm, confirmed the news to The Daily Star.

A Dhaka Central Jail official said they will send SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Weapon against Drunk Husbands! Newly-weds get wooden paddles

AFP, New Delhi



AFP, New Delhi

An Indian state minister has given hundreds of wooden bats to newly-wed brides, urging them to use the paddle as a weapon if their husbands turn alcoholic or abusive.

Gopal Bhargava gave the bats -- which are used to get dirt out of clothes in traditional laundries -- to nearly 700 brides at a mass wedding organised by the government of central Madhya Pradesh state on Saturday.

The nearly foot-long paddles are emblazoned with messages that read: "For beating drunkards" and "Police won't intervene".

Bhargava told the brides to reason with their husbands first, adding that they should "let the SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

MP Liton Murder Cops submit charge sheet against 8

Our Correspondent, Gaibandha

Police yesterday forwarded a charge sheet accusing eight persons, including former Jatiya Party lawmaker from Gaibandha-1 Col (ret'd) Abdul Kader Khan, over the murder of ruling party lawmaker Manzurul Islam Liton.

It said Kader planned, financed, and hired people to carry out the murder so that he could retake the constituency.

The sole accused yet to be arrested is former office secretary of Sundarganj upazila Awami League Chandon Kumar Roy, whom police say left for India.

Kader's driver Abdul Hannan and caretakers of his house Shaheen Mia Shanto and Rashedul Hasan Mehdi are accused of carrying out the murder.

Liton died after assailants SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

'Why is Iqbal still the BCIC chairman?'

HC asks authorities to explain

Staff Correspondent

The High Court has asked authorities concerned to explain how Mohammad Iqbal is still the chairman of the BCIC when he was transferred with immediate effect more than a month ago.

The court on April 26 issued the rule upon the authorities to explain in four weeks.

Iqbal has been working as the chairman of Bangladesh Chemical

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Lest she should lose the child, a homeless woman tied the child's leg to her waist before she fell asleep on a pavement near Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday.

PHOTO: AnISUR RAHMAN

Mihir Kumar Nandi: Life dims for a luminary



Fahim Ferdous

Ustad Mihir Kumar Nandi, one of the most prominent figures of Chittagong's musical and cultural movement, is in critical condition.

The veteran Rabindra Sangeet singer and classical vocalist is suffering from cancer. He is in life support at a private medical clinic in the port city.

He was diagnosed with the disease six months back, Shila Momen, a long-time associate of Mihir Nandi, informed The Daily Star.

"He was diagnosed with liver cancer when he went to Kolkata for treatment of other ailments. He had surgery there and was doing better after chemotherapy. But there SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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