

Feroz Rashid disappointed over JP role in JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party lawmaker Kazi Feroz Rashid yesterday in the parliament expressed disappointment over the failure of this party to play a strong role as the main opposition party in the House.

"People do not consider us as the opposition party because we cannot speak. I cannot talk even against my party, neither can vote against it due to article 70 of the constitution," he said while speaking on a point of order.

Coming down heavily on the government for widespread corruption in different sectors specially banking, Feroz said, "Hundreds of crores have been looted from banks but nothing could be revealed in this regard."

People having close relations with the government are responsible for looting money from banks, as a result banks are suffering from capital crisis. Hundreds of crores are being laundered through illegal VOIP, he added.

Anarchy is prevailing everywhere, on the other hand, good governance is missing in the country, he added.

"Although we are aware of this, we remain silent. We speak less. You can term us the opposition party or as the part of the government," he added.

Pointing to opposition leader Raushan Ershad, Feroz said, "My leader is sitting here. I do not want to say much."



Launches docked at the capital's Sadarghat terminal after a severe a weather warning was announced due to cyclone Mora. The photo was taken yesterday around 2:00pm.



Saber gets WHO 'No Tobacco' award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, has been announced as a recipient of the "World No Tobacco Day 2017" award given by the World Health Organization (WHO).

According to a WHO press release issued yesterday, Saber is among five recipients who will receive the award in the Southeast Asia region.

The award highlights Saber's active and continuous contribution in tobacco control at local, national, regional and international levels.

He has been selected for the award for "initiating inclusion of tobacco control in the country's seventh five-year plan in 2015, for sustainable resources for the programme," according to the release.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Blame rain, not WDB

Says water resources minister about haor embankment damage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Water resources minister yesterday said flash floods due to excessive rain in the haor areas caused damages to the embankments, not the negligence of WDB officials.

Anisul Islam Mahmud made the remark in the parliament amid a countrywide outcry about allegations of corruptions of WDB (Water Development Board) officials in embankment development works.

Responding to lawmakers' queries, the minister even went as far as saying that an embankment could also get damaged from holes dug by rats.

The WDB received the backing of the water resources minister at a time when the ministry is investigating corruption and negligence allegations against a number of WDB officials.

While replying to a supplementary question, the minister said, "Today I am bound to say that many people are talking about haors, but none of them mentioned facts and figures to back up their comment."

"This year, 5,000 millimetres of rain fell in nine days at Cherapunji [in India]. During the same time, 600 millimetres

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SC establishing justice despite judiciary's 'deplorable' state

Says chief justice during hearing of 16th amendment; nine amici curiae placed arguments against it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite "deplorable condition" of the judiciary, the Supreme Court always takes necessary steps for establishing justice for the people, said Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday.

"I can confidently say that the Supreme Court has been setting remarkable examples through its work", he said.

Referring to infrastructural setbacks in the judiciary, the chief justice said, "We [judges] are in a pathetic situation. Many judges were not provided with computers. The Supreme Court has no administrative building and



many of its officials have no office rooms. There is no district judge in some districts for around six months".

Justice SK Sinha made the remarks while presiding over a seven-member bench of the Appellate Division of the SC during a hearing of an appeal against the High Court verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment of the constitution.

The 16th amendment had empowered the parliament to remove the SC judge for incapacity or misbehaviour.

Following a writ petition filed by nine SC lawyers, the HC on May 5 last year declared

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Deal inked to set up 16 support centres

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Denmark will give Tk 27.6 crore for establishing 16 new One-stop Crisis Centres (OCCs) at public medical college hospitals in Bangladesh to provide shelter as well as medical, legal and psychological support for women and children who have been victims of violence.

State Minister for Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Meher Afroze Chumki and Danish Ambassador to Bangladesh Mikael Hemniti Winther signed an agreement in this regard yesterday, said a Danish embassy press release.

"The OCCs give women who have been exposed to violence safe haven and an important help for them and their children. At the centres, doctors, a lawyer, police officers and a psychologist will ensure that they can get treatment and take legal actions all under one roof," the ambassador said.

The OCCs are managed by the Bangladesh government, which is covering 75 percent of the costs. Denmark is covering the last 25 percent, said the release. Since 2000, Denmark and Bangladesh have managed OCCs all around Bangladesh.

Around the country in 25 days!

SHAHADAT HOSSAIN, ctg

For 20-year-old Munna Shikder, it all began after hearing a story of an old man who travelled the country by riding bicycle about six to seven years back.

Ever since, he started dreaming of travelling the 64 districts on a bicycle.

Failing to get his family's support, Munna, son of retired policeman Neyamot Ali, started tutoring from class eight to save money for a bicycle.

Youngest among seven siblings, Munna finally was able to buy one at Tk 30,000 in 2016. In November of the same year, he became a member of D-Chokrozan, a Chittagong based group of cyclists.

He moved from place to place in Chittagong with the group and it was until April 9 this year, he finally decided to start his journey. Munna began his tour at 5:00am from Chittagong City Gate area. He cycled for 10 hours a day on an average and travelled around 4,100km.

After cycling for 25 days he reached Cox's Bazar sea beach at 6:00pm on May 3 and thus completing his journey.

During his tour he went to all the Sadar upazilas and tourist spots of the 64 districts.

"It was not easy," said Munna, who is from Gopalganj and currently resides in Halishahar area of Chittagong city.

"I took the local roads instead of the highways to touch all the districts in a short time. Cyclists of different districts helped me by providing food and shelter," he said, adding, "I had to stay in hotels only in four places and it required Tk 7,800 to complete my journey."

Noman Siddique, a member of D-Chokrozan who travelled 64 districts in 29 days by riding bicycle last year with another member AR Babul, said Munna has broken their record.

"My next target is to travel Khardung La in Jammu and Kashmir of India," said a hopeful Munna.

"May be my bicycle will take me around the world one day."



Musa leaves for Mount Carstenz Pyramid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Musa Ibrahim, the first Bangladeshi to conquer Mount Everest, left Dhaka yesterday for his new venture "Bangladesh-India Friendship" to climb Mount Carstenz Pyramid in Australia and Oceania.

Musa's wife Ummey Sharaban Tahura said he left Dhaka in a Malindo Airlines flight for Indonesia around 1:30am.

Musa along with two Indian mountaineers Satyarup Siddhanta and Nandita Chandra Shekhar is expected to start the expedition officially on June 1, Tahura told The Daily Star.

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This age-old tree on Palashi Road near Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology can fall and cause fatalities. Efforts need to be made for conservation of such large trees to ensure a green Dhaka. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



Munna Shikder in a recent picture on his bicycle in Chittagong. The 20-year-old toured the country's 64 districts in 25 days.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ICT accepts charges against 3 Moulvibazar men

Decides to hold trial in absentia of two fugitive war crimes accused from Mymensingh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday took cognisance of the charges brought against three Moulvibazar men for allegedly committing crimes during the Liberation War in 1971.

The three-member tribunal led by Justice Anwarul Haque also directed the superintendent of Moulvibazar police to submit a report within July 19 about a fugitive accused-- Abdul Matin, 63, of the case.

Two other accused -- Abdul Aziz alias Habul, 64, brother of Matin, and Abdul Mannan alias Monai, 64 -- are now in jail. All the accused are from Barolekha upazila of the district.

Five specific charges were pressed against the three on February 2, which include abduction, torture, looting, arson, rape, killing and acts of genocide, committed

under Barolekha Police Station in the district, the prosecution said.

One of the charges is: killing three Hindu men, including National Awami Party leader Harendra Lal Das, after three days of torture at a Razakar camp in Barolekha and torturing another Hindu man in May.

Other charges include confining and raping a woman for over a month at two Razakar camps and abducting and torturing four family members of a local commander of freedom fighters, Moyeen, and looting his house.

The remaining ones are: abducting and torturing the brother of another local freedom fighter commander, Mostakin, and torching their houses and torturing a freedom fighter and raping his wife.

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ACC conducts raid to arrest Falu

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday attempted to arrest former BNP adviser Mosaddek Ali Falu in a case filed over amassing wealth beyond known income sources but failed as none was found in his residence.

On May 15, the ACC filed the case with Ramna Police Station accusing Falu of concealing information about wealth worth around Tk 17.86 crore in the asset details submitted to the ACC. Falu in his wealth statement mentioned of having assets of over Tk 147.94 crore.

Talking over the phone, ACC's Deputy Director Benjir Ahmed yesterday said they went to Falu's Banani DOHS residence in the capital around 1:00pm but found it locked.

21 AUGUST GRENADE ATTACK CASE

All prosecution witnesses testified

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday completed recording testimonies of the prosecution witnesses in two cases filed over the gruesome grenade attack on an Awami League rally in the capital that left 24 people dead and scores injured on August 21, 2004.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of Speedy Trial Tribunal-1 in Dhaka completed recording the cross-examination of CID's Senior Superintendent Abdul Kahar Akand, the investigation officer and also the last prosecution witness of the case.

It fixed June 12 for reading out the charges derived from testimonies of the 223 prosecution witnesses in the case.

Then, the accused will get chance to give statement defending themselves. Afterwards, the court will hear closing arguments from both prosecution and defence counsels before completing the trial proceedings and fix a date for delivering judgement.

The accused include BNP Chairperson's elder son Tarique Rahman, her nephew Saiful Islam Duke, the then state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar and the then deputy education minister Abdul Salam Pintu.

The gruesome attack was aimed at assassinating Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, the then opposition

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