



16TH AMENDMENT Talks with CJ started, will continue

Says Quader after meeting president to convey AL's stance to him

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday conveyed to the president the ruling party's stance on the Supreme Court verdict in the 16th amendment case.

Quader went to the Bangabhaban, the official residence of the president, around noon and came out some one and a half hours later.

AL sources said the AL spokesperson updated Abdul Hamid, who had been abroad, on the overall situation after the release of the full verdict that scrapped the 16th constitutional amendment.

Passed in 2014, the 16th Amendment to the Constitution had restored parliament's powers to remove SC judges for misconduct or incapacity. Last year, the High Court declared the amendment illegal and the decision was upheld by the SC on July 3 this year. The apex court released the full verdict on Aug 1.

Since then, the ruling AL has been criticising and the BNP has been praising the verdict. Food Minister Qamrul Islam even demanded removal of the chief justice for some observations in the verdict.

A little before Quader

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Food import to double

Govt to raise the volume to 17 lakh tonnes to improve food reserve amid flooding in northern region



REAZ AHMAD

The government is going to double the amount of food grains it planned to import a few months ago amid high rice prices, fast depleting stocks and a flood ravaging crop fields in the north.

Ahead of a stocktaking meeting of Food Planning and Monitoring Committee on the tight food situation tomorrow, officials told The Daily Star that public sector import for 2017-18 fiscal year would be increased from nine lakh tonnes to 17 lakh tonnes of food grains.

They told The Daily Star that the meeting is likely to approve rice import target of 12 lakh tonnes, instead of the existing plan of six lakh tonnes, and five lakh tonnes of wheat, instead of the previously set three lakh tonnes.

Six ministers and 10 senior secretaries would sit for a meeting of the committee tomorrow to decide how to tackle the situation.

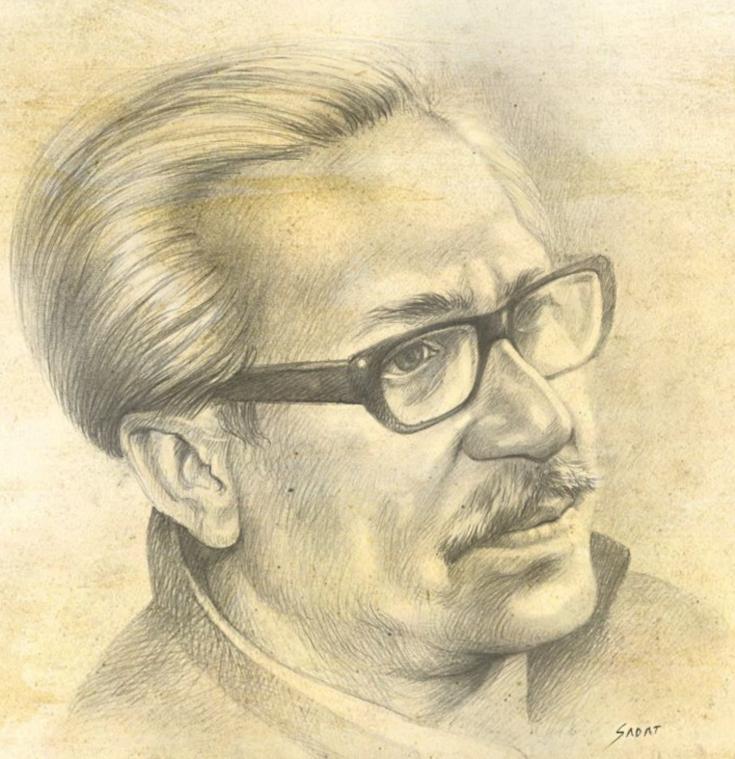
The country's food security took the first hit this year when flash floods devastated paddy fields in the north-eastern haor regions, wiping out 10 lakh tonnes of potential Boro harvest.

The matter was further complicated with fungal attack (rice blast) that ruined harvests of many farmers.

However, the government was slow to respond. It took over two months to reduce the rice-import duty.

With granaries not replenished fast enough, rice prices

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LET THE LEGACY OF BANGABANDHU GUIDE US

MAHFUZ ANAM

As we observe the 42nd anniversary of Bangabandhu's most cruel and gruesome murder we are humbled by the memory of the man but for whose lifelong devotion for the cause of the Bangalis of the then East Pakistan an independent Bangladesh would have never been realised at the moment in history that it was. His devotion for the toiling masses, his undaunted pursuit of their cause for political rights, his pride for the cultural heritage of the people and his empathy for the poor condition of their lives all converged in his person to make for a soft and caring representative of his people on the one hand and a most courageous and determined advocate of their rights and freedom on the other.

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In pain, in anger

Nation's shame darker than the night that saw the last of Bangabandhu, his family

WASIM BIN HABIB and TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

It was not dawn yet. At House 677 on Road 32 in Dhanmondi, a contingent of security personnel comprised of police and army was on duty at the residence of President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Nurul Islam Khan, the then deputy superintendent of police, was supervising the guards that night. Bangabandhu's personal assistant AFM Mohitul Islam was with him. Inside the residence, everybody was still in deep sleep: President Mujib, his wife Sheikh Fazilatunnesa Mujib, sons Sheikh Kamal, Sheikh Jamal and Sheikh Russell, daughters-in-law, and brother Sheikh Naser. It was early August 15, 1975. Around 4:45am, Havildar Md Quddus Sikder along

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RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

These are my own children and they will not harm me.

BANGABANDHU DISMISSING RAW CHIEF'S CONCERN THAT A COUP WAS IN THE OFFING

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A partially submerged shop and Companiganj Thana Sadar High School buildings in Sylhet. Bottom, inundated Lalmonirhat-Phulbari road in Lalmonirhat Sadar's Kulaghat area and a flooded railway line in Kaugon area of Dinajpur Sadar. Several lakh people have been hit hard as the flood situation in the country has worsened. The photos were taken yesterday.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR/ S DILIP ROY/KONGKON KARMAKER



Flood hits 20 districts

Five more killed in Dinajpur raising death toll to 20 in three days; nearly six lakh people affected

STAR REPORT

The flood situation yesterday worsened further as the onrush of water from upstream was continuing, affecting around six lakh people in 20 districts, said Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

It also added that the country's central part was on the flood's path.

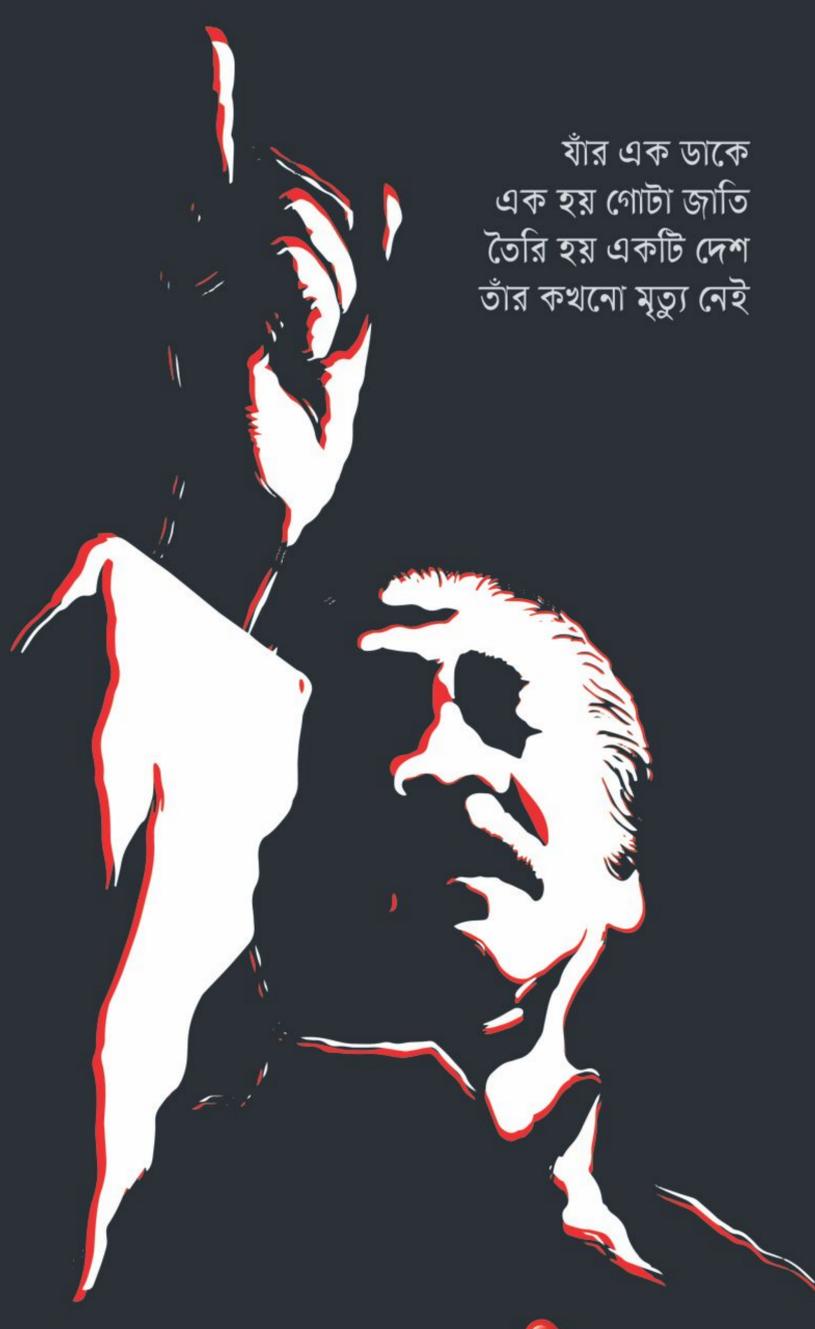
At least five people, including two children, have died and another has gone missing in flood-related incidents in Dinajpur, rising the death toll to 20 in the last three days across the country.

Sazzad Hossain, executive engineer of the FFWC, said 18 rivers were flowing above danger level, and water in those rivers would continue to rise in the next three days.

In 1988, water level of the Jamuna rose to 20.62 metres, and it crossed the level last year and rose to 20.71 metres. But yesterday afternoon, its water level went up and stood at 20.78 metres.

"Water level has crossed danger level at Goalanda point [of the Padma], and it means that the country's central part is going to be

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