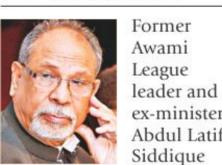


# It can be passed again in parliament

Says **Latif Siddique**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Former Awami League leader and ex-minister Abdul Latif Siddique yesterday said though the Supreme Court has scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution, a bill can be passed in the parliament again.

"Everything is not finished if the Supreme Court rejects the government appeal. Sheikh Hasina has absolute majority in the parliament," he said, adding that she can place the bill again and pass the amendment incorporating stricter conditions.

He made the comments at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

It was his first appearance in media after he was sacked from the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina-led cabinet and expelled from the AL in 2014 for "hurting religious sentiments".

After the SC released the full verdict on the 16th amendment case, AL leaders are criticising the verdict as well as the chief justice. Former post and telecommunications minister Latif Siddique yesterday joined the bandwagon.

Latif said the word choice in the verdict by the Appellate Division denied the sovereignty of people and echoed the Pakistan Supreme Court.

"The verdict made irrelevant and unwanted hint belittling Bangabandhu's leadership role in the Liberation War..." he added.

"The Supreme Court is the guardian of the constitution... If the constitution is suspended, the Supreme Court loses its guardianship. If the parliament becomes ineffective, the constitution loses its effectiveness," he said.

"The constitution is not for the Supreme Court; rather the Supreme Court is for interpreting the constitution..."



A pothole-riddled road in Rupatoli Bus Stand area in Barisal city. The three-kilometre stretch from Rupatoli Bus Stand to Kalijera on Barisal-Khulna highway has been in a deplorable condition for months. The photo was taken recently.  
PHOTO: M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL

# The 3km Barisal road people dread

M JAHIRUL ISLAM JEWEL and SUSHANTA GHOSH, Barisal

Commuting along Barisal-Khulna highway is a real hassle now, as a three-kilometre stretch on the highway from Rupatoli Bus Stand to Kalijera has been in dilapidated condition.

In the absence of a proper drainage system, the stretch of the road, which falls under Barisal City Corporation, gets waterlogged, creating potholes. Meanwhile, recent rain has worsened the situation.

People of three districts -- Jhalakathi, Pirojpur and Barguna -- are the worst affected, as they have to use the road to enter Barisal.

With Eid approaching, the battered road condition will deal a heavy blow to the commuters, if not repaired immediately, said

the commuters.

Some points of the road are very risky as drivers often fail to sense the depth of the water-filled potholes, causing frequent accidents, said Sumon, a bus driver in Rupatoli Bus Stand area.

Drivers have to be extra cautious while crossing this stretch of the road, taking more time than usual, he added.

Anower Hossain, a medicine shop owner in the area, said, "The road has been in such dilapidated condition for two years. The road has turned into this condition over the years in the absence of a proper drainage system."

Moreover, stagnant water spreads foul smell, adding woes to the pedestrians and commuters, he said.

"If the road is repaired without developing a proper drainage network, it won't bring any fruit.

Failing to pass, the water will then overflow the road, bringing no result at all," he observed.

Nishat Jahan, a student of Barisal Government Women's College, regularly uses the road to and from the college. She said commuting along the road has left a detrimental effect on her health.

"Accidents have become a regular phenomenon on the pothole-riddled road," said auto-rickshaw driver Russell.

"My auto flipped over when its wheel hit a large puddle in Kalijera area. Three passengers got injured in the accident that took place around 20 days ago," he added.

Contacted, Khandakar Golam Mostofa, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department (RHD) in Barisal, said "I am trying hard to keep the highway

fit after joining here."

He said the poor drainage system is responsible for damaging the road.

Without developing the proper drainage system, the road cannot be kept fit, he said, adding that the road was repaired several times but got back to its previous state shortly as water always overflows the road.

"Recently, I have visited different areas along with executive engineer of the city corporation to have a first-hand knowledge of the road condition, and requested him [executive engineer] to improve the drainage system as soon as possible," added the RHD executive engineer.

Uttom Kumar Roy, deputy commissioner (traffic) of Barisal Metropolitan Police, said vehicles plying the road often get stuck on

the damaged road, creating traffic jam in the area.

He had to deploy additional forces to deal with the situation, he added.

Contacted, Md Nurul Islam, chief engineer of Barisal City Corporation, said, "We have prepared a plan for establishing a modern drainage system on both sides of the road. It will be sent to the ministry soon for approval."

**BUS OWNERS PROTEST TODAY**  
For repairing Barisal-Dhaka highway before Eid, Barisal Bus Owners' Association yesterday announced that it would form a human chain today.

The announcement came at a press conference at the association's office in the city.

The leaders alleged that the stretch from Joysree to Bhurgata on the highway has developed

# Some of CJ's observations contradict Liberation War spirit

Says **Shahriar Kabir**  
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some observations of Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha in the 16th constitutional amendment verdict go against the spirit of the Liberation War, said war crimes researcher Shahriar Kabir yesterday.

"Our statement is that if we legalise the verdict by expunging one word, we will betray our democracy our constitution and particularly the 30 lakh martyrs and Liberation War," he said at a discussion in the capital.

Ekattorer Ghatk Dalal Nirmul Committee organised the discussion marking the 42nd death anniversary of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Shahriar Kabir, also president of the Committee, said it was only Bangabandhu who led the Liberation War although many leaders had contributions in achieving the independence.

The denial of his role in the war goes against the spirit of the Liberation War, he said.



Dignitaries at a publication ceremony of a book titled, "Orthoniti Shastre Darshanar Daridra" (Lack of philosophical foresight in economics) by Prof Abul Barkat in the capital's Cirdap International Conference Centre yesterday. From left, Prof Shafiquzzaman, Prof Mizanur Rahman, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmad, Prof Abul Barkat, Dr Toufic Ahmad Choudhury, Prof AJM Shafiul Alam Bhuiyan and Dr Jamaluddin Ahmed.  
PHOTO: STAR

# RELIEF ACTIVITIES BNP 'facing obstructions'

UNB, Dhaka

BNP yesterday alleged that the government is obstructing the party's relief activities in the flood-affected areas in Kurigram and Dinajpur districts ahead of the prime minister's scheduled visit there.

"As the prime minister is going to Kurigram tomorrow (Sunday), our party's relief activities are not being allowed in the greater Rangpur and Dinajpur districts. We condemn such action of the government," said BNP vice chairman Abdullah Al Noman.

"We don't know why the government is obstructing us from distributing relief while people are dying and going through immense sufferings for lack of food."

Noman, also chief coordinator of BNP's relief committee, came up with the allegation at a press briefing at the Nayapalton office. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visit Kurigram and Dinajpur today.

# Part of Tangail levee subsides

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

A portion of an embankment subsided in Kalihati upazila of Tangail yesterday.

"The concrete blocks of around 10-metre area located two kilometres south of the main structure of the Bangabandhu Multipurpose Bridge subsided around 4:00pm due to the pressure of the Jamuna river water in Gorilabari area," said Wasim Ali, assistant engineer at the site office of Bangladesh Bridge Authorities.

"No need to worry about the bridge as the subsiding took place on a private land outside the bridge area and also far from the bridge protection guide embankment," he said.

They have already conducted a survey and informed the higher authorities, he said.

"Necessary steps will be taken after the experts from consultant firm Institute of Water Modeling examine the damage today," he added.

The bridge authorities set up the blocks in 2003 to protect houses in the locality from river erosion, he said.

# BCL men beat up

FROM PAGE 4  
Asad around 2:00pm.

At the time, the BCL activists carrying billhooks were asking Asad to say that he will not engage in Shibir politics ever, they added. The BCL activists also took video footage of the incident.

Abdul Halim Tusher, Sylhet city unit BCL secretary, said the BCL activists beat up Asad in retaliation of a Shibir attack on some BCL activists on August 7.

Gausul Hossain, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said they have heard about the incident. "But we could not find anyone while visiting the spot or the hospital." "If anyone files a complaint, we will take action," he added.

# NGOs struggling to secure funds

FROM PAGE 4

Barendra Prochesta, Rajshahi, said there is a misconception among donors that many local NGOs are not committed towards their work - an impression that creates negative impact on the whole NGO community.

"To overcome this misconception, NGOs have to strengthen their capacity to become more accountable and transparent," he said.

Transparency among the NGOs is a must at local level so that the government does not form any negative perception about NGOs, said Sheikh Azad, an official of Udayan Bangladesh. Momtaz Khatun, executive

director of Ashroy Foundation, said it is difficult for a woman to work in a male-dominated organisation. Alongside strengthening local NGOs, priority has to be given on women empowerment, she said.

AM Nasir Uddin of ActionAid Bangladesh said without bringing women leadership in humanitarian sector, it will not be possible to strengthen civil society at local level.

Brac Director Gowhar Nayeem Wahra said a close relationship "based on dignity" has to be maintained between local NGOs and international donor agencies for serving the people better. Edouard Weigbour, country

representative of Unicef Bangladesh, said different types of links between the NGOs and the government have to be built for providing better services.

Khandakar Rakibur Rahman, director general of NGO Affairs Bureau, Prime Minister's Office, said the government is enthusiastic about promoting small-scale local NGOs by providing them with support including ensuring fund.

He said both local NGOs and NGO Affairs Bureau have to build up their capacity and maintain a close link between them for providing better services to the countrymen.

# Corrigendum Regarding Business Name

We would like to inform to all our Clients, Suppliers and well-wishers that the name of our Business has been amended from Hema Enterprises to Hema effective from 1st July, 2017.

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