

DEBATE OVER CJ Vested quarter to create tension

Minority leaders allege STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A vested quarter within the government and its communal division and tension as well as encourage discrimination using the office of Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddhists Christian Oikya Parishad alluded yesterday.

The Parishad also requested the prime minister to investigate if anyone was hatching any such conspiracy to create instability in the country cashing in on the debate on appointing the chief justice, who is on his month's leave since October 3.

Leaders of the platform of minority communities made the allegations and the appeal at a press conference in Dhaka Reporters' Unity where Parishad General Secretary Rana Dasgupta delivered a written speech.

Justice Sinha came under fire from top ministers and ruling Awami League leaders over the 16th amendment that scrapped parliament's power to sack SC judges.

The government said he took the leave due to illness but the BNP alleged the CJ was forced to go on leave, a claim the law minister and the attorney general dismissed as false.

Rana Dasgupta, also a prosecutor of the International Crimes Tribunal, said that by appointing Justice Sinha as chief justice, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina demonstrated her foresightfulness and wisdom, and also sent a signal that she was all for creating a non-communal political atmosphere.

The OICAs, however, claim that to Olama League, which trusts to be affiliated with the AL, formed a human chain protesting the appointment of Justice Sinha, Rana said.

Justice Sinha said they could not accept a "Hindu chief justice in a Muslim court," he added.

After the SC verdict in the 16th amendment case, some ministers formed a party as well as alliance leaders launched a verbal attack on the CJ, which reflects the speech by the Olama League, Rana said.

Parishad President Hubert Gomez presided over the press conference which was attended by, among others, former attaché, Shaheeb Bhowmik, Prof Nimi Chandra Dharmaling, Subrata Chowdhury and Kajal Deb Nath.

JU student found dead in dorm room

JU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Jahangirnagar University died apparently by suicide in his dormitory room last night.

Adan, 25, who was from Manikganj, was doing his master's in accounting and information system.

Students found him hanging from the ceiling fan in his room in Mir Mosharrif Hossain Hall around 10:00pm.

University authorities and students immediately took him to Enam Medical College Hospital in Savar where doctors pronounced him dead.

"The university authority has informed the family. We will form a committee to probe into the matter," Prof Shah Md Tariq, provost of the hall, told the Daily Star.

29hrs under

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to find his corpse, said the OC.

"I came to receive his corpse but found him alive," said a relieved Substation Officer.

Later, the labours alleged that the sunken BVT vessel had not been saved for over a year and had caused such accidents before.

BWTC officials, who are in charge of salvaging the ship, could be held liable immediately reached for a meeting.

Shohag's uncle Alamgir Hossain said divers conducted rescue operations on Wednesday but failed to find him. They had conducted another operation to find his body yesterday morning but failed again.

Chief Hospital said Shohag was first taken to Narayanganj 300-bed Hospital and later sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

Tahmina Naznin, a doctor at the emergency unit of Narayanganj 300-bed Hospital, said Shohag was physically well. However, he will have to be kept under observation for the next two to three days, she added.

Arrest warrants issued

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The court also fixed October 19 for hearing the petition in the writ.

Following yesterday's order, Khaleda's lawyers lost their right to take part in the arguments, her lawyer Ziauddin Zia told the Daily Star.

Earlier, the court rejected statements of 32 protesting witnesses, including a prominent investigation officer of the case.

Khaleda, who stands accused in over 36 cases, has been skipping the hearing in the case since July 15, while another accused, her elder son and BNP former Vice Chairman Tarique Rahman, is shown fugitive in the case.

On July 3, 2008, the Anti-Corruption Commission filed the case with Ramna Police Station, accusing Khaleda, Tarique and four others of misappropriating over Tk 2.10 crore that was received as grants for orphans via a foreign bank.

Two of the four accused, former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Huq Kamal and businessman Sharfuddin Ahmmed, were on an interim bail, and were sent to jail after cancelling their bail yesterday.

Two other accused - former principal secretary Ahmed Uddin Siddiqui and late president Ziaur Rahman's nephew Mominur Rahman - are also in custody.

The court also issued orders for 'UNDERMINING COUNTRY'S FLAG' earlier in the day, Metropolitan Magistrate Nur Nabi issued another arrest warrant for Khaleda as she failed to appear before the court even though she was ordered to appear to attend yesterday's hearing in undermining the country's map and national flag case.

The court also directed the officer-in-charge of Gulshan Police Station to submit a report by November 12 on execution of the arrest warrant.

The Hague to have permanent language monument

UNB, Dhaka

A permanent language monument will be built in The Hague following persuasions by the Bangladesh embassy there.

The municipality of The Hague handed over a formal letter allotting a place in the lush green Zuidoost park of the city on Wednesday.

The proposal of establishing a permanent language monument with The Hague municipality, the embassy said yesterday.

For the last two years, the embassy had been regularly following up the proposal of establishing a permanent language monument with The Hague municipality, the embassy said yesterday.

Observing Amar Ekushey and the International Mother Language Day in The Hague in an international atmosphere strengthened the demand of a permanent language monument.

Consequently a high powered committee headed by mayor of The Hague unanimously approved the proposal of the embassy.

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Myanmar army doing

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systematic, with the intent of driving the population out of Myanmar and also preventing them from returning to their homes.

Such counter-accusation and denial by the Myanmar army generals are nothing new. It has been a common tactic against allegations and to tell the world lies in efforts to cover up atrocities.

Earlier, after a UN report detailed devastating cruelty against Rohingya Muslims committed by Myanmar army against humanity and ethnic cleansing, the Myanmar army had found no wrongdoing in its operation against the ethnic minority people last year.

The Myanmar army had launched a brutal crackdown on the Rohingyas in October last year. The OHCHR's report released in February this year said the crackdown had led to goag rape, killing of hundreds of civilians, some 70,000 people flee Rakhaing to Bangladesh.

"The devastating cruelty to which these Rohingya children have been subjected is unbearable - what kind of hatred could make a man to stab a baby crying out for his mother's milk, and for the mother to witness this murder while she is being gang-raped by the very security forces," said the report.

The UN formed a fact-finding commission to search the truth to investigate the rights abuses. But the commission was denied entry to Myanmar.

Myanmar generals didn't think the brutal atrocities against the Rohingya as recorded in the report as a stain on the UN's record were "reckless," in a press conference in March, they strongly defended the crackdown, terming it a lawful counterinsurgency operation.

"I want to say that I am very sad because of these kind of reckless accusations and neglect of the good things the government and the military have done for the people of Myanmar," said a spokesman of the army, General Mya Tun Oo.

To cover up the atrocities, the army formed an investigation commission headed by a former military officer, according to consensus, will return control to its respective ministries in accordance to the law," Fatah delegation chief Zazzam Al-Ahmed said at the signing ceremony in Cairo.

He said the unity government would be formed by the military and civilians, "including all border crossings with Israel and in Rafah, Gaza's only access point with Egypt."

The agreement calls for Al-Ahmed's presence in the Gaza crossing on Nov 1, and for the full handover of administrative control to Gaza to the unity government to be completed by Dec 1.

Analysts said the deal is more likely to stick than earlier ones given Hamas's growing isolation and realisation of how hard Gaza, its economy has been hit by the Israeli blockade and infrastructure shattered by wars with Israel, was to govern and rebuild.

Deeper Egyptian involvement, believed to have been backed by the United States, has been a shadow, also helped cement the deal.

"We in Hamas are determined and are serious this time and just like all other times... We have dissolved the administrative committee (shadow government)... We have opened the door to reaching this reconciliation," Saleh Arouat, the head of Hamas negotiators in Cairo, said after the signing ceremony.

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2 killed in gunfights

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Didar was declared dead when he was taken to Mirsarai Upazala Health Complex. The body was later handed over to Didar's family following an autopsy at Chittagong Medical College morgue.

The crime-busters also claimed to have recovered a pistol, four bullets and 600 bottles of phentanyl from one of the vehicles involved in the shooting.

Talking to the younger brother of the morgue, Didar's younger brother Salet Chowdhury said his brother had been a driver for around 12 years.

Didar was in his car and general diary attendant brother, a claim that was later supported by Rab official Mimitar and Officer-in-Charge of Joranganj Police Station Jahidul Kabir.

Rasel said Didar went to his father-in-law's home in Chouras Hat area in Misrahi with his wife and three children a week ago and left the house around 10:30am on Wednesday. They came to know about his death from an auto-rickshaw driver who was carrying him.

Demanding justice, Rasel added his brother was never involved in drug peddling.

Mohsud Ahmad Chowdhury, chairman of Joranganj Union Parishad, said he did not have any information about Didar's involvement in peddling drugs.

In another incident, a suspected robber was killed in Dargaon Tea Garden area in Bahubal upazala of Habiganj early yesterday, hours after he was shot in the chest by a group of police.

The victim is Modon Mia alias Mozammel, 40, of Bhadeswar village of Bahubal upazala.

Mazharul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bahubal Police Station, said Modon stood accused in seven cases, including the ones related to arms, robbery and drug peddling.

Police arrested him on Wednesday evening and took him to the tea garden area to arrest his associates around 3:30am as per his statement, the police official said.

Sensing the presence of police, Modon's associates opened fire. In retaliation, police fired back, triggering the 'gunfight'.

Modon was "caught in the line of fire when he was trying to flee from police custody," He was pronounced dead after being taken to Habiganj Sadar Hospital.

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Law ministry

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and the UK and he might fly abroad today.

Talking to reporters after attending a programme in the city's Hotel Sonargaon, he urged all not to do politics over the CJ's leave.

About the 16th amendment case, he said the government would file a petition with the SC seeking review of its verdict that upheld the High Court judgment in the case.

The amendment to the constitution had empowered parliament to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct, but it was not accepted by the CJ, which reflects the speech by the Olama League, Rana said.

Justice Sinha faced sharp criticism from some senior ministers and Awami League leaders over the 16th amendment verdict. Some of them even demanded his resignation accusing him of undermining parliament and Bangladesh's Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

An SC bench, headed by Justice Sinha, scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

The SC authorities on Tuesday sent a letter to the president informing him that the CJ would go abroad.

The letter, signed by Md Zakir Hossain, registrar of the Appellate Division of the SC, said the CJ may fly abroad on Friday or any nearest date and stay there till November 10, a top official of the court told this correspondent yesterday.

Earlier, the law minister said the CJ went on leave for treatment as he had cancer.

The BNP, however, alleged that the apex court is not acting as a law court. SCBAs STAGES DEMO

The Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), dominated by pro-BNP lawyers, yesterday staged demonstrations on its premises, protesting what it said was contempt of the 'chief justice'.

SCBA President Zahid Uddin and Secretary AM Moinul Abdin Khokon led the demonstrations.

On the other hand, pro-Awami League SCBA leaders, led by its Vice President Md Ozi Ullah, at a press conference in front of the Bar president's office alleged that Zainul and Mahubb were doing politics over the CJ's leave, and that was damaging the peaceful environment in the court premises.

Lawyers here are not accepting such activities of the SCBA president and Secretary AM Ozi Ullah said.

16TH AMENDMENT CASE
In its full verdict in the 16th amendment case released on August 1, the SC said the provision of Supreme Judicial Council for removal of SC judges has been reinstated in the constitution.

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said the government received the certified copy of the SC verdict from the court on Tuesday.

The minister said the government would review the petition within 30 days. If the petition cannot be filed within the time, the government would explain the reasons for the delay to the apex court, he added.

According to SC rules, a review petition has to be filed within 30 days after receiving the certified copy of the full text of a verdict from the court.

Raped and blackmailed

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That night, the victim's family went to Tentulia Police Station to file a case against the rapist, but the victim and an Aik of provoking the girl into killing herself, but the police didn't register the case.

Sonia's parents, relatives and villagers demand an investigation into the suicide and exemplary punishment of the rapist.

Sures Chandra, officer-in-charge of Tentulia police, told the Daily Star on phone that police had filed an unnatural death case in connection with the suicide.

If anybody makes specific complaints, we will take steps on receiving the autopsy report," the OC said.

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Three workers

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The police officers were working at a chemical warehouse of Team Pharmaceuticals Ltd for the past few months, he said.

Khan Jahan Ali, one of the workers, said he had been working in the warehouse for a while. He said he had been working in the warehouse for a while.

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