

BNP's joining won't give 'legitimacy' to 11th JS'

Party MPs tell House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP joined the House to gain democratic space, but it will not give legitimacy to the current parliament, the party lawmakers said yesterday.

The 11th parliament was formed through an "unacceptable" election, they said, while taking part in a discussion on the supplementary budget for 2018-19 in parliament. "The Election Commission has failed to hold a credible election (in December 2018). They have destroyed parliamentary election as well as local government election," said Harunur Rashid. "And joining of six BNP MPs will not give legitimacy to this parliament."

Harun said, "There is no democratic space for us. We cannot express our demands. The Awami League and the grand alliance are allowed to hold rallies with fanfare, but when we want to do it the question of permission gets in the way."

"BNP joined parliament also to restore good governance. I urge the leader of the House to hold a national dialogue with all political parties to ensure good governance."

Echoing Harun, BNP lawmaker Rumeen Farhana said, "We came here to speak for the people and our party."

Alleging that all 300 constituencies were looted in the last election, Rumeen urged the Awami League lawmakers to swear by god whether they were elected by direct votes.

Turning to financial matters, she said the Awami League government has failed to implement budgets since it took over in 2009. "Bad loans amount to Tk 1.1 lakh crore now. The figure would hit Tk 1.55 lakh crore if the written-off loans of this year was taken into account."

Police recover mutilated body of ex-army man

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police recovered the mutilated body of a man from the Bay near Mirsharai Economic Zone in Chattogram yesterday morning.

Deceased Nannu Miah, 46, son of Abdul Haque Mollah hailing from Faridpur, was the assistant of a speedboat driver of Wahid Construction Ltd, said Sub-Inspector Mahfuzur Rahman of Joranganj Police Station.

He was a retired lance corporal of the Bangladesh Army, the SI said.

Mahfuzur said the body was recovered from sea, near block number-1 of China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd in the economic zone.

"Both of his eyes and ears, and lower lip were missing and his forehead was smashed. There were injury marks on his head and bruises all over his body," he said, adding that the deceased was probably beaten up with iron rods.

Officials of the company alleged that Nannu was killed by employees

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Even contest

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game as he did not practise yesterday after a lingering knee injury kept him to just two overs in their match against England on Friday.

Bangladesh's practice has also been fit to purpose, with the Tigers facing a lot of short deliveries in the nets over the past two days. That play resulted in Mushfiqur Rahim sustaining a painful blow to the right forearm while batting in the nets on Saturday morning, and while he was present at practice yesterday, he did not bat at the nets. An X-Ray done Saturday evening revealed no fractures and skipper Mashrafe Bin Mortaza said yesterday that Mushfiqur was 'totally fine', so him not batting at the nets may have been a precautionary measure.

While the opposition may hold no surprises, the pitch and ground may yet confound the Tigers. There has been grass on the wicket over the last two days, which may influence Bangladesh to play an extra pacer in Rubel Hossain. It will have to be an extra pacer because pace-bowling all-rounder Mohammad Saifuddin seemed to have recovered from some back issues. If Rubel were to be included, it would most likely be in place of a batsman in Mosaddek Hossain as off-spinner Mehedi Hasan Miraz has been the most successful against West Indies over the last year and has also been Bangladesh's most economical bowler in the four matches so far.

Bangladesh would be heartened by the fact that there is no rain forecast for today, although that is subject to change in England. If the grass is mown off and the sun shines today, it may well be a battle between Bangladesh's spin and West Indies' power hitters, with the side that keeps it together better winning out in the end.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, next to Chief of Army Staff General Aziz Ahmed, at the inaugural function of the Army Selection Board 2019, in the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Police finally 'find', arrest Feni OC

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when law enforcers arrested people, including veteran journalist Probir Sikdar and quota reform leader Rashed Khan, just hours after they were sued. There are also instances of arrest under the ICT law even before the filing of cases. In many cases, there were no arrest warrant.

Yesterday, Moazzem went to the High Court to seek an anticipatory bail. On information, several police teams took position in the area and arrested him around 3:30pm, police sources said.

"Initially, it was difficult to recognise him as he grew a beard and a mustache. But finally, we identified him and made the arrest," said a police official, asking not to be

named.

He will be handed over to Sonagazi police in Feni as an arrest warrant is pending there. Until the handover, he will be in the custody of Shahbagh police, said Maruf Hossain Sorder, deputy commissioner (Ramna Division) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Moazzem is likely to be produced before a Cyber Tribunal in Dhaka where a hearing is scheduled for today, police and court sources said.

Moazzem's lawyer Salma Sultana said she had requested the High Court to hear her client's bail petition yesterday. But the bench of Justice Md Moinul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Khizir Hayat said it would do

so in presence of the police officer today.

But since he has been arrested, the petition will not be heard, she told The Daily Star.

The case against Moazzem was filed by Supreme Court lawyer Syed Sayedul Haque Suman.

An investigation by the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) found Moazzem himself recorded the video on his phone and later passed the footage to someone else. However, the report does not name that person.

Moazzem has been charged with collecting and using personal information without permission, publishing defamatory information and causing deterioration of law and order.

If found guilty, he can be jailed for up to 15 years, said Suman.

The footage shows Moazzem asking Nusrat some humiliating questions.

Nusrat, a student of Sonagazi Islamia Senior Fazil Madrasa in Feni's Sonagazi upazila, was set ablaze on April 6 allegedly for refusing to withdraw a case filed against the madrasa principal, Siraj Ud Doula, for sexually harassing her.

She died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital on April 10. On the same day, the OC was withdrawn as Nusrat's family alleged he was not cooperating with them.

He was suspended on May 8 for negligence in duty and attached to the office of DIG (Rangpur range).

Rohit ton leads India to 89-run win

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opener Imam-ul-Haq lbw for seven.

Fakhar Zaman (62) and Babar Azam (48) repaired the damage with a century stand, before they both fell to left-arm wrist-spinner Yadav as they tried to up the tempo.

Babar was bowled between bat by a superb delivery before Zaman miscued a sweep to short fine leg.

All-rounder Hardik Pandya then took two wickets in two balls.

Mohammad Hafeez was caught at deep square leg before Shoaib Malik played on for his second successive

duck -- a wicket greeted with huge roars by the massed ranks of India fans in a capacity crowd, with an estimated one billion watching on television.

Earlier, Kohli became the quickest player to 11,000 one-day international runs, getting there in 222nd innings compared to compatriot Sachin Tendulkar's previous record of 276 innings.

Meanwhile, Pakistan left-arm quick Mohammad Amir continued his fine form with 3-47 despite two early warnings for running on the

pitch.

But not even Amir could stop Sharma and KL Rahul (57) marking their first ODI match as an opening duo with a stand of 136 after Pakistan captain Sarfaraz Ahmed won the toss.

Sharma, who made 122 in India's opening win over South Africa and 57 against Australia, went to fifty with a six over long-on and a cut four off successive deliveries from recalled leg-spinner Shadab Khan.

He then entered the 90s with an extraordinary square-cut six off pacesman Hasan Ali.

His single off Shadab saw Sharma to an 85-ball hundred including three sixes and nine fours. It was Sharma's 24th ODI century.

But a quickfire stand of 98 with Kohli ended when Sharma, trying a needlessly extravagant scoop, flicked Hasan to short fine leg.

Kohli, 71 not out at the start of a 55-minute rain break, fell soon after the resumption when, trying to hook Amir, he 'walked' for a catch behind by wicket-keeper Sarfaraz despite replays appearing to show he didn't hit the ball.

Won't tolerate any underhand dealings

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before the court on the steps taken against food adulteration.

The court ordered DNCRP to launch in two months a round-the-clock hotline for consumers who would like to file complaints on food adulteration.

It also asked DNCRP to keep its official number, +8801777 753 668 operative round-the-clock, including on holidays, and said the officials should work on holidays.

Hours before this hearing, BFSA Chairman Mahfuzul Haque appeared before the HC bench and apologised for not properly complying with its May 12 order.

The court exonerated him from

the contempt of court rule on the condition that he would never defy a court order and would conduct drives against food adulteration throughout the year with the assistance of other relevant agencies.

The BFSA yesterday submitted a report to the HC claiming that it had removed most of the 52 substandard food items from markets across the country and filed separate cases against the companies concerned as per the court's May 12 directives.

The BSTI also submitted a report to the HC saying that it had retested samples of 42 of 52 food items, all of which were found substandard in the first test.

In the retest, the BSTI found 26

items safe and cancelled the licences of 16, BSTI lawyer Sarkar MR Hassan told reporters.

While hearing the writ petition filed by Shihab Uddin Khan, the HC on May 12 directed BFSA and DNCRP to immediately remove the 52 food items from the market and to submit a report to the court on May 23.

Hearing the petition on May 23, the HC bench slammed the BFSA for not complying with its order.

"Bangladesh Food Safety Authority's activities over removing 52 substandard food items from markets are mere eyewash," said the HC bench.

The court then directed the BFSA chairman to appear before it

yesterday to explain why his office had not complied with the court order. The BFSA chairman cannot go unpunished, the bench said, issuing a rule asking him to explain in two weeks as to why contempt of court proceedings should not be brought against him.

The court also said if the producers of the 52 food items appealed to the BSTI, the authorities should conduct further tests and submit the reports to the court by June 13.

Lawyers Kamal Ul Alam and AM Amin Uddin appeared for the BFSA chairman, Mohammed Faridul Islam for the BFSA and Deputy Attorney General Mokhlesur Rahman for the state.

Four 'drug peddlers' killed in 'shootouts'

STAR REPORT

Four alleged drug peddlers were killed in so-called gunfights with Rab and BGB in Cox's Bazar and Cumilla early yesterday.

Of them, three were killed in a "shootout" with the Rab members in Teknaf upazila's Paharidhala area around 3:00am.

They are Dil Mohammad, 42, Rashedul Islam, 22, and Shahidul Islam, 42.

However, family members of Shahidul said he was a trader. They alleged that around 11:00am Saturday, four plainclothes men in a microbus came to his shop on IBP road in Cox's Bazar town and picked him up.

Shahidul's father Abul Kashem was present there at that time. He said the plainclothes men had firearms with them.

"My son had been abroad for many years. He returned home six or seven months ago and started to run a grocery shop. He was not accused in any case," he said.

Kashem said the plainclothes men came to the shop again two hours after picking up Shahidul and gave them a mobile number for contacting them. But he could not communicate with anybody as no one received his calls.

After Shahidul was picked up, traders of Cox's Bazar town's Boro Bazar gave a memorandum to the Cox's Bazar police superintendent, seeking trace of Shahidul. They also informed Rab of the matter. But all denied picking up Shahidul.

Lt Mirza Shahed Mahtab, camp commander of Rab-15 in Teknaf, said a Rab team conducted an anti-drug drive in Paharidhala area around 3:00am, acting on a tip-off that some drug peddlers would smuggle yaba pills there.

Sensing the Rab members' presence, the drug peddlers opened fire. The Rab team retaliated, triggering the "gunfight", the Rab official said.

After the "gun battle", the Rab team found three drug peddlers bullet-hit. They were taken to Teknaf Upazila Health Complex where doctors declared them dead, the official added.

Rab claimed that two of their members -- constables Sohel, 28, and Jahangir, 32 -- were injured in the incident. They took primary treatment.

Rab also claimed to have recovered 1.40 lakh yaba pills, four locally made guns, and 21 cartridges.

In Cumilla, another suspected drug peddler -- Abul Hashem, 52 -- was killed in a similar incident with Border Guard Bangladesh in Sadar Dakshin upazila around 2:30am.

BGB-10 Commander Lt Col Abu Mohammad Mohiuddin said a team was conducting an anti-drug raid in Rajeshpur Eco Park area when some drug peddlers opened fire, prompting a "gunfight".

After the "gunfight", the BGB team found Hashem bullet-wounded and took him to Cumilla Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The BGB claimed to have recovered 18,380 yaba tablets from the spot.

Our correspondents in Cox's Bazar and Cumilla contributed to this report.

Is he more

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verdict that granted bail to Jasmine Islam, chairman of Hallmark Group, in a corruption case.

The commission's lawyer Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan replied that the ACC is proceeding with a plan to arrest Mizanur.

The ACC has suspended its investigation officer Khandaker Enamul Basir for leaking the commission's information and breaching discipline, he said.

The SC asked the ACC lawyer whether he had received the allegation against the ACC official of taking bribe from DIG Mizan.

"Why did the ACC not take action against him on charge of taking bribe?" the four-member bench headed by Chief Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain asked the ACC lawyer.

Advocate Khurshid said an enquiry is required and a case is needed to be filed for taking action against the ACC official.

"The ACC cannot go beyond the law," the lawyer replied.

DIG Mizan, who is facing a ACC probe over allegation of amassing wealth illegally, has recently alleged that ACC's enquiry officer Basir took Tk 40 lakh as bribe with a false promise of exonerating him of all charges.

ACC began the probe in May last year. DIG Mizan came under the scanner in January last year when he was accused of forcibly marrying and torturing a woman. He was soon withdrawn from his post at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

On June 12, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said action would be taken against Mizan for allegedly giving bribe to the ACC official.

"It's clear he (Mizan) has committed a crime by bribing an ACC official. He'll be punished for it," the home minister said.