

‘They are looting our forex reserves’
Alleges GM Quader about ruling party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader yesterday claimed the country’s foreign exchange reserves have actually been looted.

Quader, also deputy leader of the opposition, said Bangladesh is turning into a failed state due to corruption and mismanagement. The IMF, World Bank and Asian Development Bank do not want to give the country loans. “Because, we have anomalies in our forex reserves.”

He said this while speaking at the biannual conference of Jamalpur District Jatiya Party at Mirza Azam Auditorium in Jamalpur.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Thursday said

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Broken down cars, among other dumped waste, lie on the east side of Dhaka-Chattogram highway near Kachpur bridge. Although one may wonder why these cars are there in the first place, the reason is fairly simple -- the highway police towed the vehicles a while back and left those on the roadside. As the authorities don’t come up with a proper system to manage abandoned vehicles, they end up being a reason for gridlocks.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Faith groups can help achieve SDGs

Speakers tell workshop

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Faith groups and communities can play an important role in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and a peaceful and inclusive society, said interfaith experts and journalists yesterday.

The media should shine a light on the intersection of faith and development, they added.

They were speaking at a workshop in the city yesterday. Center for Communication Action Bangladesh (C-CAB), in collaboration with the World Faiths Development Dialogue at Georgetown University, USA, organised the workshop at the YWCA Training Center.

They discussed the role of religious actors, and religious considerations in the SDG agenda.

They also shed light on how the news media can better cover faith dynamics in achieving a peaceful and inclusive society.

Journalists from print, TV, and online media outlets attended the workshop on “Strengthening objective coverage of the role of faith communities in achieving the SDGs”.

The workshop covered a number of topics including best practices of conflict-sensitive journalism and conflict resolution; addressing bias, hate speech, and misinformation in a post-truth world, and achieving SDG 16 toward building a peaceful, inclusive and prosperous society.

C-CAB Executive Director Syed Zain Al-Mahmood said, “The media can shift the binary secular versus religious narrative and provide balanced coverage of the role of faith groups as a socioeconomic force.”

Tania Sultana, assistant professor at the department of

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Woman along with two kids tries to set herself on fire near press club

She said she did it for failing to save her ancestral home

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A woman attempted to set herself and her two children on fire by pouring kerosene in front of Jatiya Press Club in Dhaka yesterday morning after failing to save her home.

The woman alleged that they were having a land dispute with a local ruling party man at their village home in Narayanganj’s Sonargaon upazila.

Shireen Khan (35) along with her 16-year-old daughter and 10-year-old son were taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police and pedestrians managed to stop Shireen before she could set the fire around 11:00am, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of DMCH Police Outpost.

However, their stomachs had to be washed at DMCH as they had taken sleeping pills too, he added.

Al Momen, a sub-inspector of Shahbagh Police Station, said the woman along with her three children was talking to reporters standing near the police box adjacent to Jatiya Press Club.

Suddenly, she took out a bottle of kerosene from her bag and started pouring it on herself and the children, he said.

They were rushed to the hospital as police sensed they had taken sleeping pills as well, the SI added.

The woman’s three-year-old daughter is well as she had not been sedated.

Talking to reporters at the hospital, Shireen said they bought four acres of land from a local ruling party man eight years back. There, Shireen built a two-story house where the family lives in a flat and rents out the rest.

Few months back, a state-owned bank served a notice that the money was taken by mortgaging the land. Hearing this, they contacted the previous land owner to resolve the issue. But he did not cooperate.

Instead, he put pressure on them to take back the money and leave the land.

She said her husband is a patient of liver cirrhosis. They did not get any solution from the authorities. She claimed that her husband left home a few days back and she didn’t know his whereabouts now.

The relatives said Shireen bought kerosene oil from a shop in front of their house in the morning. The two children were given juice mixed with sleeping pills. Then they came to Dhaka by bus.

Restore canals, revive Dhaka

Atiqul tells discussion



Segunbagicha canal.

FILE PHOTO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Mayor Atiqul Islam yesterday said authorities will revive Dhaka “from its deathbed” by reclaiming all the canals.

They will do so by following the cadastral survey (CS), a comprehensive land document that shows demarcated boundaries.

If rivers can be demarcated by CS, why can’t the same be done for canals, he questioned.

“I want canals to be demarcated using CS. Otherwise, Dhaka can’t be saved. A canal I saw is 10-foot wide, but its actual width should be 110 feet. If we go for a nature-based solution, we have no way but to restore the canals to their original state,” he said.

Atiqul was speaking at a roundtable titled “Population Density, Liveability and Sustainable Development”, organised by Bangladesh Institute of Planners, ahead of World Town Planning Day.

The mayor criticised the National Housing Authority for turning the playground on Mirpur’s Paris Road into a housing block. The playground was recently freed from occupation.

“The children came back to the playground joyfully, which shows that more playgrounds and open spaces are needed. If we just keep building concrete structures, shrinking open spaces, we won’t leave a liveable city for the next generation,” Atiqul added.

He urged everyone to unite against ill-efforts to grab rivers,

canals and open spaces.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Md Tazul Islam, chief guest of the roundtable, said authorities are planning to turn all Dhaka canals into waterbodies like Hatirjheel.

DAP NEEDS PROPER

COORDINATION

Minister Md Tazul Islam called for cooperation and coordination to execute the Detailed Area Plan (DAP).

He said authorities are ready to correct 10 percent of the DAP, while all stakeholders agree with the rest of the provisions.

“It has been clearly mentioned where and whose cooperation will be required for the DAP. All

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Include ‘intersex’ as sexual identity

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the intersex community at a roundtable yesterday demanded the inclusion of intersex as a sexual identity in public and private documents, including birth certificates, and national identity cards.

They also urged the government to ensure their fundamental rights and stop irrational and unnecessary sex reassignment surgery. The roundtable titled, “Ensure Basic Needs of Intersex People” was organised by Space-a foundation for peace and care, with networking partner Possibility at the NGO Forum for Public Healths seminar room at Lalmatia.

The event was organised as part of observing Intersex Awareness Day on October 26.

Intersex people are born with different sex characteristics such as different chromosome patterns, gonads or genitalia.

According to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the concept of the body of intersex people does not fit with the concept of the typical binary male or female body. Intersex basically refers to different types of natural physical characteristics.

In some cases intersex characteristics are visible at birth, while in others they are not clearly visible until puberty.

Intersex member Maimuna Akhtar said she is not being able to get admission to any private university and not being given a passport due to the non-recognition of intersex people in official and private documents.

The speakers also said sex reassignment surgeries are routinely performed in Dhaka Shishu Hospital, which is a violation of a person’s basic human rights.

While some surgeries are useful, most of the time, these surgeries are performed to conform to socially constructed “male” and “female” identities, which jeopardised their future, and many children even die during this type of surgery, they said.

If intersex people’s identities were recognised and their physical diversity was considered normal in society and the state, this rights violation would

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Star journo wins DRU best reporting award 2022

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Daily Star journalist Mohammad Jamil Khan has won Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) Best Reporting Award-2022.

DRU announced this through a press release yesterday.

A total of 11 journalists won the award under 10 categories covering print, online and electronic media.

Jamil Khan, a senior reporter of The Daily Star, won the award in the print category for a series of reports titled “Evaluation of cyber-crime”, published

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Mohammad Yeasin, a van-puller, buys these baskets from Narayanganj’s Sonargaon for Tk 40 per piece. He then sells them at Karwan Bazar wholesale market for a small profit. This photo was taken near the market yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

ONGOING INQUIRY

3 HC judges kept away from judiciary for over 3 years

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Three High Court judges out of 95 have been excluded from judicial functions for over three years in the wake of an inquiry against them.

Neither the Supreme Court administration nor the government would disclose the judges’ current status, the allegations against them, or who is conducting the probe and when will it be finished.

The Daily Star found the names of the judges but is refraining from publishing them on ethical grounds.

Two highly-placed sources in the SC said in August 2019, then chief justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, in consultation with the president, asked the three HC judges to refrain from judicial activities, following allegations of “irregularities in disposing of some cases”.

The whole matter may be resolved after the Appellate Division of the SC disposes of a review petition, which has been filed

against its verdict that scrapped the 16th amendment to the constitution.

The amendment empowers the parliament, instead of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC), to remove SC judges for incapacity or misconduct, according to the sources.

Comprising the chief justice and two senior judges of the Appellate Division, SJC inquires into allegations of judges’ misconduct and recommends the president for the next course of action.

If the apex court rejects the review petition, SJC will deal with the removal of judges, otherwise the parliament will deal with the matter.

Hearing on the petition is yet to take place and no date has been fixed.

More than five years have passed since the Appellate Division decided to restore the SJC, as laid out in Article 96 of the constitution, through the verdict of the 16th amendment case.

The government is yet to comply with

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