

## Country should be ruled by the honest: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In the full text of a verdict released yesterday, the High Court observed that the country should be ruled not by the corrupt but by those who are honest and have the highest level of integrity.

"We, the people of this country, got independence at the cost of the lives of 30 lakh martyrs and the supreme sacrifices of two lakh heroic women. It is therefore the court's expectation that our country be ruled by law, free from all sorts of exploitation," the HC bench of Justices Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Khizir Hayat Lizu said in the 281-page full-text verdict.

On May 30, the bench delivered the verdict affirming the trial court judgement that had convicted and sentenced BNP leader and former state minister Aman Ullah Aman to 13 years imprisonment and his wife Sabera Aman to three years in jail in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) during the caretaker government rule from 2007-08.

ACC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan told The Daily Star that Aman Ullah Aman and Sabera Aman, who had



Steeplejacks wave the Ukrainian flag after finishing installing the coat of arms of Ukraine on the shield of the 62 metre Motherland Monument in Kyiv, amid the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The Ukrainian trident replaced the coat of arms of the former Soviet Union, which was removed earlier this month. PHOTO: AFP

## Russia strikes Ukraine's Kherson, Kharkiv

3 civilians killed; Zelensky says US, Germany air defences helping Ukraine's war effort

REUTERS, Kyiv

A woman was killed early yesterday when Russian forces shelled the southern Ukrainian city of Kherson, while two other people were killed in Russian shelling of border areas of the Kharkiv region in northeast Ukraine, officials said.

Both the city of Kherson and parts of the Kharkiv region are directly adjacent to the front line. The Ukrainian military has reported increased Russian attacks in the Kharkiv region in recent days.

"A difficult night for Kherson ... The Russian army continued to shell Kherson residents' homes in the central part of the city," governor Oleksandr Prokudin said on the Telegram messaging app.

Prokudin said the shelling had started around midnight and lasted for several hours.

Separately, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, Andriy Yermak, said on Telegram that two civilians had been killed and three others wounded during Russian shelling of border areas of Kharkiv region yesterday morning.

Ukraine recaptured Kherson city and parts of the Kherson region in November

after months of Russian occupation, but Russian forces regularly shell the city and surrounding areas from across the Dniipro River.

This month a doctor was killed and five medical workers were wounded in Russian shelling of a Kherson hospital.

President Volodymyr Zelensky said on Sunday Ukraine is seeing "significant results" from US and German air defence systems, despite waves of Russian air strikes.

The Moscow-appointed head of Crimea said the Chonhar bridge to the peninsula, which was annexed from Ukraine by Moscow in 2014, had been damaged by a missile strike. Another of the three road links between Crimea and Russian-occupied parts of mainland Ukraine, near the town of Henichesk, was shelled and a civilian driver wounded, a Moscow-appointed official said.

In his nightly video address on Sunday, Zelensky said advanced air defence systems, including the US-built Patriot and Germany's IRIS-T, were proving "highly effective" and had "already yielded significant results."

DEFAMATION

## Hero Alom sues Rizvi for Tk 50cr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Ashraful Hossain Alom, popularly known as Hero Alom, yesterday filed a Tk 50 crore defamation case against BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi for making "defamatory remarks" against him.

Alom, an independent candidate who was defeated in the Dhaka-17 by-polls held on July 17, filed the case with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate.

During the hearing, Alom told the court that if Rizvi apologised, he would have "forgiven" him, adding the BNP leader's remarks tarnished his image.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Saiful Islam recorded Alom's statement and directed the Detective Branch of police to submit their investigation report before it by September 13.

In his complaint, on August 5, Alom said he came across YouTube contents where Rizvi made objectionable and derogatory remarks about him.

Earlier on Sunday, Alom said he visited the DB office to lodge a complaint against the BNP leader, but the DB chief advised him to file a case with the court.

"Politicians should engage in politics with a view to sacrificing themselves for the welfare of the people and the country..."

been on bail till the delivery of the HC judgment, cannot participate in elections as per Article 66 (2) (d) of the Constitution.

In the full text of the verdict, the HC directed Aman and Sabera to surrender before the lower court concerned in 15 days after receiving the judgment of the lower court concerned.

"Both the corrupt and the corrupter are indictable and answerable to society and the country as a whole. Political corruption occurs when an office holder or other governmental employees act in an official capacity for personal gains.

"Politicians should engage in politics with a view to sacrificing themselves for the welfare of the people and the country and it is a kind act of great sacrifice and dedication for the wellbeing of the people and the country as well. Politics cannot be a tool to make money and amass properties and being protectors, the politicians cannot be predators," the HC said in the full-text verdict.

## Cyber Security Act to replace DSA

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Other non-bailable offences include section 19, which entails damage of computer, computer system, etc; section 17, which criminalises illegal access to any critical information infrastructure, etc; section 27, which criminalises cyber terrorism; section 30 penalising illegal e-transactions; and section 33, which criminalises the illegal storage and transfer of data.

Cabinet Secretary Md Mahub Hossain said that while the DSA was more focused on punitive prison sentences, the Cyber Security Act puts more emphasis on financial penalties.

The DSA harshly penalised repeat offences, but such provisions have been struck off in the new version of the law.

The Digital Security Agency will now be transformed to National Cyber Security Agency.

"The provisions for cyber security that were in the last [version of the] law have been kept untouched in this new one," Huq said.

Meanwhile, those facing charges under the DSA will now see their cases continue under the new version of the law, but only after it comes into

effect.

Huq added that section 33 of the DSA has been scrapped and a section on hacking offences has been introduced in the Cyber Security Act. A hacking offence will carry a maximum jail term of 14 years or a maximum fine of Tk 1 crore, or both.

Following the announcement, Amnesty International South Asia, Regional Office in a tweet said, "The government must ensure that the Cyber Security Act it plans to replace the DSA with does not rehash the same repressive features of the DSA."

"The government must also ensure that all stakeholders have sufficient opportunity to scrutinise and make recommendations on the proposed new law before it is enacted, and that its provisions fully comply with international human rights laws."

However, Cabinet Secretary Mahub declined to share a draft of the version, stating that it will only be made public when it is placed before parliament as a bill for a decision on whether it should be passed or not.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, said, "We are concerned that many of the objectionable provisions of the DSA

continue to be included under the new [version of the] law.

"We encourage the government to not include the DSA sections that pertained to the repression of opposition voices. Let this new version not be the DSA with a new cover."

Earlier, the law minister on several occasions had stated that the DSA will be amended by September

## China, Russia FMs hail cooperation in call

AFP, Beijing

The foreign ministers of China and Russia hailed the "practical cooperation" between the two global powers in a phone call yesterday, Beijing said.

China's top diplomat Wang Yi told his counterpart Sergei Lavrov that Beijing and Moscow "should continue to maintain close strategic coordination, promote world multipolarisation and the democratisation of international relations", according to a Chinese foreign ministry statement.

## Flooded Ctg drains claim another life

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was a patient of epilepsy. Some students of Chittagong University living in the area noticed her and rushed to rescue her, but it was too late, the SI said.

"They called 999 and also informed the family. On information, a police team rushed to the spot, but the locals had already taken her to Hathazari Upazila Health Complex, where on-duty doctors declared her dead."

Rana added Nipa's body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy, and a case was lodged in this regard.

The incident was being

investigated.

The issue of falling into open drains and unprotected canals has been prevalent in the port city since at least 2017.

On July 3, 2017, retired government officer Shilbrata Barua fell into an open drain while on his way to attend a wedding in Bakalia.

On June 9, 2018, a child named Al Amin fell into the drain in Amin Jute Mill area.

On June 30, 2021, three people went missing after an auto-rickshaw fell into a canal in Chashma Hill area of Sholashahar. Two bodies were later recovered.

On August 25, 2021, a 50-year-old vegetable trader slipped and drowned in a canal in Muradpur intersection. His body has not yet been found.

A month later, Sheherin Mahmud Sadia, 19, died after falling into a drain in the city's Agrabad intersection.

On December 7 that year, a 10-year-old boy's body was recovered three days after he fell in the same canal in Sholashahar Railway Station area.

On April 15 last year, fire service divers rescued a woman from the Osmania canal in Kalurghat area.

On April 9 this year, three-year-old Ojaifa died after falling into an open drain in Sadarghat Nalapara area.

## Torrential rain pounds southeast

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remote hilly area under Boroitola union, around 4:00pm, said Upazila Nirbahi Officer JP Chakma.

The wall collapsed because of a landslide, he added.

Torrential rains are causing flash floods and landslides in some areas in the Rohingya camps of Ukhiya and Teknaf, said the RRRRC.

According to the official, there were 119 landslides in the camps and over 1,500 homes were damaged or destroyed due to bad weather. Some 90 Rohingyas were moved to safer places.

In Chattogram city, almost all low-lying areas are under water for four days due to heavy rains. This is a city where waterlogging is quite common.

Chattogram Development Authority (CDA) has been implementing a Tk 5,617 crore mega project since 2017 to address waterlogging. City dwellers allege that they are yet to get any benefit from the project.

Bishwajit Chowdhury, forecast officer at Chattogram Met office, told The Daily Star that 250mm rain was recorded in 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday.

The city's Chawkbazar, Bakalia, Halishahar, Bahaddarhat, Badurtola, Kapasgola, Sholashahar, Shulakbahar, Muradpur, Katalganj, Dewan Bazar, Agrabad, Chandgaon and Bibirhat areas are under waist-to-knee deep water.

"Water entered the ground floor of our home around midnight on Thursday. We moved to one of our tenants' home on the first floor," said Shahedul Azam, a resident of Rahattar Pool Wazir Ali Shah Lane.

Water entered the ground floor of Chawkbazar Chaw Super Market four days ago.

"My goods worth about Tk 2 lakh have already been damaged," said Gias Uddin, owner of a cloth store.

Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) and CDA authorities have traded blame over waterlogging.

The CDA mega project director,

Lt Col Shah Ali, said rain water cannot recede quickly because the CCC workers do not clear the drains properly.

Denying the allegation, CCC Mayor Rezaul Karim Chowdhury said the workers clear drains regularly.

"But some irresponsible people dump polythene and plastic waste in the canals and drains, leaving those clogged," he said.

The mayor said the CDA is implementing a project to dredge 36 canals in and around the city, but the work is going on slowly.

And that's why the city dwellers still suffer from waterlogging, he added.

Meanwhile, Chattogram city Awami League President Mahtab Uddin Chowdhury and General Secretary AJM Nasir Uddin in a joint statement yesterday urged the service providers work in tandem to address waterlogging.

In Bandarban, vast areas of the district town and five upazilas - Thanchi, Ruma, Roangchhari, Lama and Alikadam - have been inundated due to water from the overflowing Sangu and Matamuhuri rivers and incessant rain over the last seven days.

People in the district town and Thanchi, Ruma, and Roangchhari upazilas are without power for about 48 hours. Road communications between the district town and the five upazila towns remain snapped for three days.

People are suffering from shortages of drinking water. Many have moved to flood shelters.

Bandarban experienced 903mm rain in a week, 448mm of it was in 24 hours until 6:00pm yesterday, said Md Emdadul Haque, a meteorologist in the hill district.

He also said the weather may remain the same until next week.

At least 48 families from Baganpara village in Thanchi have taken shelter on roads.

"My crops have gone under water. I am now helpless," said Uthoyai Mong, a resident of Khalpra area in Ruma upazila.

TRAWLER CAPSIZE

## Bodies of two more children recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

The bodies of two children were recovered yesterday, two days after a trawler capsized in a tributary of Padma in Munshiganj.

The deceased are Mahin Sheikh, 5, and Toran, 7. With this, the death toll in the incident has risen to nine. Now one child - Nafa remains missing.

Mahin's body was found floating 200m from the accident site around 5:15pm, while Toran's body was found floating 2km away from the accident site around 6:00am.

Confirming the incident, Munshiganj's Louhajang Fire Service Station Officer (Acting) Abdul Matin said, "Arrangements are being made to hand over the bodies to the relatives. Now, only one child, Nafa, is missing.

The fire service and BIWTA teams are patrolling the river in search of the missing child.

On Saturday night, the picnic trawler with 46 onboard capsized after being hit by a bulk carrier.

## 2 held for stealing train fuel

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Two people, including a railway staffer, were arrested while stealing fuel from Ishwardi-bound commuter express train at Azimnagar Railway Station in Natore on Sunday night.

The arrestees are Helal Uddin, 37, power car driver (electric fitter) of an intercity commuter express train, and Rokonuzzaman Rokon, 45, a resident of Lalpur upazila.

They were sent to jail via a district court order yesterday, said police.

Ishwardi GRP Police Station Sub-Inspector Md Harunuzzaman said a detective branch of Railway Nirapotta Bahini (RNB) detained the duo and seized 45 litres of diesel from the spot.

Some dishonest railway employees have been stealing fuel from power cars at various stations along the Rajshahi-Ishwardi route for quite some time, he added.

A case was filed against them with Ishwardi GRP Police Station in this connection.

## Thieves break in at B'baria Indian visa office

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Thieves reportedly broke in at the Indian Visa Application Centre (IVAC), located in West Paikpara of Brahmanbaria town.

They cut open the balcony grills and entered through the back of the building sometime Sunday night, said Shakhawat Hossain, district superintendent of police.

Sabur Ali, the supervisor of the IVAC, told the police that Tk 5,000 in cash, four biometric pen drives, and a CC camera device were stolen.

He added that one of the pen drives was in use, while the other three were intact.

On information, the crime scene investigators from the Police Bureau of Investigation and Criminal Investigation Department visited the spot and collected evidence.

A case would soon be filed over this incident, said police.

Our correspondents in Chattogram, Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Noakhali contributed to this report.