

‘They’re enemies of the country’

Raushan on those who destroyed state resources

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Raushan Ershad, chairman of a faction of Jatiyo Party, yesterday demanded justice for the victims of recent anti-quota movement violence across the country.



She also called on the government to provide proper compensation to the families of the victims and ensure adequate medical treatment for the injured.

The former opposition leader made these remarks while speaking to reporters after visiting various damaged government establishments, including “Setu Bhaban”, in the capital during the anti-quota demonstrations.

Accompanied by senior party leaders, Raushan condemned the destruction caused by armed criminals.

Those responsible for such extensive damage need to be tried under sedition laws through proper investigation, she said. “Citizens of any country cannot destroy state resources like this. Those who did are enemies of the country.”

She acknowledged the valid demands of the young students and supported their cause, which she said had been addressed by the Supreme Court.

However, she added that the movement turned violent due to conspirators, resulting in the loss of many lives, including students, civilians, and law enforcement personnel.

3 sent to jail over rape of schoolgirl

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

A Jashore court yesterday sent three persons to jail in a case filed for allegedly raping a sixth grader and filming the incident in Jashore’s Monirampur upazila.

The accused are Ashraful Islam, 20, and his two friends – Pranto Biswas, 22, and Shaon Hossain, 19.

Police arrested the three after the victim’s grandmother filed a case with Manirampur Police Station, said ABM Mehdi Masud, officer-in-charge of the police station.

The three accused were sent to jail by a court.

According to the case statement, Ashraful recently returned home from Malaysia.

Around 8:00pm on Friday, Ashraful and two friends picked up the victim and raped her.

Failing to find elder brother, police pick up HSC examinee

STAR REPORT

Police picked up an HSC examinee after failing to find his elder brother during an early morning raid on July 22.

Eighteen-year-old Abu Raihan, a student of Reboti Mohan Pilot School and College, is now in Narayanganj jail, said his family members.

They alleged that law enforcers in plainclothes raided their Atigram home under Siddirganj upazila of Narayanganj around 3:00am to arrest Raihan’s elder brother Abdul Kader Jilani, who is the Siddirganj Thana Jatiyotabadi Chatura Dal president.

“The law enforcers came to our house in search of our brother Jilani who usually stays away from home for his involvement in politics. Failing to find him, police picked up Raihan despite our mother telling them that he has been appearing in the HSC exam,” Sagor, the second of three siblings, told The Daily Star.

Raihan, a student of science department, secured GPA 5 in the 2022 SSC exam, said Sagor, adding that his younger was not involved in politics.

Sagor said he was in another room when police were whisking away Raihan, saying



PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

Caught in a sudden rain, a woman covers herself with a leaf in Khulna city’s Shibbari intersection yesterday.

ATAI RIVER IN JASHORE

3 villages inundated as dam breaks

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

The dam on Atai river in Abhaynagar upazila of Jashore broke on Thursday, inundating three villages under Siddhipasha union.

Since then, hundreds of families in Shantipur, Chandrapur and Ramnagar villages have been going through immense sufferings.

The villagers urged the authorities concerned to repair the broken dam quickly, and demanded a permanent solution to the issue.

The river’s water started entering through Rishipara section of the dam in Shantipur village after a 300-metre stretch of the embankment collapsed early on July 26 due to rise in tidal water, said locals.

Soon, areas across Shantipur, Chandrapur and Ramnagar villages became waterlogged, causing sufferings to the residents, said Akbar Khan, a local union parishad member. The upazila administration has been informed in this regard, he added.

“Around 2,000 people in the three villages have been affected while



numerous houses, animal sheds, fish enclosures and rural roads across the area have been waterlogged for the last three days,” said A Kamal Hasan, chairman of Siddhipasha Union Parishad and a resident of Chandrapur village.

Contacted, KM Abu Nawshad, UNO of Abhaynagar upazila, said the

officials concerned of Bangladesh Water Development Board have been informed about the collapsed dam.

“BWDB officials gave assurance of repairing the collapsed dam within a week. Meanwhile, upazila administration has taken some steps to repair the damaged roads,” he added.

How could law enforcers

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such extreme measures, how could they [law enforcement agencies] open fire? I want to know the answers,” she added.

Jahangirnagar University teacher Snigdha Rizwana criticised the PM for visiting the metro rail first rather than visiting the family members of the deceased and injured victims.

“To her [Sheikh Hasina], the metro rail is more important than lives,” she said.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

“You [PM] said that you poured water from a helicopter to extinguish the fire. Then who killed the child playing on the rooftop? Who killed the child staring outside from her window? Did your conscience not tell you to visit the ill-fated family members first? Are they also Razakars or militants to you?” she asked.

The teacher said the Awami League does not care about the lives of people, as the party did not come to power with the people’s mandate.

“That is why you [PM] used all your forces to suppress the students’

protests,” she said.

Speaking at the rally, Jakia Shishir, grandmother of Mir Mugdho, who was killed during the student protest, said her grandson distributed water among the protesters during the movement.

“He was seen shouting ‘water, water’. He asked the protesters if they needed water to drink. He served water to the protesters to quench their thirst, but he was killed within minutes,” she said.

“You [PM] have killed numerous children like Mugdho... History says no one can remain in power by force,” she added.

Amena Aktar, joint convener of Biplobi Nari Forum, asked the prime minister to step down from office for killing numerous people by using force.

Among others, women from different left-leaning political parties and cultural and social organisations spoke at the rally.

After the rally ended, they brought out a procession that concluded in front of the foreign ministry’s office.

She is shedding ‘crocodile tears’

Says Fakhrul on PM’s hospital visit

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday criticised Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for what he called a deceptive display of “crocodile tears” during her hospital visits to see the injured protesters of the quota reform movement.

In a statement, Fakhrul condemned the Detective Branch for detaining three coordinators of the quota reform movement from a hospital, warning that such actions would deepen the crisis.

He accused the premier of deceiving people with her hospital visits.

Fakhrul urged the government to step down, taking responsibility for the recent violence.

He also accused it of shutting down communication systems and imposing curfews to cling onto power. He highlighted the economic hardships faced by the public and called for a political solution.

Fakhrul demanded an impartial international probe into the killings during the quota protests and accused the government of spreading misinformation about BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman.



BNP, Jamaat are inseparable

Says Quader

BSS, Dhaka

The relationship between BNP and Jamaat is inseparable, as demonstrated in the BNP’s call for unity that includes Jamaat, said Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday.

“Anti-liberation forces are collaborators of BNP,” he said in a statement to the media.

Quader criticised the call for national unity by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, labelling it as a union of anti-state forces against the spirit of the Liberation War.

He said this call poses a threat to the country’s independence and sovereignty. Quader urged pro-liberation forces to resist BNP-Jamaat.

He alleged that BNP-Jamaat activists conducted widespread destruction using lethal weapons.

Quader assured that law enforcers are actively pursuing the culprits, with a judicial probe committee and police investigations underway.

Rejecting BNP’s allegations, he said innocent people will not be harassed, and no criminals will be spared.



KURIANA-BHIMRULI

3.5km road needs urgent renovation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pirojpur

A 3.5 kilometre road from Kuriana Bazar to Pirojpur’s Nesarabad upazila and Bhimruli area of Jhalakathi Sadar upazila has long been lying in a dilapidated state.

Kuriana Bazar and Bhimruli are both popular tourist attractions being guava hubs, with the latter famous for its floating guava market. Every year, during the guava harvest season in mid-June, numerous tourists visit the areas.

The road used to be a convenient shortcut, allowing tourists to visit both spots with ease when it was in better condition. However, it is now in a sorry state, along with a broken wooden bridge connecting the road at Adamkathi village.

“As the shortcut road is unusable in its present state, people now have to travel 15 kilometres to journey between Kuriana and Bhimruli,” said Paritosh

Halder from Adamkathi village.

Shankar Majumder, a member of Kirtipasha Union Parishad in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila, said since the Kuriana-Bhimruli road is important for the local economy and tourism, it is necessary for the entire 3.5km road to be repaired, including the half-kilometre road in Bhimruli.

Contacted, Md Raisul Islam, upazila engineer in Nesarabad, said, “A three-kilometre part of the road under Nesarabad upazila is being repaired, while soil tests and measurements have been done for repairing the bridge. We are trying to include the bridge under a project.”

Baki Chowdhury, upazila engineer of Jhalakathi Sadar, said the road has been included in a Development Project Proposal for Jhalakathi-Pirojpur. “Once the DPP is approved, we will be able to renovate the road,” he added.



Every time he wakes up, he cries

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my wallet which was wrapped inside my lungi, then my hip, and finally exited through my lower abdomen,” he added.

Bystanders quickly took him to Suhrawardy hospital, where doctors performed a two-and-a-half-hour colostomy surgery.

He is now on a colostomy bag to manage his bodily waste, the duty doctor told

The Daily Star.

He required four bags of blood during the operation.

Yasin, the youngest of three siblings, is being accompanied by his father, Rouf Shikder, and his brother, Md Mizan.

“My son has been very anxious since the incident and keeps asking when he will recover. Every time he wakes up, he cries out in pain,” said his father,

who came all the way from Nazirpur upazila of Pirojpur.

Yasin’s brother Mizan mentioned that despite promises of free treatment, they have already spent Tk 1 lakh, borrowed from others.

“We are very poor, and our family relies on our income, which is currently halted. We don’t know if things will improve,” said Mizan.



Abu Raihan