

## '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.

## Release quota organisers

FROM PAGE 3  
forum also feared many of the injured may lose their vision and limbs.

Besides, various government establishments were damaged due to the violence, it said.

The forum condemned the violence vehemently and demanded legal action through fair and impartial investigation against those involved. They also urged that students are not harassed in the process.

HRFB said it was known that when allegations rose of men in plainclothes picking up three organisers of Anti-discrimination Student Movement -- Asif Mahmud, Nahid Islam and Abu Baker Majumder -- on July 26 evening, the Detective Branch claimed that they were taken into custody "on security grounds".

Meanwhile, there was an allegation that plainclothes DB men picked up Nahid Islam from his friend's residence on July 19 and later he was dumped on a road after being physically and mentally tortured, it said.

The forum expressed deep concern over the allegations of picking up the organisers of the student protests time and again by men in plainclothes and demanded a clear statement from the authorities concerned in this regard.

"Such incidents will definitely create panic among general students and their family members," it said, adding that such indiscriminate detention

is a clear violation of the articles 27 and 31 of the constitution.

"So, the forum demanded release and security of all organisers, including Nahid Islam, Asif Mahmud and Abu Baker Majumder, and urged [the authorities] to refrain from picking them up by plainclothes men, intimidating them and exercising illegal force," reads the statement.

The forum demanded that the 2016 Supreme Court directives regarding the arrest without warrant and remand be followed.

It said police action were not coherent with the public statement of several ministers, who said the students were not involved in any violence or subversive activities. Rather, police action are creating obstacle to freedom of expression and holding peaceful protest guaranteed by the constitution.

Such activities by the law enforcement agencies are exposing their misuse of power and questioning their professional integrity, it said.

Overall, this is contradictory to the laws of Bangladesh and its international commitments, which will create mistrust among people about the rule of law, the forum added.

The signatories include HRFB experts Hameeda Hossain, Sultan Kamal and Raja Devasish Roy; HRFB convener Faruq Faisel, also executive director of Ain o Salish Kendra; HRFB steering committee members Shaheen

Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation; Zakir Hossain, chief executive of Nagarik Uddyog; Sara Hossain, honorary executive director of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust; Ranjan Karmakar, executive director of Steps Towards Development; Shah Ahmed, executive director of Bandhu Social Welfare Society; and Sanjhi Drang, general secretary of Bangladesh Adivasi Forum.

The other signatories are HRFB members Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh; Fauzia Moslem, president of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad; Shamsul Huda, executive director of Association for Land Reform and Development; Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori; Sarder Jahangir Hossain, executive director of Acid Survivors Foundation; Moni Rani Das, chairperson of Bangladesh Dalit and Excluded Rights Society; Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies; Dewan Zaman, executive director of FAIR; Pallab Chakma, executive director of Kapaeng Foundation; Rokeya Rafique Baby, executive director of Karmojibi Nari; Tasnim Azim, president of Naripokkho; Abdus Sattar Dulal of National Alliance of Disabled People's Organisations; and Ashrafun Nahar Misti, executive director of Women with Disabilities Development Foundation.

## Every time

FROM PAGE 3

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.

"That is why you [PM] used all your forces to suppress the students' protests," she said.

## Failing to find elder

FROM PAGE 5

"We had an apprehension that our eldest brother might be arrested for his association with opposition political party. But why police arrested my innocent youngest brother?" asked Sagor, a fish trader.

Golam Mostafa Russell, Narayanganj superintendent

## How could law enforcers open fire at students?

FROM PAGE 3

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

Jahangirnagar University teacher Snigda 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.

"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.

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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.



PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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ক্র. #	পদের নাম	যোগ্যতা
১	৪৮ মেডেলি বিভিন্ন পদ দেনিমিক বেতন-৫৩৭/- টাকা	মুদতম আইম শ্রেণী পাশ্চ। উচ্চতর শিক্ষাগত যোগাযোগসম্পর্ক এবং যে কোন সেবা সাহার অভিজ্ঞাতাসম্পর্ক প্রার্থীদের দেয়া হবে।
২	মেডেলি প্রথমী দেনিমিক বেতন-৫৩৭/- টাকা	Class VIII Pass having good physique. Preference will be given to the retired defence personnel.
৩০,০৬,০২০৪ তারিখ তত্ত্ব # ১২-এর জন্ম ৩০ বর্ষ এবং তার জাতীয় পরিচয়পত্র/বোর্ড সার্টিফিকেট অনুমতি। বয়স।		
সকাল ১০:০০ থাটিকা হতে মুঢ়ুর ১২:৩০মিনি এর মধ্যে সকল কোর্ট করা যাবে।		
আবেদন কর্তৃপক্ষের সঙ্গে টাকা জমা রাখিস্কিন এবং নির্ধারিত অর্থ সম্মতসহ উচ্চতর প্রয়োজনীয় কাগজপত্র আপার্টমেন্ট ২৯,০৮,২০২৪ তারিখের মধ্যে ২৫২ # কক্ষের সমূহে রাখিক বাবে জমা নিতে হবে এবং অবসর কর্তৃপক্ষের সামনে বাসিন্দা বলে গণ্য হবে।		
অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদন বাসিন্দা বলে গণ্য হবে।		
মহাপরিচালক, বারডেম		

D-05

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.