



Staff Reporter

Trashing BNP senior vice-chairman Tarique Rahman's claim over involvement of Inu-Menon in planning of the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu and Civil Aviation Minister Rashed Khan Menon on Tuesday said it was a lie. Inu claimed that he had gone into hiding after the assassination of Bangabandhu along with most of his family members on August 15, 1975.

"After the killing of Bangabandhu, I'd gone into hiding. I was not present in the oath-taking ceremony of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed," he said yesterday while talking to reporters at his office.

Inu also claimed that he raised his voice against Mushtaque within 48 hours of the August 15 incident, saying about 100 leaders and activists of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Jasad) had been killed by 'Mushtaque Bahini' in 83 days after assuming office.

He alleged that Ziaur Rahman had massacred 5,000 soldiers, including Colonel Taher and sent war criminals abroad. Tarique Rahman is now making a rubbish statement to conceal the truth, he said.

The Information Minister also branded Zia as a 'villain of history and the mastermind of communalism'.

Talking separately with reporters, Menon said Tarique Rahman has resorted to falsehood in his desperate bid to return to politics.

Reiterating that was not present in the swearing-in ceremony of Mushtaque, Menon said, "Though I had been in Dhaka, we were in a constant fear following Bangabandhu's assassination. We got the news of Mushtaque through radio. You can find out the truth going through the history."

Taking a swipe at BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia and her son Tarique, Menon said they are now trying to reverse the history. "The role of Khaleda Zia had been questionable during the Liberation War in 1971 and Tarique is now making this false statement for saving his mother."

He also said both the mother and son turned furious following the resumption of the trial of Bangabandhu murder and August 21 grenade attack cases.

The Civil Aviation Minister described Tarique Rahman as the head of all black sheep, saying he

is responsible for the destruction of the young generation, and also for all kinds of corruption and militant activities in politics.

Addressing a seminar in London on Sunday, Tarique Rahman said, "Sheikh Hasina at a recent programme branded Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed as a black sheep...those who had prepared the grounds for Sheikh Mujib's killing later told the media that Sheikh Mujib was an autocrat. And those who had administered and attended the oath-taking ceremony of Khandaker Mushtaque are now roaming around Sheikh Hasina."