KANSAT KILLINGS

Put govt in dock: Dr Kamal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Eminent lawver Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday strongly criticised the aovernment for killing innocent people in Kansat who were demonstrating for uninterrupted power supply for irrigation purposes.

The government should be put in the dock, he said and accused the government of violating the constitution by asking the law enforcement agencies to fire on innocent people

He also urged conscientious people and the lawyers to stand by Kansat people and give them all kinds of assistance.

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, was speaking as the chief guest at a reception ceremony organised by Kushtia Nagarik Parishad for the newly elected office-bearers of Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) at Islamia College playground.

At least 20 people have been killed in Kansat. Chapainawabgani. since January when the people started demonstration for smooth power supply.

"What were the crimes of Kansat people? Did they announce any armed revolt? Did they create any untoward situation? They only pressed home their demand for power supply," said Dr Kamal, who visited Kansat on Friday.

He said the people of Kansat were just demonstrating in the beginning. But they started hurling brickbats and carrying sticks when the police swooped on them, he

This is a total failure of the government to properly handle the

incident, Dr Kamal said. Referring to the opposition's ongoing movement for electoral reforms, the eminent jurist said the alliance government would be forced to meet the demands in this regard as these are people's demands.

The people will resist any ill motive of the government centring on the election, he added.

Presided over by Prof Mahtab Uddin Sarkar, the ceremony was also addressed by SCBA President Barrister Amir-Ul Islam, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddique, Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, Barrister Safique Ahmed, Prof Harun-or-Rashid, Dr Akhtaruzzaman, Dr Kazi Faruque and Advocate Abdul Baset Majumder.

Earlier, Islamic University unit of Bangabandhu Parishad also accorded a reception to Barrister

placed a four-point demand before

144 and law enforcers, compensa-

tion for victims, punishment of those

responsible for killings and eradica-

Chowdhury.
Bapa, Sheba, Peace, Green

Voice, Shikhor 2000 and eight other

organisations joined the rally to

express their solidarity with the

programme moderated by

narifuzzaman Sharif

Couple held

baby at Bogra

OUR CORRESPONDENT. Boara

A couple was arrested for their

alleged involvement in stealing a

seven-month-old baby from Bogra

Mohammed Ali Hospital on Friday

and her husband Shahjahan have

admitted their involvement in the

hospital, filed a case against them

with sadar thana on Saturday

Shahjahan stole the baby Rahul from

the Child Ward of the hospital and tried

to escape taking the advantage of

carelessness of his parents. But they

Police said the couple Rebeka

Tariqul Islam, ward master of the

According to police, Rebeka and

for stealing

hospital

These are withdrawal of section

government.

government to keep up the pace of development. He also asked the students to be

Bhiuyan invites

opposition to sit

for discussion

UNB, Narsingdi

discuss their demands.

with open mind

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister

Abdul Mannan Bhiuyan called upon

the opposition parties to sit across

of agitation," he said while addressing

programme organised by Jatiyatabadi

Government Shaheed Asad College

ent government believes in the

politics of development and produc-

The minister also said the pres-

He said there has been rapid

The LGRD Minister stressed the

need for ensuring continuity of the

development in the education

sector during the tenure of the

in Shibpur upazila yesterday.

present government.

attentive to their studies saying that there is no alternative to preparing oneself to become a competent citizen to survive in this competitive world with honour.

SAHR urges Nepal govt to release political, rights activists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing solidarity with civil rights movement in Nepal, the South Asians for Human Rights (SAHR) has demanded immediate release of all political and civil rights activists jailed by the government.

It also urged the international community to use all diplomatic means to persuade the Nepalese government to step down.

The call was made in a joint statement by SAHR Chairperson and former prime minister of India I K Gujral and Co-chair Asma Jahangir.

The statement called upon all democratic forces in the region to mobilise their support behind the struggle of the people of Nepal and denounce the dictatorial position taken by those in power.

"The struggle for restoration of democracy by the Nepalese people and political parties is an admirable achievement," it added.

SAHR is convinced that the rule of monarchies, dictators and autocrats must end in South Asia so that millions of South Asians can live in peace, prosperity and dignity, the statement said.

Expressing dee killing of activists by law enforcement agencies, the human rights body called upon all governments in the region to urge the King of Nepal to end the brutalisation of Nepalese The statement said the situation

because of the refusal of royalists to respect the fundamental rights of citizens by usurping all power. The present system of rule by monarchy should no longer exist as

has worsened over the months

more lives will be lost if royalists retain their illegal power, it observed.

Bangladeshi doctor wins **UN Award**

UNB, Dhaka

A pioneering family planning doctor from Bangladesh and a major reproductive health foundation in Haiti have won this year's United Nations Population Award.

Dr Halida Hanum Akhter is the Director-General of the Family Planning Association of Bangladesh, one of the world's oldest Planned Parenthood affiliates. She also chairs the Board of Directors of the Programme for Appropriate Technology in Health, PTI reported from New York.

In 1986, she founded the Bangladesh Institute of Research for Promotion of Essential and Reproductive Health and **Technologies**

Haitian NGO, Foundation pour la Sante Reproductiveel Education Familiale, has also won the award Formed in 1988, it provides reproductive health care for more than 1.2 million people through a network of 26 centres. The Foundation has provided

basic training on reproductive health to 500 teachers and 6,500 young workers, and created a network of 30.000 young volunteers who disseminate information on reproductive health including HIV/AIDS.

The Award goes each year to individuals and institutions for their outstanding work in population and in improving the health and welfare of individuals.

The winners were chosen from 27 nominees, including top-level policy-makers, researchers and health workers from around the world, by a committee consisting of 10 UN member states.



Citizens' Rights Movement forms a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday demanding burial of remains of Bir Shreshtha Matiur Rahman at an open space in the city.

14 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

At least 14 people were killed and 41 others injured in separate road accidents in five districts in the last three

days.

Our correspondent in Gazipur reports: Four people, including a child, were killed in Gazipur. Muslem Uddin, 24, was run over by a

Dhaka-bound bus in front of Tongi Anarkali Cinema Hall on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway on Saturday morning. He died on

Apurba, a three-year-old boy, died as he fell down from the lap of his father after a passenger tempo hit him on Shimultali-Rajendrapur highway at 11:00am on Friday. In another incident, an unidenti-

fied man was killed and seven others were injured when a tempo fell into a ditch following a collision with a Dhaka-bound coach on Nabinagar-Kaliakair highway near Jiranibazar on Friday afternoon.

Another unidentified man, aged about 40, died as he was run over by a train in Station Road area in Tongi on

Our correspondent in Jessore reports: One person was crushed under the wheels of a Kushtia-bound bus and four children of a same fame family were injured critically near Jessore Central Bus Terminal at around 8:00am.

Alamgir Hossain, 40, died on the spot while his son Al Amin,10, daughters -Rozina ,12, and Arifa , 8, - and niece Hafiza, 10, were injured as the bus hit a motorcycle they were riding on.

set the bus on fire and beat up a transportworkers' union leader Our Correspondent from Cox's

In protest against the incident, a mob

Bazar reports: Five people were killed and over 25 injured in separate road accidents vesterday A speedy car hit Idrish, 27, and Delwar Ahmed 34, on Cox's Bazar-

Chittagong Highway, leaving them

Three others -- Ripa, 25, Minoyara Begum, 15, and Akter Ahmed, 12, -were rushed to Chittagong Medical Collage and Hospital (CMCH) in a

critical condition, police said In another road accident, Hasina, 7, others injured critically on Teknaf-Cox's Bazarroad Dil Mohammed, 12, was killed in a

collision between two ieeps on the Chakoria-Chittagong road, while five others were seriously injured.

Our Correspondent from Sirajganj adds: Two people, including a minor boy, were killed in two road accidents in Mokdum Ali. 3. was crushed under

the wheels of a speeding truck at Parkola in Shahjadpur while he was olaying on a road, police said. Meanwhile, Delbar Hossain, 45, of

Hazrahati village of Kazipur upazila was run over by another truck at Rohabari on rajganj-Kazipur road. Our correspondent in Dinajpur adds: Two people were killed and five

others injured when a truck rammed a tempo on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway at midnight on Wednesday. The dead were identified as Milan. 30. and Nur Islam. 28.

The truck driver fled the scene soon after the incident

Kazi Ibadul Haque, Ataus Samad, Muhammad Jahangir, ASM Abdur

Rab, Brig (rtd) Sakhawat Hossain,

Dr Tofail Ahmed, Syed Anwar

Hossain, among others, spoke at

Executive Director of Centre for

Policy Dialogue (CPD) Dr

Debapriya Bhattachàriya said,

Before finding honest candidates,

we have to bring democracy and

financial transparency within the

political parties first. Otherwise, how

can we give them the authority to

In his keynote on 'How to find

eligible candidates?', Prof Asif

Nazrul of Dhaka University said if

political parties follow their party

constitution no corrupt and dishon-

people of all strata of society, ASM

Abdur Rab proposed the introduc-

tion of a bicameral parliamentary

system, where the upper house will

candidates for the elections, the

practice of democracy should be

introduced within the political par-

ties first, Mahi B Chowdhury MP

said. He suggested considering

grassroots workers' recommenda-

tion before nominating a candidate

cal culture, General Secretary of

Jatiya Party (Manju) Sheikh Shahidul

Islam suggested mandatory registra-

Lt General (rtd) Mahbubur Rahman MP, Dr Mizanur Rahman

Shelly, Prof Azad Chowdhury, Inam

Ahmed Chowdhury, Amirul Islam

Chowdhury, Kazi Faruk Ahmed,

Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah.

AMM Bahauddin, and Sadek Khan

spoke at the Lal Golap roundtable.

BALID executives

Dr M Mostafizur Rahman, head of the

Library of the North South University,

and Dr M Hanif Uddin, associate

professor of Dhaka University, were

elected chairman and secretary

general of Bangladesh Association of

Librarians, Information Scientists

and Documentalists (BALID)

Other office bearers are Vice Chairmen - Md Shahabuddin Khan,

AKM Mofizur Rahman and Abu

Mohammad Hannan Miah, Joint

Secretary - Shamsun Nehar Khan,

Establishment Secretary - Jafar

Iqbal, Finance Secretary - Onamika

Biswas, Research and Development

Secretary - Naimul Islam Roni,

Publication and Public Relations

Secretary - ABM Mahfuzul Haque

and the executive members - Dr

Mirza Rezaul Islam, Nazim Uddin,

Hossam Haider Chowdhury, M

Moniruzzaman, Abdul Hye Sameni,

Md Nizamul Islam and Md Farhadul

recently, says a press release.

tion of all the political parties.

Emphasising the change of politi-

from a constituency.

To find honest and capable

act as the caretaker government.

To ensure the participation of

est person can get nomination.

maintain the government's trea-

the Shujan roundtable.

JUDGES' MURDER CASE Trial begins at Jhalakathi court on April 18

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Trial of the murder case of two judges by suicidal squad of JMB will begin at Jhalakathi district and sessions judge's court instead of Barisal speedy trial tribunal on April

Court sources said Mehdi Masuduzzaman, magistrate of the cognizance court of Jhalakathi sadar upazila, has sent relevant papers to District and Sessions Judge's Court.

Magistrate's court also finished the legal procedures of declaring Faruk Hossain Khan alias Khaled Saifullah and Asadul Huq alias Arif two chargesheeted accused, as absconding and executing legal procedures for confiscating their

The other seven chargesheeted accused are Mamun the assassin, Shaekh Abdur Rahman, Siddiqul Islam Bangla Bhai, Abdul Awal, Ataur Rahman Sunny, Molla Omar and Sultan

Md Anwarul Huq, district and sessions judge, said the sensational case has been sent to his court for rapid trial at the order of the home

The date for framing charges against the accused has been set on April 18 and all the six accused under custody including Bangla Bhai. Shaekh Rahman, Awal, Sunny, Sultan and assassin Mamun would be produced before the court on that day.

Earlier, the trial of another case lodged in connection with the killing of two judges under explosive act was completed at Barisal speedy trial tribunal within 26 working days after examining 48 witnesses. Of the nine accused, Mamun the

assassin, Awal and Sunny pleaded quilty in that case. The judge awarded each 40

years' rigorous imprisonment. Sultan, another accused, was

BRAC School of

Public Health features in WHO report

UNB, Dhaka

The James P Grant School of Public Health (HPS) at BRAC University has been prominently featured in this year's annual World Health Report (WHR) for its educational and training activities.

The report published by World Health Organisation (WHO), appreciated the school's aims to "train a cadre of professionals who will improve the health outcomes of populations in disadvantaged areas of the world."

The theme of this year's report is Health Work Force". The report said that an acute shortage of health workers is having impact on many countries' ability to fight disease and improve health.

It said the BRAC School's first batch of 25 students graduated in January 2006. The students mostly came form low-income countries such as Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Kenya, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines and Uganda. It has also students from United States.

The report said the graduates are expected to become leading public health practitioners, managers researchers educators and policy makers.

The BRAC school has started its second MPH batch with 26 students from 11 countries and are gradually engaging itself in research work on Bangladesh's health problems and health advocacy.

Death anniversary



anniversary of KM Ataul Huq, former general manager of Jiban Bima Corporation,

Today is the

third death

and milad mahfil will be held. All have been requested to pray for salvation of the departed soul

On the occasion, Qurankhwani

Maulana Abdul Ghani Mia



Maulana Abdul Ghani Mia, son of Maulana Mohiuddin Master (Sona Mia), says a press release. On the occasion, Qurankhwani

second death

social worker

and milad mahfil will be held at the 'Mia Bari Jame Mosque' under Sarail upazila in Brahmanbaria after Asr prayers. Relatives, friends and admirers

have been requested to attend the

Nominate honest candidates taker government emphasising registration of political parties and

cultivating democracy inside them.

Awami League Presidium

Member Abdur Razzak MP said the

current trend in politics is depend-

ency on black money, and for this it is very difficult for the honest and

eligible candidates to be involved in

Rahman MP emphasised registra-

tion of the political parties to 'estab-

government ivi Hatizuddin Knan

said reforms in the caretaker gov-

ernment is needed for an election

free from black money, as the cul-

ture of democracy could not

advance much even after three

elections under caretaker govern-

under the caretaker government to

avoid controversy, he said.

commissioners

The armed forces should be kept

A free, fair and neutral election is

not possible under the existing

Election Commission as there are

controversies over the election

to 'maintain a peaceful law and

order situation and to keep the army

out of controversy', former inspector

general of police Nurul Huda said if

the administration takes appropriate

measurers on politics and political

parties, then it will be easy to find

control politics and political parties

Laws should be enacted to

honest and eligible candidates.

Proposing a 10-day long election

lish healthy politics' in the country.

Ruling BNP lawmaker Mushfigur

Former adviser of the caretaker

democracy in the interest of the country and people.

They also stressed mandatory registration of the political parties and the need of a strong, independent and impartial Election Commission (EC) for a free, fair and neutral election where black money and muscle power will not dominate

Lal Golap Event Management organised a roundtable on 'How to find eligible candidates?' at Jatiya Press Club while Shujan (Citizens for Good Governance) organised a ble doings of civil society to establish rule of the honest through a fair election' at the Cirdap auditorium.

Shujan will form human chains across the country including the one on Manik Miah Avenue in the capital on April 22 to press home its demands for inclusion of people illegally left out of the voter lists, nominating honest and eligible candidates in the upcoming elections, mandatory registration of the political parties and realising the reform proposals made by Shujan.

Addressing both the discussions, Treasurer of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)
Trusty Board Prof Mozaffar Ahmed said the discussion on finding honest candidates for the upcoming election is a positive matter for our political culture. Those who are not honest and

not close to the general public will not be accepted by the people in the next elections, he said. The EC cannot function properly as it is under the Prime Minister's

Office, he said, adding that a strong, independent and impartial FC is needed for a free, fair and neutral Shujan Member Secretary Dr

Badiul Alam Majumdar placed a keynote on the reforms in the care-

in order to nominate honest and eligible candidates in the general

elections, Maj Gen (rtd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim said, adding that there should be a 'no' box in the ballot paper for voters to say 'no' to the ineligible candidates. Former advisor of caretaker

government ASM Sahjahan, Justice

Thundershowers likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Comilla and Noakhali in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere

over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

It said that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over Highest temperature 38.5 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

at Dinajpur and lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sayedpur and Dinajpur. The sun sets in the capital at 6:20pm today and rises at 5:36am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were

Temperature Humidity in percentage percentage Morning Evening 76 57 Dhaka 33.3 26.5 Chittagong 57 80 38.0 25.4 Rajshahi 93 75 65 Barisal 34.6 34.8 Cox's Bazar

classes resume Bss, Savar

The match will start at 10am with STAR Sports and state-run Bangladesh Television beaming live coverage from the port city venue. vesterday There was however bad news for

Dhaka route for the students in view residential halls.

tion of corruption at Palli Bidyut policy of coercion. The call was made at a rally in front of the National Museum in the Presided over by sanghati President Dr SM Atiqur Rahman, The speakers said the law the rally was addressed by litteraenforcement agencies have surteur Sved Abul Maksud, filmmaker Mosih Uddin Sarker, sculptor Bhaskar Rasha and actor Jhuna

Call for peaceful solution

passed the atrocities committed by the Pakistani army in 1971. They said 20 people who tried to realise their lawful demand for

A citizens' body styled as 'Nagarik

Sanghati' yesterday urged the

government to resolve the crisis at

Kansat peacefully by discarding its

The main gate of Arts Building at Dhaka University remains closed as Bangladesh Chhatra Union observed a strike

BDNEWS. Dhaka

to Kansat crisis

yesterday to protest the killings of demonstrators at Kansat.

BIP executives

Dr Toufiq M Seraj, former president

of Rehab, has been elected the

president of Bangladesh Institute of

Planners (BIP) on April 14, says a

Other office-bearers of the 11-

member committee are: Vice

Presidents: Prof Sarwar Jahan and

Golam M Ferdous, General

Secretary: Dr Golam Mortuza, Joint

Secretary: Akhter Mahmud and

Akhter Hossain Chowdhury, Serajul

Islam, Dr K M Maniruzzaman and

Tigers' 2nd Test

priorities for the Tigers as they aim

to capitalise on their first Test perfor-

Fatullah. Habibul Bashar's men

fought against the world's number

one side all the way, testing the

nerves of Ricky Ponting, who led

from front with a brilliant hundred to

complete a great escape, and com-

match but they won the hearts of

many as they were on the verge of

making the biggest upset in Test

history. That is why everybody is

looking forward to see how the home

team carries on the impetus into the

home side as left-arm spinner

Enamul Haque, who along with his

senior partner Mohammad Rafique

threatened the opponents' formida-

ble batting the most, is uncertain to

play after complaining of pain in his

the Bangladesh think-tank will wait till

today morning to announce the

squad. Another left-arm spinner.

Abdur Razzak, who is yet to make his

Test debut, has already joined the

perately looking to field the young

spinner as more turn is expected in

the Chittagong pitch than Dhaka. Australia has also decided to

finalise their side in the morning of the

match as there was uncertainty with

some key players like spin-wizard

Shane Warne and speedster Brett

injury in the first game while fatigue

was the issue for Lee. Both could yet

play provided they pass a fitness test

in the morning.

If some of the key players are

rested then Mitchell Johnson, Dan

Cullen and Nathan Bracken will be in

Warne was troubled by a shoulder

Bangladesh, however, are des-

team yesterday morning.

Because of Enamul's uncertainty,

Bangladesh might have lost the

pany in the exciting first Test.

second game.

spinning finger.

Despite a three-wicket defeat at

Members are Amzad Hossen.

Treasurer: Tarigul Omar.

nress release

uninterrupted power supply have been killed since January. They also pointed accusing fingers at the local administration. which swooped on peaceful demonstration at Kansat without any

provocation. Quoting a report published in a magazine of Chapainawabganj, the speakers said Palli Bidyut Samity grabbed Tk two and a half crore last year without providing any electricity

to the people of Kansat.

Minu, mayor of Rajshahi city and minister in charge of the district, of unleashing terror on local people. They also demanded exemplary punishment to those who turned

They accused Mizanur Rahman

Kansat into a slaughterhouse. The path the government has chosen will heighten the prevailing tension, they added. At the end of the rally, they

First year JU

The first year honours classes of Jahangirnagar University (JU) under 2005-2006 session resumed

The authorities have arranged bus services on Dhaka-JU campusof inadequate seats for them in the

The university authorities will cancel admission if any student remains absent for ten days at a stretch without any valid reason.

were caught red-handed by the locals on hospital premises. Earlier, two babies were stolen from the hospital with the help of some employees a few months ago. A woman, sent to Bogra jail for her involvement in the incident, said the stolen baby was sold at Tk 6,000.



A musical session to welcome Bangla New Year was held at the auditorium of Gazi Bhaban in the city on Friday.