

KANSAT KILLINGS

Put govt in dock: Dr Kamal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Kushlia*

Eminent lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday strongly criticised the government 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, Chapainawabganj, 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 bricks and carrying sticks when the police swooped on them, he added.

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 Akhtaruazzaman, Dr Kazi Faruque and Advocate Abdul Basit Majumder.

Earlier, Islamic University unit of Bangladesh University Parishad also accorded a reception to Barrister Amir-Ul Islam at the university campus.

Bhuiyan invites opposition to sit for discussion with open mind

UNB, *Narsingdi*

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon the opposition parties to sit across the table with an open mind to discuss their demands.

"Problems will not be resolved through hartals and obstruction and the government will not fall in the face of agitation," he said while addressing the freshers' reception and cultural programme organised by Jatayatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Shibpur Government Shaheed Asad College in Shibpur upazila yesterday.

The minister also said the present government believes in the politics of development and production.

He said there has been rapid development in the education sector during the tenure of the present government.

The LGRD Minister stressed the need for ensuring continuity of the government to keep up the pace of development.

He also asked the students to be 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 deep shock at the 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 citizens.

The statement said the situation has worsened over the months 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 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, Fondation pour la Sante Reproductivee 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

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 the spot.

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 unidentified 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 Jiribazar 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 Friday night.

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.

In protest against the incident, a mob set the bus on fire and beat up a transport workers' union leader.

Our correspondent from Cox's Bazar reports: Five people were killed and over 25 injured in separate road accidents yesterday.

A speedy car hit Idrish, 27, and Delwar Ahmed 34, on Cox's Bazar-Chittagong Highway, leaving them dead on the spot.

Three others - Ripa, 25, Minoyara Begum, 15, and Akter Ahmed, 12, - were rushed to Chittagong Medical College and Hospital (CMCH) in a critical condition, police said.

In another road accident, Hasina, 7,

and Kabir, 25, were killed and seven others injured critically on Teknaf-Cox's Bazar road.

Dil Mohammed, 12, was killed in a collision between two jeeps 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 Sirajganj yesterday.

Mokdum Ali, 3, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Parkola in Shahjadpur while he was playing on a road, police said.

Meanwhile, Delbar Hossain, 45, of Hazratnagar village of Kazipur upazila was run over by another truck at Rohabar on Sirajganj-Kazipur road.

Our correspondent in Dinajpur adds: Two people were killed and five others injured when a truck ramed a tempo on Dinajpur-Thakurgaon highway at midnight on Wednesday.

The dead were identified as Milan, 30, and Nur Islam, 28.

Another truck driver fled the scene soon after the incident.



The main gate of Arts Building at Dhaka University remains closed as Bangladesh Chhatra Union observed a strike yesterday to protest the killings of demonstrators at Kansat.



BIP executives

Dr Toufiq M Seraj, former president of STAR Sports and state-run Bangladesh Television beaming live coverage from the port city venue.

There was however bad news for home side as left-arm spinner Enamul Haque, who along with his senior partner Mohammad Rafique threatened the opponents' formidable batting the most, is uncertain to play after complaining of pain in his spinning finger.

Because of Enamul's uncertainty, 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 team yesterday morning.

Bangladesh, however, are desperately 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 Lee.

Warne was troubled by a shoulder 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 the frame.

Call for peaceful solution to Kansat crisis

BDNEWS, *Dhaka*

A citizens' body styled as 'Nagarik Sanghati' yesterday urged the government to resolve the crisis at Kansat peacefully by discarding its policy of coercion.

The call was made at a rally in front of the National Museum in the capital.

The speakers said the law enforcement agencies have surpassed the atrocities committed by the Pakistani army in 1971.

They said 20 people who tried to realise their lawful demand for 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 Pali Bidyut Samity grabbed Tk two and a half crore last year without providing any electricity to the people of Kansat.

They accused Mizanur Rahman 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 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 classes resume

BSS, *Savar*

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

The authorities have arranged bus services on Dhaka-JU campus-Dhaka route for the students in view of inadequate seats for them in the residential halls.

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



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

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 18.

Court sources said Mehdi Masduzzaman, 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 properties.

The other seven chargesheeted accused are Mamun the assassin, Shaekh Abdur Rahman, Siddiqui 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 ministry.

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 guilty in that case.

The judge awarded each 40 years' rigorous imprisonment.

Sultan, another accused, was acquitted.

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 from 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.

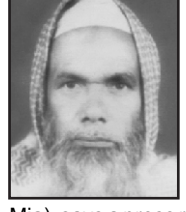
Death anniversary



Today is the third death anniversary of KM Ataul Huq, former general manager of Jiban Bima Corporation, says a press release.

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

Maulana Abdul Ghani Mia



Today is the second death anniversary of social worker Maulana Abdul Ghani Mia, son of Maulana Mohiuddin Master (Sona Mia), says a press release.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani 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 programme.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, *Dhaka*

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 the country.

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:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.2	26.4	76	57
Chittagong	33.3	26.5	77	76
Rajshahi	38.0	25.4	57	42
Khulna	36.2	26.5	80	55
Barisal	34.6	26.2	93	77
Sylhet	34.8	26.2	75	68
Cox's Bazar	33.6	26.0	65	71