

Dr Kamal calls for greater unity against corruption

DU CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged political parties, civil society members and student organisations to form a greater unity against corruption.

terrorism practised by some dishonest public leaders who have grabbed all facilities illegally. "To establish a better democratic country that people dream for, we should have open discussions among the political parties, student organisations and professional bodies to find out possible solutions of prevailing crisis," Dr Kamal said.

united to establish a parliamentary form of government. "We need a fruitful parliament where productive discussions will be held on all issues like economic condition, political crisis, law and order, and campus situation to strengthening country's democracy," Dr Kamal added.

Second unit of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital opens

UNB, Dhaka

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan said people and health sector in Bangladesh would benefit if foreign doctors are allowed to practice here without any restriction. "A massive development will take place in the health sector if internationally renowned physicians and local doctors work together. This will also help people to get modern treatment in the country," he said inaugurating the second unit of Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Hospital (JBFH) at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

The Old Car Club Bangladesh organised a two-day vintage car exhibition on the premises of the National Museum in the city yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Save the Environment Movement forms a human chain in front of the Institute of Fine Arts in the city yesterday protesting demolition of Mirpur Town Hall for the construction of a shopping mall.

'Keep spirit of liberation war alive'

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Veena Sikri yesterday said the spirit of the liberation war will have to be kept alive in the minds of the peoples of India and Bangladesh. "The spirit of the liberation war is still alive in the feelings, values and friendly relationship between the two peoples. The whole world is now conveyed about all the events of the liberation war and the cooperation and friendly relationship of the two countries during the war," she said.

commander of the Joint Command of the Allied Forces of War of Liberation of Bangladesh in 1971. Ekattorer Muktiyoddah, freedom fighters of 1971, organised the meeting on the premises of Liberation War Museum in the city. Veena Sikri said the friendship between the peoples of India and Bangladesh built up during the liberation war will have to be strengthened through extending the hands of cooperation in future. "It is a memorable day not only for recalling Jagjit Singh Aurora, but also for recalling the history of the

liberation war. May I be deeply committed to strengthening the friendly relations between the peoples of India and Bangladesh through extending our cooperation, beliefs, feelings and values to each other," she said. Presided over by Air Vice-Marshal (Retd) AK Khandaker, deputy chief commander of the liberation war, the meeting was addressed by Kader Siddiqui Bir Uttam, Gen (Retd) KM Shafulullah Maj (Retd) Matin and poet Habibulla Siraj.

Saturn's moon Titan has dunes

REUTERS, Washington

Saturn's moon Titan has huge regions covered with dunes, possibly made out of ice crystals, sand or some other unknown material, international space scientists reported on Thursday. Images of Titan beamed back to earth from the joint US-European Cassini mission look very much like sand dunes in the Sahara desert, Namibia, Saudi Arabia and Australia, the researchers said. "It's bizarre," said Ralph Lorenz of the University of Arizona, who worked on the study.

Eight killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

At least eight people were killed in separate road accidents in four districts yesterday. A correspondent in Comilla reported: Three people including a woman were killed and some 23 injured in a road accident at Mirershani on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway under Choudhagram upazila yesterday. According to police, the accident occurred at about 2:00pm when a Dhaka bound VIP bus collided head-on with a Chittagong bound covered van. Among the dead, two were identified as Abul Hossain, 26, of Uttara in Dhaka and Monju Miah, 35 of Sonapur in Noakhali who was the driver of the VIP bus, while the other person could not be identified. The critically injured were sent to different hospitals and clinics in Comilla. A case was filed with the Choudhagram Police Station and the bodies of the deceased were sent to Comilla Medical Collage and

Hospital morgue for autopsy. A Correspondent in Gazipur adds: Two people were killed in a road accident at Tongi Cheragali in Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway yesterday morning. The dead were identified as Moynu Mia, 30, a rickshaw puller of Trishal in Mymensingh and Mohammad Selim, 21, of West Jamtoli under Gopalpur upazila in Tangail. Eyewitnesses said a soil laden Gazipur-bound truck slammed Selim and Moynu who were standing beside the road at around 7:00am. The truck driver tried to flee with his truck but it collided with a tree after going a kilometre from the spot. The truck driver, however, managed to escape. Our Correspondent in Brahmanbaria adds: Two people were killed and another injured in a road accident when a speeding Sylhet-bound rice-laden truck slammed a pushcart from behind on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway at Baishamura village under Earail

upazila of the district in the early hours of yesterday. The dead were identified as Sirajul, 22, and Jewell, 15. The bodies were sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy while the injured was admitted to the same hospital. Police seized the killer truck. However, the truck driver and helper managed to escape the spot. Our Correspondent in Sirajganj adds: A schoolboy was run over by a speeding coach on the Dhaka-Bogra Highway at Hatikumrul area in Solong under Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj district yesterday noon. The victim was Sakil Ahmed, 8, son of Abul Hossain of Dattokusha village in the upazila. Police and witnesses said a Bogra-bound coach ran over Sakil as he was trying to cross the road. He was rushed to Avisenna Hospital in critical condition where doctors declared him dead.

Saarc tourism ministers' confce in Cox's Bazar from May 20

UNB, Cox's Bazar

The first conference of tourism ministers of Saarc countries will be held in Cox's Bazar on May 20 and 21. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is likely to inaugurate the international conference at the conference room of Hotel Sea Palace. A preparatory meeting for the conference was held here on Thursday evening, with State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Fakhrul Islam Alamgir as the chief guest. State Minister for Communication Salahuddin Ahmed was present as the special guest while Bangladesh Tourism Corporation Chairman Dr Mahfuzur Rahman presided. Addressing the meeting, State Minister Fakhrul Islam Alamgir hoped that the conference would boost the tourism industry of Cox's Bazar. At the same time, Cox's Bazar would become an international tourist resort town, he added.



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Tenants Welfare Association forms a human chain at Mukhtangan in the city yesterday demanding apartments in easy installments.

Export thru' Akhaura land port suspended for 3 days

BDNEWS, Brahmanbaria

Bangladesh's trade with India through Akhaura land port remained suspended for the third consecutive day yesterday as Indian customs officials continued their indefinite strike. The land port is crucial for Bangladesh as it exports its items to India mainly through this point. The export items included cement, stones and perishable items, including fish and vegetables. Exporters said they are incurring a loss of Tk 50 lakh a day for the suspension of trade through the land port. The export came to halt on Wednesday when Indian customs

department officials went to an indefinite strike protesting the abduction of two of their colleagues by the insurgents on April 26. They are enforcing the strike at eight check-posts in the northeastern region of India. Some 200 trucks loaded with cement and other export items remained stranded at the land port. "Many trucks carrying perishable items went back," said an exporter. The upazila nirbahi officer held talks with the Indian officials several times, but they said they were unable to call off the strike without a decision from the central body in New Delhi.

Attack on people condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different political parties yesterday condemned attack on people by the cadres of BNP and police when locals of Shanir Akhra in the city were demonstrating for water and electricity supply. At least one hundred people were injured when BNP cadres especially Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) along with police attacked local people during the daylong demonstration. GonoForum President Dr Kamal Hossain said it is sad that the local legislator misbehaved with people of his constituency. He called upon the government to take effective measures to resolve crisis of water and electricity in Jatrabari and Shanir Akhra area. He also urged the government to avoid repressive measures on people. Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh and Left Democratic Front also condemned the incident.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



She left behind her husband, two sons, Saimul Huda and Naimul Huda, four sisters, one brother and a host of relatives and friends to mourn her death. She was buried at Azimpur graveyard yesterday. Her kulkhwani will be held at her Fakirapool residence after Asr prayers on Monday. Relatives, friends and well-wishers have been requested to attend the kulkhwani.

WEATHER TODAY

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia, Comilla and Noakhali in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today. Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country and day temperature may remain nearly unchanged, Met Office said in a forecast. Yesterday's highest temperature of 38.8 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 20.7 degrees at Sylhet. The sun sets in the capital at 6:30pm today and rises at 5:20am tomorrow. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.

Nandigram upazila achieves 100 pc sanitation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Nandigram upazila has achieved cent percent sanitation in Bogra district. Local administration recently declared Nandigram as the first upazila in the district having hundred percent sanitation coverage. According to a base line survey, around 47 percent people in the upazila didn't use hygienic toilets before October last year. But with the successful execution of a special project during the three months (October to December) through vigorous motivations, cent percent sanitation coverage was achieved, sources said.

Haque Molla MP, UNO Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, Chairman of Nandigram Poursava Kamrul Islam Jewel and five chairmen of five unions. The local administration said almost 35 thousand households are using hygienic toilets now. It was attended by Dr Ziaul

Roundtable

Saptahik 2000 and Women's People's Health Movement organises a memorial meeting for Nasreen Pervin Hugu, country director of ActionAid. Venue: Gonosasthya Kendra Hosital. Time: 4:00pm.

Memorial meeting

Save the Environment Movement and Bangladesh Photojournalists Association will hold a rally demanding an end to pollution of water in river and water bodies. Venue: Babu Bazar. Time: 10:00am.

Rally

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Calligraphy

The inaugural ceremony of 9th Calligraphy Exhibition organised by Dhaka Sahitya Sanskriti Kendra will be held. Venue: National Museum. Time: 4:30pm.

Lecture

United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) organises a lecture on 'The United Nations at the Crossroads' to mark the death anniversary of Syed Ahmad Hossain, founder secretary general of UNAB. Venue: Cirdap. Time: 5:00pm.

Rotary Dhaka Central

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

Transport strike in 13 south-western districts continues

UNB, Bagerhat

Transport strike in 13 south-western districts continued for the third day yesterday with no sign of breaking the deadlock. Associations of transport owners and workers called the indefinite strike on about 100 routes of the districts, demanding withdrawal of state-run BRTC bus services. The districts affected by the strike are Khulna, Bagerhat, Satkhira, Jhenidah, Magura, Gopalganj, Jhalakati, Barguna, Bholu, Pirojpur and Patuakhali. The association leaders in the districts sat at a meeting at noon in Khulna city and decided to continue the strike until their demand were met and brought five more southern districts under its purview. District and police officials said efforts should be made at the higher level to break the deadlock through discussions. Meanwhile, additional police have been deployed at risky points of different routes to avert any untoward incident.

'Krishak Bachao-Desh Bachao' launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Krishak League, peasant wing of main opposition Awami League (AL), launched an audio album titled 'Krishak Bachao-Desh Bachao' in the city yesterday. The album focused on the repression and misrule of BNP led four-party alliance government through different types of folk songs. AL leader Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP unveiled the cover of the audio album at the party central office. Selim said people of the country including farmers have been suffering measurably for the last four and half years and this album has focused on the misrule and oppression of the government. He also said it is a good initiative by Krishak League and this album should be spread all over the country for the greater interest of the country as farmers can easily understand the misrules of alliance government through this album. Krishak League President Dr Mirza Jalil presided over the ceremony while AL Cultural Secretary Alamgir Kumum, Motahar Hossain Mollah, KM Chand Mian, Samir Chandra, Abul Hossain, Asaduzzaman Biplob and Hosne Ara were also present.