

Dr Kamal for violence-free campuses

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday urged the parents to unite for resisting violence at the educational institutions.

Referring to the killing of Buet student Sabegunnahar Sony, Dr Kamal said that the teachers and the students, who support the criminals in the name of politics and under the banner of political parties, are sick and criminals themselves.

"We should keep these people out of the university grounds for ensuring peaceful and education-friendly environment," he said while addressing a view-exchange meeting at the WVA auditorium at Dhanmondia as chief guest.

Abhibhabok Parishad (parents council), an associate organisation of Bangladesh Nagorik Somaj, organised the meeting.

"Terrorism and corruption are main problems of our country," the eminent lawyer said. "To save our country, we must have the campuses free from violence."

Dr Kamal also expressed concern over the alleged corruption in the judiciary and the quality of

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Ctg port turns costly

Businessmen blame it on graft, authorities hold port private sector responsible

RAFIQ HASAN, back from Ctg

The export-import businessmen and the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) have contradictory takes on the high cost of goods handling at the port.

The businessmen alleged that the port becomes costly because of corruption and underhanded dealings by the port officials and employees. "We have to spend at least Tk 3,000 extra to release a container from the port," alleged Mohammad Amirul Haque, managing director of Seacom Shipping also a director of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

He alleged that the port is costly because all its clients are charged a number of fees for certain services even if some of the clients do not avail those. For example it charges Tk 34.10 per ton for discharging of goods at outer anchorages although CPA does not provide any service in the area. He said the tariff at the port should be service based.

"We have to satisfy the port workers to get our goods cleared," said Captain AS Chowdhury, senior general manager of Sea Consortium Bangladesh Limited. "The recent increase in volume of goods being handled at the port is due to the increase in volume of our business, not because of increased efficiency at the port."



AMM Shahadat Hossain

According to him the cost of goods handling at the port has become extremely high due to recent congestion of ships waiting to be unloaded. The ships have to wait 7-8 days before getting berthing permission costing the operators an additional \$10,000 to \$15,000 per day.

Contradicting the views CPA Chairman AMM Shahadat Hossain said, "Chittagong port has become costly because the private agents are charging the exporters and importers high service fees."

There are some components at the port that are handled by the private sector and there is no oversight of the service fees of freight forwarders, shipping agents, C & F agents, and the stevedores, he said.

"If any of these private agents gives Tk 10 as a tip or a bribe to a port employee, he realises 10 times of that amount from the exporters or importers."

"Hardly 15 percent of the money spent by the clients goes to the port

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3 murdered in Uttara linked with insurgents

Suspect investigators

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mystery shrouding Thursday's triple murder at Uttara in the capital deepened further as the father of one of the victims yesterday identified only his son, saying he does not know the other two.

An investigator last night said they believe the three had links

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Rain disrupts Ctg life for second day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two people were injured in a mudslide as incessant rain disrupted normal life in the port city for the second consecutive day yesterday.

A tornado yesterday hit the coastal upazila of Banskhali damaging at least 100 houses yesterday.

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PHOTO: STAR

School children form a human chain, organised by Khelaghor, at Shahbagh in the capital yesterday demanding security for children.

Tk 2.82 lakh robbed from Sonali Bank

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Robbers took away Tk 2.82 lakh from a Sonali Bank branch at Kajdia under Rupsha upazila of Khulna district at midnight on Friday.

According to police, the robbers entered the bank by breaking the lock of the collapsible gate. They opened the vault with a duplicate key and looted the money.

There was no security guard when the incident occurred. Police took sweeper Zakir Hossain of the bank into custody for quizzing.

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PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Hitching an unusual ride, a boy heads home from school on a street swamped with rainwater in South Jatrabari in the capital yesterday.

VOTER LIST CONTROVERSY

EC waits for certified copy of SC verdict

Decides this week next course of action

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC), which had prepared the fresh voter list ignoring the January 4 High Court directives, will decide this week its next course of actions on the electoral roll in line with the Supreme Court verdict delivered on last Tuesday.

On receiving the certified copy of the verdict, the EC will also decide the fate of the controversial draft voter list, officials at the EC Secretariat said.

Sources at the EC Secretariat said they are trying to collect the certified copy of the SC verdict that upheld the HC directives for revising the existing voter list and

rejected EC's appeal against the directives. The EC officials hope they will get the copy in a couple of days.

The EC had continued the work on voter list until the pronouncement of the SC verdict as the ruling BNP also favoured preparation of

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BARAPUKURIA MINE Realisation dawns on energy adviser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Energy Adviser Mahmudur Rahman held poor management and low-quality machinery responsible for his 45-minute hold-up in the Barapukuria Coal Mine underground on May 24, when the lift became inoperative and emergency systems went out of action due to electricity failure.

Contacted, he also blamed the Chinese company CMC that took lease of the mine, for mismanagement in operating the project.

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Nepal govt, Maoists take peace vow

REUTERS, Kathmandu

The Nepali government and Maoist rebels said they had agreed to end attacks on each other's bases and stop recruitment, and vowed to work for peace in the Himalayan nation, where a civil war has killed thousands.

Ending the opening round of their first peace talks since 2003 late on Friday, they also agreed to a 25-point code of conduct which commits both sides to cease provocations and stop showing and using

arms to intimidate people. They also promised early elections for a special assembly to draw up a new constitution and map out what the future political system of one of the world's poorest nations will look like.

Analysts said on Saturday they expected the planned process to bring in fundamental changes in Nepal's polity and raise hopes of lasting peace in a nation wracked by a decade of violence.

No date for the assembly vote

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BSF kills 2

AGENCIES, Thakurgaon

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) gunned down two Bangladeshi nationals near Molani frontier in Haripur upazila yesterday.

The victims are Mamlot Ali, 35,

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Prayer Timing		
May 28		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-43	6-47
Esha	8-05	8-35

Source: Islamic Foundation

