

Dhaka, Delhi must overcome narrow, parochial outlook

Dr Kamal tells roundtable on 'Indo-Bangla relations'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Both India and Bangladesh must overcome the narrow and parochial outlook to improve the bilateral relations, said eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday. A few people who are privileged and powerful indulge in parochial and partisan conduct for short-term advantages and profits, he said at a roundtable on 'Indo-Bangladesh Relations' organised by Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI) at its auditorium in the city.

"The power and privilege is often secured by illegitimate means at the cost of national interest, the overall interest of our people and our long-term future," he added.

Dr Kamal, who attended the programme as the chief guest, also launched a book titled 'Bangladesh-India Dialogue: Vision of Young Leaders' edited by BEI President Ambassador Farooq Sobhan.

Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Veena Sikri, Acting British

High Commissioner Stephen J Bridges, Prof Imtiaz Ahmed, Maj. Gen. (ret.) Syed M Ibrahim, ambassadors Syed Noor Hossain and Ziaul Shams and journalist and columnist Zaglul Ahmed Chowdhury also spoke at the roundtable.

Young politicians should be encouraged to come forward with a fresh mind and psyche of cooperation and friendship, Dr Kamal said, adding that "But such encouragement comes only if we can generate healthy politics which is not dependent on muscle and money and rely on harnessing our people's strength and patriotism to build a better future."

The key to strengthening Indo-Bangla cooperation is to replace the distrust and fear by mutual confidence and affirmation of shared common goal of a better life for all, he said.

The challenges of the coming decades are presented by an expanding population and significant additions to the labour force

in search of employment, he said, adding that more employment opportunities can be created through providing investment opportunities within a framework of multi-dimensional regional cooperation.

A multi-modal transport system around the deep water ports could be developed in Bangladesh for the benefit of all, he suggested. "Water resources of the major river basins in our sub-region call for shared use, which is ecologically sound and optimises benefits for the people."

Indian High Commissioner Veena Sikri called for more dialogues and interactions between the leaders and people of the two countries to minimise the existing problems.

Farooq Sobhan said the media plays a key role in the relations of the two countries. More interactions should be made with the journalists of both the countries so that they highlight the positive issues, instead of the negative ones, he added.

\$10m Saudi food aid for drought-hit African states

The government of Saudi Arabia has allocated 10 million US dollars in food assistance for the drought-affected people in six African countries, says a press release issued by the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka yesterday.

The World Food Programme will distribute the food aid in Somalia (3 million dollars), Kenya (2 million dollars), Rwanda (1.5 million dollars), Ethiopia (1 million dollars) and Djibouti (0.5 million dollars).

The World Food Programme has been distributing foodstuffs in three instalments during the period from June to August.

Pro-opposition DU senate members boycott lunch

DU CORRESPONDENT

Senate members of pro-opposition Blue and Pink panels of Dhaka University (DU) boycotted a lunch sponsored by the Islami Bank on the final day of the two-day senate session yesterday.

Condemning the DU authorities, Prof Sadeka Halim, one of the Blue panel members, said despite allegation of militancy financing against the bank, authorities should not have accepted the lunch.

At least 17 senate members, including Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, RIM Aminur Rashid, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid and Dr Mohammad Rahmat Ullah, refused to take the lunch due to the bank's role in patronising extremism and fanaticism in the country.

Meanwhile, a spontaneous discussion of the senate members was held on the final day of the session.

The discussion included various suggestions on vice chancellor's speech, annual budget of the university, financial statute, different trust funds, departments and institutes' internal income sources, university's development works, proctorial systems, newly introduced uniform grading system, university's transportation for students, teachers' salary and other issues.

Tk 10cr Japanese grant for obstetric care services

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government of Japan yesterday approved the utilisation of Japanese Counterpart Fund, amounting to Tk 10 crore, for the project of strengthening the Emergency Obstetric Care (EOC) Services through effective utilisation of existing equipment in Bangladesh.

Japan supported the Bangladesh initiative to strengthen the emergency obstetric care under Japanese grant assistance in 2001 and 2003 with a total amount of 831 million yen (approximately Tk 52 crore), according to an embassy release issued yesterday.

The amount covered the cost of procurement of medical equipment and machinery. However, the floods of 2004 had caused massive damage to such machinery and equipment in many hospitals.

The Japanese government approved the amount for procurement of spare parts of the equipment and machinery to carry out repairs on them, the release added.

The Japanese Counterpart Fund is generated from the Debt Relief Grant Aid (DRGA) and the KR Food Aid. The Japanese government provided DRGA for eligible debtor countries, including Bangladesh, in return for repayment of their ODA debts.

The total amount of DRGA provided to Bangladesh was about 256.8 billion yen (approximately Tk 15,100 crore).

The Japanese ambassador expressed his hope that this assistance will make a significant contribution to better functioning of the equipment and machinery and emphasised the sustainability of the project under Japanese grant assistance.

Thai envoy's residence to be shifted

The Royal Thai Embassy in Dhaka will shift its Chancery and Ambassador's Residence to 18 and 20 Madani Avenue, Baridhara from July 1, says a press release.

However, all telephone and fax numbers of the Chancery and Residence will remain unchanged. For this reason, the visa service of the Thai embassy will remain closed from today to Sunday.



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia speaks on the proposed budget for the next fiscal year at the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

'Turn safe food movement into social movement'

Magistrate Rokon, journo Khayer accorded reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called for amendment to the new laws on food adulteration imposing stringent punishment to the responsible traders.

They also reiterated the need for social awareness across the country to resist food adulteration.

They were speaking at a discussion titled 'Safe Food: Our Duties' organised by Nirapad Khadya Andolon at the National Press Club in the city with a view to turning the safe food movement to a social movement.

Presenting a keynote paper on the occasion, Prof Dr ABM Faruk of the Department of Pharmacy, Dhaka University, pointed out leather colour as the latest chemical used in food adulteration that increases the risk of diseases like gastric, liver cirrhosis and leukaemia.

Expressing concern over rampant sale of sodium cyclamate, Prof Faruk said "The chemical is available everywhere under different names including diabetic sugar, despite the commerce ministry had already banned it."

Prof Faruk called for creating awareness among farmers on organic farming, mixed cultivation and use of improved technology.

Speaking on the occasion, AHM Noman, president of Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council, said corruption is the root cause of food adulteration.

Noman urged the politicians and mass media to launch a strong countrywide movement to resist

food adulteration. The speakers also called for expanding the operation of mobile court outside Dhaka.

Rokon-Ud-Doula, magistrate of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) court, said food adulteration cannot be prevented only by mobile court if social awareness is not created.

Nirapad Khadya Andolon

accorded reception to Rokon-Ud-Doula and Senior Reporter of the daily Ittefaq Abul Khayer for their outstanding contribution to the drive against food adulteration.

Syed Marghub Morshed, president of Citizens Rights Movement, Badiul Alam Mojumdar, country director of The Hunger Project and Abul Khayer also spoke on the occasion.

Denmark wants free, fair polls in Bangladesh

Envoy tells Hasina

UNB, DHAKA

Danish Ambassador Niels Severin Munk yesterday discussed issues like polls, politics, corruption and development with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence.

The envoy was quoted to have said Denmark wants a free and fair election to take place here in time with the participation of all political parties.

During the hour-long meeting, bilateral relations, the forthcoming election, proposed electoral reforms, combating corruption, establishing good governance and flourishing country's democracy came up for discussion.

At the meeting with the Danish envoy, Hasina, also Awami League president, underscored the need for

effective functioning of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to combat pervasive corruption.

"The national growth will be enhanced and poverty reduced if corruption is warded off," her political secretary Sabir Hossain Chowdhury quoted Hasina as telling Munk.

The envoy, who has been here for nearly five years, expressed similar views with the opposition leader, Sabir said.

He said Awami League also wants a free and fair election with a level playing field. "That's why there is no alternative to reform of caretaker government system and the Election Commission," he said.

Hasina praised the Danish government for establishing DNA-test lab in Bangladesh and for direct assistance in the country's agriculture sector.



Members of Bangladesh Swatantra Ebtedayee Madrasa Shikkhak Samity continue their fast-unto-death at Muktangan in the city yesterday to press their seven-point demand, including payment of salary as per national pay scale.

6 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least six people were killed and five injured in separate road accident in Dhaka, Satkhira and Gazipur yesterday.

Our Staff correspondent

FF Mohiuddin buried without state honour

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Veteran journalist and freedom fighter Sheikh Mohiuddin was laid to rest in his family graveyard at Rajpasha Shekherhat village under Sadar upazila of Jhalakathi district yesterday morning without any state honour.

Family members, relatives, freedom fighters and elites of the area attended the funeral and expressed their agitation against the failure of local administration to give state honour at his burial as a brave freedom fighter.

Local administration said that they had nothing to do, as the name of Sheikh Mohiuddin was not enlisted in last gazette list of freedom fighters.

Sheikh Mohiuddin passed away at the Dhaka National Heart Foundation Hospital after a massive cardiac arrest on Tuesday. He was the chief reporter of the daily New Nation.

Left Front for resignation of CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Left Democratic Front, a platform of leftist political parties, yesterday demanded electoral reforms and immediate resignation of election commissioners, including the Chief Election Commissioner.

At a meeting at the party's head office, they also urged the government for immediate implementation of the tripartite agreement to meet demands of workers in garment sector and for the approval of the demands of teachers' community.

For a free and fair election they also demanded total reform in the election system.

Nirmal Sen chaired the meeting while Ruhin Hossain Prince of Communist Party of Bangladesh, Nurul Hasan of Workers' Party, Abu Hamed Shahabuddin of Shamyabadi Dal, Fakir Hossain of Gonotantik Majdur Party, Jalal Sarder of Shamyabadi Dal also spoke at the meeting.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Chittagong, Sylhet, Khulna and Barisal divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy falls are also likely at places, said Met Office, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Rajshahi and Jessore and lowest 24.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:50 pm today and rises at 5:15am 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	33.6	26.8	83	73
Chittagong	33.0	26.2	74	78
Rajshahi	34.2	27.5	85	81
Khulna	33.8	27.8	78	78
Barisal	32.0	27.0	81	77
Sylhet	31.2	24.8	96	78
Cox's Bazar	33.0	26.5	69	79

PHOTO: PFD

Madhusudan's anniversary of death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 133rd death anniversary of Michael Madhusudan Dutt, an epic poet and playwright of Bangla literature.

On the occasion, Bangla Academy will arrange elaborate programmes including discussion, poetry recitation and citing extracts from Madhusudan's noted plays at the Bangla Academy seminar room today, says a Bangla Academy press release.

Dr Wakil Ahmed, chairman of Bangla Academy will chair the programme and Dr Abul Kalam Manjoor Murshed; director general of Bangla Academy will give an introductory speech.

Abdul Latif



Today is the 8th death anniversary of Abdul Latif, a freedom fighter, says a press release.

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 14, East Bashabo in the city.

All the relatives and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Haji Abdul Wajed

Today is the 6th death anniversary of Haji Md Abdul Wajed Babul, former director of Aanda Confectionery, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence.

Obituary

Syed Nurul Huq, director of Bangladesh Power Development Board and father of Engr Syed Ziaul Huque, secretary of Bangladesh Computer Council, passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Tuesday, says a press release.

He left behind his three sons and two daughters.

A milad mahfil will be held at Ahmedbag (Bashabo) Jame Mosque after Asr prayers tomorrow to pray for salvation of his departed soul.

Qulkhwani of Akbar today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Qulkhwani of Shipping Minister Lt. Col. (ret.) Akbar Hossain will be held at his residence at House # 14, Road # 75,

Gulshan # 2 after Maghrib prayers today.

Akbar Hossain passed away due to a cardiac arrest on Sunday night.

Relatives, friends, well-wishers and political colleagues are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Md Shamsul Islam

Qulkhwani of Air Commodore (ret.) Md Shamsul Islam will be held at his Banani residence in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Mizanur Rahman

Qulkhwani of Mizanur Rahman, editor of the 'Mizanur Rahmaner Troimask Patrika', a literary magazine, will be held at his home at House # 94, Road # 9/A, Dhanmondi after Asr prayers tomorrow, says a press release.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Late Golam Rasul Mallik, chief editor and managing director of Eastern News Agency (ENA), will be held tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at House-25, Road-4, Sector-5 at Uttara Model Town in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the chehlum and milad mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Golam Rasul, also a freedom fighter, died on Saturday due to a brain stroke and massive cardiac arrest.

Abyaad Fuad Khan

Chehlum of Abyaad Fuad Khan, son of the senior vice president of Dhaka Metropolitan Bar Association Advocate Mohammad Ayub Khan, will be held tomorrow, says a press release.

On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at House-53/A, Road-9/A at Dhanmondi in the city after Asr prayers.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the milad mahfil to pray for salvation of the departed soul.



PHOTO: STAR President of Shikkhak Karmachari Oikya Jote Prof Shariful Islam speaks at a press conference at Ramna Restaurant in the city yesterday. On his right are Muhammad Zahangir Khan and Prof Rokifa Afroz.

DHAKA TODAY

Seminar

North South University (NSU) organises a seminar on 'corporate social and environmental management'. Venue: NSU. Time: 10:00am.

Roundtable

Save Environment Movement will hold a roundtable on 'tobacco cultivation in the hill tracks: do's to protect environment'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 11:00am.

Fruit festival

'Royal Thai Fruit Festival' will be held. Venue: Agora, Gulshan. Time: 4:00pm.

Blue for Peace

Family of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria will stage a silent sit-in as part of their Blue for Peace Programme demanding trial of the killers of former minister. Venue: Satmasjid Road. Time: 5:00pm.

'Adopt strategies to combat rural, urban poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Urban poverty is directly related to the unplanned urbanisation of the country, said speakers at a press conference organised by Coalition of Urban Poor (CUP) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium yesterday.

Addressing the conference, Dr Ashraf Uddin Chowdhury of Dhaka University said as urban poverty is an 'extended version' of rural poverty, it cannot be effectively addressed through unidimensional policy of the government.

Attributing non-decentralised urbanisation to a high level of rural poverty, he underscored the need for adopting integrated strategies to combat rural and

urban poverty simultaneously.

Adequate employment generation in the agriculture and non-farm sector in the rural areas through launching multistage development projects can effectively address poverty in the rural areas and reduce the number of urban poor, he said.

Regarding the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2006-2007, he said the budget does not contain clear guidelines for urban poverty alleviation.

CUP Chairperson Gulshan Ara Chowdhury, Vice Chairperson Advocate Mohammad Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Treasurer Shaheen Akhter Chowdhury also spoke on the occasion.