

## 'Dr Kamal not using political language'

Says Quader about his comment on ousting govt

UNB, News

Referring to Gonoforum President Dr Kamal Hossain's Saturday's comments on ousting the government, Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Dr Kamal is badmouthing instead of speaking in political terms.

"Not only politicians, but people of the country also got hurt by his comments. The comment -- to kick the government out of power -- is a slang, not political language," he said.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, was talking to reporters after inaugurating

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A boy patiently waits for food at T&T Boys' High School in Banani. His home was among the few hundreds that burnt to ashes in a fire at T&T slum on Sunday. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## LAND OWNERSHIP ON BANK OF TURAG Settle dispute in 15 days: HC to BIWTA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) to settle within 15 days the application filed by 62 families challenging BIWTA's action for establishing pillars in their land adjacent to the bank of Turag river in Savar.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman came up with the order following a petition filed 62 families, led by one Jonayed Ahmed.

Following a writ petition filed by Human Rights and Peace for Bangladesh (HRPB), the HC in June 2009 had directed the government to demarcate the boundaries of four rivers around Dhaka -- Buriganga, Turag, Shitalakhya and Balu -- through conducting cadastral survey and revisional survey.

Accordingly, BIWTA started building pillars on the boundaries of the rivers including Turag.

On November 27 last year, Jonayed Ahmed submitted an application to BIWTA claiming that the authorities concerned had started establishing pillars on their [the families] land at Bordeshi Mouja in Savar beyond the boundary of Turag River.

In the application, they requested BIWTA not to put pillars on that land, court sources said.

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DHAKA AIRPORT

## Luggage thief caught in act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

His "profession" involved taking advantage of the emotions of expatriates, mostly migrant workers.

Whenever expats -- leaving years of woes behind and overwhelmed with excitement -- arrived in the country, he was on the move.

Absent-minded expatriates were his prey. At the first sign of someone preoccupied with the bliss of finally returning home, he got to work.

He stole their handbags and small luggage that store the expats' valuables.

Abdul Qadir (45) had been doing this for months at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport, but his luck finally ran out as he was caught red-handed on Friday.

"After receiving complaints, we increased surveillance and arrested him. We was sentenced to one year's imprisonment upon confession," Ahmed Zamil, executive magistrate at the airport, who led the drive, told The Daily Star yesterday.

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## Form special cell to combat coronavirus

Says Law and Life Foundation in legal notice to govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law and Life Foundation, a rights organisation, yesterday sent a legal notice to the government, requesting it to take necessary measures including formation of a high-powered monitoring cell within 48 hours in order to combat coronavirus.

"It is high time to form a high-level monitoring cell comprised of doctors, paramedics, civil administration, police administration etc to combat coronavirus. This cell shall oversee, evaluate and monitor the status of coronavirus in Bangladesh. The cell shall have branch offices in every district of Bangladesh," it said in the legal notice.

Advocate Humayun Kabir Pallab served the legal notice on behalf of Law and Life Foundation urging the authorities concerned to take immediate and appropriate steps across the country, including special measures at airports, land ports, seaports and hospitals to prevent coronavirus.

In the legal notice, the organisation said it is necessary to make sufficient numbers of masks, relevant equipment and accessories available in order to prevent the spread of the virus in Bangladesh.

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## In the realm of allegories

Poetry thrives on loyal fan base

MATHEWS CHIRAN

While literary fiction remains the heavyweight at Amar Ekushey Grantha Mela, a loyal fan base has kept poetry well and truly alive at the month-long book fair.

"Whenever you read poetry, you can feel the passion in every line a poet has put in. It resonates with me so strongly, that I can feel the emotions in every rhythm of a poem," said Nadia Haque, a final-year Dhaka University student, whose favourite book is Syed Shamsul Haque's "Nuroldiner Sara Jibon."

While some prefer works of prominent poets, others are more keen to explore the endeavours of new poets.

"I gifted my wife a book by a new poet, as she is a poetry lover and wanted to explore new authors," said Sariful Alam, holding hands with his partner Shemonty Kabir.

"I love to read poems of Helal Hafiz, Nirmalendu Goon, Rudra Muhammad Shahidullah and many more. This year I have decided to try out new poets," said Shemonty, holding a copy of "Obhijog Nei" by Rudra Goswami.

Anindya Prokash has published a total of 110 new titles, of which 15 are of poetry. The books include -- "Selected 10 Poems" by Sabina Yeasmin, "Nil Projapati" by Mehebab Haque and "Obak Johtsna" by Mizharul Islam.

Regarding demand of the books, its publisher Md Afzal Hossain said, "Novels record the highest sales. However, poetry books also compete in the race of reaching readers."

Nirzhar Noishabdya, a promising writer and poet, says, "Poetry doesn't express anything directly. It is the readers who should decipher it. It is also like painting and you can interpret it with your own experience," he said while talking about poetry.

Nirzhar has published 16 books so far, of which six are of poetry. His first book of poems was published in 2011.

Regarding readership of the literary form, he said, "As poetry uses lot of metaphors, it is not very popular among masses. However there are loyal readers. They are the ones who buy poetry books and support us."

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Even on weekdays, the book fair is seeing a steady stream of visitors, looking for a wide range of publications.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



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