

Metropolitan

Dr. Kamal urges govt to repeal Indemnity Ordinance

Consensus a must for democracy

CHITTAGONG, Mar 13: Awami League president Barrister Amirul Islam today underlined the importance of a national consensus to achieve the long-cherished aim of establishing a sound democratic order in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing a discussion, held under the auspices of Open Forum at Muslim Institute Hall here he said a non-political and impartial forum could help in giving democracy an institutional shape.

The Open Forum was set up in September last year and played an important role during anti-autocracy movement based on consensus of all professional and political groups.

Divided into two sessions, the first session was presided over by Dr. Anupam Sen while the second one was chaired by former Vice Chancellor of the Chittagong University Prof Alamgir Mohammad Serajuddin.

It was addressed among others, by forum members Barrister Amirul Islam, Mohammad Abdul Rouf, Dr. Khurshed Jameel and Advocate Zahurul Islam.

Dr. Kamal, a noted lawyer said the essence of democracy lay in mutual understanding among all, tolerance and above all respect for fundamental rights of every citizen.

Dr. Kamal deplored terrorism in the educational institutions and emphasised the need for establishment of the rule of law to consolidate democracy.

He appealed to all who had participated in the struggle for democracy to work together and exchange views to reach consensus on various fundamental issues.

Prof Alamgir Mohammad Serajuddin in his presidential speech said the existing democratic political institutions of the country should be consolidated for welfare of society.

M Nasirul Haq, President of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) read out the declaration adopted during the discussion.

UNB adds: Dr Kamal urged the ruling BNP and other political parties to practise democratic principles within themselves to make the country's onward march of democracy a success.

The people in power want to remain above law. This very attitude is the main obstacle in establishing rule of law in the country, he told an open discussion at the local Muslim Hall. Democracy is absent in many political parties, he added.

He urged the political parties to practise democracy through open discussions and allow people to express their independent opinions.

The 'Open Forum' will organise a long march towards the Sangsad Bhaban to protest the incidence of violence on the first day of parliament's

next session, he added. Criticising the present government, he said the aims and objectives of the liberation war were yet to be achieved. If necessary, he said another war will have to be fought to protect democracy and get rid of poverty, corruption and terrorism that have destroyed the nation.

The government should repeal the Indemnity Ordinance to establish rule of law and pave the way for giving democracy a solid foundation.

In an oblique reference to Jamaat leader Prof Golam Azam, he said, 'one who is accused should be tried according to law. Those involved in the genocide of 1971 in the name of Islam are not friends of the people.'

Barrister Amirul Islam urged the government to single out the anti liberation elements and stop their rehabilitation in government services.

Art competition on Bangabandhu's Birth Day

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Friday witnessed a children's art competition at Bangabandhu Bhaban, reports BSS.

Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote organised the competition on the occasion of the 72th birth anniversary of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Sheikh Hasina exchanged views with the children and distributed prizes and certificates among the winners of last year's art competition.

Justice K M Sobhan, Mukul Hossain, Editor Daily Al-Amin, Dr S A Maick, Begum Shahin Akter, Salauddin Badal and Sheikh Abdul Kader spoke on the occasion.

The winners of the last year's competition were: Sagar Ananta (first), Tanjiba Naorin (second) and Akash Joyanta Joy (third) for in 'Ka' group, Ovinandi (first), Tanzia Sarmin (second) and Meri Das (third) in 'Kha' group and Mousami Sarkar (first), Muniruzzaman Tuhin (second) and Taslima Sultana (third) in 'Ga' group.

BNP distributes relief among fire victims

The local BNP Relief and Rehabilitation Committee Friday distributed relief materials worth over one lakh taka among the fire victims of Islambagh and Mawatek area, reports BSS.

A relief team led by Mesbahuddin Sabu and A K M Ruhul Amin distributed one lungi and one saree each to 1,365 families and Taka 20 thousand in cash.

The Relief and Rehabilitation Committee has been rendering services to the victims since March 9, the day of the fire incident.

The Committee will distribute two kg of rice and dal (pulse) to each family today (Saturday).

BUET Ramzan vacation begins today

By BUET Correspondent The Ramzan vacation of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) begins today (Saturday).

A notice issued by the Academic Council of BUET said that all classes would resume from April 10 after the vacation.

8 RU women students hurt in row over Azam's poster

RAJSHAHI, Mar 12: A quarrel over tearing of Golam Azam's posters between two rival groups on the university campus here last midnight left at least 8 women activists injured, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the clash ensued between supporters of Gonalatrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) and Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Monnajar Hall over tearing of posters demanding trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam.

The situation was, however, calmed down at around 2 am after the Proctor, Registrar and acting Provost intervened. Meanwhile, both the feuding groups today issued statements blaming each other for the incident.

Rajshahi University unit of Gonalatrik Chhatra Oikya and Chhatra League (A-A) in a joint statement blamed JCD for the incident.

Dhaka Day by Day

Here Comes the Mango!

by Parveen Anam

The poet had said, "If winter is here, can spring be far behind?" But we in Bangladesh are saying this time of the year, "If the blossoms are here, can the mangoes be far behind?" And we cast yearning looks at the mango blossoms, atop every mango tree the eye can see, while counting the days till the first luscious mango, rightly called the 'king of fruits' in the sub-continent, makes its first appearance in the city fruit stalls.

To the observant or the roving eye, a few varieties of mangoes can already be seen adorning the racks of the 'fruit-wallas' but the connoisseur of mangoes will simply sniff at this apology of a mango, and bide his time for the appearance of the 'real' fruit. For after all, has he not waited all the year round for his 'kingly' fruit? A wait well worth the effort, he will inform you. And his eyes will instantly light up at the very mention of the romantic names, like 'heem-sagar', 'gopal-bhog', 'rami-pasand', 'malda' and last but not the least, the unforgettable, incomparable, 'langra' for which the true mango lover will go to any length. Or any corner of the land, to get a really good supply. Perhaps the very names are an indication of the love the mango connoisseur has for the fruit, for who else but one truly fond of the fruit could come up with such alluring names?

Mangoes are served in many ways; but whichever the method of serving, it is a fruit, which the mango lover will swear, can never lose its actual flavour or taste. It is served by itself, just the fruit, which is a delightful way of eating it. Or there are some, who will say under

oath, that it is best served with milk, cooked until it has thickened with just a sprinkling of sugar, to satisfy the notoriously sweet tooth of the average Bengali! But of course, it is perhaps only the 'langra', which is best served in this manner; again it is a matter of personal likes and dislikes. But there can never be any dispute, even among a volatile lot like the Bengalis, that there is no fruit which can come anywhere even near the mangoes in taste and flavour.

The mango has been recognized as a royal fruit in these parts, from time immemorial; it is said that the Mughal emperors would always include a crate of the best mangoes in their list of gifts to dignitaries in foreign lands. But the heart of many a stalwart 'mango-watcher' sinks to his toes when he sees the thick fog enveloping the capital city every now and then, for he will shake his head and recall that the fog is the greatest enemy of the mango blossom, which shrivel and fall off the branches. And not to mention the infamous 'kal-bafshakis' which seem to descend with a vengeance, as soon as the mango blossom turns into tiny green mangoes, the delight of the stone throwing urchin, and the conscious housewife, who will promptly make her supply of pickles for the year with this mouth-watering delicacy.

And yet, the stalwart will wait patiently for the true mango to appear, when, come hell or high water, no day is complete, without the savouring of at least half a dozen of the delicious, mouth-watering, incomparable, mango.



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Minister lauds Rotaracts' role

State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan Friday called upon the coun-try's youths to work unitedly for giving democracy an institutional shape, reports UNB.

Inaugurating the Rotaract Philatelic Exhibition 'ROTAPEX-92' at GPO auditorium, the State Minister said the youth is a potential force, capable of bringing about a quick change in society for achieving peace and prosperity of the country.

Khan also lauded the club's role in serving the distressed humanity and wished further expansion of its network all over the country.

Rotaract Club of Dhaka North arranged the three-day exhibition on the occasion of 24th anniversary of the Club.

The function was also addressed by Iftekhar Ahmed, Saiful Huda, Jalal Ahmed, Aminul Haq Mallick, Shahadat Hossain and Fazley Rabbi Mopasha.

Civic facilities in Magura town dwindling

Civic facilities in Magura town are dwindling every day compounding the sufferings and worries of its residents, reports UNB.

Almost all roads in the town are in deplorable condition making journeys tremendously hazardous. The situation turns awful after sun set due to inadequate street lights.

Absence of proper drainage system and lack of proper sanitary arrangements add to the misery of the town dwellers who have already been passing horrible nights due to mosquito menace and frequent power failures.

Though the population in the town has grown manifold during the recent past, there has not been corresponding increase in civic amenities.

Housing crisis still remains in acute form and number of slums are also increasing putting pressure on the ill-equipped pourashava.

Residents have also complained of increased rate of anti-social activities in the town.

20 injured as villagers clash in Sirajganj

At least 20 people were injured when two groups of people clashed over the use of water from a deep tubewell in a village at Sirajganj Friday, reports UNB.

Three of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital with serious head injuries.

The clash took place in village Kadal of Sadar upazila in the afternoon when a former Union Parishad Member leading one group blocked a drain depriving his rivals from the irrigation facility.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Army atrocities continue in Myanmar

Khaleda hears harrowing tales of tortures on 3 sisters

RAMU (Cox's Bazar), Mar 13: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who flew in here this afternoon to visit the Rohingya refugees camps was apparently shocked by hearing the harrowing tales of torture on three sisters by Myanmar troops, reports UNB.

Ramija Khatun (25), Tayeba Khatun (20) and Nur Begum (17) took the Prime Minister as their nearest kin and confided to her how they were confined for several days and violated by the brutal Myanmar army.

They told the Prime Minister that husbands of Ramija and Tayeba were killed by the troops for protesting the beastly behaviour while the husband of Nur Begum was kidnapped by the soldiers.

As the three sisters were

telling their tales of sorrow and indignity amid sobbing, Begum Zia was visibly moved by the tragedy and consoled them.

The three sisters crossed the Naf river and entered Cox's Bazar one month back to escape the continued atrocities and the reign of terror let lose by the junta.

Ramija, Tayeba and Nur are now passing their days with nightmarish experience at Dechuapalong-2 camp in Ramu upazila. About 50,000 refugees took shelter in this camp.

Another victim of the Burmese soldiers, Dil Bahar Begum (25), a housewife, also told her sad story to the Prime Minister.

While visiting the Dechuapalong camp, Prime Minister Begum Zia talked to the

inmates and enquired about their conditions. Many Rohingya refugees showed her the National Registration Card (NRC) while many complained that their cards were taken away by the troops.

The Prime Minister also visited the Refugee Registration Centre at Teknaf and witnessed from the bank of Naf river the stream of refugees pouring into Bangladesh.

She visited Damdamia refugee camps where about 30,000 refugees took shelter.

During her visit to Ramu and Teknaf, the Prime Minister was accompanied by State Minister for Relief Lutfar Rahman Khan and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP.

"Peace possible by emulating Buddha's ideals"

RANGAMATI, Mar 13: State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof MA Mannan has said peace can be restored in the troubled hill tracts by emulating the ideals of great Buddha in personal as well as social life, reports UNB.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a religious function arranged for handing over the newly-built temple to the Buddha Vikshu Sangha at Rajbari Bihar here today (Friday).

The State Minister underscored the need for love, unity and fraternity for establishing peace.

The function was attended, among others, by Chairman of Rangamati Local Government Parishad Gautam Dewan, Chairman of Khagrachhari Local Government Parishad Samiran Dewan, Bir Bahadur MP, Kalpanaraj Chakma MP, Dipankar Talukder MP, Mama Ching MP, Area Commander of Chittagong Major General Mahmudul Hassan and Ambassador of the Netherlands H Gajentaan and Sri Lankan High Commissioner AK David and their wives.



Bangladesh Khelafat Andolon brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press for maintaining sanctity of Ramzan. — Star photo

BUET authority urged to end stalemate

By BUET Correspondent

The leaders of All Party Students' Unity (APSU) of BUET unit and the members of EUCSU condemned the authority for not resolving the stalemate arising out of the students' abstention from classes.

A statement jointly issued by the leaders of APSU and EUCSU, condemned the authority for issuing show cause

notice to some leaders for inducing the students to abstain from classes.

The statement further maintained that they called upon the students to boycott classes only during Ramzan because it would be a burden for the students to attend classes while fasting.

But the authority who failed in taking measures against the students unreasonably abstin-

ing from classes, illogically accused the leaders, the statement said. The statement also alleged that the authority was trying to hide their own faults accusing others.

The students of the university refrained from attending classes from February 27 in the wake of BUET festival and World Cup cricket.

What's on today . . . .

Karl Marx's death anniversary

A discussion meeting will be held at 3 pm today (Saturday) at the Institution of Engineers auditorium on the occasion of 109th death anniversary of Karl Marx.

Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) has arranged the meeting which will be addressed by BSD convener Khalequzzaman and leader Mubnuul Haider Chowdhury.

Bangla Academy

Bangla Academy will organise a discussion on 'The folk-songs of Bangladesh — role of Jasmuddin' today (Saturday) at 12:30 pm at the Academy seminar room.

Dr Shahida Akhter will present the key-note paper while Habibullah Straji and Shamsuzzaman Khan will take part in the discussion.

Lions Club of Dhaka Shahbagh

The Board of Directors and the first fortnightly regular meeting of Lions Club of Dhaka Shahbagh will be held today (Saturday) at Hotel Sheraton at 4:30 pm and 5:30 pm respectively.

. . . . and tomorrow

National Forum of Organisations

The National Forum of the Organizations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) will organise a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club tomorrow (Sunday) at 10:30 am.

Pratibandhi Samity

Bangladesh Pratibandhi Kalyan Samity (BPKS) will organise a rally in front of Jatiya Press Club tomorrow (Sunday) at 10:30 am on the occasion of the World Disabled Day.

University Teachers' Assoc

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association will bring out a silent procession tomorrow (Sunday) at 11 am demanding trial of Golam Azam.

The procession will start from the foot of the Aparajeo Bangla on the campus and terminate at the Central Shahid Minar.

Weather

Light rain likely

By Staff Correspondent Light rain or shower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over the regions of Mymensingh, Tangail, Comilla, and Sylhet during the next 36 hours commencing 6 pm Friday. Met office has forecast.

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country. Day temperature will remain nearly unchanged during the period.

The sun sets in Dhaka today (Friday) at 6:07 pm and rises tomorrow (Saturday) at 6:08 am.

Temperature and humidity recorded in important cities and towns on Friday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Dhaka	31.5	23.2	83	65
Chittagong	29.3	20.4	90	81
Khulna	33.3	23.0	83	62
Rajshahi	34.2	17.0	91	41
Dinajpur	31.3	17.2	73	42
Sylhet	28.8	19.0	87	71
Cox's Bazar	30.0	20.4	81	77
Barisal	32.2	22.4	82	72
Chaudanga	34.8	20.0	83	33

Maximum and minimum temperature recorded in major regional cities on Friday were:

Cities/Towns	Temperature in degree Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	9 am	6 pm
Colombo	33.3	22.2		
Kathmandu	27.5	7.1		
Male	30.8	26.0		
New Delhi	29.8	18.7		

Bangladesh envoy to Czech, Slovak presents credentials

M Anwar Hussain, Bangladesh Ambassador to Germany, has presented his credentials to President Vaclav Havel of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic as concurrently accredited Ambassador of Bangladesh to that country in Prague on March 10, according to a message received in the city Friday, reports BSS.

During presentation, the Ambassador conveyed warm greetings of the President, the Prime Minister and the people of Bangladesh to the President, the government and the people of Czechoslovakia.

President Havel praised the government and the people of Bangladesh for overcoming the difficulties following last year's natural catastrophe.

He also expressed hope that under the changed circumstances cooperation between two countries would expand in all fields.

Sramik League Secy leaves for Caracas

Md Majibur Rahman Bhuiyan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik League left Dhaka Friday for Caracas, capital of Venezuela, says a press release.

He will attend the 15th World Congress of ICTU to be held in Caracas from March 16 to 24.

Happy Birthday TO YOU BAPI DIANA, LIANA, SHAMPA, SINA, ITI, FARHAD AND RINKU

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