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Gano Forum President Dr. Kamal Hossain makes a point at a press conference at the party's Purana Paltan office yesterday.

Lust for power pushing country towards conflict

Dr Kamal alleges at press confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President of Gano Forum (GF) Dr Kamal Hossain has said the ruling party and the major opposition alliance are leading the country towards terrible conflicts and uncertainty by resorting to an unhealthy competition for power.

Addressing a press conference at

Feni BCL worker killed in blast

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Feni

One BCL activist was killed and five BCL and Jubo League workers were injured in an explosion yesterday while allegedly making bombs near a pond at a village.

The dead was identified as Abul Kalam Azad, 25, son of Abdur Rab of village Madhupur. Azad was rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. He succumbed to his injuries at 5.30 pm yesterday.

The injured Babu, 30, Sohel, 24, Iqbal, 25, Bakkar, 22, and Jahir, 23 were admitted to local private clinics to avoid arrest, locals said.

the GF office at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday. Dr Kamal also said use of black money and illegal arms must be eliminated to make the next national election 'meaningful and effective'. This is needed to ensure election of 'genuine representatives' of the people, he added.

In a statement read out at the press conference by Presidium member of GF Pankaj Bhattacharya, an eight-point demand was made for creating a congenial atmosphere for free and fair election.

The demands include stern action against bank loan defaulters, declaration of assets by candidates in the next election and proper steps against terrorists and illegal arms holders and autonomy for Radio and Television.

The Forum leaders also announced a programme to march to Ramupura Television Bhavan and submit a memorandum on April 7 to press their demand for autonomy.

Dr Kamal termed yesterday's meeting of the GF leaders with the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) a positive one.

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We want unity, not division in CHT, says Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday underscored the need for peace and urged all living in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) region to work together for peace and development.

"We want peace not conflict, we want creation not destruction, we want progress, not backwardness, we want unity not division," Hasina said inaugurating a national seminar on Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Plan at International Conference Centre (ICC) in the morning.

The CHT Affairs Ministry and the Asian Development Bank organised the seminar to discuss the problems of development and to find ways for implementing the CHT development plan.

CHT Affairs Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, CHT Regional Council Chairman Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, ADB resident representative Phiphit Saphaphiphat, UNDP resident representative Jorgen Lissner, CHT project consultant Dr Teo Bottema and CHT Affairs Secretary Mahfuzul Islam also spoke at the inaugural session of the seminar.

The Prime Minister said the CHT comprised one-tenth of the total area of Bangladesh and overall development of the country is not possible keeping the area out

of the purview of development.

She said ADP allocation was Tk 68.90 crore in fiscal 1998-99 and Tk 93.25 crore in 1999-2000 while the allocation has been increased to Tk 131.64 crore in the current fiscal year.

Through these allocations, she added, the development of rural infrastructure, service sector and local government institutions are being implemented.

The district councils are implementing projects on education, health, communication and other social sector projects. Tk 15 crore has been allocated for the three hill districts councils for directly productive and income-generating activities, she said.

Hasina said the CHT Development Board has been playing a key role in accelerating socio-economic and infrastructural development of the CHT region through spending Tk 71.93 crore. "In the revised budget, I have allocated additional Tk 10 crore for roads development of CHT."

The Prime Minister said the problems in CHT were created with the construction of Kaptai Dam and Hydroelectric power plant, which submerged 54,000 acres of land and displaced about one lakh tribal people.

She said that after the liberation, Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took some bold

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Kept off the road for 60 hours straight during countrywide shutdown, buses, trucks and other motorised vehicles hit the major city thoroughfares yesterday in a disdainful spate, causing heavy traffic tangles.

Hartal victim Saidul dies at DMCH

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The auto-rickshaw driver Saidul Islam Shahid who suffered burn on the first day of opposition called 60-hour hartal died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday morning.

The pickets poured petrol on his auto-rickshaw and set on fire to it on Sunday night in front of a garments factory at Natun Bazar of Baridhara.

Saidul, 35, father of three daughters and two sons received burn injuries when he tried to save his vehicle from the pickets.

Saidul, son of Mohammad Rajab Ali, hailed from Hatoli of Mymensingh was returning from airport on Sunday night. Three pickets stopped him as he reached in front of Goreyang garments and poured petrol on his vehicle.

They also sprayed petrol on him when the poor driver tried to stop the pickets and set fire to his car and his body.

Police rescued Saidul in a critical condition and rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same night.

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Bill proposing changes in CHT Land Commission Act may be passed

SHEHAB AHMED

The bill proposing amendment to the Land Commission Act for Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) is likely to be passed by the Jatiya Sangsad during its current session, Minister for CHT Affairs Kalparanjan Chakma told The Daily Star yesterday.

The proposed amendment is aimed at making the Land Commission Chairman's verdict on issues concerning land final.

The bill was placed before the House during its winter session in November last.

The Land Commission was formed under the CHT peace accord signed on December 2, 1997. It was assigned to carry out land survey in the CHT to determine ownership of land, a vital issue in the region.

But the commission is yet to start functioning fully, said Jyotirindriya Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, Chairman of the Regional Council (RC) for CHT, in an interview with The Daily Star on Tuesday.

Larma also alleged that the government is yet to fully imple-

ment the peace accord.

Dismissing Larma's contention, Kalparanjan Chakma said, "Those were his political statements just to keep his activists happy".

He also said Land Commission Chairman Justice Abdul Karim has already visited Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban districts to have a first hand knowledge of the region.

The commission is now waiting for passage of the bill seeking amendment to the Act.

The minister however said the bill was moved by the Land Ministry, not the CHT Affairs Ministry.

Asked about threats by Shantu Larma that the Jana Sanghati Samity (JSS) led by him would resist the holding of parliament elections in the three constituencies in CHT till there is a separate voter list for the region, the minister said this is a matter of the Election Commission, not of the government.

"He (Larma) had made threats of all kinds in the past. This is something he has always been doing to keep his party people contented", Kalparanjan said.

Pro- Ershad JP to decide Sunday on joining JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Ershad-led Jatiya Party (JP) would make a fresh decision next Sunday on continuation of its going to the parliament. The same day the hearing of Ershad's bail prayer would be held at the Metropolitan Session Judge Court.

The JP Parliamentary Party (JPPP) yesterday decided to contact the Speaker before next Sunday. The party would want to know whether he could issue ruling on the question of "JP's majority" or the JP has to attend the parliamentary session for it.

Following the JPPP meeting with 13 MPs held at the Sangsad Bhavan, Acting Chairman of JP and acting leader of JPPP Raushan Ershad reiterated to journalists that her party was attending the Sangsad sessions only to ensure JP's election symbol 'plough'.

Raushan said the JPPP, after talking to the Speaker, would hold a meeting on Sunday to decide whether the party would continue attending the sessions.

After a boycott of the parliament

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Khaleda rules out talks with AL govt

UNB, Jhenaidah

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia once again dismissed any talks with the present government.

All discussions related to election will take place under caretaker government, she said.

"We will talk with the caretaker government in presence of all the parties, including Awami League," she said at a rally here yesterday in an oblique reference to the Prime Minister's offer for talks made in parliament on Tuesday.

On the ruling party proposal for fixing election date before transfer of power, she said Awami League has no authority to do so. "It is the caretaker government and the Election Commission that will announce the polls."

The BNP chief reminded that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had declared during Hajj that elections would be held before June 12.

She accused the Awami League government of breaking all its

pledges. They used government officers to come to power but did not fulfill their pledge of pay commission.

"People do not believe Awami League anymore and movement against them has started," Khaleda told her audience.

She called upon the people to make the opposition-sponsored hartal on April 9, 10, and 11 a success mounting pressure on the government to hand over power.

She accused the government of placing their own relatives at important points, including the election commission. "Party workers have been appointed to different posts of the administration. Neutral people have to be appointed," the opposition leader said.

She said Awami League was desperate to break the unity of the opposition alliance. "They (AL) have gone out of their head seeing the strength of the unity," she told the huge rally at Jhenaidah Government Boys High School ground yesterday.

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পরিবেশ উন্নয়নে বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি

২৪তম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ

কেন্দ্রীয় প্রতিযোগিতা ও বিজ্ঞান প্রদর্শনী

উদ্বোধন করবেনঃ

মেঃ জেনারেল মোহাম্মদ নূর উদ্দীন খান, পিএসসি (স্বঃ), এম.পি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

৮ এপ্রিল, ২০০১, দুপুর ১২-৩০ টা

প্রদর্শনীর তারিখ ও সময়ঃ

৮ এপ্রিল, ২০০১

বিকাল ৩-০০ টা থেকে ৬-৩০ টা

৯ এপ্রিল, ২০০১ থেকে ১০ এপ্রিল, ২০০১

সকাল ৯-০০ টা থেকে ১-০০ টা ও বিকাল ৩-০০ টা থেকে ৬-৩০ টা

১১ এপ্রিল, ২০০১

সকাল ৯-০০ টা থেকে ১-০০ টা

সিম্পোজিয়ামঃ

৯ এপ্রিল, ২০০১

পরিবেশ উন্নয়নে বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি

সকাল ৯-০০ টা থেকে ১০-১৫ টা

পরিবেশ সংরক্ষণ ও উন্নয়নে প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদের ভূমিকা

বেলা ১০-৩০ টা থেকে ১১-৪৫ টা

ইয়ং পিপলস সার্কেল কংগ্রেস

বেলা ১১-৪৫ টা থেকে ১-০০ টা

পুরস্কার বিতরণ করবেনঃ

ডঃ মহীউদ্দীন খান আলমগীর

মাননীয় প্রতিমন্ত্রী, পরিষ্কল্প মন্ত্রণালয়, গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

১১ এপ্রিল, ২০০১, বেলা ২-৩০ টা

স্থানঃ ওসমানী স্মৃতি মিলনায়তন, ঢাকা

মোঃ হাবিবুর রহমান চৌধুরী
সদস্য-সচিব
২৪তম জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি সপ্তাহ উপদায়ন কমিটি

আপনি আমন্ত্রিত

আয়োজনেঃ বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের পক্ষে জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি হাদুঘর

'Tokai' Sagar shown arrested in 3 cases, remanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amin Rasul Sagar alias Tokai Sagar arrested from the Zia International Airport on Tuesday was placed on a three-day remand yesterday.

The Special Branch produced Sagar before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday with a prayer for a ten-day remand in connection with a case filed under Section 54 of the CrPC.

The court, after hearing both sides, rejected the prayer for remand by SB. Sagar was shown arrested in three cases including Humayun Kabir alias Murgi Milon murder case.

The Detective Branch of police prayed for a seven-day remand in the Milon murder case.

The defence lawyer submitted a bail petition seeking cancellation of remand prayer.

After hearing both sides, the CMM's Court placed Milon on a three-day remand and rejected the prayer for bail.

Milon, a leader of 'Five Star' group was gunned down by a gang of assailants on the premises of the District and Sessions Judge's Court Dhaka on September 27 last year.

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Police recovered a sophisticated pistol, an extra magazine and bullets along with a few credit cards from Tokai Sagar (inset), arrested Tuesday night from the Zia International Airport. Sagar was placed on remand yesterday.

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