

# Unite to topple protectors of bombers, killers

Dr. Kamal says at memorial meeting for Ahmedul Kabir at Ghorasal

A CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain has called upon political leaders and workers to intensify the on going agitation to topple the government to free the county from those who are killing people and blasting bombs in the name of Islam.

Islam forbids such acts of violence, he said while addressing a prize distribution ceremony organised at Ghorashal by the Ahmedul Kabir Smriti Sangsad Thursday evening, marking the second death anniversary of the noted journalist. Ahmedul Kabir was the editor of daily Sangbad.

Dr Kamal said repeated incidents of bomb blast and killing are taking place because the perpetrators are under the government's protection. They are now out to destroy democracy and the judicial system but the



government is doing an eyewash in the name of curbing their activities.

The internationally reputed jurist said the country's independence and the gains from the Liberation War will be destroyed if they are not contained right now.

He implored all progressive forces

to unite to resist them and topple the government which protects them.

The people of Bangladesh are deeply religious and simple and they live in an atmosphere of complete religious harmony. But the fundamentalists and Islamist zealots are using religion for their narrow political gains and misleading the people.

He also called upon the people to realise the essence of Islam, which is peace for all and religious harmony, and to abide by those.

He thanked the people for making the November 22 grand rally in Dhaka a success and urged them to observed the agitation programmes announced there.

Dr Kamal said the BNP-led ruling alliance is hatching conspiracies to cling to power, showing a thumb to the opposition proposals for reforms

to the caretaker system and the Election Commission to ensure holding the next general election in a free and fair manner. He urged the ruling alliance to accept the reform proposals.

Presided by Berrister Nahid Kabir, President of the Smriti sangsad, the function was addressed by among others, Bajlur Rahman, Editor Daily Sangbad; Gono Forum Presidium member Mahabubur Rahman Babu; Prof Pronab Chakrabarty; freedom fighter Md Shahajahan, Abul Hossain, local Union Parishad Chairman Bidhu Bhushen Das, Shishu Ranjan Bhoumik and Mohammed Ali.

Eighty-five meritorious students of seven high schools in Palash upazilla were given prizes and certificates at the function.

Barisal grinds to a halt for half an hour today

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Life will halt in Barisal division for half an hour from 11 am to 11-30 am today to press a nine-point demand for development of the area.

The programme styled Barisal Achal (standstill in Barisal) was announced recently by the Association for Development of Barisal.

Sharp at 11 am, whistles will blare in all the six districts in Barisal division and people will come out on streets to form human chains, rallies and demonstrations. All transports will remain standstill for half an hour.

Socio-political, cultural and voluntary organisations will organise the programmes in their respective areas. Human chains will be formed at 32 points in the city, according to the organisers.

The nine-point demand included regular Biman flight to the divisional city, supply of natural gas from Bhola gas field, setting up of a public university, construction of bridges in Dapdapia and Bekutia, development of the marine workshop and setting up of a floating dockyard.

# Most ferries in Aricha in bad shape

Major disruption any time

ZAHANGIR ALAM BISWAS, Manikganj

Ferry services in Paturia-Daulatdia and Paturia-Kazirhat routes are threatened with disruption because

of dilapidated condition of most of the ferry boats and sorry state of pontoons.

The pontoon at Paturia Ghat-3

sank in Padma river in a storm three months back. Another pontoon at Daulatdia Ghat-2 met the same fate on November 18. Most of the pon-

toons at different ghats on both sides of the river have become ramshackle. A major disruption may occur any time if the dilapidated pontoons are not rehabilitated on priority basis, officials seeking anonymity said.

In Aricha sector, 10 of the 12 Ro-Ro ferries are now in operation. Condition of most of the ten ferries is very bad and they need immediate repair, the sources said. The rest two ferries -- Amanat Shah and Shah Enayetpuri-- were sent to Narayanganj Dockyard five months back but nobody knows when they will be operative, said some BIWTC employees.

Their repair is delayed due to negligence by a section of officials of BIWTC (Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation), they alleged.

It would be difficult to maintain ferry services during the coming dry season if the defective ferries were not repaired on priority basis, they said.

Two of the four pontoons for Ro-Ro ferries at Paturia ghat are in service now. Shortage of pontoons create problems in transporting buses and trucks.

During a visit at Paturia ferry ghat, some BIWTC employees said the floating workshop 'Madhumati' remains busy for repair of minor defects of different ferries.

Everyday, one or two ferries are brought to the workshop for repair, they said.

On November 17, ferries Motiur Raham and Raniganj were anchored near the floating workshop with engine problems.

# ADMISSION TO MEDICAL COLLEGES New rule an obstacle for CHT students

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bandarban

A new rule introduced by the Health Department has frustrated both the tribal and non-tribal students in three hill districts who intend to get admitted in different medical colleges of the country.

According to an office circular issued on November 10 by the Health Department, the students of Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari hill districts will have to produce their citizenship certificates issued by the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Affairs Ministry during submission of application forms.

Guardians, specially of poor but meritorious students, are at a loss whether their wards would at all be able to get admitted in reserved seats of medical colleges.

This is for the first time the condition was introduced by the Health Department.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) or the Circle Chief (King of the concerned region) issued residency

certificates to people in CHT.

When asked, Bhomong Circle Chief King Aung She Prue Chowdhury said, as a signing authority I was doing the job for a long time, but this time I was even not informed officially about the new rule.

Sha She U Marma, a guardian in Ruma upazila said, the previous process of collecting residency certificate was quite difficult. The new condition has made it quite impossible for poor people like us. Meritorious students of rural areas will be deprived of an opportunity to study in medical colleges, he said.

Mihir Kanti Das, another guardian in Bandarban Sadar upazila said, people here are getting backward gradually in stead of moving forward following creation of such legal complexity.

According to official rule, 12 seats are kept reserved in medical colleges across the country for students of Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari hill districts.

# Housewife violated by ruling party men

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

A poor housewife, gangraped allegedly by a leader of ruling coalition partner and his six associates, is fighting for life at Nilphamari Sadar Hospital.

The 20-year-old woman (her name not mentioned) told newsmen at her Sadar Hospital bed that she and her husband are now being threatened by the rapists not to file any case.

The couple lived at Deshibai cluster village in Kathali union under Jaldhaka upazila.

She said that in absence of her husband, on the night of Saturday (November 19) some miscreants led by a local ruling party leader dragged her to a nearby paddy field and violated her on night of Saturday last.

She was first taken to Jaldhaka Upazila Health Complex and then to Nilphamari Sadar Hospital.

On return home next day, her husband Ziaul attempted to file a case with Jaldhaka thana but the local ruling party leaders and workers threatened him. Ziaul said he went to Jaldhaka thana to file a case, OC Nural Islam asked him to drop three names including that of the UP member from the list of accused. Second Officer SI Mominul Islam, when contacted, refuted Ziaul's allegation.

# Abducted youth not rescued in 5 months

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Magura

Police are yet to make any clue regarding abduction of Sayed Miraj Ali, four and a half months after the incident.

Minister-in-Charge for Magura district Barkatullah Bulu at a law and order review meeting on August 24 ordered police to rescue Miraj within 10 days, but nothing happened as yet.

Miraj's bed-ridden mother Nurjahan met the Deputy Commissioner and the Police Superintendent on several occasions and appealed for rescue of her son.

'Now, I want my son's body', a dejected Noorjahan said while talking to this correspondent on Thursday.

Miraj's 8-year-old son Sangram and five-year old daughter Rikti have stopped going to school, his wife Jesmin Sultana Kajal said.

Miraj, 40, was kidnapped at gunpoint from his house at Fulbari village in Magura Sadar upazila by a gang on July 8 as he protested their illegal trade on fake currency notes, the family claimed.



Filing of a case was delayed as the miscreants threatened not to do so, the family they alleged.

Finally, Miraj's younger brother Nayan filed a case on August 9, 31 days after the incident. Sub-Inspector (SI) Ruhani of Magura Sadar police station was made the Investigation Officer (IO).

Later, on August 28, the case was sent to DB (Detective Branch).

On contact, present IO of the case SI Mustafizur Rahman of DB said, 'Police hunt is going on even in adjoining districts to rescue to Miraj'.

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## DINAJPUR VETERINARY COLLEGE

# Students give 7-day deadline to accept demand

A CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Students of Dinajpur Government Veterinary College on Thursday gave the government a seven-day ultimatum to merge the college with Hajee Danesh Science Technology University to the institution and the academic life of its 150 students.

The students brought out a procession, held a rally and submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister through the Deputy Commissioner to accept their demand.

A virtual deadlock is going on at the college as 35 teachers and other staff are not getting salary since July this year because the institution has not been included in the government's revenue budget after expiry of the development project under which it was set up, sources said. The tenure of the development project ended in June this year.

The teachers and other staff also staged demonstrations earlier to press the same demand.

The students held the rally in front of Dinajpur Press Club and then marched the streets of the town. The procession terminated in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office where the students formed a human chain.

Speakers at the rally said they will launch a tougher agitation programme including hunger strike if their demand is not met by seven days.

Teachers and students of DGVC are agitating since June to merge the college with Haji Danesh Science and Technology University or include it in government's revenue budget. As part of their agitation earlier, the teachers also staged sit-in on the campus and abstained from taking classes.



Students of Dinajpur Government Veterinary College brought out a procession in the town on Thursday to press their demand.