

Opposition's 23-point demand aimed at empowering people

Says Dr Kamal Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the 14-party opposition combine has placed the 23-point demand to empower people at the state level in order to achieve the goals of the liberation war.

The 16th December (the Victory Day) brought the hope that people will be the owner of power, but the hope could not be realised yet, he said adding that the opposition combine formulated the 23-point demand to ensure people's participation in state power.

Dr Kamal was speaking as the chief guest at a discussion on 'The spirit of the liberation war: Freedom Fighter Lt. General Jagjit Singh Aurora' at the Russian Cultural Centre in the city.

Lt. General Jagjit Singh Aurora Foundation organised the discussion where Awami League leaders Abdur Razzaq MP, Col (Retd.) Shawkat Ali MP and Tofail Ahmed, CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan, Political Counsellor at the Indian High Commission Gaddam Dordmendra, former secretary

Mohiuddin Ahmed, JSD (Inu) leader Sharif Nurul Ambia and the Foundation President Prof Abul Barakat also spoke.

Dr Kamal said the Bangalees never indulged in communalism in their glorious political history and everything has been achieved through non-communal politics.

Criticising the communal politics of Jamaat, he said, "Let us all find out how it is possible that the anti-liberation forces are carrying flags in their cars."

Those who are spreading the poison of communalism want to create a division among people in order to go to power to protect their interest, he added.

Dr Kamal said, "Through our 23-point demand we want to empower people to elect honest and competent persons in the national elections as well as to make politics free from the influence of black money and criminals."

He also urged the youths to study the demands and make suggestions for the betterment of the nation.

CPB President Manjurul Ahsan Khan said the anti-liberation forces

are now in state power and destroying the secular spirit of the state.

At present, the slogan should be 'Resist Jamaat and militancy: Save the country', he added.

Paying tribute to General Aurora for his contribution to the War of Liberation, the CPB leader said, "It is a shame for us as a nation that we could not yet build any memorial to Indian soldiers who sacrificed their lives."

Tofail Ahmed said the country what Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman dreamt of is now on the verge of destruction.

By introducing religion-based politics, freedom fighter Ziaur Rahman made politics difficult for the politicians and led the country towards destruction, he added.

Prof Abul Barakat called on all to launch a campaign to unitedly fight against communalism.

Dr Saiful Haq presented a paper on the contribution of General Jagjit Singh Aurora to the liberation war and the recent rise of communalism and militancy.

He also called on the people to unite to realise the demand for the trial of the killers and bomb attackers.

Kibria's sister Sharifa Mosabbir and Awami League leader Habibur Rahman Mizan also spoke at the programme attended by Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Kibria's sister Fouzia Shahid and Ashrafi Siddique.

Leaders and activists of Awami Sechhasebak League and Sonar Bangla Juba Parisad also took part in the demonstration.

Kibria, also an Awami League leader, was killed in a grenade attack in his hometown Habiganj on January 27.

Injured JMB man hospitalised

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mamun Ali, the injured suicide squad member of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) and killer of two judges at Jhalakathi, was admitted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital on Wednesday night.

He was taken on a ten-day remand by CID at Jhalakathi on December 21 after his interrogation by Joint Interrogation Cell and treatment at Dhaka Medical College and Hospital.

Earlier, Mamun was sent back to Jhalakathi Jail from CID remand on Monday as his condition deteriorated there.

Emergency medical officer at SBMC said infection like gangrene has developed at the injured leg of Mamun.

Shamim gets Monajatuddin Smriti Puroshkar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shamim Al-Amin, staff reporter of The Daily Star, was awarded the 'Charon Sangbadik Monajatuddin Smriti Puroshkar 2004' yesterday for his series reporting on 'Influential people grasp thousands acres of land in Noakhali char lands, hardship of the grassroots people and women in border areas are more vulnerable to AIDS'.

Monajatuddin Smriti Sangsad organised the prize giving ceremony on the occasion of the 10th death anniversary of journalist Monajatuddin.

Journalist Faiz Ahmed handed over a crest and check for Tk 25,000 to Shamim Al-Amin at a function at the National Press Club sponsored by Brac.

Faiz Ahmed said Monajatuddin created a new horizon in suburban journalism and many people used to read the daily Sangbad only for his story.

"We need a journalist like Monajatuddin at the present critical situation of the country," he added.

Congratulating the recipient of the award, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique said number of journalist like Monajatuddin is very few in the country.

He said the young journalists can learn from his professional excellence and humanitarian approach.

"Monajatuddin had no institutional background in journalism, but his objectivity in reporting which he gained from his experience was out of question," said Associate Professor of Comilla Cadet College Dr Mohammad Joynuddin as the core discussant.

He said Monajatuddin is a source of inspiration for young journalists.

Noted economist and Smriti Sangsad President Dr Atiur Rahman, former secretary to planning ministry Muhammad Sirajuddin and wife Nasima Monajat were present.

Obituary

Selina Farouk, wife of the MR Farouk, former Additional IG of Police, passed away at the Central Hospital in the city yesterday, says a press release.

She was laid to rest at the Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard in the city.

Her quirkwani will be held at the community hall of Eastern Rose Apartments, 93, Bara Maghbazar in the city.

Relatives and friends are requested to attend and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Today is the 12th death anniversary of Sammilon Roy, an organiser of the liberation war, Awami League leader and a dramatist, says a press release.

On the occasion, religious programmes will be held at his village home at Mahichail in Chandina, Comilla.

Sammilon Roy Smriti Sangsad will also hold a memorial meeting on December 31.

Abdus Salam Bishwas

The second death anniversary of Abdus Salam Bishwas, headmaster of Gohala High School, at Gopalganj, will be observed today.

Abdus Salam, judge of the speedy trial tribunal, handed down the verdict Yunus Munshi, 40.

Yunus Munshi was present in the court during the judgement.

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Yunus Munshi on April 21 and recovered the arms and ammunition from his house at Railway Hospital Road under Khulna Police Station on April 22.

SI Golam Faruque of RAB-6 filed a case as complainant under the Arms Act with Khulna Police Station.

Investigation Officer (IO) Sub-Inspector Abu Hanifa of Rab submitted the Charge sheet to the court on May

14.

The charge was framed in the Khulna Speedy Trial Tribunal on August 20.

Police Assoc new committee formed

Bangladesh Police Association (BPA) formed a new 15-member executive committee at its monthly meeting at its office in the city on Tuesday, says a press release.

Inspector Md Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramna Police Station, has been made president of the association while Awlad Hossain, OC of Sutrapur Police Station, became the general secretary.

They have expressed commitment to strengthening the activities of the association and enhancing the image of the police.

Govt reluctant to bring Kibria killers to justice

Says Asma Kibria

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Asma Kibria, widow of slain former finance minister Shah AMS Kibria, yesterday said the government is reluctant to bring the killers to justice.

She said the police did not take necessary steps for recording the confessional statement of Qayum, the main accused in the Kibria murder case, which proves that the government remains indifferent to this case.

It is not possible to receive justice unless this government is ousted, she said at the 'Blue for Peace' programme in front of the Shishu Palli at Shaymoli in the city.

Asma Kibria initiated the campaign to demand trial of all bomb and grenade attackers and the killers of Kibria.

Wearing blue clothes, over 100 people joined the half-hour programme to express their solidarity with Asma Kibria.

She also called on the people to unite to realise the demand for the trial of the killers and bomb attackers.

Kibria's sister Sharifa Mosabbir and Awami League leader Habibur Rahman Mizan also spoke at the programme attended by Prof Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique, Kibria's sister Fouzia Shahid and Ashrafi Siddique.

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