

# Dr Kamal calls for integration of mass people into agitation

'Politics in Bangladesh and role of Awami League' launched

## STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A secular democratic society will not be established unless the mass people are integrated into the mainstream of the agitation, said Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday.

"Although we achieved our independence after a nine-month liberation war, we are yet to achieve economic freedom and empowerment of mass people," he said while speaking as chief guest at a book publication ceremony.

Dr Kamal said a united movement integrating the mass people, who are the main power of a country, is a must to make the country free from terrorism, militancy and corruption.

"Though we (14-party) have been demanding reforms of the caretaker government, Election

Commission and removal of chief election commissioner to hold a free and fair election, our main objective is to make the country free from black money, corruption, terrorism and nepotism," he added.

"I am sure that the people will resist all the misdeeds of the BNP-Jamaat coalition government as they did in 1971 and 1990," he said.

Dr Kamal urged the leaders of AL-led 14-party opposition combine to integrate the general people in the mainstream movement to save the country.

Lauding the author for writing the book he said the book is very timely and Akbar (the author) tried to speak the truth that is rare in this time.

The publication ceremony of the book titled "Politics in Bangladesh and the role of Awami League" written by Ghulam Akbar

Chowdhury, husband of Awami League (AL) Presidium Member Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, was held at Cirdap auditorium.

The book is a compilation of 27 articles on the past history of liberation war and contribution of different AL leaders.

Abdur Razzak MP said the author upheld the exact history at the time of history distortion in the country.

He said to speak the truth courageously is a difficult thing and the author had done this tough job through the book.

Prof Anisuzzaman said the book described the past history and shows the guideline for the future.

The book also deals with criticism of some activities of AL government during its last tenure and also indicates the some guidelines and

suggestions for holding a free and fair election, he said.

Ghulam Akbar Chowdhury said the main goal of today's politics is to grabbing the power and plundering the state asset.

"We all have to come out from this types of politics," he added.

He urged people from all strata to come forward to resist the evil power of the country.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui presided over the ceremony while Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of the Bangladesh Observer, Rashedul Haque Loba, advisory editor of Amader Somoy, Osman Gani, proprietor of Agami Prakashani and publisher of the book also spoke.

Earlier, the author and the publisher handed over the book to Dr Kamal Hossain.



Garments Workers Unity Forum stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city yesterday with a call to meet the demands of garment workers at EPZ.

## Seminar on Cedaw held

A seminar on 'Cultural barriers to implementing Cedaw in Bangladesh', organised by the Forum for Culture and Human Development (FCHD), was held in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Presided over by Prof Sultan Muhammad Razzak, executive director of FCHD, the seminar was aimed at analysing the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (Cedaw) and identifying the cultural barriers to its implementation in Bangladeshi perspective.

Afroja Parvin, executive director of Nari Unnayan Shakti, presented a keynote paper while Mahbuba Begum, executive director of BAWSE, Mala Mahbub of Mirza Abbas Mohila Degree College, Khirunnahar Bakul of FCHD, Shahida Wahab of NUS and Shirina Ferdous of BNWLA took part in the discussion.

NGO representatives and college teachers and students attended the seminar.

## Navy Qirat, Azan competition concludes

### UNB, Dhaka

The Annual Qirat and Azan Competition of Bangladesh Navy concluded at the Sailor's Colony Mosque in Dhaka Cantonment after the Juma prayers yesterday.

A total of 32 Quarries belonging to five teams of different ships and establishments of Bangladesh Navy took part in the 4-day competition, said an ISPR release.

In Qirat competition, Lance Naik MZ Abedin clinched the first prize while Mus-1 MS Islam and Leading Steward MA Kashem won the second and third prize respectively.

In Azan competition, Leading Steward MA Kashem won the first prize; Naik MA Hossain and ME-1 M Alamin jointly got the second prize while LME MW Ali and Mus-1 MS Islam jointly shared the 3rd prize.

Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral M Hasan Ali Khan was the chief guest on the occasion and distributed prizes among the winners.

Naval Administrative Authority Dhaka, Commodore M Emdadul Islam, senior naval officers and a large number of BN personnel were also present.

## Social afforestation changes lot of many people in Rajshahi

### Bss, Rajshahi

Thousands of small and marginal farmers and rural poor people have attained economic emancipation in the region following smooth implementation of the ongoing participatory social afforestation programme.

According to the officials concerned, local zone of the Department of Social Forestry (DSF) has implemented massive afforestation programmes in R a j s h a h i , N a o g a o n , Chapainawabganj and Natore districts at a cost of about Tk 39 lakh during the 2005-2006 fiscal.

On implementation of the programme, the DSF has achieved tremendous successes in alleviating poverty and achieving self-reliance of the target groups, particularly the poor.

The people have planted adequate saplings of various trees, including wood, medicinal and fruit-bearing plants, at homesteads, roadsides, office premises, embankments, forest areas, religious institutions' premises and other places during the period.

The DSF has already distributed over Tk 3.34 lakh earned from the participatory tree plantation among over 105 poor and destitute benefi-

cary families under the commanding areas, sources said.

Under the programmes, strip garden on 360-kilometre area, agroforestry on 11 hectares of land, woodlot on 45 hectares, char and pond garden on 12 hectares and cane and bamboo gardens on 65 hectares of land have been created.

Apart from this, some 2000 men and women were given necessary training on afforestation on different terms.

Though these beneficiaries were once very poor, their children are now going to educational institutions wearing better clothes. Besides, they are using sanitary latrines and living a life full of hopes, officials and beneficiaries said.

They said the tree plantation has already turned into a social movement in the areas as a result of the government's initiatives along with the state-level massive campaign for the last couple of years.

The ongoing process has been contributing a lot to maintaining ecological balance, retarding desertification and improving the environment in the area, especially in the dried Barind tract.

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