

Govt misinterprets caretaker provisions in Constitution

Dr Kamal tells Kansat rally

ANWAR ALI, FROM KANSAT, Chapainawabganj

Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said the caretaker system and Election Commission must be reformed to protect the Constitution and hold a fair election.

The government is misleading the people through wrong explanation of caretaker provisions in the Constitution, he said addressing a huge rally at Kansat Rajbari ground.

"The constitution guarantees election under a neutral and non-partisan caretaker government but present election commission is biased", he said.

The ruling parties are also poised to appoint a partisan person as head of caretaker government, which is also violation of the constitutional provisions, he said.

The Gano Forum president said opposition's movement for reforms must be successful to save people's right to choose their representatives in a free manner, he said.

He said the demand for reforms has now become a demand of 14 crore people and they will force the government to fulfill the demands.

Braving day-long drizzles, several thousand people from all areas of Chapainawabganj attended the rally, organised by the

Kansat Pally Bidyut Unnayan Sangram Parishad (PBUSP).

As people chanted slogans seeking Awami League led 14-party nomination for PBUSP conveyor Golam Rabbani in Shibganj (Chapainawabganj-1) parliamentary seat, Kamal said he would recommend for him.

The rally was also addressed by, among others, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Mostafa Mohsin Mantu, Zi Khan Panna, Fazle Hossain, Badsha and Golam Rabbani.

Golam Rabbani in his speech expressed his solidarity with the ongoing movement for reforms.



Activists of Jubo Mohila League, youth front of Awami League, lie on rail track in Dinajpur to block a Panchagarh bound train (left) and a BIWTA terminal without ferry in Mawa ghat during opposition-called countrywide rail-road barricade yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR



Gano Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain addressing a huge public meeting in Kansat yesterday.

PHOTO: FOCUSBANGLA

INTELLIGENCE SOURCES CLAIM

5 BCP bomb squads in Khulna city to retaliate crossfire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Five 'bomb squads' of Janajuddha faction of Purba Banglar Communist Party (BPCP) are in Khulna city to retaliate killing of outlaws in 'crossfire', according to intelligence sources.

The sources said there is information to two intelligence agencies including one of Khulna Metropolitan Police (KMP) that the bomb squad members are staying in different areas in five police stations of the city since August.

Each of the five groups comprises six bombers who are diehard cadres of the underground party, they claimed. They are under the shelter of their godfathers.

Meanwhile, a BPCP 'regional leader' told two local newspapers that killing of outlaws in 'crossfire' would be retaliated at any cost.

The sources said a group of Janajuddha operatives have been staying at a residential hall of Daulatpur Government BL University College in disguise. They maintain regular contacts with their party leaders and godfathers in political parties.

A senior officer of KMP admitted possible presence of BPCP cadres

in Khulna City but could not confirm the information that any of them were staying at the college hostel. "We are facing crisis of reliable informers", the KMP official said.

Besides, KMP urgently needs experienced officers to conduct successful operations against underground parties, he further said.

When contacted, BL College principal Saidul Hasan said he was not aware of any outsider staying in residential halls.

Two night guards of BL College seeking anonymity said they frequently come across unknown faces entering Zoha and Mohsin halls at dead of night. Unidentified men are also found entering the halls wearing veils, the night guards said.

Unconfirmed reports said outlaws are also staying in rented houses under the protection of leaders of three political parties.

When contacted, president of Khilna city Awami League Talukder Abdul Khaleque, convenor of City BNP Ali Asgar Lobi and city Ameer of Jamaat Mian Golam Parwar said they do not harbour extremists.

12 rescued from traffickers in Satkhira

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) rescued 12 Bangladeshis from different border areas in the district while they were being trafficked to India in the last two days.

They also arrested two alleged traffickers, BDR sources said.

Those rescued are Zamal Uddin, Kamrul Islam, Rafiqul Islam, Fatema Khatun Dolly, Zahangir Hossain, Rezaul Islam, Marzina Begum, Abul Hossain, Sadar Uddin, Ekhlas Khan, Ashraf Mia and Manzila Khatun, all hailing from Bagerhat and Sunamganj districts, police and BDR sources said.

Quoting local people, police said that acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Officer-in-Charge (OC) Abu Zafar raided a house near Kulia bridge in Debhata upazila and rescued eleven persons on Tuesday. The traffickers escape.

In another incident, BDR men yesterday rescued a teenage girl - Manzila Khatun, 15 - daughter of Abdul Mannan of Ghorsana village in Bagerhat from Laxmidari, a bordering village in Satkhira Sadar upazila while she was being trafficked to India. Two arrested traffickers - Yusuf Majumdar and Shamsul Haque - were sent to jail.

Hartal observed in Kalaroa to protest journo murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

A half-day hartal was observed peacefully in Kalaroa upazila town yesterday protesting murder of journalist Belal Hossain and demanding arrest and punishment of his killers.

Kalaroa Reporters Club called the hartal.

All educational institutions, shops and business establishments remained closed during the hartal hours when journalists, joined by people brought out a procession and paraded the streets.

Later they held a rally in front of the local Mukti Joddha Sangsad office.

Speakers at the rally said some vested quarters are trying to divert the case as some ruling party activists were involved in the murder.

Belal Hossain, 38, was stabbed to death by a group of miscreants on Thursday at Pichhlapole village while he was returning home. He was the correspondent of daily Janabani published from Khulna.

The accused in the case filed in connection with the murder include local Jamaat-e-Islami leader and former chairman of Helatala Union

Parishad Abu Taleb Sardar, Helatala union BNP general secretary Rafiqul Islam and party activists Zahurul Islam, Monzaz, Khoka, Kader, Moslem, Monju, Taznu and Hamid. Police so far could arrest only Rafiqul Islam.

Bomb hurled for toll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A bomb exploded on the corridor of the house of retired customs superintendent MA Samad in Nirala residential area under Khulna Sadar thana Tuesday night.

None was hurt in the explosion that damaged windowpanes.

The retired customs officer said he received death threat from extremists early this month for refusing to pay Tk one lakh as toll. Later, they sent a letter by post reiterating the death threat for non payment of toll.

Police collected splinters of exploded bomb from the spot soon after the incident. None was arrested.

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