

Elect honest candidates in next elections

Says Dr Kamal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Narayanganj*

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called on the people to elect honest candidates in the next elections so that they can lead the country towards progress and prosperity.

He also said the ongoing process of bringing about changes in the country should continue in the interest of the people.

Dr Kamal, also the president of

Gono Forum, said the people have suffered a lot in the past as they had voted black money holders and hooligans to power.

So, they have to learn from the past and elect good people in national as well as local government elections, he said.

If anybody commits any crimes, they must be punished, he added.

Dr Kamal was speaking at a gathering during the distribution of relief among flood victims at

Malipara Government Primary School in Sadipur, Narayanganj. Bhuiyan Academy organised the relief distribution programme.

Principal of Bhuiyan Academy Dr Rabeya Bhuiyan, Barrister Shafiul Parvez, Barrister Mahfuzur Rahman, Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and teachers and students of the academy were also present.

Miner injured in Barapukuria

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Dinajpur*

A miner of Barapukuria Coal Mining Company Ltd (BCMCL) was critically injured yesterday while working underground.

Sources said Montu Chandra Roy (28), son of Bishendra Chandra Roy, of Chowhati village in Parbatipur upazila, was seriously wounded when he accidentally came in contact with a road header machine while working underground at phase no 1103.

He was rushed to Dinajpur Medical College Hospital.

The doctors said he would be shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday night as his condition deteriorated.

5 Bangladeshis held with 50 fake visas

A CORRESPONDENT, *Benapole*

Indian Customs authorities yesterday arrested five Bangladeshi citizens with 50 fake visas at the Indian side of Benapole check post.

A Bangladeshi and two Indian mobile SIM cards were also seized from their possession.

The arrestees were identified as Abdul Majid, Saiful Islam, Bakhtiar Rahman, Shafiqul Islam and Muhammad Yunus.

All of them were handed over to Bongaon police.

Customs Superintendent Horendrakumar Pande said although the arrestees carried valid passports with them, there were 50 fake visas, all issued at the Indian High Commission in Bangladesh, in a bag that was being carried by Majid, the team leader.

Meeting to raise funds for flood victims in Australia

UNB, *Dhaka*

President of Australia Section and Honorary Member of International Commission of Jurists John Dowd said the matter of sufferings of flood victims of Bangladesh will be brought to the attention of the commission.

He was addressing Bangladeshi Community gathering in Sydney yesterday organised by Community Education Services Centre Inc for the purpose of raising funds for the flood victims in Bangladesh.

John Dowd said, "Bangladesh is still less known to Australian greater community and it would be the responsibility of the Bangladesh community in Australia to bring Bangladesh into focus".

He also advised the Bangladesh Community leaders to hoist different websites highlighting the issues of Bangladesh where there is a need for international attention.

John Dowd is also the Chancellor of Southern Cross University of Australia and AustCare Ambassador for Protection.

Acting High Commissioner of Bangladesh M Restadul Islam and Prof Sheikh Rahman of University of New South Wales also attended the gathering.

A video presentation on Bangladesh flood was given on the occasion.

Bangladesh community members present on the occasion donated A\$ 10,000 to the organisation.

The money will be given to the Bangladesh High Commission in Canberra that will be handed over to the government.



Housewife missing

Ruma Akter, 28, a housewife with mental illness, has been missing since September 16, says a press release.

She went out of her residence at Pilkhana in Dhaka at around 8:00pm on the day but did not return.

She is five feet tall and has been wearing a red Salwar and Kamiz.

Anybody knowing her whereabouts has been requested to call at 01715-255044, 01712-660423.

A general diary has been filed with Lalbagh Police Station.



Dwellers of Mirpur City Pali Slum wait in a long queue to collect water from water tanks of Dhaka City Corporation and Dhaka Wasa yesterday. This is a common scenario of the area that suffers from acute water crisis.

Brac seeks govt help to rescue abducted officer in Afghanistan

UNB, *Dhaka*

A Brac delegation led by Executive Director Dr Mahbub Hossain yesterday met Foreign secretary-in-charge Touhid Hossain to communicate their concern over the abduction of its official Noor Islam in Afghanistan and sought the Foreign Ministry's cooperation in rescuing him.

Other members of the delegation were Brac Deputy Executive Director Aminul Islam and Director, Public Affairs and Communication, Anwarul Huq.

Touhid assured the delegation of all cooperation from the Foreign Ministry in rescuing Noor Islam.

Since Bangladesh has no mission in Kabul, its mission in Uzbekistan simultaneously looks after Bangladesh's interests in Afghanistan.

Anwarul Huq told UNB that they are yet to know the whereabouts of Noor Islam, 38, who hails from Jessore. Brac has been operating in the strife-torn Afghanistan since 2002 in areas of microcredit, health, education and women empowerment.

So far, the NGO has employed over 3,500 local Afghans in its 351 offices in 36 provinces of Afghanistan. Brac has more than 200 Bangladeshi employees working in those fields over there.

Recently, a Bangladeshi Brac employee was killed allegedly by Taliban guerrillas in Afghanistan.

Huge fake BRTA papers, cables seized: 4 held

UNB, *Dhaka*

Police arrested four people and recovered huge fake documents of Bangladesh Road & Transport Authority (BRTA) and electric cables and transformers in the city early yesterday.

Two alleged cheats were arrested along with huge fake documents of BRTA from a house at Kafrul in the city early yesterday.

Acting on tip-off, Kafrul police raided the house and arrested Kabir Chowdhury and Foyez Alam Rabbani alias Foyez for keeping BRTA fake road permits, tax tokens, fitness certificates, blue books and 63 seals of different banks and post offices.

During the interrogation, they said they charge Tk 500 for each tax token, Tk 500 for blue book, Tk 300 for fitness certificate and Tk 200 for road permit from their customers.

Meanwhile, police arrested two people and recovered a truck loaded with three electric transform-

ers and huge quantity of cables from Gabtoli bus terminal in the city early yesterday.

Later police raided an inter-district truck union office at about 1:00am and arrested Liakat and Mujibur in this connection.

Obituary

BSS, *Dhaka*

Medical officer of the Power Development Board (PDB) Dr Abdul Hadi died of a prolonged illness at his Zigatola residence in the city on Sunday night at the age of 56.

He left his wife Dr Shamima Sultana of the Institute of Chest Diseases, two brothers, two sisters and a host of relatives to mourn his death.

Dr Hadi was buried at Azimpur Graveyard in the city yesterday afternoon.

Masuda Sultana Ahmed



Masuda Sultana Ahmed (Ranu), a noted social worker, passed away due to kidney diseases at Bangladesh Medical Hospital on

Saturday, says a press release.

She left behind her husband, three sons and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Her quikhani will be held at her residence in the city after Asr prayers on Thursday.

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

Public support, political stability

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electoral reforms by the end of 2008. Nevertheless, political uncertainty will prevail until new elections are held, which are slated for the end of 2008 also, the bank said.

Any country facing an election period is always on economic risk and here Bangladesh remains on that challenge, said Hua Du, country director of ADB, at a news conference yesterday after formally releasing the outlook at the bank's resident office in the capital.

He said, "It is very clear that the government's anti-corruption drive will build a foundation that will certainly help to foster Bangladesh's economic growth in the long run. But it could be a major challenge to ensure that during the transition period the national economy will not be affected."

The update raises the inflation projection for FY2008 to 7 percent from the earlier projection of 6 percent because of heightened pressures in the second half of FY2007.

It said the government's recent administrative measures to counter inflation, such as investigations of certain businesses suspected of hoarding supplies, measures to regulate stock levels and prices, as well as its encouragement to new importers to enter the market for inducing greater competition, appear to have had no discernible impact on inflation.

"They have, rather, created uncertainty in the business environment, contributing to price pressures," the outlook said.

The update went on saying the Bangladesh Bank (BB) has taken a cautious monetary policy to rein in the inflation.

"But maintaining a cautious monetary policy stance will be a challenge since the recent flooding occurred at a time of high monetary expansion and rising inflation," it added.

The ADB country director however appreciated the central bank's prudent monetary policy, and said it is very unfortunate that the central bank

had to face internal and external pressures in recent times to follow contraction monetary policy.

The GDP growth is forecast at 6.5 percent for FY2008, lowered slightly from the ADO 2007 projection because of the recent floods, which fortunately have been less severe than those in recent years.

Despite the floods, agriculture is expected to show a growth of 2.8 percent, slightly less than last year's, it said.

Meanwhile, other developing Asian economies will register solid economic growth in 2007, driven by fast growth in the People's Republic of China (PRC) and India, according to the outlook.

The PRC and India, which together account for 55.3 percent of the total gross domestic product (GDP) in developing Asia, recorded their fastest growth in 13 years in the first half of 2007, and in 18 years in fiscal year 2006 respectively.

Growth in Asia is now more broad-based as other regions like South Asia and Central Asia continue to post robust growth, while growth is accelerating in other economies, such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

The report, however, warns that the economic outlook for 2008 is hazy as uncertainty reigns in global financial markets and worries about the health of the US economy are mounting.

The ADO Update foresees a growth of 8.3 percent in 2007 in Asia and the Pacific, up from an earlier estimate of 7.6 percent. Provided that the global economy steadies, a growth of 8.2 percent is anticipated in 2008.

South Asia, which continues to consolidate on its progress of recent years, is expected to grow at 8.1 percent in 2007. Potential growth rates in Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan now appear to be on a more stable trajectory. The ADO Update projects India's economy to expand by 8.5 percent in 2007 and 2008.

The flagship economic report also said while inflationary pressures emerged in some parts of the region in 2007, prospects for inflation in 2008 are difficult to predict as uncertainty shrouds the global economy. If growth turns out to be slower than anticipated, inflation could come down more quickly, it added.

Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 4:30pm.

DHAKA TODAY

Dialogue

The Directorate of Women Affairs and UNFPA will jointly organise a dialogue on 'Implementation status of CEDAW in Bangladesh'. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 1:15pm.

Handloom clothes fair

The inaugural ceremony of a month-long handloom clothes fair organised by National Association of Small and Cottage Industries of Bangladesh (NASCI) will be held. Venue: Beside TnT Bhaban,

Discussion

Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited will hold a discussion titled 'Ramadan: Our social responsibility and the role of Islamic Bank'. Venue: Hotel Purbani International. Time: 4:30pm.

Jamdani export fair

Bangladesh Jamdani Manufacturers and Exporters' Association organises a month-long Jamdani export fair beginning from today. Venue: Shipakala Academy premises. Time: 11:00am.

Seven killed in road crashes

STAR REPORT

Seven people were killed in separate road accidents across the country in the last two days.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh reports: Two boys were killed in a road accident in Bailor Boro Pukurpur area in Trishal on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway yesterday.

Police said a Mymensingh-bound truck from Dhaka knocked down the two boys as it skidded off the road and fell into a roadside pond after one of its tyres punctured at around 11:00am.

The victims -- Mucha, 12, son of Abdul Latif, and Sohag, 13, son of Ishak Ali, -- died on the spot.

Trishal police rushed to the spot and recovered the bodies. The bodies were sent to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Police also seized the truck, but the driver managed to escape. A case was lodged in this regard.

Our correspondent in Magura adds: A person was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding truck in Dhuljhuri on Mohammadpur-Babukhali road yesterday.

The victim, Idris Ali, 52, was crossing the road when the brick-laden truck ran over him at around 3:45pm.

He hailed from village Bakshipur in Madhukhali, Faridpur. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

Our correspondent in Sirajganj reports: One person was killed and 12 others were injured when a three-wheeler, locally known as 'Bhutbuthi', overturned on the Kazipur-Sirajganj road in Shimuldair area in Kazipur yesterday.

According to the police, the accident occurred when the driver lost control of the vehicle, killing Suza, 25, on the spot.

The injured were taken to Kazipur and Sirajganj sadar hospi-

Chevron donates computers to Sylhet orphanages

Chevron Bangladesh has presented computers and school bags to students of two orphanages in Sylhet, says a press release.

Chevron's Vice President of International Policy, Government and Public Affairs (PGPA) Rhonda Zygocki, during her recent visit to Bangladesh, handed over the gifts to the students of two orphanages run by the government under a project, 'Sarkari Shishu Paribar', at its Bagbari unit.

Two computers were given to Bagbari Shishu Paribar for boys and one to Roynagar Shishu Paribar for girls and school bags were distributed among some 275 students of both orphanages.

Two other members of the Chevron's international delegation, Walt Maguire and Padhanaseth Changkasiri, were also present at the handover ceremony.

tals.

The body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha adds: A bicycle rider was crushed to death under the wheels of a speeding truck at Kholahati on Gaibandha-Sunderganj road yesterday morning.

Police said a Gaibandha-bound truck rammed the bicycle at Kholahati, two kilometer off Gaibandha town, killing Anwar Mia, 50, of village Ghagooa in Gaibandha Sadar upazila when he was proceeding toward the town from his home.

Police sent the body to Gaibandha Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Our RU correspondent adds: A schoolboy was killed in a road accident on Rajshahi-Chapainawabganj highway at Sarail in Godagari on Sunday.

Mehedi Hassan Jony, a class

nine student of Rajabarihat High School, died on the spot when a speeding bus ran over him.

Local people managed to intercept the bus, but the driver managed to escape.

UNB from Keraniganj adds: A minor girl was crushed under the wheels of a maxi (human hauler) at Darigaon village in Rohitpur union of South Keraniganj yesterday.

The dead was identified as Shanta, 7, daughter Rahitpur UP member Kalu.

Police said a Rohitpur-bound Maxi from Nayabazar ran over Shanta on Sonakanda road while she was crossing the road at about 1:00pm, leaving her dead on the spot.

The body was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police seized the vehicle but the driver managed to flee. A case was filed with South Keraniganj thana in this connection.



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Thundershowers likely

UNB, *Dhaka*

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi division and at one or two places over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 34.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Khulna and lowest 24.7 degree Celsius at Sayeedpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 5:46am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	27.6	77	82
Chittagong	33.2	27.0	86	83
Rajshahi	33.5	27.5	84	78
Khulna	34.8	27.2	79	92
Barisal	33.0	26.7	88	77
Sylhet	34.5	26.4	83	81
Cox's Bazar	33.2	26.0	68	83