



A tannery worker dumps waste of sacrificial animals near the embankment at Hazaribagh in the city yesterday, causing pollution to the environment.

Boycott corrupt politicians to restore fair politics

Dr Kamal urges people

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called for national unity in order to address the present challenges facing the country, including restoration of fair politics.

The derailed 'train of democracy' is yet to be put back on the track, he said and called on the people to identify and boycott the corrupt politicians.

"We have to restore fair politics and democracy by forging national unity, just like we did to achieve independence and to establish Bangla as state language," Dr Kamal, also an eminent jurist, said at a meeting organised by the Gono Forum at the Engineers' Institute

auditorium in the city to mark the Victory Day.

He also said the price hike of essentials might hamper the present government's efforts to restore democracy and its other positive activities.

The war criminals must be brought to justice and militancy and terrorism must be eliminated from the country, he said, adding that there is no compromise on this issue.

Dr Kamal also vowed to resist nepotism in the educational institutions, the incompetent teachers who were appointed in the public universities in the recent past through nepotism, not on the basis of their

meritor quality," he said.

The country is now passing through a difficult time, he said, adding that national unity is needed to materialise the Liberation War martyrs' dreams of establishing a corruption-free and prosperous nation.

Speaking at the meeting, Advocate Sultana Kamal called on all to remain vigilant so that the politicians who were engaged in theft and misappropriation of public wealth in the name of democracy cannot go to power again.

President of Samajik Andolon Ajay Ray and Gono Forum leaders Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Mostafa Mohsin Montu and Pankaj Bhattacharya also spoke.



Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a meeting marking the Victory Day at the Engineers' Institute auditorium in the city yesterday.

Shahidul made envoy to Korea

BSS, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint Md Shahidul Islam, currently serving as Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the next ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Korea.

According to a foreign office press release issued yesterday, Shahidul Islam, who obtained his MSS in International Relations from Dhaka University, joined the foreign service in 1988.

He also worked as First Secretary, Bangladesh Embassy in Geneva, Director, Europe Wing of the Ministry, Director, Foreign Minister's Office and Counselor, Bangladesh Embassy in Washington.

He received training on foreign language and diplomacy from International Institute of Public Administration, France in 1989-1991.

Shahidul is married and blessed with one son and a daughter, the press release said.

Aquatic bird census begins today

BSS, Dhaka

A two-day census of aquatic birds on Sonadia Island and Cox's Bazar-Teknaf seashore will begin today.

Coastal and Wetland Biodiversity Management Project of the Department of Environment (DoE) will conduct the census, a press release said yesterday.

Noted bird observer Inam Al Haq will supervise the census.

A similar census will be held at Hakaluki Haor, largest wetland in the country, on December 30-31.

The outcome of the census will be announced at a press conference at National Press Club on January 2.

Postal charges to increase from Jan 1

UNB, Dhaka

Council of Advisers yesterday decided to increase postal charges of Bangladesh Postal Department both for domestic and foreign posts considering the increase in various related costs.

The decision will come into force from January 1, 2008.

A regular weekly meeting of the Council of Advisers with Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed in the chair approved a proposal of raising the postal charges.

The charge of postcard has been fixed at Tk 1.50 from existing Tk 1, envelope price fixed at Tk 3 from Tk 2 and an additional 20 percent service charge will be added to the actual cost of sending all foreign mails.

The meeting was told that postal

charges for foreign mails were not increased since 1984 while those of domestic mails not raised since 1989. But the airfare, service charge and other related costs have increased manifold over the years.

The meeting also approved a proposal to sign an 'Additional Protocol' between Bangladesh and Qatar governments regarding recruitment of Bangladeshi manpower in Qatar. The additional protocol will be signed to update the agreement signed by the two countries in 1988.

It is expected that the additional protocol will be signed during the possible visit of a high powered delegation from Qatar led by its Labour and Social Affairs Minister to Bangladesh on January 6 or 7, according to an official.

Drafts of Bangladesh Environment Conservation (Amendment) Ordinance 2007 and Environment Court Ordinance 2007 were placed in the meeting.

After thorough discussion, the meeting asked for further review and examination of the two ordinances and placed before the Council again.

Cultural Affairs Adviser Ayub Quadri apprised the meeting of the latest situation on the artefacts, which were to be sent to Guimet Museum in France for exhibition, and the steps taken by the government in this regard.

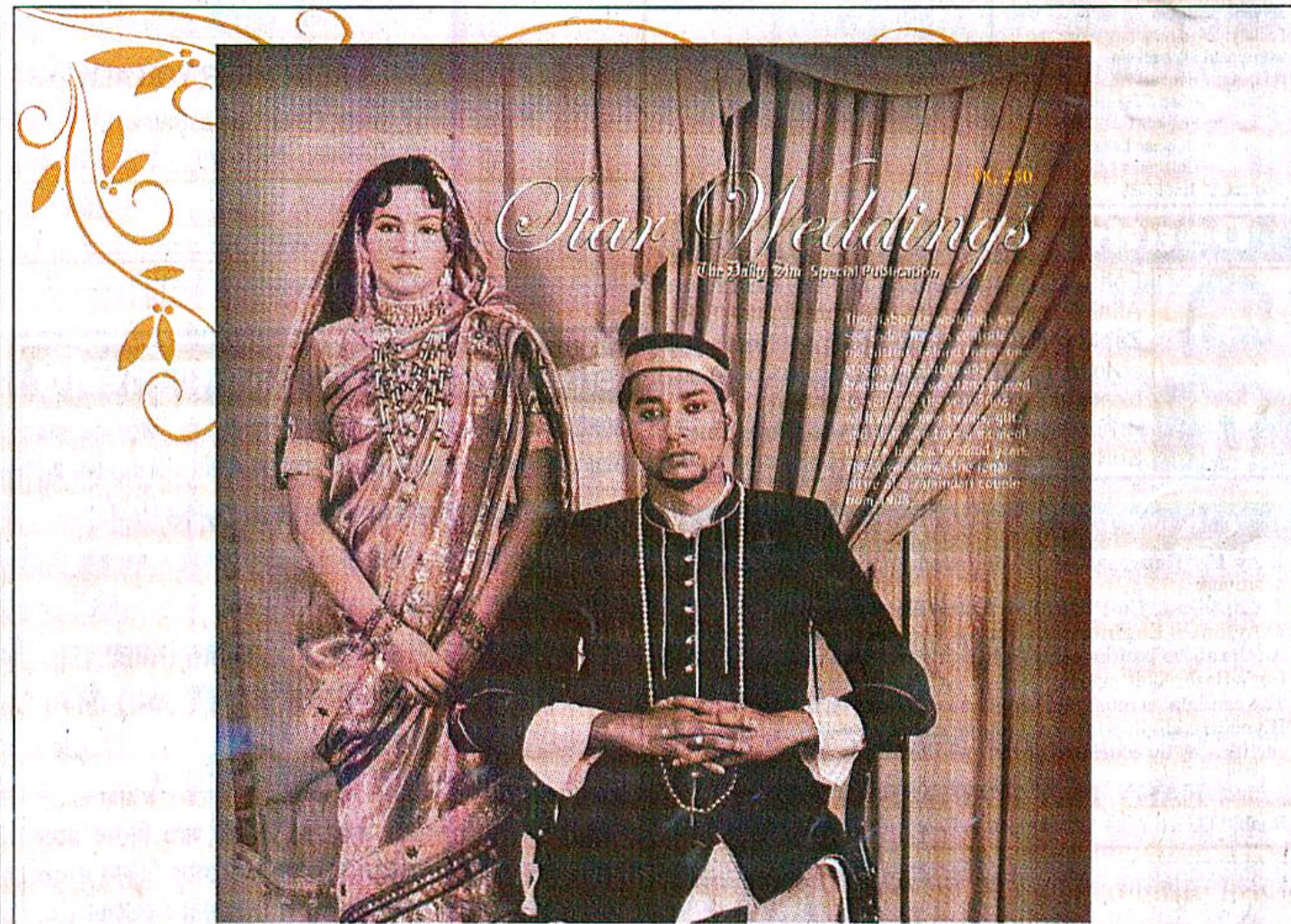
The meeting was also told that the country has so far received 380 million US dollar as money pledged by the development partners for rehabilitation of cyclone-

hit coastal areas.

A committee headed by Planning Secretary has been working for assessing the financial need for rehabilitation work in the coastal belt battered by the November 15 super cyclone 'Sidr'.

The meeting was informed that 10 villages in the 'Sidr'-hit areas have been selected against an offer made by India to exclusively reconstruct those villages. The Foreign Ministry will inform it to the Indian government. Besides, another village has also been selected as a British Company proposed to rebuild one cyclone-hit village.

The meeting also discussed procurement of rice, according to Chief Adviser's Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim.



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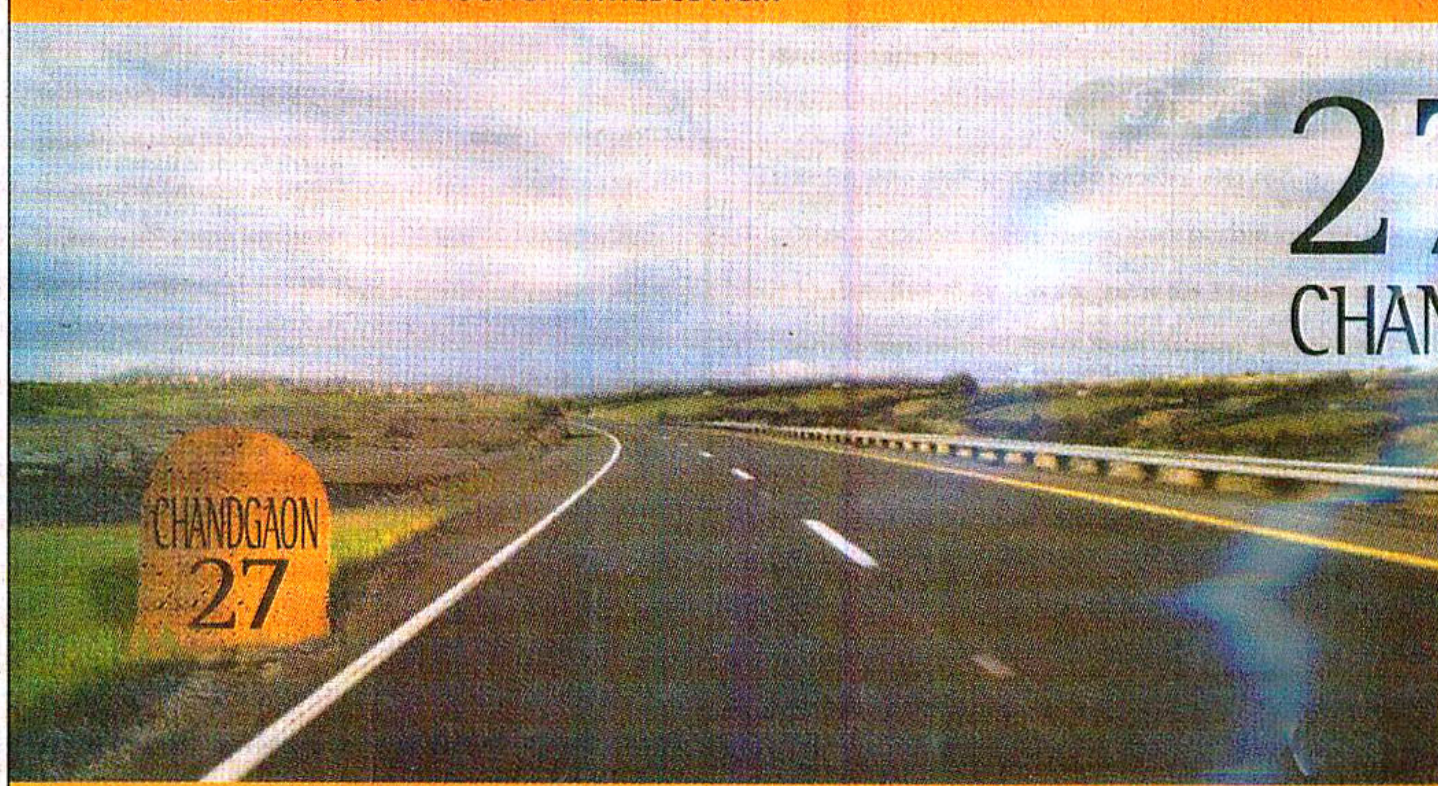
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