

JAMAAT ISSUE Dr Kamal reacts angrily to journo's questions

GD filed in Kushtia
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Oikyafront leader Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday reacted angrily to some reporters' queries regarding his position on Jamaat-e-Islami.

After paying tributes to martyred intellectuals at Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in the city's Mirpur, the eminent jurist faced a barrage of questions from the media.

He told reporters that the Oikyafront was going to "liberate the country from those who were working against the dream of liberation".

"They will be defeated by the people of the country even if they are strong."

But Dr Kamal apparently lost his temper when one of the reporters drew his attention to some Jamaat leaders' participation in the December 30 polls despite the cancellation of its registration with the Election Commission.

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Don't vote for war criminals

Prime minister urges people

UNB, Dhaka

Alleging that the BNP has nominated war criminals, their relatives and corrupt elements in different constituencies, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the people not to vote for them in the coming election.

"They want to make those who committed crimes against humanity or their relatives, wives or relatives of convicts in the August 21 grenade attack and graft cases and corrupt elements as elected representatives. But the nation didn't expect it," she said.

The PM was addressing a discussion, organised by the Awami League on the occasion of the Martyred



Intellectuals Day, in the city's Krishibid Institution Bangladesh.

She questioned whether there were no qualified persons in the BNP and whether it did not find qualified persons other than criminals or whether the party considered crimes as qualifications.

Mentioning the names of Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mojaheed and Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, she said those who were made ministers by the BNP were later convicted of crimes against humanity and their death sentences were also executed.

"It's shameful for the nation that the flag, which had been earned in

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Amjad Hossain passes away

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stroke.

He left behind four sons, a daughter and thousands of fans to mourn his passing.

The Ekushey Padak winner was admitted to the ICU of Impulse hospital in Dhaka on November 18 after the stroke.

He was flown to Bangkok on a private jet on November 28 with contributions from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

His sons, renowned directors, Sohul Arman and Shazzad Hossain Dodul accompanied him.

Amjad was born on August 14, 1942 in Jamalpur. He had been interested in literature from childhood. He came to Dhaka in his teen years and became involved in writing and theatre.

In 1961, he debuted as an actor in *Tomar Amar*. He did only sporadic acting for a few years. During the 60s, he started working with eminent filmmaker, novelist and writer Zahir Raihan as an assistant director, from whom he also drew inspiration.

In his illustrious career, he won many national awards and directed classic films like *Golapi Ekhon Traine*,

Noyonmoni and *Bhaat De*.

He made his directorial debut with *Agun Niye Khela* in 1967, which made it clear that he was a force to be reckoned with. His vision and precision as a filmmaker were evident in hits like *Dui Poishar Alta*, *Koshai*, *Jonmo Theke Jolchhi*, *Shundori*, *Hiramoti*, *Shokhinar Juddho*, *Golapi Ekhon Dhakay* and *Golapi Ekhon Bilet E*.

Most of his films were critically acclaimed and well received by the masses.

His last silver-screen endeavour *Kal Shokale* was released in 2005.

But he continued directing and acting on the small screen, which was not altogether new to him.

One of his most endeared works for TV was his titular role in the 1972 BTV series *Jobbar Ali*, which was based on story he wrote. During the golden days of BTV in the 70s and 80s, he appeared in many popular dramas as an actor. BTV's immensely popular *Agun Laga Shondha* and award-winning *Uthan* were directed by him.

When he returned to the small screen after 2005, he occasionally appeared as an actor on dramas directed by his son, Sohul Arman. The last series he appeared in was *Chobish*

Bochor Por. He also occasionally directed Eid specials.

Amjad's talent was versatile and he excelled in whichever medium he ventured into. He wrote on the Liberation War for children and grownups. For his contribution to Bangla literature, he received the coveted Bangla Academy Award. Some of his notable works are *Rokter Dalpala*, *Ful Batashi*, *Ram Rahim* and *Dhraupadi Ekhon Dhakay*.

He also bagged the National Film Award for the best movie, best dialogue, best script, best direction and best music direction in the 70s and 80s.

In 1992, he received the Ekushey Padak, one of Bangladesh's highest civilian honours, for his contributions to the film industry.

Ahsan Habib Nasim, general secretary of the Actor's Equity Bangladesh, told The Daily Star that the process for bringing back his body is under way.

Amjad will be remembered as one of the most gifted individuals that Bangladesh's entertainment industry has ever seen whose works profoundly influenced many young artistes of this generation.

End crackdown on opposition, free speech

HRW urges govt; wants int'l community
to press Dhaka to create conducive
polls environment

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Human Rights Watch has urged Bangladesh to end the crackdown on political oppositions and free expression ahead of the national elections to ensure people's right to choose their government.

In a press statement, HRW said Bangladeshi security forces have been arresting and intimidating opposition men and threatening freedom of expression in advance of the December 30 polls.

The New York-based international right body also said the United Nations, European Union, United States, India, China, and others should press the government of Sheikh Hasina to create conditions conducive to a free and fair vote and prevent campaign violence.

"As Bangladesh waits to vote, repressive measures including widespread surveillance and a crackdown on speech have contributed to a widely described climate of fear, extending from prominent people to ordinary citizens," the rights body said, adding that such actions of the ruling party would create a condition which may undermine the credibility of the elections.

Human Rights Watch research from October to early December found repeated instances of arbitrary security force arrest and detention of protesters and political opposition figures, and acts of violence and intimidation by members of the ruling party's student and youth wings.

Institutions including the judiciary and the national election commission do not appear to be fully prepared to independently and fairly resolve disputes around campaigns and elections, such as on registration, candidacies, and results, said the rights body.

"The Awami League government has been systematically cracking down on independent and opposition voices to ensure that the ruling party faces no obstacles to total political control," said Brad Adams, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

HRW said all party leaders should call upon their supporters to refrain from violence and the government should order security forces to use proportionate measures to prevent the imminent threat of death or serious injury, to play an impartial role, and to promptly investigate all credible complaints of violations.

"Governments concerned for Bangladesh's future should denounce abuses leading up to the elections, which will deny voters their rights," Adams said.

On denying freedom of expression and association, HRW said the pre-election crackdown has been accompanied by suppression of dissent and criticism.

In terms of media space and civil society space, I don't think we've ever had such a bad situation. Even under previous military regimes people had the right to speak up, said HRW, quoting a civil society member without naming him.



Jatiya Oikyafront leader Dr Kamal Hossain addresses a press conference at the alliance's Nayapaltan office in the capital yesterday, hours after his motorcade came under attack near the Martyred Intellectuals Memorial in Mirpur. Several people injured in the attack are standing behind Oikyafront leaders. Top right, attackers beat up an alliance activist. A damaged car, bottom right, of the motorcade is parked in the area.



PHOTO: STAR

Motorcade of Dr Kamal attacked

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They also beat up BNP and Oikyafront leaders and activists who tried to resist them. At least 25 people, including Saju and Rob's driver, were injured. The driver was taken to a local hospital, Latiful added.

Contacted, Aslamul refuted the allegation and said the claim was made as part of a conspiracy against him.

Earlier around 9:30am, about 50 alliance leaders, including Gonoshasthaya Kendra founder Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, BNP chairperson's adviser Abdus Salam, Gonoforum leaders Afrik and Reza Kibria paid homage to the martyred intellectuals.

As Dr Kamal got into his car after talking to journalists at the memorial, around 40 to 50 people, who had gathered there since morning, hurled brick chips at the cars carrying him and other Oikyafront leaders, and chased those. The vehicles then sped up, according to witnesses.

The attackers beat up around 10 people. A photojournalist was assaulted for taking pictures, they said.

A number of locals told this newspaper that most of the attackers were activists of Swachhasebak League and Chhatra League units in the area.

Several shopkeepers there said they didn't see any policemen during the incident.

Selimuzzaman, officer-in-charge of Darussalam Police Station, said they rushed to the spot sensing troubles but did not find any of the attackers.

Asked about the attack, Election Commission Secretary Helal Uddin Ahmed said he was unaware of the incident.

"We have not yet received any written complaint in this regard," he told this newspaper in the evening.

Speaking at a press conference at Oikyafront's Paltan office in the afternoon, Dr Kamal condemned the incident and said the attackers showed

disrespect to the martyrs by launching an attack near the memorial.

"We went there to pay tribute to the martyred intellectuals. We are not much bothered about what happened to us ... They showed disrespect to the martyrs. It cannot be accepted."

He alleged that hired goons were used to launch the attack on them.

"How much money did you get to carry out the attack? It cannot be a patriot's act," the noted jurist said, adding that he would give them money for not committing such an act.

"Today is martyred intellectuals day, but they forgot it."

He said they would write to the inspector general of police (IGP) in this regard.

"I request you [the IGP] to listen to us with due importance. You will be given all information ... Please conduct a probe by trusted officials. We will help you with the investigation."

Dr Kamal said he wants details of all the arrests of alliance leaders and

activists.

He further said the country must be freed from the clutches of plunderers and those who are working against the spirit of the Liberation War.

The Oikyafront leader also called upon the Election Commission to create a level playing field for holding the December 30 polls in a free, fair and inclusive manner.

BNP Standing Committee Member Nazrul Islam Khan alleged that ruling party men carried out the attack.

The election commissioners should resign from the constitutional body, shouldering the responsibility for the incident.

JSD President ASM Abdur Rob said the attack would not have happened if military personnel had been deployed.

Blasting the EC for its "partisan role", Nagorik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna alleged that the commission is favouring the ruling party.

Earning

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Shah Newaz Jewel, manager at the factory, said, "After cleaning, the wastes are processed in a crushing machine. This produces plastic chips and dust which are then dried and packed in gunny bags and dispatched to Dhaka's wholesale markets."

The dust is sold to wholesalers in Dhaka and exported to different countries, including India and China, according to the proprietors of the recycling business.

Many plastic manufacturing companies procure these chips and dust, Jewel said, adding that import of plastic substances from abroad might reduce over time as local production was thriving.

Abdul Hadi Munshi, proprietor of M/s Munshi Trader in Saghata, said there are over 50 workers at his factory to which nearly 100 people supply scraps.

He explained how the new business was playing a significant role in combating pollution. "Wastes pollute environment. Discarded bottles, polythene sheets block the drainage system resulting in water logging and health hazards."

Seeking patronisation for the plastic traders, Ramkrishna Barman, Gobindaganj upazila nirbahi officer, said, "Recycling of plastic wastes is not only useful for the manufacturing companies but it also helps curb environmental pollution."

Tigers clinch series

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nothing surprising, Soumya's continuation of the good form he displayed with a ton in the third ODI against Zimbabwe in October is a promising sign that there may finally be some consistency to match Tamim's.

Soumya hit five sixes and as many fours in a blistering 81-ball 80 before being bowled by Keemo Paul with the score on 176 in the 36th over. Mushfiqur Rahim then came in and kept Tamim company as the left-hander hit a brace of boundaries to take Bangladesh home with 69 balls to spare.

It sealed a series by a 2-1 margin during which West Indies were generally outclassed by the hosts. The only exception to that was Shai Hope, who hit a match-winning century in the second game and hit another unbeaten ton, 108 off 131 balls, yesterday.

Liton Das and Tamim got the chase off to a rapid start as the dusktime dew started quickening up the wicket. Liton was batting fluently and hit five boundaries in the first 10 overs, but got himself out trying to hit a sixth one over the head of mid on against Keemo Paul and being caught for 23 in the first ball of the 11th over, ending a 45-run

opening stand.

West Indies' chances took a major hit at the end of that over as pacer Kemar Roach limped off, clutching at his hamstring, and did not return for the rest of the match and has been ruled out of the following T20I series starting on December 17.

There was at least one boundary every over from the 13th till the 18th, off which Tamim hit a four and Soumya a six off leg-spinner Devendra Bishoo.

While Soumya took the odd risk, Tamim exemplified responsible batting. He hit five boundaries along the ground before his first lofted shot in

the 24th over when he swept Bishoo for a four over short fine leg. That shot also brought up his 43rd ODI fifty off 62 deliveries. Soumya reached his seventh half-century with a single, also off his 62nd delivery, in the 30th over.

He then went on a rampage, hitting three sixes and two fours and racing past Tamim.

Earlier, West Indies' innings was the latest example of their lack of ability to bat in these conditions, with the obvious and shining exception of Hope. The opener has now batted for 99.4 overs across the last two matches without offering a single chance to the Bangladesh bowlers.

It was the off-spin of Mehedi that broke West Indian's backs. Mehedi started by dispatching opener Chanderpaul Hemraj, who was caught at backward point in the fourth over. Hope was batting untroubled at the other end.

It was all up to Hope, who attempted to wage another lone battle. He focused on getting the total as near 200 as possible. Keemo Paul and Kemar Roach -- both dismissed by Mashrafe in the 44th and 46th overs respectively -- kept Hope company as the batsman reached his fourth ODI hundred with a six off Shakib off his 121st delivery.

Senate defies Trump twice

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But the Senate votes send a strong message to the White House over anger on both sides of the aisle towards Riyadh, intensified by the mounting civilian death toll in Yemen and the killing of Khashoggi, a Washington Post contributor who was murdered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul on October 2.

Anger at the human cost of the war in Yemen has prompted a harder line in Congress about the US military's role in backing Saudi-led coalition strikes against Huthi rebels.

The Yemen "resolution directs the president to remove US armed forces from hostilities in or affecting Yemen, except those engaged in operations directed at al-Qaeda, within 30 days," the resolution states.

"PEACE IS POSSIBLE"

The resolution came the same day as UN-brokered talks in Sweden saw some progress, with Yemen's warring parties agreeing to a ceasefire at the vital port of Hodeida.

US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo praised the talks, saying "peace is possible."

Four years of war in Yemen have killed about 10,000 people and are threatening up to 20 million people with starvation.

Republican Senate majority leader Mitch McConnell -- a Trump loyalist -- had called on his party to vote against the Yemen resolution.

But he did back the rebuke of Prince Mohammed, crafted by Bob Corker, a Republican who has been critical of the president.

Under the resolution, the Senate "believes Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman is responsible for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi," the

measure states.

It also calls on the Saudis to release blogger Raif Badawi, his sister Samar Badawi, and Saudi women's rights activists who were arrested as political prisoners in 2018.

The resolution notes "the United States-Saudi Arabia relationship is important to United States national security and economic interests" but calls on Riyadh to "moderate its increasingly erratic foreign policy."

The rebuke of the young heir apparent to the Saudi throne is a

direct challenge to Trump, who has sought to cast doubt on the crown prince's involvement in the killing and has stressed instead the importance of US trade and military ties with Riyadh.

"Here's what I believe: Saudi Arabia needs us more than we need them," Republican Senator Lindsey Graham said.

It's "not too much to ask -- an ally not to butcher a guy in a consulate. This is not World War II. So I'm not going to look away at what MBS did," Graham added, using the abbreviation for the crown prince.