



Sultana Kamal speaks at the "Bidyapeeth Baithaki-3" event.

PHOTOS: STAR

'Ostracise those who defy Bangabandhu'

Says Dr Kamal

UNB, Dhaka

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday called upon people to put up a strong resistance against those creating obstacles towards implementing Bangabandhu's dreams of establishing democracy and ensuring free and fair elections in the country.

"Bangabandhu's first dream was to establish democracy. He also gave the highest importance to ensuring free and fair elections," he said.

Speaking at a discussion, Dr Kamal also said those hampering democracy and the path to fair elections are disrespecting Bangabandhu. "They're also defying Bangabandhu. We must identify them and ostracise them."

Gono Forum arranged the discussion at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium, marking the 99th birth anniversary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Dr Kamal said the country's 16 crore people are united over some basic issues, including the "restoration of true democracy", the rule of law and ensuring credible elections.

"Ensuring a free and fair election is a demand of all. There's no controversy over the matter. But it's not happening. We should identify those hampering it at every locality," he said.

Dr Kamal deplored that many of Bangabandhu's dreams remained unimplemented even after 47 years of independence.

Private car driver shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Criminals gunned down a private car driver in Dhaka's Merul Badda area last night.

The victim was identified as Julhash Mollah, 35.

Two youths -- aged between 20 and 25 -- shot Julhash soon after he got out of a medicine store in the area around 9pm, said Inspector Bachchu Mia, camp-in-charge of Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the victim was taken after the incident.

Julhash's elder sister Somo Meher told reporters at DMCH that the criminals shot her brother right in front of her and fled the scene.

Doctors at the hospital declared Julhash dead after he was taken to DMCH.

Officer-in-Charge of Badda Police Station Rafiqul Islam said on Sunday night they arrested three criminals along with a pistol and two bullets while two managed to flee.

"We suspect the two, who managed to escape, shot Julhash believing he helped police arrest them," the OC said.

The OC further said Julhash was once involved with drug peddling along with those who were arrested.

Bangladesh rejects US report on human rights

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has rejected the US State Department's 2018 country reports on human rights practices, claiming that a chunk of information there is "by and large" more applicable to United States than Bangladesh.

"I have enough doubt about their investigation. We welcome reports that are objective and fact-based," Foreign Minister Dr AK Abdul Momen said yesterday at a media briefing at Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

He said Bangladesh has already sent a protest note to US authorities in this regard.

Talking about election issues in the US and Bangladesh, he said Bangladesh practices better democracy than others.

US Secretary of State Michael R Pompeo formally released the 2018 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices recently.

The report highlighted various rights issues and reported abuses, including irregularities in Bangladesh's last national election.



Police visit the crime scene in Chattogram Court's storeroom yesterday, where valuable evidence were stolen the previous night. They are now working on a list of missing items. PHOTO: COLLECTED

Evidence theft in Ctg court storeroom

Two cops suspended for negligence

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Two police constables were suspended yesterday after unidentified miscreants stole evidence and valuables from the storeroom of Chattogram district court.

The suspended constables are Md Kayes and Md Moniurzaman of Chattogram district police, said court sources.

Chattogram Court Inspector Bijan Barua said the burglary came to light yesterday morning. "In-charge of the storeroom found a new padlock when he tried to enter it before court hour. He then informed the matter to me," he said.

Bijan said after the incident, he informed the magistrate and cut the new padlock in presence of the officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station and others.

"After cutting the lock, the room was found ransacked, and valuable evidence was missing," said Inspector Bijan, adding that police were preparing a list of the missing items.

Court sources said there is no CCTV camera in the storeroom. Inspector Bijan said two police constables were on duty last night and they have been suspended over alleged negligence in their duties.

BSS, Dhaka

The cabinet yesterday, in principle, approved a draft law raising jail terms for adulterated fish production and marketing from three months to two years in its weekly meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

"The cabinet approved the draft of Fish and Fish Products (Inspection and Quality Control) Act 2019 to strengthen monitoring to ensure fish quality at production and marketing levels," Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Shafiq Alam told a news briefing.

He said under the proposed law, one would face jail terms up to two years, which was previously three months. "The new law would stop adulteration and help maintain quality of fish and fish products," he said.

At the meeting, a book titled "Bangla Bhashar Bangabandhu", a collection of writings on Bangabandhu's contribution to the Language Movement and promotion

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5