



No room to undermine 1972 charter

Dr Kamal says 'evil force' creating disputes over it

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



The constitution can be amended over time to meet the needs of the people, but there is no room to undermine the 1972 constitution, which was written on the basis of national unity, Dr Kamal Hossain said yesterday.

An "evil force" is now creating disputes over the constitution and dividing the nation, said the prominent jurist, who is also founder and president emeritus of Gono Forum.

In a statement read out by Gono Forum General Secretary Mizanur Rahman, Dr Kamal said the basic principles of state governance and the fundamental rights of the people, as set out in the constitution, must not be taken away under any circumstances.

The statement was delivered at a discussion marking Constitution Day, organised by the party at the Jatiya Press Club, where Dr Kamal was chief guest. He had chaired the committee that drafted the country's first constitution in 1972.

Bangladesh's constitution, stained with the blood of hundreds of thousands of martyrs, is a document of the people's hopes and expectations, as the people are the owners of the country, he said.

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Democratic US Senate candidate Abdul El-Sayed and his wife, Dr Sarah Jukaku, take the stage after he declares victory at a midterm election night party at The Department at Hudson's in Detroit, Michigan, US, early yesterday. El-Sayed defeated Republican Mike Rogers by 294,053 votes, becoming the first Muslim elected to the Senate. PHOTO: AFP

Four oil tankers hit Hormuz mines

AGENCIES

Four oil tankers caught fire after hitting mines while attempting to pass through the Strait of Hormuz, Iran said yesterday, after it warned no one would benefit from a return to war.

"Four non-compliant oil tankers attempting to pass through the prohibited passage south of the Strait of Hormuz were destroyed after striking naval mines and are still burning," Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a statement quoted by state TV.

"Two other non-compliant ships or vessels have also been halted," it said.

Iran's Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei warned that the Middle East war would widen if the US resumes its attacks, dismissing hopes of a policy shift in Washington after midterm elections dealt a blow to President Donald Trump.

The results could

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BB severs DGePay, NPSB ties over access from India

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Bangladesh Bank on October 29 disconnected the online payment gateway DGePay from the National Payment Switch Bangladesh (NPSB) over security concerns, including alleged server access from India.

inspection that identified several security breaches, said BB Spokesman Arief Hossain Khan.

"Cybersecurity and the protection of citizens' data privacy are our highest priorities. If a serious allegation arises that an institution is operating from outside Bangladesh, Bangladesh Bank considers this a threat to data confidentiality and security," he told The Daily Star.

The central bank would take action in response to the allegations against the company.

As an investigation takes time, disconnecting DGePay from the NPSB could serve as a preliminary measure, he added.

NPSB, owned and operated by the central

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This is the first time that an allegation of server access from outside of Bangladesh has come up against a payment service provider or a payment service operator, The Daily Star has learnt from officials of the BB's Payment Systems Department.

Operating under the brand name DG e-pay, DGePay offers card processing and payment acceptance infrastructure to 600 to 1,000 merchants.

The step was taken following an

Dhaka needs Tehran's nod for safe Hormuz passage

Says Iranian envoy

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Iranian Ambassador to Bangladesh Jalil Rahimi Jahanabadi yesterday said Bangladesh must coordinate with Tehran and follow its directions to ensure the safe passage of its ships through the Strait of Hormuz.

Speaking at a press conference at the Iranian Embassy in Dhaka, he said no country, whether a friend or an enemy of Iran, could safely transport energy supplies through the strategic waterway without coordinating with Iranian authorities.

The ambassador said ships were passing through the strait every day, but some incidents had occurred because vessels failed to follow Iranian directions.

"Iran's directions are completely safe," he added.

Asked whether any Bangladeshi vessels carrying energy supplies had passed through the strait, Jalil declined to comment, saying the information was confidential and held by the Bangladesh government.

He said he was making every effort to ensure the safe passage of Bangladesh's energy consignments through the strait.

On reopening the waterway, the

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Interim-era measles vaccine lapses face probe

BAHARAM KHAN

The government has formed a high-powered commission to investigate alleged irregularities and failures in the procurement and distribution of measles vaccines during the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Headed by former High Court judge Justice Mamun Rahman, the three-member commission will also recommend measures to prevent a recurrence.

It was constituted under the Commission of Inquiry Act, 1956, according to a gazette notification issued by the Cabinet Division last night.

- Former HC judge to head inquiry
- Probe covers Aug 2024 to Feb 2026
- Report due within 60 working days
- Commission to identify those responsible

The other members are Prof Dr Mawdud Hossain Alamgir, president of Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS), and ANM Moinul Islam, additional secretary to the Health Services Division.

The commission will identify the liability of those who held responsibility from August 8, 2024 to February 17, 2026, and submit its report within 60 working days, the notification says. It can inspect any place in the country and summon and question any individual.

The notification says, "An inquiry commission has been formed ...

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SPORT

The 15th edition of the SAFF Championship kicks off in Dhaka today, with Bangladesh hosting for the first time since 2018 and targeting their first title in 23



years. Archrivals India and Pakistan open the tournament at 3:30pm before Thomas Dooley's Bangladesh face Bhutan at 8:00pm at the National Stadium. With Nepal unable to participate due to a FIFA ban, the six-team tournament features two groups. Bangladesh are in Group A alongside Bhutan and Sri Lanka, while Group B comprises India, Pakistan and Maldives. The top two teams from each group will reach the November 14 semifinals, with the final scheduled for November 17.

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PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

A colourful mural featuring the Bengal tiger and prominent landmarks of Khulna adorns a wall near Khulna Railway Station. The artwork is part of the Khulna City Corporation's beautification drive ahead of Prime Minister Tarique Rahman's visit to the city today.

NEWS IN FOCUS

Many academics, students punished over 'AL links'

Says HRW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Scores of academics and students at public universities in Bangladesh have been arbitrarily punished over their alleged affiliation with ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her Awami League party, Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

Any action to punish individuals for their peaceful beliefs or without ensuring due process would violate the rights to freedom of expression and association protected under international human rights law, and repeat previous administrations' attempts to control political opinion and expression at public universities, the rights body said.

"Bangladesh has a long history of political debate in its universities, and only autocrats should fear such discourse, not a government formed following student protests," said

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Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury arrested in July uprising case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Police have arrested Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, former information adviser to ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, in a case filed over the July uprising.

Shafiqul Islam, chief of Dhaka Metropolitan Police's Detective Branch, said last night that Iqbal Sobhan was shown arrested in a murder case filed with Jatrabari Police Station on August 26, 2024, in connection with the uprising.

Shafiqul said a decision had been made to release Rajib Ghosh, special correspondent of DBC News, who was also detained by DB.

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