

Empowering women helps fight extremism

Prof Yunus tells journalists in Ankara

AFP, Ankara

Reducing poverty among women is crucial in fighting religious fundamentalism, said Prof Muhammad Yunus, the internationally acclaimed pioneer of micro-financing for the poor, yesterday.

that borrowers were not only advised on how to start a small business, but encouraged to vote to make their voices heard by politicians.

financing concept was introduced in Turkey's poorest region, the mainly Kurdish southeast, in 2003, some 3,200 women have been granted loans of 500 to 3,000 New Turkish Lira (340 to 2,030 dollars) so far.

'Electoral reforms issues can be settled thru' dialogue'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issues regarding electoral reforms can be settled through a national dialogue involving all political parties, said Law Minister Moudud Ahmed at a roundtable yesterday.

Nurul Islam Moni MP, Mostofa Kamal Majumdar, editor of The New Nation, Gaziul Hasan Khan, managing director of BSS, Mir Kashem Ali, Abdul Kader Molla, Rafiqul Islam Khan, Sadek Khan and Gias Kamal Chowdhury also spoke.

SUST student killing protested

DU CORRESPONDENT

Different student organisations and working bodies protested killing of Shahjalal University student Mosharraf Hossain Shamim by police and demanded immediate arrest and punishment to the culprits on Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday amid processions and rallies.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) in a press release condemned the killing of Shamim and demanded punishment to the culprit.

Prof Absar Uddin passes away

BSS, Dhaka

Prof Muhammad Absar Uddin, former pro-vice-chancellor of Dhaka University (DU) and senior teacher of the Department of Sociology, passed away due to old age complications at Bangladesh Medical College Hospital yesterday at the age of 75.

Prof Absar was laid to rest at Mirpur Intellectual Martyred Graveyard after a namaz-e-janaza at Dhaka University Central Mosque after Johr prayers.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Absar.

In a condolence message, she prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Dr SMA Faiz, pro-vice-chancellor Prof Dr AFM Yusuf Haider and treasurer Prof Dr Syed Abul Kalam Azad also expressed their deep condolences at his death.

They conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for eternal peace of the departed soul.

Jahanara Begum

Jahanara Begum, director of Phoenix Insurance Company Ltd, passed away at the Birdem Hospital in the city on Sunday at the age of 63, says a press release.

She left behind her one son and five daughters to mourn her death.

On the occasion, a milad and doa mahfil will be held at her Madhubag residence on May 17 after Asr prayers.



UNFPA Executive Director Thoraya Ahmed Obaid calls on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia at her office in the city yesterday.

DU student succumbs to injuries

DU CORRESPONDENT

A student of Dhaka University (DU), who has been admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Hospital after a road accident on May 8, succumbed to his injuries yesterday after a week of sufferings in the incentive care unit.

Mobarak Hossain, son of Golam Rabbani, hailed from Raipura thana of Narshingdi district and a first year student of the Department of Management, was seriously injured in head as a running bus hit him on the day while crossing Shahbagh intersection.

However, duty doctors refused to comment on the cause of Mobarak's death before autopsy report arrives from Dhaka Medical College morgue.

As the death news of Mobarak spread around the campus, a group of agitated students rushed to Shahbagh intersection and tried to block the roads but police prevented them. So no damage or casualties was reported.

With the death of Mobarak, a total of seven DU students died in road accidents in the last seven years on or around the campus roads.

Vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz, Proctor Prof AK Firoz Ahmed and other senior teachers visited BSMMU and were with the body of Mobarak.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the DU central mosque after Maghrib prayers and his father took the body to village home for burial.

Students demand a foot over bridge or an underpass and speed breakers at Shahbagh intersection immediately.

Meanwhile, different student organisations including Bangladesh Chhatra League and Bangladesh Chhatra Union expressed deep shock at the death of Mobarak.

New Japanese envoy due today

BSS, Dhaka

Ambassador designate of Japan to Bangladesh Masayuki Inone will arrive in Dhaka today to take up his new assignment.

A career diplomat Inone joined the Japanese ministry of foreign affairs in 1973 after his graduation from Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, official sources said.

He will succeed Matsushiro Horiguchi who left Dhaka for Tokyo early this month.

A vendor's dream shattered

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

A tragic road accident shattered dreams of a vegetable vendor Golam Rabbani who had dreamt of good days when his son Mobarak would graduate from the Department of Management of Dhaka University.

For the last eight days Rabbani prayed for recovery of his critically injured son, but all efforts turned futile when doctors at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University declared Mobarak dead yesterday afternoon.

Rabbani fell unconscious at the principal's room of Dhaka Medical College where his son's body was sent for autopsy.

Despite being born in a poor family, Mobarak did good results in both SSC and HSC examinations securing GPA 4.80 and GPA 4.60, respectively, said Shafin Ahmed, a relative of Mobarak.

"He had to study in spare times after helping his father in agriculture," he said adding that Mobarak lost his mother at his early age.

Talking about the brilliant student of his village Raipura in Narshingdi, Shafin told this correspondent that Mobarak studied accounting at Chittagong University for one year, but left due to financial hardship.

"He got admitted to Dhaka University so that he can continue his study by providing tuition in his free time as his father was unable to bear the cost," Shafin added.



Bangladesh Jewellers' Association stages a demonstration in the city yesterday protesting frequent robberies in jewellery shops.

Advertisement for Dhaka Today newspaper featuring sections: Discussion, National council, Seminar, Reception.



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan speaks at a party rally at Muktang in the city yesterday.

MAY 9 VANDALISM Juba Sangram Parishad denies allegation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Juba Sangram Parishad (JSP) formally denied the allegation of their activists' involvement in damaging over a hundred vehicles during the PDB office siege programme on May 9.

The JSP, a platform of Awami League (AL)-led 14-party opposition alliance's youth front, alleged that Jatityatabadi Juba Dal, ruling BNP's youth front, carried out the vandalism with the help of police only to tarnish the image of the JSP.

"It was a pre-planned drama of the alliance government only to foil the ongoing anti-government movement," Jahangir Kabir Nanak, JSP leader who is also AL backed Juba League Chairman, said at a press conference held at its central office on Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

He said that Juba Dal cadre Mirza Kalu led the vandalism chanting slogans in the name of Mirza Abbas and put the blame on JSP.

Nanak also said though the Juba Dal cadres went on rampage, police filed case against their 1,500 leaders and activists.

Reading out a written statement, Nanak alleged that the law-enforcement agencies arrested at least 20 leaders in connection with the incident.

He demanded immediate release of their leaders and withdrawal of the 'false' cases.

Protesting arrest and police action on youth leaders, Nanak announced protest rallies in divisional headquarters across the country on May 20 warning tougher movement.

The JSP will lay a siege to the Upazila power offices across the country tomorrow protesting ongoing power crisis.

They will also lay a siege to District Election Offices on May 22 and 24 demanding cancellation of the draft voter list.

STUDENT KIDNAP DC house ransacked for arrest of culprits

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Agitating students of Gurudayal Govt College attacked and ransacked the house of the deputy commissioner (DC) of the district on Sunday night demanding immediate arrest of the extortionists and abductors at the college dormitories.

Over 500 students brought out a procession on the campus at about 11:30pm on Sunday following the abduction of a student and his release after paying ransom.

An extortionist Mamun and his gang kidnapped Saiful and freed him taking ransom on Sunday evening, student sources said.

The agitating students then marched to the house of the DC CM Yusuf Hussain and laid siege to the house demanding immediate arrest of the extortionist gang leaders Mamun and Russell. At about 1:00am, the protesters ransacked the DC's house. After half an hour, police reached the spot and brought the situation under control.

Later, DC Yusuf Hossain appeared before the protesters and assured them of taking necessary steps to arrest the criminals overnight and of setting up a permanent police camp on the college campus.

Some outsider extortionists led by Mamun and Russell had been collecting tolls from the residential students of the college for a long time, but the college authorities did not take any steps about it, students alleged.

Principal of the college Professor Badar Uddin Khan Pathan, however, said he had no knowledge of the incident adding that he had instructed the hostel supers to look into the matter.

Additional Police Super Shariful Alam, also the acting police super of the district, said that ten extortionists have been arrested immediately after the incident, adding that police forces have been deployed on the college campus.

The arrestees are Azad, Bhutta, Amirul alias Bappi, Rabin, Kentu, Sharif, Kamal, Alam, Lal Mia and Faruq. All of them are from Harua area, adjacent to the college.

Weather Today section with a table showing temperature and humidity for various cities in Bangladesh.

Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Bogra and lowest 21.2 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:34pm today and rises at 5:15am tomorrow.

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

Table with 3 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening).