

PM's felicitation letter handed over to Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

A letter of felicitation from Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was delivered to Nobel Peace laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus last night.

Earlier on Friday, the prime minister on behalf of the nation congratulated Prof Yunus on his winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

Prime minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury formally handed over the letter to the country's only Nobel laureate at his residence at about 8:00pm.

Receiving the letter, Prof Yunus

Scientific edn system vital for development

Young professionals tell Nagorik Committee dialogue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Young professionals at a dialogue yesterday underscored the need for unified and scientific education system and bringing a change in the political culture for overall development of the country.

If the education system is appropriate, many of the existing problems would be eliminated while the 'political dynasty' should be stopped for flourishing democracy, they said, adding that frequent amendments to the constitution for serving the cause of the individual should be stopped.

The Nagorik Committee 2006 organised the dialogue at Brac centre in the capital with collaboration of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), The Prothom Alo, The Daily Star and Channel i as part of its quest for preparing a vision paper for Bangladesh in 2021.

The meeting congratulated Dr Muhammad Yunus, who is also a member of the Nagorik Committee, for winning this year's Nobel Peace Prize.

Pressure from the political parties destroyed most of the professional bodies, the young professionals said.

There should be a provision that no one should be elected prime minister for more than two terms and the members of parliament should be allowed to express their opinion beyond party stand, they said.

They demanded transparent ballot boxes and underscored the need for a provision for negative vote in the ballot paper.

The young professionals also suggested reducing imbalance of salary structure between public and private sector employees for reducing corruption.

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Micro-financing guru invited to Bangabhaban

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed yesterday phoned Dr Muhammad Yunus and greeted him for winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2006.

"Winning of Nobel Peace Prize by you and Grameen Bank has brought a rare honour for Bangladesh and brighten the image of the country in the international arena. It is a pride for the country and the nation," the president said.

A Bangabhaban press release said the president wished Dr Yunus good health, long life and a brighter future.

When the president invited Dr Yunus to Bangabhaban, the Nobel laureate replied that he would soon meet the president.

Skop enforces 24-hr strike today

To blockade highways, railways and waterways for 4 hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sramik Karmachari Oikyo Parishad (Skop) will enforce 24-hour country-wide strike today demanding implementation of different agreements in

various industries in the country including readymade garment (RMG), sugar, jute, railways and water transport sectors.

Skop has made preparations to

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ICC TROPHY Real battle begins today

BISHWAJIT ROY from Jaipur

After a virtual no show in the preliminary rounds that culminated in a nine-wicket win for Sri Lanka against defending champions West India on Saturday, the ICC Champions Trophy is set for an explosive start when hosts India take on England today in the

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Table with 4 columns: Ramadan, Oct, Sehri, Iftar. Rows for dates 21, 22, 23.

Table with 3 columns: Prayer Timing, October 15, Azan. Rows for Fajr, Zohr, Asr, Maghrib, Esha.

KOREAN NUKE-TEST

China, Russia may delay UN resolution

AP, United Nations

Despite winning key concessions, Russia and China raised new objections that could delay a vote Saturday on a UN Security Council resolution imposing punishing sanctions on North Korea for its claimed nuclear test.

US Ambassador John Bolton said the changes sought by Moscow and Beijing were essentially technical in nature and a vote may still be possible Saturday.

The five permanent council members the US, Russia, China, Britain and France and Japan were

to meet in the morning before the full 15-member council convenes to discuss the changes.

"I'm still ready to go for a vote, and we'll just have to see what the instructions are overnight, in particular from Moscow and China," Bolton said late Friday.

The latest draft demands North Korea eliminate all its nuclear weapons but expressly rules out military action against the country, a demand by the Russians and Chinese. The Americans also eliminated a complete ban on the sale of conventional weapons; instead, the draft limits the embargo

to major hardware such as tanks, warships, combat aircraft and missiles.

But the resolution would still ban the import or export of material and equipment that could be used to make nuclear weapons or ballistic missiles, and would authorize all countries to inspect cargo leaving and arriving in North Korea to prevent any illegal trafficking.

In another key change to gain Chinese and Russian support, the resolution now says local authorities will cooperate in the inspection process, which covers shipments

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BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi fisherman near the border under Haripur upazila of Thakurgaon district yesterday morning.

According to Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and local sources, the Indian border guards of Porordhah camp under 47 BSF Battalion opened fire on Mohammad Akalu, 33, of Bazruk village while he was fishing in the Nagar river near border pillar no 361/3S at around 6:30am. Akalu died instantly.

Immediately after the incident, the BSF men took away the body and did not return as of 6:30pm.

When contacted, 14 Rifles Battalion of Dinajpur confirmed the killing of the fisherman. BDR sent a letter to its Indian counterpart demanding immediate return of the body.

