

Bangladesh can raise head in pride: Yunus

BSS, New York

Prof Muhammad Yunus said his winning of Nobel Peace Prize has removed the notion that Bangladesh is a country of contradictions, rather it is capable of delivering something to raise its head in pride in the world.

The Nobel laureate was speaking at a reception accorded to him by the Bangladeshis living in the USA. They gave him a crest and a letter of appreciation.

He was also accorded another reception at UN headquarters where President of the UN General Assembly Sheikh Haya Rashed Al-Khalifa and Deputy Secretary General Mark Malloch Brown, among others, spoke.

Recalling the public emotion that the nation saw following the

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'RESIST ANARCHY' 4-party holds countrywide rallies today

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday asked the party men to "resist" what he called AL-sponsored anarchy and vandalism by making today's countrywide demonstrations a success.

The BNP-led four-party alliance will hold rallies and bring out processions at all divisional and district headquarters today against the alleged act of violence by the 14-party combine.

In a press statement, Mannan Bhuiyan said AL is out to "destroy country's democracy and economy" in the name of programme like blockade.

Meanwhile, city BNP President and Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka said Awami League has resorted to conspiracy as it doesn't have confidence in the people.

He was addressing a joint meeting of the city BNP at Bhasani auditorium yesterday afternoon in preparation for today's rally at Mukhtangan at 2:00pm.

Kyoto countries set 2008 for talks on more carbon cuts

AFP, Nairobi

The 168 members of the United Nations' pact for cutting greenhouse gases will launch negotiations in 2008 over the next round of pledges for tackling global warming, a world-wide conference on climate change decided here on Friday.

The negotiations will determine action for curbing carbon pollution from 2013 to 2017, after Kyoto's present commitment period expires in 2012.

But no date is set for concluding the negotiation process, nor are there any pre-conditions for the talks.

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Prayer Timing

November 19		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Fortune-seekers look down the barrel

Cheated by manpower frauds, 31 women now try in vain to pick up the pieces

PORIMOL PALMA

Cheated by brokers and a section of officials of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (Caab) and immigration department, 31 women who were about to fly for Lebanon from Dhaka on Friday are now left in total uncertainty about their future.

The poor rural women, who sold their belongings and took loans from relatives and others at high interest for getting jobs as domestic help in the Middle Eastern country, have been kept at a shelter home of

Bangladesh National Women Lawyers Association (BNWLA) in the capital.

The victims are now too worried if they would ever get back their money -- Tk 50,000 to Tk 1 lakh each-- that they gave to the brokers without any documents.

"How shall I go back home now and what shall I tell my husband and our three kids?" asked a bewildered Shahhaj of Singair, Manikganj.

Shahhaj gave Tk 70,000 to a broker, Joynal Abedin, six months ago when he promised her a job in Saudi Arabia. But later he refused to keep his promise on the plea that

she was physically unfit.

She borrowed the money from a relative at a monthly interest of 10 percent and now the interest alone totals more than Tk 40,000. "I waited for six months dreaming of a job abroad but now you see our plight," she this correspondent at the shelter home yesterday.

"I could not even buy milk for my baby for want of money," she said with tears in her eyes.

Earlier, Shahhaj had gone to Dubai, worked as a domestic help and returned home five years ago with a good amount of saving. But

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1-pt movement if demands not met by today

14-party leaders say

UNB, Dhaka

Leaders of the 14-party combine have asked their activists to get ready for one-point movement as the ultimate option if their 11-point demand are not fulfilled by the president/chief adviser to the caretaker government by today.

Addressing a rally at Mukhtangan yesterday with Awami League (AL) Dhaka City General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya in the chair, AL presidium member Tofail Ahmed urged the caretaker chief to meet their demands by Sunday--the deadline set by them while calling off country-wide blockade on Wednesday evening.

Tofail criticised the president for his attitude towards finishing the unfinished tasks of the immediate-past prime minister Khaleda Zia.

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Filthy, toxic waste of dyeing factories at Aganagar of Keraniganj flows into the Buriganga further polluting the river. The photograph was taken under the Second Bangladesh-China Friendship Bridge.

PHOTO: STAR



PHOTO: STAR

Activists of the 14-party alliance hold brooms placing on caricatures of Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz and controversial police officer Kohinoor Mian at a rally at Mukhtangan in the capital yesterday.

Businessman abducted for Tk 10 lakh ransom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminals abducted a businessman from Patiya upazila on Friday night for a Tk 10 lakh ransom.

Nazim Uddin, 30, son of Amin Sharif of West Haidgaon under Patiya upazila was abducted at around 8:00pm while visiting his sister's house at Anjurhat under Junglekhine union of the same upazila, said Nazim's family members.

Nazim had Tk 1 lakh in his pos

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33 dists get new DCs, 18 withdrawn

57 UNOs transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday withdrew 18 deputy commissioners (DCs), appointed 33 new DCs and transferred 57 upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs) as part of its ongoing move to reshuffle in the administration.

In another move, Khulna Divisional Commissioner Mahfuzul Haque was withdrawn and brought to the establishment ministry, being replaced by Trading Corporation of

Bangladesh Chairman Kabir M Ashraf.

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) meanwhile sits today with the cabinet secretary in the chair to settle promotions and postings of the government employees who were deprived during the rule of the immediate past BNP-led four-party coalition government.

A large number of government officials and employees deprived of promotion and posting staged a

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Israeli minister wants Hamas leaders 'sent to paradise'

AFP, Jerusalem

A far-right Israeli cabinet minister called yesterday for Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniya and other militant leaders to be sent to "paradise."

"One should not attack the refugee camps where people live in misery, but rather attack the leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad," the newly-appointed Minister of Strategic Affairs Avigdor

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Blair 'accepts' Iraq war as disaster

AP, CNN, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair provoked a storm yesterday after apparently admitting that the invasion of Iraq by the United States and Britain was "a disaster."

Blair gave the surprise assessment of his decision to go to war in an interview with David Frost on Al-Jazeera's new English-language channel.

British opposition MPs seized on the comment as evidence that Blair has finally accepted that his strategy in the Middle Eastern state had failed.

British newspapers carried the story on their front pages Saturday "Iraq invasion a disaster, Blair admits on Arab TV," was the headline in the Daily Telegraph.

"PM Tony Blair last night sensationally admitted the Iraq War fallout has become 'disastrous,' reported Britain's biggest selling daily, The Sun.

Blair's remarks came after former Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said he feared his country was on the verge of disintegration -- a situation he said he never anticipated.

"It's really quite alarming and dangerous, where Iraq is now. It's

quite frightening," he told CNN.

"Iraq is slipping continuously into a chaotic level of violence. To be honest, this is not something that I could have imagined when we fought Saddam's regime."

Meanwhile in Iraq coalition and Iraqi troops in southeastern Iraq continued their hunt for five Western security contractors abducted the day before.

Blair's Downing Street office insisted that the British PM's views had been misrepresented and that it was "disingenuous" to portray it as an admission, the UK's Press Association said.

During the interview, Frost suggested that the West's intervention in Iraq had "so far been pretty much of a disaster."

Blair replied: "It has, but you see what I say to people is why is it difficult in Iraq? It's not difficult because of some accident in planning, it's difficult because there's a deliberate strategy -- al-Qaeda with Sunni insurgents on one hand, Iranian-backed elements with Shia militias on the other -- to create a

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Poll monitors concerned at political crisis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two election monitoring organisations -- Fema (Fair Election Monitoring Alliance) and Janipop (Jatiya Nirbachan Porjebekhan Parishad) -- yesterday expressed serious concern over the ongoing political crisis and urged the chief advisor (CA) to the caretaker government / president to sit with all political parties to thrash out an acceptable solution.

The organisations also urged the leaders of political parties to come forward to save the country from further violence.

Munira Khan, president of Fema and Prof Nazmul Ahsan Kalimullah, chairman of Janipop, in a joint statement said the CA/ president and his council of advisors should convene an immediate meeting of all political parties to resolve the issues amicably keeping in mind the national interest above all else.

They expressed their anxiety as only a day is remaining till the 14-party alliance resumes their blockade programme on November 20 while no effective measures to end the political standoff have been taken as yet by the CA/ president.

Russia warns against pushing N Korea, Iran 'into a corner'

US chides Moscow, Beijing for slow sanctions talks

AFP, Hanoi/ Washington

Russia yesterday warned the international community against pushing Iran and North Korea "into a corner" amid ongoing efforts to halt their nuclear ambitions.

"I think the world community must go very carefully -- firmly but

carefully -- on resolving the problem of the Korean peninsula and resolving the Iranian nuclear problem," said Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

"Because if we can now find a mutually acceptable accord, then this allows us to strengthen the

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