



PHOTO: STAR
Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus receives a crest from National Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Shawkat Mahmud at a reception accorded to the Nobel laureate in the city yesterday. He was awarded honorary membership of the press club at the reception hosted by it.

Medical student among 3 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

Three people, including a student of a private medical college, were killed in separate road accidents in Dhaka and Chittagong yesterday.

A speeding motor vehicle hit a rickshaw at Shantinagar in Dhaka yesterday morning, killing Riaz Uddin Ahmed, 21, a 2nd year student of National Medical College, and rickshawpuller Abdul Jalil, 40. The accident occurred at about

6:45am when a human hauler rammed the rickshaw, leaving Riaz and Jalil critically injured.

Both were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared them dead.

Angered by the accident, local people went on a rampage and vandalised several vehicles.

Our CU Correspondent adds: One person was killed and four others were injured in a road accident on Dhaka-Chittagong highway

in Sitakunda early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Delwar Hossain, 30. The injured were Abdur Razzak, 45, Mohammed Samir, 42, Mohammed Kashem, 37, and Mohammed Azim. All the victims were fish traders.

The accident occurred when a speeding truck rammed another truck in Maszidda at around 5:00am.

'Protect rivers from land grabbers'

DU CORRESPONDENT

To ensure a 'habitation environment' of Dhaka city, environmentalists yesterday urged the caretaker government (CG) to save rivers from encroachments and reduce water pollution.

They said the rivers including Buriganga, Shitalakkha, Turag and Balu are being encroached rapidly by a section of unscrupulous people posing a threat to environment and ecology, but effective initiatives are not being taken by the concerned authorities.

The immediate past government took some "illegal establishments eviction drives" but they were abruptly stopped for mysterious reasons, they lamented.

They made the comments at a citizens rally organised by Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (Bapa), an environmental organisation, at Shahbagh intersection in the city demanding eviction of illegal establishments from the city rivers, reduction of water pollution and restoration of navigability.

Representatives from different pro-environmental organisations, Bela, Green Voice, Coalition for the Urban Poor, Sheba, Nagorik Uddog, Sundar Jibon, Sylhet Division Development Movement Council, Old Dhaka Environment Development Forum and BMS Sangstha, joined the rally to express

solidarity with the demands.

Speakers said the past government approved a recommendation of a taskforce to restore navigability of Buriganga river and maintain its flow, but implementation of the recommendation has gone to ice storage.

The taskforce recommended eviction of illegal establishments from Buriganga banks, environment preservation, dredging and some other essential steps.

Joint Secretary of Bapa Mihir Biswas said in spite of regular demonstrations of environmental organisations to save rivers, most of their demands have not been implemented yet.

Referring to previous caretaker government's bid to save Buriganga, Mihir said this CG should also take immediate initiatives to evict illegal establishments from the rivers' banks.

Their five-point demand of Bapa include implementation of recommendation of the taskforce and Wetland Protection Act 2000, hoisting border pliers on the both banks of city rivers or embankments and recovery of city canals.

Executive Member of Bapa Engineer Kazi Md Shish, Sirajul Islam Mollah, Dr Abdul Hye Mojumdar, Prof Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Advocate Abed Reza and Tushar Rahman also addressed on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR
Members of a musical band perform at a concert titled 'Phiriyano Bangladesh' at Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi yesterday. Take Back Bangladesh organised the event in its efforts to raise awareness about free and fair elections.



PHOTO: STAR
Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon forms a human chain in the city yesterday demanding demolition of illegal structures on the banks of Buriganga, Shitalakkha, Turag and Balu rivers.

FF DAY OBSERVED

'Revive the spirit of Liberation War'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to reviving the spirit of Liberation War and paying tribute to the freedom fighters, Freedom Fighters' Day was observed across the country in a befitting manner amid enthusiasm.

National Committee for Implementation of Demands of Freedom Fighters and Freedom Fighters' Day Observance Committee and different socio-political organisations organised elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The day started with placing wreaths at Freedom Fighters' Graveyard at Mirpur at 8:00am. Bangladesh Muktiyoddha Sangsad (BMS) Central Command held a rally on the Central Shahid Minar premises at 10:00am.

Speaking at the rally, Awami League General Secretary and 14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil called upon all to be united with the spirit of Liberation War and root out communal and militant forces from the land.

"Joy Bangla' is not the Awami League's slogan. Rather, it is the slogan of our Liberation War", said Jalil. "Let us be united once again and build up a prosperous Bangladesh with the spirit of Liberation War".

Speaking about ongoing political crisis, AL Presidium Member Tofail Ahmed said, "For a free and fair general election, we demanded an impartial Election Commission (EC), but the president appointed more controversial people in the EC. We have called for a neutral civil administration, but the president takes no step."

Addressing the youth at the rally, Maj Gen (Retd) KM Shafiullah said, "We could not achieve the goals for which we fought in 1971, now you are to shoulder the responsibility to achieve those goals."

Chairman of BMS Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury presided over the programme while Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President Hasanul Huq Inu, Dilip Barua of Samabadi Dal, Abdul

Bari Joardar of Gonotanri Party, Jakir Hossain of Majdur Party, and Advocate Habibur Rahman of Muktiyoddha Sangram Parishad also spoke.

After the rally, leaders and activists of BMS and its affiliated organisations took part in a procession that ended at Shikha Chirantan where Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivered the historic speech of March 7.

On the premises of Shikha Chirantan, KM Shafiullah Bir Uttam administered oath to freedom fighters and common people present there to accomplish the unfinished goals of liberation war.

RU admission tests now from Dec 8

RU CORRESPONDENT

The admission tests for first year honours courses under the academic session 2006-07 of Rajshahi University (RU) will now begin on December 8 instead of December 3.

The RU admission test sub-committee in an emergency meeting yesterday has also brought some changes in the test schedule, sources said.

As per the revised schedule, the examinations which were scheduled to be held from December 3 to 7 would now take place from December 18 to 23.

The admission tests for Bangla, English, philosophy, and fine arts departments will be held on December 18; Islamic history, Persian, music and drama, Arabic and Islamic studies on December 19; history, folklore, Urdu, and Sangskrit on December 20; mass communication, economics, political science and anthropology on December 21 and sociology, library and information science, public administration and social work on December 23.