

'EDUCATION WITHOUT BORDERS' CONFERENCE IN ABU DHABI

Work for better world

Prof Yunus urges students

UNB, Abu Dhabi

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged the students around the globe to work for changing the world for the better, instead of remaining too much busy with textbooks.

"Do what you feel, go for it, change the world. Don't be absorbed in the textbooks," he said in his keynote speech at the three-day 'Education Without Borders' conference in Abu Dhabi.

Higher College of Technology (HCT) organised the conference for exchange of ideas among students from around the globe as to how to build a more prosperous new world. Students from more than 100 countries joined the meet.

Prof Yunus urged the students to work hard for the future that they want to see, saying that the young men are the creators of the world.

Narrating his dreams of making the world free from poverty, he

forecast that someday in the future the world would be free from poverty. "Poverty will remain just only in the museum."

"The time is not so far away, it will come very soon," the micro-credit guru said blaming the institutions and policies for the poverty around the world.

"Poverty is created by the world around us. We have to redesign the world as poverty is artificially imposed on human beings," he told the conference.

The Nobel peace prize winner compared the predicament of the poor with Bansai tree, as these people could not get chance to use their immense power to work and their creativity just for policies. "They don't get the chance and opportunity for growth as per their capacity."

Nobel laureates Dr Rita Levi-Montalcini and Prof J Georg Bednorz, UAE Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research,

and HCT Chancellor Nahayan Mabararak Al Nahayan and Oman Minister of Commerce and Industry Maqbool Bin Ali Sultan also spoke, among others.

'Education Without Borders' is a biennial student conference creating networks across cultures in order to understand, and generate solutions for some of the world's greatest challenges.

This is achieved by engaging the world's most innovative students and leaders of business, technology, education, and the humanitarian sector in a collaborative forum that culminates with commitment to action.

In April 2001, the vision of a group of college students from Abu Dhabi, UAE, came to life as delegates from around the world arrived for the inaugural Education Without Borders, International Student Conference.

'Most of country's laws are anti-poor'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the country's existing laws are anti-poor and as such the poor are deprived and suffer much here, said Dr Mizanur Rahman of law department of Dhaka University at the launching ceremony of a research book.

The book titled 'Agony of Development: A Study in Pauperization of Displaced Communities' revealed that the underprivileged group is the victim of different development activities of the government.

The research was conducted by Empowerment Through Law of the Common People (ELCOP) under its Community Law Reform (CLR) project with the help of the students of law departments of Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Kushtia Islamic University.

Supported by Academy for Educational Development (AED)/USAID, the research revealed how government's Barapukuria, Madhyapara and Phulbari Coal mine projects, Social Forestation project and Guchchhagram project acquired a huge amount of land from the locals.

But they were not given compensation properly, and those who used to live by cultivating others' land were the worst victims, revealed the research.

It also mentioned that in the name of forestation a huge amount of land of indigenous people were shown as Khas land and acquired without any compensation.

The speakers said no development work can sustain if it is not done considering people's welfare.

The law should be incorporated with life and lawyers should know what should be their role in the society, they added.

Former adviser to caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal unwrapped the book as chief guest.

Justice KM Sobhan, CIDA Education Adviser Selina Mohsin, and Dr Rahmatullah of Dhaka University were present on the occasion.

CPD research, dialogue activities reviewed

The 27th meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) was held in its Dialogue Room yesterday, says a press release.

The board reviewed the research, dialogue activities and publications of the CPD over the last six months. It also expressed satisfaction over the CPD performance during this period and encouraged CPD to continue the good work.

The board approved research, dialogue and publication plan of CPD for 2007.

CPD Chairman Prof Rehman Sobhan presided over the meeting.

Prof Anisuzzaman, Proshika President Dr Qazi Faruque Ahmed, former Planning Commission member Nurul Haq, Kedarpur Tea Company Ltd Managing Director Laila Rahman Kabir, Bank Asia Chairman M Syeduzzaman and Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya attended the meeting.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Research Director and Anisatul Fatema Yusuf, Additional Director and Head, Dialogue and Communication Division, CPD attended the meeting on invitation.

Declare Bhubadaho disaster area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A photography exhibition was organised in the city yesterday demanding declaration of Bhubadaho of Jessore disaster area and permanent solution to the water logged area.

The exhibition featuring life and environment of water logged people of the area was organised by Nagorik Sanghati and supported by ActionAid Bangladesh at Shahid Milon Chattar near Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Following a rally, the speakers said water logging has been prevailing for the last few decades at different areas of Jessore, Khulna and Satkhira affecting the lives of 10 lakh people.

They alleged that people of the water logging affected area has been suffering due to indifference of the government.

They also pointed out that considering the interest of illegal shrimp cultivators the government did not take necessary initiatives for a permanent solution.

Nagorik Sanghati President Dr ASM Atikur Rahman, Kazi Mohammad Shish, Sarder Amin, Mihir Biswas and General Secretary Sharifuzzaman Sharif, Rashed Rabbi and Alamgir Kabir spoke on the occasion.

People of different professions joining the rally expressed solidarity with the demands.



Clockwise: Members of the joint forces yesterday arrest former minister and Awami League leader Engineer Mosharrar Hossain, former energy secretary AN H Akhtar Hossain, former BNP lawmaker Hafiz Ibrahim and Dhaka City Corporation Commissioner Quayum as they come out of the Anti-Corruption Commission office in the city after submitting their wealth statements.

Hasina for polls as early as possible

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the caretaker government should hold the stalled parliamentary elections as early as possible.

The law should be incorporated with life and lawyers should know what should be their role in the society, they added.

Former adviser to caretaker government Advocate Sultana Kamal unwrapped the book as chief guest.

Justice KM Sobhan, CIDA Education Adviser Selina Mohsin, and Dr Rahmatullah of Dhaka University were present on the occasion.

She made the remarks when

Norwegian Ambassador Ingebjorg Stofring met her at her Sudha Sadan in the capital yesterday.

Briefing the newsman after the meeting, AL Presidium Member Kazi Zafarullah said as the ambassador wanted to know when the AL seeks election, the party chief said the caretaker government assumed office for the stipulated 90 days and they should go for holding quick elections, desirably by 120 days at the latest.

As the country is in a state of emergency now, 30 more days can be added to the stipulated 90 days for the caretaker government and this is the position of AL, Zafarullah said.

"And for this our party chief has

said elections must be held within 120 days from the day the present caretaker government assumed office," he added.

The Election Commission and the Anti-Corruption Commission have been reconstituted as per their demands, the AL president said during the meeting.

Asked whether any political issues came up in the discussion, the Norwegian envoy declined to comment.

"This was a courtesy call and we discussed recent developments in Bangladesh," he said, adding that they also exchanged views on bilateral issues and relations between the two countries.

Eradicate corruption to remove poverty, bring stability

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable stressed integrated efforts to eradicate poverty and eliminate corruption that will ensure stability in the county, and said it is impossible to eradicate poverty without ensuring quality education and good governance.

Political instability and corruption create and sustain poverty, they said.

The Hunger Project (THP) organised the roundtable on "poverty, discrimination and stability of the state" at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

THP Country Director Badiul Alam Majumdar presented the keynote paper.

Prof Muzafer Ahmed said present power structure is responsible for creation of poverty. He also emphasised poor-friendly distribution of wealth.

"State fails to perform its duty properly and so the structure of military dictatorship is still going on," he said.

Badiul Alam in his keynote paper hoped that the caretaker government would consider empowering the poor people in the next national budget.

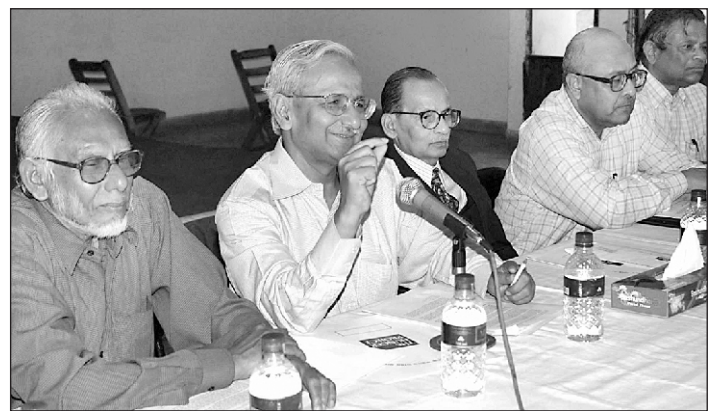
He also said, "Poverty, deprivation and discrimination are creating a possible large-scale instability," adding the foundation of state may be at peril if the next elected government does not take necessary steps in this regard".

Shah Abdul Hannan said family planning should be the main

agenda to reduce poverty.

Nurul Huda urged the caretaker government to bring the corrupt people to book.

Among others Syed Abul Maksud, Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque, Ibrahim Khaled and Mohiuddin Ahmed were present in the meeting.



The Hunger Project (THP) Country Director Badiul Alam Majumdar speaks at a roundtable on "poverty, discrimination and stability of the state" at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right is Dr Meher E Khuda while on his left are Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque, Ibrahim Khaled and Mohiuddin Ahmed.

'Incorporate child rights issue in higher education'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-day regional seminar styled 'Strengthening child rights as an academic discourse in South Asia' began in the city yesterday with a view to incorporating child rights issue in the higher education in the South Asian countries as a discourse.

Former Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf inaugurated the seminar jointly organised by University Grants Commission (UGC) of Bangladesh, Save the Children Sweden-Denmark (Bangladesh Country Office), Save the Children Sweden (Regional office for South and Central Asia), Save the Children Canada (Asia Regional Office) and Department of Anthropology of Jahangirnagar University at Biam auditorium in the city.

Speakers said future of a nation lies on children that constitute more

than 50 percent of the population in the category of 0 hours to 18 years.

They also said this category of population of every society needs to be accommodated with their participation as a development catalyst.

They also said there is no specific discipline on child rights in the universities of the country barring one or two.

The speakers stressed the need for a combined institutional effort from the universities to design courses on child rights with appropriate concepts, theories and methodologies.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Rouf said the first right of the children is to get breast-feeding but, unfortunately, modern mothers care little for granting such rights to the children.

He also said child rights issues, including breastfeeding of the children should be brought as a subject matter of teaching in all educational

institutions at all levels of education.

UGC Member Prof M Mahub Ullah said it is imperative to look at the issue of child rights from a structurally sustainable and pragmatic perspective and in this regard partnerships between academia and development agencies need to be strengthened.

He hoped that the seminar would bring a process for generating a common conceptual framework and philosophy for formulating child rights as an academia discourse.

Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof MA Faiz, Vice Chancellor of National University Prof Wakil Ahmed and acting Country Representative of Save the Children Sweden-Denmark Kristine Zeuthen Jeppesen also spoke at the session.

Inqilab editor sues Dinkal

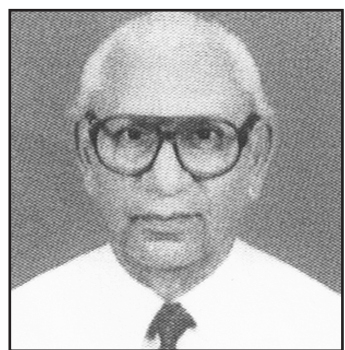
COURT CORRESPONDENT

Bangla daily Inqilab Editor AMM Bahauddin yesterday filed a defamation case against the editor and publisher of The Daily Dinkal accusing them of running a series of defamatory news items.

Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohamamd Mojibul Haq ordered a judicial inquiry into the matter after the case was filed with the Court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, seeking an arrest warrant against Editor Kazi Siraj Uddin Ahmad and Publisher Tarique Rahman.

In his complaint, the Inqilab editor mentioned that the accused ran a series of news items, which were false, fabricated and concocted. It was done to tarnish his image in the society and in the political arena, the complainant added.

Advocates Syed Ahmed Gazi, Munzur Alam, Mahbubul Haque, Abul Kalam Azad, Jasim Uddin Belal, Samiul Karim Alamgir and Prosanta Kumar Karmakar appeared for the complainant.



Obituary

Engr Manzur Husain, director of The Engineers Ltd and son of late Mohammad Nasir of Imdad Villa, Darogah Bari, Chandanpura, Chittagong, passed away yesterday at the age of 78, says a press release.

He was buried at Banani graveyard.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at House 1, Road 15 (New) 28 (Old), at Dhanmondi R/A in Dhaka after Maghrib prayers on February 28.

Friends and admirers have been requested to attend the kulkhwani.

Rokeya Begum

Rokeya Begum, wife of Zainal Abedin Khan, a social worker of Narsingdi, passed away due to old age complications on Thursday at the age of 70, says a press release.

On the occasion, a doa will be held at her village home after Zohr prayers today.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the doa.

Nurun Nahar Mahbub

Nurun Nahar Mahbub, life member of Bangladesh National Society for the Blind (BNSB) and wife Khandaker Mahabub Hossain, passed away on February 22, says a press release.

BNSB General Secretary and employees expressed deep shock at her death and conveyed sympathy to members of the bereaved family.

Death anniversary



Today is the seventh death anniversary of litterateur and journalist Abdul Kuddus Sadi, says a press release.

Sadi was life members of Bangla Academy and Nazrul Academy and the editor of now defunct Weekly Padakkhep.

On the occasion, Qurankhwani and doa mahfil will be held at a local mosque near his Modhubagh residence after Maghrib prayers today.

Conjoined twins born at Gazipur

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MAHBUBA ZANNAT

A pair of female conjoined twins were born at Jobaida Memorial Hospital at Kapasia in Gazipur yesterday who are joined at their chest and abdomen.

The twins, weighing five kilograms, have separate heads, four legs and four hands, but a single anus and genital with a liver and two kidneys. Yet they have 8 chambers in their heart and that is why the doctors are considering them as two babies though their internal blood circulation is not separated.

Bilkis Begum, 30, gave birth to the conjoined twins yesterday early hours. However, as the authorities did not dare to keep the conjoined twins at the hospital, they referred them to Dhaka Shishu Hospital. But while they were being taken to the hospital at 3:30am yesterday, Shishu Hospital authorities asked their guardians to take them to DMCH saying they have no vacant seat.

However, the twins reached DMCH at 5:00 am and were admitted at the department of Pediatric Surgery.

But as one of the newborns was having breathing difficulties, they were shifted to Special Baby Care Unit for close observation.

The on duty doctors said the babies are not in a condition to survive individually and if the condition of one deteriorates, it

would affect the other.

Their possibility of survival is little, because, if one dies, the other would certainly die for the secretion of toxic elements from the others, said the doctors.

The twins are under supervision of Professor Abid Hossain Mollah and Assistant Professor Shah Alam Talukder of Pediatric Surgery department now.

"We are yet to think about their separation. What is most important now is their survival," said Dr Shah Alam adding that they are seeing results of different tests to know the internal condition of the babies.

If the fetuses in the womb is not divided completely then it leads to the birth of conjoined twins, experts said adding that it is rare in the world and their history of survival is almost nil.

Such type of conjoined twins was born at DMCH last July. Although they were given life support immediately, they did not survive.

Prior to this, in 2004 doctors managed to separate a pair of conjoined twins, but one of them died straight away due to the toxic element from the other twin's body who also died later.

Mother of the twins is still staying at Jobaida Medical Hospital as the twins were caesarean. Their father Joinal Abedin, 32, is a farmer. The couple already has a nine-year-old boy.

Customer Day

TRUTZSCHLER and Euro Spin Ltd. jointly organise Customer Day 2007. Venue: Dhaka Sheraton Hotel. Time: 4:00pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Prothom Alo Jatiya Achar Protijogta 2006 will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre. Time: 3:00pm.

Scholarship distribution

Forty meritorious students of Dhaka University (DU) will be awarded 'Summito Corporation Scholarship'. Venue: DU administrative building. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

Unnayan Samannaya organises a workshop to disseminate the result of a

survey on the char areas. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

View exchange meeting

Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) organises a view exchange meeting to disseminate the results of an experiment on the quality of different fertilisers available in the market. Venue: CAB conference hall. Time: 11:00am.

Workshop

A three-day regional workshop on 'Intellectual property rights and patent' will begin. Venue: Conference Hall, Bangladesh National Commission for Unesco (BNCU). Time: 10:00am.

Seminar

Karmojibi Nari organises a seminar on 'The role of peasants in the next election'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 9:30am.

Rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions and the regions of Jessore, Kushtia.

Noakhali and Comilla in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country. Met Office said. It said night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

Highest temperature 32.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 13.0 degree Celsius at Srimongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:59pm today and rises at 6:23am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature In Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.8	17.2	64	31
Chittagong	31.0	17.4	66	55
Rajshahi	30.2	14.4	66	46
Khulna	30.6	17.5	84	65
Barisal	31.2	16.0	86	68
Sylhet	31.2	16.5	67	45
Cox's Bazar	31.0	18.0	76	65