

'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,

'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 Pauperisation 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 Phubari 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 Yousuf, Additional Director and Head, Dialogue and Communication Division, CPD attended the meeting on invitation.

Declare Bhabanah disaster area

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A photography exhibition was organised in the city yesterday demanding declaration of Bhabanah 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 Nagarik Sanghati and supported by ActionAid Bangladesh at Shahid Milon Chattar near Teacher Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

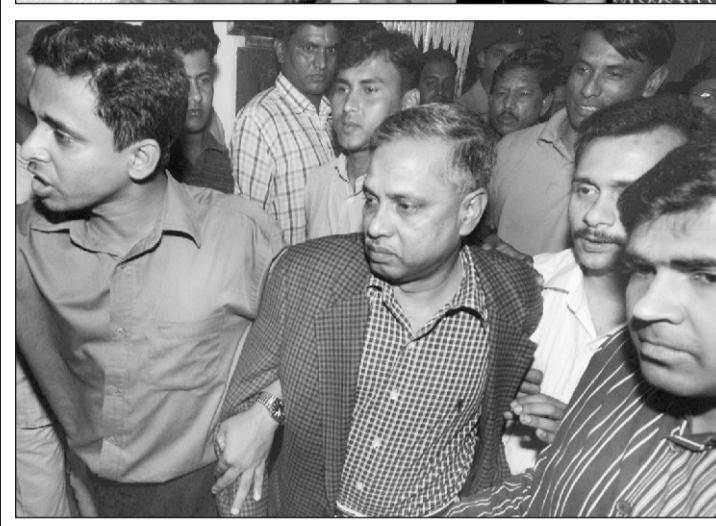
Following a rally, the speakers said water logging has been prevailing for the last few decades at different areas of Jessore, Khulna and Sylhet affecting the lives of 10 lakh people.

They alleged that people of the water-logged area have 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.

Nagarik Sanghati President Dr ASM Atikur Rahman, Kazi Mohammad Shish, Sarder Amin, Miri 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 Mosharraf Hossain, former energy secretary AN H Akhter 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.

PHOTO: STAR

Conjoined twins born at Gazipur

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MAHBUBA ZANNAT

A pair of female conjoined twins were born at Jobaidha 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 Molla 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 Jobaidha Medical Hospital as the twins were caesarean. Their father Joinal Abedin, 32, is a farmer. The couple already has a nine-year-old boy.

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

WEATHER TODAY

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, Khulna,

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 Jessor 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

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 Padakher.

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

Death anniversary

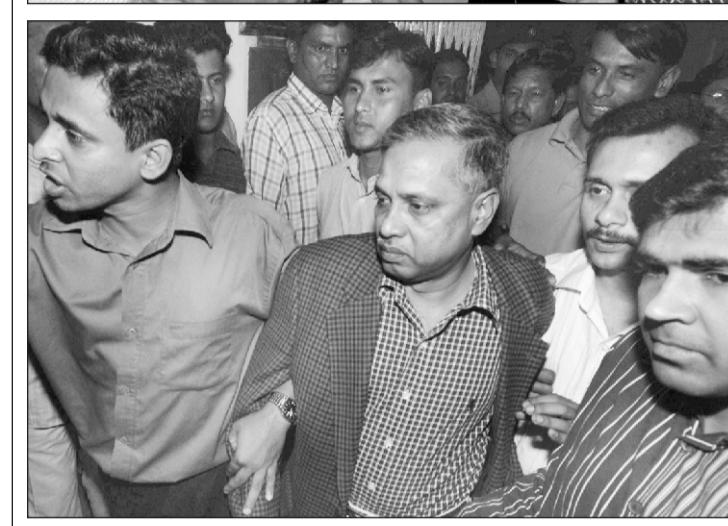
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PHOTO: STAR

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 soon as possible.

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.

The AL chief also urged the Election Commission to immediately start the task of updating the voter list for holding the election.

She made the remarks when

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