

Educate yourselves properly to establish peace, build a poverty-free world

Nobel Committee chief tells students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee Ole Danbolt Mjøs yesterday called on the students to properly educate themselves to fight global warming, establish peace and build a poverty-free world, which would also be free of nuclear weapons.

"You have the potential and power to do it. Let's do it together," he said while delivering a lecture at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city. Some 3,200 university and college students from across the country attended the programme.

Encouraging the students to study peace studies, Prof Mjøs said they can also take advantage of the exchange programmes to pursue peace studies abroad.

Replying to a question from the students, he said the young people can also win the peace prize by promoting peace worldwide.

He also suggested to the students that they organise a peace conference in Bangladesh and invite students from the neighbouring countries. "Each of you present here has the potential to win the Nobel Peace Prize," he

added. In his lecture titled 'Some Reflections on the Nobel Peace Prize', Prof Mjøs said majority of the world's poor people are women and children.

Poverty may be the greatest challenge confronting the world over the next few decades, he said, adding that every country and nation must come forward to help tackle the challenge.

He also stressed the need to address the root causes of poverty to eradicate it. Development from below also serves to advance democracy and human rights, thereby ensuring worldwide peace, he added.

"The struggle against poverty is the work for peace of the first order."

The Nobel Committee chairman noted that microcredit has proved itself to be a liberating force in societies where women in particular have to struggle against repressive social and economic conditions.

"We have created a slavery-free world, a polo-free world and an apartheid-free world. Creating a poverty-free world would be greater than all these accomplish-

ments while at the same time reinforcing them. This would be a world that we could be proud to live in," he quoted Yunus as saying.

The Bangladeshis are living in a vulnerable position due to poverty and climate change, he said, adding that the whole world needs to tackle the challenge together as these are global problems too.

He also asked the students to establish a knowledge society. "Let's together create a world without poverty, let's build peace and prevent war, focus on integrity, fight global warming and protect environment, and let us work for a world free of nuclear weapon," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Nobel laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus said Grameen Bank is the only organisation in Asia to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.

Winning the Peace Prize has reminded the nation of its potential, he said and urged the students to equip themselves with knowledge to lead the world.

"Bangladesh has to be turned into a nation which will never fall behind any nation," he said.

Norwegian Ambassador to Bangladesh Ingebjørg Størfjord was also present.

BSF withdraws objection to embankment construction

UNB, C'nauabganj

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) yesterday withdrew its objection to construction of an embankment to protect Bholahat from erosion by the river Mahananda.

Work on more than 1000 metres-long embankment at Gilabari and Poladanga was suspended three years ago following objection by BSF that led to exchange of gunfire with BDR.

BSF withdrew its objection to construction of the embankment at a meeting with BDR at Silk Research Institute at Bholahat. AK Agarwal, DIG of BSF, led the Indian side at the meeting, while Bangladesh side was led by Lt Col Saiful Islam.

The border river, Mahananda, has already devoured a large area on Bangladesh side.

Water Development Board had taken up the embankment project at a cost of Tk 3 crore to protect Bholahat area from river erosion.

201 RU teachers protest attack on FF

RU CORRESPONDENT

Some 201 teachers of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday strongly protested the assault on a freedom fighter by Jamaat-Shibir cadres at a programme in Dhaka recently.

In a joint statement, they also demanded punishment to Jamaat-Shibir cadres involved in the attack and a ban on 'Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad' backed by Jamaat-Islami.

Freedom fighter Sheikh Mohammad Ali Aman was assaulted by Jamaat-Shibir cadres as he called for trial of the war criminals at the programme of 'Jatiya Muktiyoddha Parishad'. A journalist was also harassed by the Jamaat-Shibir cadres at that time.

The incident of attack is testimony to how the Jamaat men tortured the people during the liberation war, the teachers said in the statement.

They also expressed concern that the caretaker government did not take any action the attackers although several days have passed after the incident.

The teachers also called on the government to initiate the process for the trial of war criminals immediately.

The signatories to the statement include former vice chancellor Prof Saïdur Rahman Khan, Prof Abdus Sobhan, Prof Mizan Uddin, Prof Ananda Kumar Saha, Prof Abul Kashem, Prof Mahabubur Rahman, Prof Fayekuzzaman, Prof Muklesur Rahman, Prof Julfikar Matin, Prof Anik Mahmud, Prof Jalal Uddin, Prof SM Abu Bakkar, Prof Shafiqunabi Samadi, Prof Jannatul Ferdous, Prof Golam Sabbir Sattar Tapu and Prof Entajul Haque.

Ex-cop murdered in Mymensingh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

An ex-police constable was stabbed to death near Telihati Bazar in Gouripur upazila on Wednesday night.

The victim was identified as Moon Faruq, 50, of Betandar village. Police said when Faruq was returning home at around 10:00pm, a gang of miscreants swooped on him and stabbed him indiscriminately resulting his death on the spot.

Police suspect the killing might have occurred on establishing supremacy in the area.

The victim's wife filed a case with Gouripur Police Station in this connection.

Police arrested one Kajal, 40, for his alleged involvement in the killing.



DU LLM Lawyers' Assoc executives

METRO DESK

ABM Waliur Rahman Khan and Md Abdun Nur Dulal were elected president and secretary of Dhaka University LLM Lawyers' Association for the term 2008-10, says a press release.

The election of the 3rd executive committee of the body was held on Wednesday.

Other office bearers are: vice-presidents: Md Atiqul Karim and Md Jafor Ali, treasurer: Kazi Md Ezarul Haque Akondo (Sagor), joint secretaries: Sk Shaifuzzaman and Mohammad Bakir Uddin Bhuiyan, and women affairs secretary: Parvin Hannan.

Members are: Mustafa Zaman Islam, Kazi Ebadoth Hossain, Md Shohrwardi, Mohammad Ali, Mohiuzzaman Rubel, Sheikh Ali Ahmed Khokan, Md Abdur Rahman Howlader, Md Najmul Huda.



Dhaka Club President Sadat Hossain Salim and former presidents MG Murtaza, AK Feroze Ahmed, Shamsur Rahman, Abdus Sattar and Anowarul Kabir jointly inaugurate a three-day tree fair on the club premises yesterday.

Elect competent people Speakers tell Shujan programme

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

The corrupt politicians snatched the rights of people over the years in the past, now time has come to give them a befitting reply in the coming polls, said Dr Badiul Alam Majumder, general secretary of Shushashoner Janney Nagorik (Shujan), yesterday.

Speaking at a programme titled 'Janatar Mukhomukhi' (meet the people) at Phulbaria Degree College auditorium, he said, "We shall have to work together for establishing democracy at the grassroots level."

Shujan Phulbaria upazila unit organised the programme for the candidates running for local municipal polls scheduled to be held next month.

Bashir Ahmed, president of Shujan Phulbaria unit, presided over the function.

Channel 1, The Daily Star and The Prothom Alo are the media partners

of the programme. Moderating the programme, Dr Majumder said, "We shall have to remain vigilant so that the public representatives who will be elected in the next polls cannot breach their promises given to people before the polls."

Dileep Biswas, coordinator of Shujan's Central Secretariat, said the voters should be more vigilant so that the candidates cannot use their muscles and black money to win the election.

He said people will have to create a congenial atmosphere for holding a free and fair election.

Shujan's district committee member Sheikh Bahar Majumder, its Phulbaria unit Secretary Ayubullah Fayez, and Principal (in-charge) of Phulbaria Degree College Abdul Hakim were present at the inaugural session of the programme. Principal Hakim urged the people to vote for those candidates who are honest, competent

and reliable for the development of their areas.

Eight out of 10 candidates running for the mayoral post of Phulbaria municipally addressed the open discussion session of the programme.

Md Omar Faruq said he will develop the infrastructure of the area if elected.

Md Abdur Rahim said he will work for the overall development of the municipality.

Abdullah Mustaq said he will work to stop child marriage, dowry system and other social crimes.

Students, teachers and businessmen also took part in the discussion. They included Prof Golam Mustafa, Shamsul Alam Talukder, Enamul Haque, Abdul Jalil, Rafiqul Islam Milon, Ashraf Islam, Rony, Reaz Uddin, Kamrul Ahmed, Shaiful Islam Khokon, Abdullah, Muklesur Rahman, Abdus Sattar and Nurun Nahar Lipa.

Pry teachers' talks with govt end without decision

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Primary school teachers and ministry of primary and mass education did not reach any consensus yesterday on the issue of the government permission to Brac in order to supervise all primary schools in 20 upazilas under a pilot programme.

A three-hour dialogue between leaders of eight primary teachers associations and Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Chowdhury was ended without taking any decision.

After the dialogue at the directorate of primary education (DPE), the adviser said the caretaker government wants to continue the dialogue to convince the teachers for allowing Brac to supervise primary schools.

However, schoolteachers said they would continue their movement against the government step, adding that they will not

work as presiding and polling officers in the upcoming four cities and nine municipal elections if the government does not cancel the decision by July 30.

Bangladesh Private Primary Teachers Association (BPPTA) President Muhammad Samsul Alam said they will continue their protest programme until the cancellation of the pilot project.

Bangladesh Graduate Primary Teachers Association (BGPTA) General Secretary M Badrul Alam Mukul raised a question about the standard of education provided by Brac schools, saying the country's primary educational system will be ruined if monitored or supervised by such inexperienced institution like Brac as it cannot continue its own schools in remote areas for 'mismanagement'.

Leaders of the four organisations -- Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association (BPTA), BPPTA, BGPTA and Bangladesh

Community Primary Teachers Association (BCPTA) participated in the dialogue.

Primary and Mass Education Secretary Mosharaf Hossain Bhuiyan, DPE Directorate General M Nazrul Islam Khan and Director Ratan Kumar also took part in the dialogue.

Young girl found dead in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of an unidentified girl aged about 25 from Tejgaon railway gate in the city.

The body was found at about 12:00noon. Her hands and legs were tied.

Police suspects that she was strangled to death as a napkin was tied in her throat.

10 hurt as JCD, Shibir clash in Rajshahi

RU CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 students, activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir, were injured yesterday on the Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute campus in a clash between the two student organisations.

Two of the critically injured JCD activists, Tuhin and Bappi, were undergoing treatment at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH), said sources.

The other injured JCD activists were identified as Asad, Jahid, Roni, Reza, Shyamol and Mamun.

According to the sources, the clash erupted when activists of both the student organisations went to the administrative building of the institute to buy admission forms for prospective freshman students.

At one stage JCD activists attacked and beat up Shibir activist Saiful with sticks.

The Shibir activists, armed with iron rods and bamboo sticks, later regrouped and swooped on the JCD activists near the administrative building.

As the clash erupted unexpectedly, the panic-stricken students including the prospective students fled for shelters and the distribution of admission forms had to be suspended for about an hour.

The institute Principal Joyal Abedin confirmed the incident saying that the situation was brought under control and police were deployed to avert any further incidents.

Ataur Rahman, president of Shibir's Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute unit, alleged that it was an unprovoked attack on his men by JCD activists.

JCD leader Roni however rejected the allegation and accused Shibir activists of illegally making profit by reselling admission forms to prospective students.

KCC ELECTION 2 candidates violate electoral code of conduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Two candidates for councillor posts in Khulna City Corporation (KCC) have been accused of violating electoral code of conduct.

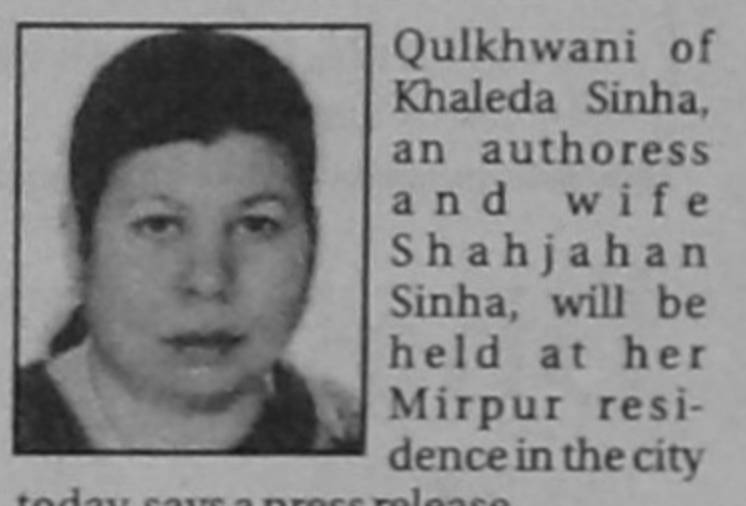
The accused are Kamrul Islam and Shah Alam, councillor candidates of the ward-24.

Police filed a general diary that the candidates used loudspeakers before 2:00pm violating electoral code of conduct.

The matter was brought to notice of the returning officer. Police seized their loudspeakers and warned the candidates not to violate electoral code of conduct any further.

Qulkhwani

METRO DESK



Kulhwani of Khaleda Sinha, an author and wife of Shahjahan Sinha, will be held at her Mirpur residence in the city today, says a press release.

Khaleda Sinha passed away at a city hospital on Tuesday at the age of 67.

She has written 25 books. Relatives and admirers are requested attend the kulhwani and pray for her departed soul.

Anwara Khalil

METRO DESK



Kulhwani of Anwara Khalil, wife of Alhaj Mohammad Khalilullah, will be held at Aboni Apartments, House #11/C, Road #14 (New), Dhanmondi after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

She died of cancer on July 14. A doa mahfil will be held on the occasion.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the kulhwani and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Maleka Akhter Khatun

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Kulhwani of Maleka Akhter Khatun, wife of social worker late Abdur Rahman of Kishoreganj, will be held after Juma prayers today at her village home under Karimganj upazila, says a press release.

She passed away on June 5 at Mirpur in the city.

Relatives and admirers are requested to pray for her departed soul.

Road crashes kill 5, injure 7

METRO DESK

At least five people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents across the country yesterday and on Wednesday.

Our C'nauabganj Correspondent reports: A freedom fighter died in a road accident at Uparajampur on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway in Chapainawabganj yesterday.

The victim was identified as freedom fighter Abdur Rashid, 55, of Kumarpura in Chapainawabganj poura area.

Police and locals said the accident occurred at around 4:30pm when a Chapainawabganj-bound passenger bus hit the freedom fighter while he was crossing the road. He died on the spot.

Police recovered the body and sent it to Sadar hospital morgue for autopsy.

The driver and helper of the bus fled the scene.

Our Barisal Correspondent adds: A police constable was killed and five others injured when a tempo skidded off and fell into a roadside ditch near Barisal-Patuaakhal highway yesterday noon.

The victim was identified as Khalilur Rahman, 42, son of Arab Ali at Charamoddi under Bakerganj



Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advocate Dewan Abul Abbas, former president of Dhaka Bar Association, passed away at a city hospital on July 16 at the age of 83, says a press release.

He was also an MNA from Nabinagar-Banchharampur in Brahmanbaria and member of the Draft Constitution Formulation Committee.

Advocate Abbas has long been suffering from old-age complications. He left behind a host of admirers to mourn his death.

His kulhwani and a milad mahfil will be held at his residence at 32/1 Bhabajhari Saha Street, Wari, after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends, colleagues and well-wishers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Nurul Islam Monjur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Captain (ret'd) Nurul Islam Monjur, a freedom fighter, passed away at a city hospital on Monday at the age of 59.

He left behind his wife, daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried with state honour at Uttara graveyard in the city yesterday.

Freedom fighter and former lawmaker Shah Md Abu Fazar expressed deep shock at this death.



Moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 35.2 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and lowest 22.8 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital tomorrow at 6:48 pm and rises on Saturday at 5:22am.

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

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in percentage (Morning, Evening). Rows include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.