

Social business can change

FROM PAGE 1
business model," he added.

The Malaysian premier came up with the comments while speaking at the closing session of the second day of the three-day annual event.

Malaysian Crown Prince Yam Tengku attended a few sessions of the summit alongside students, young entrepreneurs, development activists, businessmen and policymakers of the fast developing Southeast Asian country.

In his speech, Najib Razak announced a 20-million ringgit fund for promoting social business in Malaysia.

"This [summit] will plant the seed of a revolution -- none like the Arab Spring though -- which will make sure the world is in better hands," Razak said.

He also pledged to establish Malaysia Global Innovation and Creative Centre to cater to the needs young of social business entrepreneurs and enthusiasts.

The PM said the traditional business model has some inherent shortcomings which can be solved through the social business model, a brainchild of Prof Yunus.

"Capitalism leads to creating inequality in countries. So, we needed a new business model. Social business can be the key to solving inequality in the society," Razak said.

He highlighted the inability of a government to solve all the problems in a country, and said, "If we can unleash the energy of the youths and support them then all problems will be solved."

"Young people must be empowered and given opportunities so that they can really change the world. That is why I believe in social business," Razak added.

Prof Yunus echoed the Malaysian premier, and said, "These young people are very special as they are the most powerful generation in the entire history because of technology that gives them power and ability."

Yunus said if Malaysia opened its door to the younger generation, they would be able to take charge of not only their country but of the world as well.

He urged every country to set aside a part of the national investment for the social business. "That is the only way out," he observed.

Prof Yunus thanked the Malaysian premier for inviting him to hold the summit, and also the Malaysian government for coming out vigorously to support the social business idea.

He said the Malaysian government also doled out one million ringgit to Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) for conducting research on social business. In the run up to the summit, the university organised the first ever international research conference on social business in the world.

On the second day of the summit, eight groups came up with presentations on new social business ventures.

Binod Chaudhary, chairman of Chaudhary Group and the first billionaire of Nepal, instantly signed a partnership with Fairwind, an initiative of Wolfgang Fuerst from Austria, which will use waste plastic bottles and wind power to produce low-cost windmills to charge mobile phones in off-grid areas.

The day also saw launching of the Social Business Pedia, an online platform where people can get information and major updates on the concept and different ventures of social business.

The summit, the first in an Asian city after previous four editions taking place in Europe, began on Thursday with a view to changing individuals, communities, villages, cities and countries through solving some of the most pressing social ills by applying the new economic theory.

Around 600 participants from 40 countries including 107 from Bangladesh are attending the event themed "Social business to change the world."

The next summit will be held in Mexico City on November 11-15 in 2014, organisers said.



Police arrest BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's adviser Abdul Awal Mintoo, *left photo*, and her special assistant Shimul Biswas, *right*, early today in front of the opposition leader's Gulshan home.



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Govt goes tough on opposition

FROM PAGE 1
crude bombs at the home of BNP Joint Secretary General Mohammad Shahjahan at Rashid Colony area in Noakhali around 12:30am, reports our correspondent.

Local BNP called a dawn-to-dusk hartal for today in Noakhali's Companyganj and Kabirhat upazilas, the parliamentary constituency of Moudud, and in Comilla's Homna upazila, the constituency of MKAnwar.

The opposition also called hartal in Bhola and Pallabi of Mirpur for today.

The arrests panicked people in the capital and elsewhere. Many politicians and citizens called The Daily Star to know what was going on.

There has been a huge deployment of police force near the BNP headquarters in Nayapaltan since 5:00pm yesterday.

Earlier in the evening, over 50 policemen

stood guard at the Gulshan office and home of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

State Minister Tuku said Dhaka Metropolitan Police deployed forces at Khaleda's home and her Gulshan office for the sake of her own security.

"Khaleda might fall victim to revenge, as her men had attacked the homes of several law makers and ministers," he said, adding that the government took the step to protect her from people's wrath.

Many senior AL leaders and ministers kept mum over the arrest of the top BNP leaders.

But according to some AL and government insiders, more BNP-Jamaat-led 18-party leaders would be arrested following a list made after assessing the two spells of hartal violence over the last two weeks. The whole process is being coordinated by Home Minister MK

Alamgir.

AL Organising Secretary AFM Bahauddin Nasim told The Daily Star, "Law enforcement agencies will explain why the opposition leaders have been arrested."

"But we want to say that those involved in subversive activities like arson, bomb attacks and vandalism in the name of hartal will be resisted with an iron fist."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina last night held a meeting with a few ministers and advisers immediately after the arrest of the three senior BNP leaders.

But details of the meeting could not be known immediately.

A homemade bomb went off in front of the AL President's political office around 9:15pm. Some mid-ranking leaders of the AL were present at the office then.

Quest for saving millions

FROM PAGE 1
only mild or no symptoms had more CD8 T-cells -- a type of virus-killing immune cell -- in their blood at the start of the pandemic.

Now Ajit, Shaima and other team members believe a vaccine that stimulates the body to produce more CD8 T-cells could be an effective way to fight flu viruses, including new strains that cross over into people from birds and pigs.

Prof Ajit told The Daily Star, "The volunteers [342 staff and students] were asked to donate blood samples and report any symptoms they experienced over the next two flu seasons. Our study found that people who fell more severely ill with flu had fewer CD8 T-cells in their blood at the start of the pandemic, and those who caught flu but had no symptoms or only mild symptoms had more of these CD8 T-cells."

He went on, "Our findings suggest that by making the body produce more of this specific type of CD8 T-cells, you can protect people against symptomatic illness. This provides the blueprint for developing a universal flu vaccine."

"We already know how to stimulate the immune system to make CD8 T-cells by vaccination. Now that we know these T-cells may protect, we can design a vaccine to prevent people from getting symptoms and transmitting infection to others. This could curb seasonal flu annually and protect people against future pandemics."

He said the problem with the existing vaccine efforts was that it was always one step behind the evolving virus and so vaccines must be updated every season to match circulating strains.

"The solution to this problem would be a universal flu vaccine effective against all strains of flu."

Asked how long it might take them to come up with a universal flu vaccine, Prof Ajit could not offer a specific timeline, rather said, "This could be possible within the next few years. The vaccine would be tested in human clinical trials first before being made available for use in the general public."

Shaima Begom, who started working in Prof Ajit's lab in April 2010, told this correspondent, "I initially worked on a six-month project on the flu study as part of my research masters at Imperial College London. Since I enjoyed the project, I decided to continue the work for my PhD. It's been a great learning experience and the flu study was a very unique and exciting project to be involved in."

Shaima, eldest among four siblings and daughter of a businessman, hails from Sylhet. She spoke highly about her supervisors and co-members in the flu study team -- Dr Saranya Sridhar, a post-doctoral scientist in the lab, and Prof Ajit.

In her words, "My supervisors are very talented and inspiring individuals who have designed the flu study. Dr Sridhar and I work very closely together on the project, especially the lab experiments and data analysis, so it's been very much a team effort."

EC seeks political

FROM PAGE 1
political parties. This prompted Majumdar to file a complaint with the IC on September 9 under the Right to Information Act, 2009.

In response, the IC on October 22 held a hearing at its headquarters in the capital where Majumdar and the EC official were present, among others.

In the hearing the IC observed that since the information did not impose threat to the country's security, integrity and sovereignty, harm diplomatic relationship or damage reputation of particular individual or organisation, the audit reports should be made public.

Yesterday, EC Director (Public Relations) SM Asaduzzaman, also an information

officer of the commission, told The Daily Star, "According to the information act, it requires approval from a third party to provide any of its information. That is why we have sought opinions from the political parties."

Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz said, "The information is not ours, but for our official purpose. Hence, we need permission from its real owners to make it public."

Former election commissioner M Sakhawat Hussain said the audit reports should be made public for ensuring transparency, accountability and acceptability.

"During our tenure [between 2007 and 2012], we made an attempt to public the audit reports, but could not do so due to some reasons," he told The Daily Star.

3 robbers killed

FROM PAGE 16
ringleader of Kalu Bahini, and his cohorts -- Ripon and Rubel.

Anisur Rahman, SP of Noakhali police, said acting on a tip-off, a team of police conducted a drive near Al-Amin fish farm in the upazila at dead of night to arrest the gang members.

Sensing presence of the police, the outlaws opened fire prompting the law enforcers to

retaliate that triggered a gunfight, he said.

At one stage, the outlaws fled the scene with the injured leaving the dead trio on the spot.

Police recovered a light gun, five bullets, a rocket launcher, a flare gun and locally made sharp weapons from the spot, the SP said.

Kalu was wanted in several cases, including murder, kidnap and extortion, police said.

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