

Indonesia

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quoted by Antara news agency.

"We hope the conflict in Myanmar can be resolved. The United Nations must act to address the crisis as it could threaten interfaith harmony in the world," he said.

He lauded the existence of religious harmony in Indonesia, such as in Pamekasan where Buddhists and Muslims coexist peacefully and have mutual respect for each other.

In Medan, North Sumatra, a Buddhist monk Peter Lim also denounced the persecution of Rohingyas in Buddhist-majority Myanmar as it tainted Buddhism.

"I feel ashamed and sad. And I condemn it because it is an affront to Buddhism and Buddha's teachings," Lim said in Medan, North Sumatra, recently.

The persecution by extremists does not reflect the teachings of Buddhism, he affirmed.

Separately, the Council of Buddhist Communities (Walubi) has called on the country's Buddhists to help Rohingya refugees currently stranded in Aceh and North Sumatra.

Ahead of Waisak (Buddha's Day of Enlightenment), Walubi called on all Buddhists to perform good deeds.

Walubi earlier said that Buddhists in Indonesia had nothing to do with radicalism spread by Ashin Wirathu, a radical monk who condoned the persecution of the Rohingya Muslim minority group in Rakhine state, Myanmar.

'Rapists' bragged

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midnight, court sources quoted Mahbub as saying.

It could not be verified whether the vehicle Tushar was driving was the one used in the rape.

Nur Alam gave his statement before Metropolitan Magistrate Md Maruf Hossain. However, it could not be known what he said in the statement.

Rab arrested Tushar and Lavlu from Patuakhali and Dhaka on Wednesday. The elite force claimed that the two, during primary interrogations, had confessed to having raped the girl in the running vehicle.

The girl was lured into the offenders' trap with an offer of a better job, according to the Rab.

In the case filed with Bhatara Police Station on May 22, the victim mentioned that five people had "gang-raped" her for over an hour that night. However, the Rab claimed that the heinous crime was committed by the two arrestees only.

REMAND FOR DUO

A Dhaka court yesterday placed Tushar and Lavlu on a 10-day remand each.

Metropolitan Magistrate Amit Kumar Dey passed the order after Investigation Officer Sajjad Hossain, who is officer-in-charge (investigation) of Bhatara Police Station, produced the duo before the court.

PM paid

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"They should naturally entertain the city corporation that has a co-ownership of the flyover," he said.

Regarding the issuance of a letter that seeks the mayor a toll-free ride on the flyover, Khokon said, "I have no knowledge of this."

The Daily Star has obtained copies of both the letters. Those were issued and distributed to the flyover's private authorities, city corporation chief executive, chief revenue officer and the private secretary to the mayor the same day.

Superintendent Engineer of Dhaka South City Corporation and also Project Director of the flyover, Ashiqur Rahman, who issued the letters, refused to comment on the matter.

Palam in bloom

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Bangladesh.

In Dhaka city, there are two Palam trees -- one in Shishu Academy and the other in Ramna nursery -- planted by Prof Dwijen Sharma. The saplings were collected from the Patharia hills of Moulvibazar.

Palam (Wrightia Coccinea) is a deciduous tree of medium height, which generally varies from seven to 13 metres. The wood is whitish and smooth. The leaves with pointed end- ing are seven to 13 cm and hang in twos in a long stem upside down. The stalks are very short. There are a few flowers at the end of the branches.

Five stamens make a conical pendulum together and stick to corona at the mouth of a branch. The fruits are 20 to 25 cm long and come in pairs with thick strong coating and white spots.

The trees are in bloom with new leaves towards the end of spring and early summer (March-April).

The flower, locally known as Palan, lasts almost throughout summer, and varies widely in terms of size and colour. The tree relies on wind dispersal of seeds with cottony attachment.

The writer is a botanist.

Pesticide used for slow

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concentration camp death chambers.

Dr Sven Anders, 44, a coroner from the University Clinic of Hamburg-Eppendorf, told how Zyklon-B which "attacks the brain", causes extreme pain, violent seizures and kills anyone who inhales it from cardiac arrest "within seconds".

Dr Anders told how the gas was originally produced as a pesticide to cleanse large buildings like warehouses and barracks.

Groening, who arrived 30 minutes late to the hearing due to a traffic hold up, looked intently at him and twitched slightly as he said: "Zyklon B is known as prussic acid. Only one in two people can smell the cyanide - but it has the smell of bitter almonds and marzipan.

"It is lighter than air and penetrates by inhalation into the smallest branches of the lungs. There it blocks cellular respiration."

He went on: "The brain and the heart are first attacked. It begins with a stinging feeling in the chest, then it can cause spasmodic pain - similar to epileptic seizures. Death by cardiac circulatory arrest occurs usually within

seconds. Cyanide is one of the fastest-acting poisons."

The Nazis produced the gas in huge quantities during the Second World War and it was used on its victims at Auschwitz, who were led into huge gas chambers disguised as shower rooms.

Gas-mask wearing SS guards would then shake the pesticide crystals and slip them into the chamber and waited for the people inside to die.

Dr Anders said it was unlikely that the poison worked at the same speed in all areas given the size of the gas chamber and the unfortunate people who were breathing lower concentrations would suffer much more.

He added: "A lower intoxication leads to a blockage of blood in the lungs and thereby causes shortness of breath."

"Commonly one speaks of water in the lungs, breathing will then always deeper and stronger, because the body craves after oxygen. The agony could last more than half an hour."

Groening, who is known as the "Bookkeeper of Auschwitz", has admitted to being "morally guilty" but denies legal responsibility because he claims he "never hurt anyone" directly.

Salahuddin again shifted

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District and Sessions Judge Court ordered jail authorities to put Salahuddin in judicial custody for 14 days.

Earlier in the day, Salahuddin was produced before the court after doctors declared his condition stable the day before.

Salahuddin's party colleague, who is now in Shillong, told The Daily Star over the phone that the jail authorities rushed him to North East Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences (Neigrihms) on Wednesday night after he felt chest pain.

Salahuddin is undergoing treatment at the emergency department of the hospital, Subrata Acharjee, India bureau chief of Somoy Television, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Subrata said a hearing would also be held at Shillong court today regarding his bail petition for taking him abroad for better treatment.

"Salahuddin will remain at the hospital and will be produced before the court once doctors declare him okay," a police inspector

told Subrata at the Shillong court, quoting from the court order.

"Police did not seek remand on Wednesday for Salahuddin considering his heath condition and political identity," Subrata quoted a senior Shillong police official, who did not want to be named, as saying.

Prof AC Phukan, medical superintendent at the hospital, told Subrata, "Salahuddin has been kept under close observation at the emergency VIP cabin after his readmission to the hospital last night."

"After examining all the medical tests, we will take a decision on where he would be sent from the emergency department," the physician added.

The BNP joint secretary was picked up from a house in the city's Uttara on March 10 allegedly by unidentified men who introduced themselves as detectives.

After remaining missing for around two months, Salahuddin was found in Shillong, the capital of northeastern Indian state of Meghalaya on May 11. He was arrested for entering India without any valid documents.

The theory of 'Three Zeros'

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simple. He said that the world must adopt a policy of: a) zero poverty; b) zero unemployment; and, c) zero carbon emission. Only then would the world have a sustainable development. Any other plan will not be sustainable.

To achieve his "Three Zeros" plan, he said, we needed four things: 1. Harness the energy and creativity of the youth; 2. Use the power of technology; 3. Transform business into Social Business; and, 4. Ensure good governance.

He believes that there is practically nothing that the young cannot achieve. Their "can do" spirit is the biggest asset for the world especially for Bangladesh. The youth will have to be energised, given freedom of action, sufficient support and guidance and they will do the rest. We must believe in our youth, he kept on emphasising.

About technology, he said that the world is changing at an unbelievable rate and all of it is coming from technological innovation. But this technology is in the hands of the rich who are using it to further enrich themselves.

But if the same technology is used to solve the problems of the world -- poverty, unemployment, environmental degradation, population management, etc., then the world will become transformed. The immediate task should be to use the magnificent innovations of science and technology to trigger "sustainable growth" and not to increase rich-poor gap and all sorts of discrimination.

Social Business is the real business, the rest are a distortion. His view that a business only based on avarice, greed, acquisitive instinct, self interest, etc. is only half the story. There is a far better and glorious "other half" story that remains totally ignored and untold in the present day capitalist narrative of human nature.

Human beings are much more complex and "bigger", and filled with many other qualities such as love, empathy, fellow feeling, idealism, nobility and capacity for sacrifice. Present day capitalism has successfully produced enormous wealth for which it must be appreciated. But in the process, and by concentrating only on greed related aspects of human nature, our civilisation has perverted the "core human person".

While producing wealth on the basis of "personal interest" alone and delinking him or her from the fundamental fact that "a human being is a social animal" with a conscious or

subconscious desire to produce "social good", the present capitalistic production system has negatively impacted the human psyche making him or her detached from natural instincts and feelings.

Finally, it is good governance that brings all the above together. Everything that has been said above can be achieved only if a society is based on the rule of law, democracy, fundamental rights, gender equality, accountable and transparent governance process. It is only in an environment of good governance that Social Business can thrive.

It is perhaps a bit audacious on my part to comment that Prof Yunus' ideas have come a long way. While his microfinance sharply focused on the issues of poverty, especially that of women, his ideas of Social Business encompass the whole society -- rich and poor, man and woman, big and small, black or white, developed or developing, etc. So, while microfinance was a development issue, Social Business is a "civilisational" issue. It asks the crucial question whether our civilisation - as it now operates, produces, consumes, allocates resources, makes laws, dispenses justice, discriminates between the rich and the poor, allows poverty and unemployment to exist, and, most crucially, as it now recklessly and unthinkingly exploits nature -- is sustainable?

"The answer my friend is blowing in the wind".

On a lighter note, the 6th Social Business Summit began with a message from Sharon Stone, yes, the world famous film actress, sending her love and best wishes to Prof Yunus, his team and all those involved in Social Business. Bill Clinton, the one and only, in a video message on the occasion of Social Business Day, which also coincides with Prof Yunus' birthday, said of him "your life is a gift to humanity" and wished him many more years of dedicated service to change the world and make it a better place.

But the most enjoyable video greetings came from a Chinese village where housewives remembered Yunus' visit last year and said "Please come again with more ideas to help us, as we are still following what you said the last time". However what won everybody's heart in yesterday's gathering and led to spontaneous applause was Chinese kids asking Yunus, "Grand pa, when will you come again".

He could be next

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April, Azad said he quit his job as a newspaper columnist and stopped writing blogs after receiving numerous threats but still posts critical comments on Facebook.

Azad was considering fleeing the country and said he spent much of his time indoors.

He is one of more than 80 people on a list of bloggers targeted for their criticism of religious intolerance and extremism in Bangladesh, which is officially secular but has seen mounting attacks on atheists.

The list is believed to have originally been submitted to Bangladesh's interior ministry in 2013 by a group of Islamists demanding the named writers be punished for their supposedly derogatory writing about Islam and the Prophet Mohamed, the Guardian reported.

But bloggers believe it is now being used by a group of vigilantes murdering targets with machetes on the streets of Bangladesh.

On February 26, prominent Bangladeshi-American blogger Avijit Roy was hacked to death while walking through Dhaka with his wife.

Almost exactly a month later, Washiqur Rahman was killed in a frenzied attack in the same city by a group of men believed to be religious students.

On the day of his death his Facebook profile still carried a tribute to Mr Roy with the hashtag #IamAvijit as his profile picture and slogan "words cannot be killed".

Ananta's murder was the first outside Dhaka, taking place in the north-eastern city of Sylhet.

He was believed to be a writer for the Mukto Mona website, which had been moderated by Avijit Roy before his death.

Many of those under threat, including Azad, demand the banning of Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh's largest Islamist party, although it denies any link to the murders.

A militant group known as the Ansarullah Bangla Team was banned on Monday after being linked to the three murders by police, becoming the sixth Islamist group to be outlawed in Bangladesh.

[Additional reporting by AP]

Fifa scam

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Ignoring calls to step down, Blatter said: "I know many people hold me ultimately responsible ... (but) I cannot monitor everyone all the time. If people want to do wrong, they will also try to hide it."

Platini said 45 or 46 of UEFA's 53 member associations would vote for Prince Ali.

But it appeared that Blatter still commanded enough of FIFA's 209 national associations to secure victory.

Blatter appeared confident despite the dawn raid by plainclothes police on Wednesday that left seven of the most powerful figures in football in Swiss custody and facing extradition to the United States on corruption charges.

They are all contesting extradition, but lawyers said the process could be completed within months.

Swiss authorities have also announced a criminal investigation into the awarding of the next two World Cups, which are being hosted in Russia in 2018 and Qatar in 2022.

US authorities said nine football officials and five sports media and promotions executives faced corruption charges involving more than \$150 million in bribes.

Both Qatar and Moscow have denied any suggestion of wrongdoing over their bids to host one of the world's top sporting events, and Russian President Vladimir Putin yesterday accused the United States of meddling in an effort to prevent the re-election of Blatter.

"This is yet another blatant attempt to extend its jurisdiction to other states," Putin said, adding that Russia would continue to support Blatter.

The Fifa Congress formally got under way yesterday evening. But the serious business starts today morning in Zurich's Hallenstadion, which is where the announcement of the 2018 and 2022 World Cup venues was made in 2010 -- decisions which lie at the heart of much of FIFA's current malaise.

With splits opening in the world game, the Asian and African confederations backed Blatter for president, while Western nations said he must go.

French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said the vote should be delayed in light of the corruption investigation.

British Prime Minister David Cameron backed Prince Ali's candidacy and said there was a strong case for a change of leadership at FIFA. Britain has long been a critic of FIFA and bid for the 2018 World Cup which was awarded to Russia.

Les Murray of Australia, a former FIFA ethics committee member, also called for Blatter to resign.

Mamata may come

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Indian Prime Minister Modi has also invited Assam Chief Minister Tarun Gogoi, Tripura Chief Minister Manik Sarkar and Meghalaya Chief Minister Mukul M Sangma to accompany him to Dhaka.

Diplomatic sources consider Mamata's decision to visit Bangladesh highly significant. In September 2011, Mamata had opted out of then prime minister Manmohan Singh's entourage to Dhaka following her objection to the water-sharing formula for the Teesta, a river that goes through both the countries.

Her visit this time around was clearly to establish a substantive and comprehensive relationship for the future between the two neighbours, diplomatic sources in Dhaka and New Delhi said.

This would be Mamata's second visit to Dhaka this year. In February, she along with a delegation of state government officials and cultural personalities, visited Dhaka for three days on the occasion of Ekushey February and had talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Mamata had at that time assured

Hasina about the Teesta deal, saying, "Have faith in me."

With the Land Boundary Agreement (LBA) having been unanimously ratified by the Indian parliament earlier this month, a crucial step for its implementation, expectation is high in Bangladesh that Modi's visit would see the two countries clinching the Teesta deal as well.

Hasina and Modi are expected to flag off bus services connecting Kolkata-Dhaka-Agartala and Dhaka-Shillong-Guwahati and the chief ministers would witness the signing of the deals.

"Between the two Bengals, there are no differences. We speak the same language, both the countries have national anthems created by the same person [Rabindranath Tagore]. We feel that the visit by the prime minister and the chief minister will be in the interest of both the countries and also Bengal," the West Bengal minister said.

Asked if Mamata had given her consent to the Teesta water-sharing treaty, Partha Chatterjee said, "I am not aware of it and I cannot comment on this matter."

Software now goes global

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(GISB) under its e-Agro solution package had developed mrittikā.

Soil tests on land, the crop a farmer plans to grow, irrigation cycles, the nature of the land, and other parameters are analysed by mrittikā to tell the farmer on the blends of fertilisers to be used.

Often farmers are deprived of potential yields and have to remain happy with mediocre harvest, only because of their lack of access to adequate information regarding the use of basic inputs in farming.

"But if one provides soil test results along with other inputs [crop type, acreage etc], mrittikā will generate data on soil nutrient analysis and give fertiliser recommendations," Grameen Intel Chief Operating Officer (COO) Sajedul Pavel Hoq told The Daily Star.

This eventually cuts cost by preventing farmers from overusing chemical fertilisers and helps them use balanced fertiliser in proper quantity, he explained.

Till date, mrittikā service has reached to 7,500 farmers in India, 1,000 in Cambodia, 600 in Nepal, 300 in Bangladesh and 60 in Macedonia.

Even though Grameen Intel started experimenting with mrittikā through its "Project Harvest" back in 2011, it has never been easy for the company to reach farmers. Firstly, farmers were not willing to accept a machine telling them what fertiliser to use and how much, and secondly, development of the business model took a longtime.

Sajedul Pavel Hoq recalled how the first farmer they approached in 2012 reacted.

Md Alam, a 45-year-old wheat farmer of Kushtia, grew wheat on a small piece of land every year. Like many of the farmers in Bangladesh, Alam was unaccustomed to scientific methods or measures when it came to seeding, planting, controlling pests or applying fertilisers.

"So in 2012 when we visited his village and requested him to volunteer in a programme that would assist him to apply those same fertilisers but using scientific measures, he was hesitant at first but then finally agreed to join as we assured him of compensation in case of crop failure."

Alam then received guidance through mrittikā, and that same year, he saw his harvest increase by 47 percent, recollected the Grameen Intel COO.

Reached over the phone by The Daily Star, Md Alam acknowledged the benefits he reaped using the mrittikā service. "It's not proper to use fertiliser willy-nilly. It's all about what the crop needs, what the soil needs and in what proportion, and in

what dosage," said Alam, now a prudent farmer.

When asked why the reach is so insignificant as only 300 farmers in Bangladesh have received it, Sajedul said, "We're a social business information technology company. We create software applications that address specific social problems such as low agriculture output or lack of pre-natal care. We provide IT solutions for rural entrepreneurs who provide a service using computing technology in their local communities."

Rural entrepreneurs have now come forward to increase mrittikā's service users.

Rural Reconstruction Foundation (RRF), a Jessore-based national development organisation, signed a memorandum of understanding with Grameen Intel recently for taking mrittikā service to farmers' doorsteps, said RRF Executive Director Philip Biswas.

"We've sourced some soil testing kits and mrittikā software from Grameen Intel and started piloting in areas under five of our branches, each covering three to four unions," said RRF Director Pankaj Kumar Sarkar.

Sarkar said they have over 100 branches and all of them have computers with farmers' databases. He hoped that RRF would be able to reach up to 40,000 farmers once they moved out of pilot stage, scheduled to end by June.

The software costs \$10 and one can take readings as many times as one wants by running it in a computer, laptop, or mobile phones. To receive this service, individual farmer might have to spend up to Tk 180 (soil tests included).

Apart from mrittikā, Grameen Intel has also developed a few other e-Agro solutions; ankur (for seed selection recommendations), protikār (for pesticide application recommendations and vistir (harvest management tool).

Cambodian and Nepalese governments took licenses from Grameen Intel's agro solutions while Macedonia has just started piloting and ekutir, a development organisation in India, is taking mrittikā service to farmers there.

Grameen Intel was founded as a follow-up action to then Intel chairman Craig Barrett meeting Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus during the former's visit to Bangladesh in 2007.

Grameen with the semiconductor giant decided on creating Grameen Intel as a social business whose sole focus is using technology in creative ways to help the world's impoverished population find an avenue to a better life and livelihood.

'Drug peddler'

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centre in the area, five to six criminals, including Sagar, opened fire on the elite force members from a nearby car workshop. The Rab team retaliated by firing back, triggering the "gunfight", according to Saiful.

At one stage, Sagar was shot. Doctors of Dhaka Medical College Hospital declared him dead on arrival.

Rab claimed to have recovered two pistols, six bullets, two private cars used for carrying illegal drugs and 1,204 bottles of Indian phensidyl syrup from the car workshop.

Sources at Dhaka Medical

College morgue, where the autopsy was carried out, said at least 15 marks of bullet-wound were found on the body of Sagar.

Hailed from Bagerhat Sadar upazila, Sagar was living with his family in the capital's Jatrabari. Recently, he had gone into hiding, said locals at the morgue.

They also said Sagar was known as a drug peddler in Jatrabari and Motijheel areas.

Sagar's stepbrother Sheikh Rafiqul Islam, who lives in Bagerhat, last evening told The Daily Star over the phone that he learnt about the incident from a television news report.

He was on his way to Dhaka to receive the body.