

Social Business

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Inspector General of Police AKM Shahidul Hoque told reporters that police would not be able to ensure security for the event.

"They [Yunus Centre] kept us in the dark. They asked for security just three days ahead of the event. It does not work like that," said the IGP at police headquarters.

Stating that Yunus Centre informed the Superintendent of Police of Dhaka on July 23 about the conference, he said, "It is not possible for him [the SP] alone to provide security for such a big event."

He also added that the police headquarters, home ministry and foreign ministry knew nothing about it.

The organiser sent letters to Ashulia Police Station, commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, special police super for Immigration, the foreign secretary and the EPZ Fire Service in Ashulia. The letters were received on July 20.

Besides, Yunus Centre's letter to Security Service Division of home ministry was received on July 23 and to the director and the immigration chief of the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport on July 24.

The Daily Star has copies of the letters.

Talking to reporters, the IGP yesterday said, "They [the organisers] did not take proper preparation. They did not contact us. They have a lot of shortcomings."

He also added, "A negative propaganda about the government closing the event is not right."

"It is their responsibility to provide enough time for taking enough security measures."

Every year, Yunus Centre holds a conference on the occasion of Social Business Day on July 28, introduced in Dhaka in 2010, to discuss and exchange ideas about the new business theory pioneered by Prof Yunus.

Some 2,000 people, including about 400 foreigners from 50 countries had registered to take part in this year's event, Yunus Centre said in the statement.

Although it was cancelled, some of the sessions of the conference will be live cast via Facebook page of the Yunus Centre. The online session will start at 10:30 today, said the statement.

The keynote speech was supposed to be delivered by Thomas Gass, assistant secretary-general for policy coordination and inter-agency affairs at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

Bangladesh police have the capability to provide security for such international programmes and they would have done it happily, but some preparations are needed for this, the police boss stressed, adding that a number of militant suspects were arrested from the area where the event was supposed to take place.

The organiser, ministry concerned, foreign ministry, law enforcers and intelligence agencies cooperate with each other to hold such an event. But some preparations are needed.

Notable speakers who were to attend the event included Joël Bouzou, president of the World Olympians Association; Keith Tuffley, chief executive officer of The B Team, Switzerland; Matin Karimli, deputy minister for labour and social protection of Azerbaijan; Shankar Venkateswaran, CEO of Tata Sustainability Group; Rangu Salgame, CEO of Princeton Growth Ventures in New York; Indian actor and social activist Rahul Bose; Bei Duoguang, director of China Academy for Financial Inclusion; and Wang Zhenyao, director of China Philanthropy Research Institute.

A Social Business is a non-dividend company dedicated entirely to achieve a social goal. In Social Business, the investor gets his or her investment money back over time, but never receives dividend beyond that amount. The sole purpose of the business is to solve a predetermined social problem in a sustainable way.

People

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quality of investigation," he told the ACC investigation officers.

Muhith observed that the government employees are now changing their mindsets to keep themselves away from graft. "I hope a positive change will come over the next eight to 10 years in this regard."

Speaking on the occasion, ACC Chairman Iqbal Mahmood said corruption is a big problem for the country and that is why the ACC launched a hotline so that people can lodge their complaints dialling 106 from their phones free of cost.

"People can directly communicate with the Commission through the hotline and we can take action immediately as per their allegations," he added.

Earlier, Muhith inaugurated the ACC hotline by making a phone call to the ACC's Complaint Centre dialling 106.

ACC Commissioners Dr Md Nasir Uddin Ahmed and AFM Aminul Islam and its secretary Abu M Mustafa Kamal, among others, were present on the occasion.

Bangladesh likely

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The European Commission has pledged to offer Italy a further €100m in funding to manage the migration crisis in the central Mediterranean, and threatened to impose visa restrictions on Bangladesh unless it speeds up the readmission of illegal immigrants from Italy, according to a news report of the British daily The Financial Times.

Though Bangladesh maintained its general position about bringing "all the people in irregular situation back", European diplomats said Dhaka had been making long delay to conclude the negotiations on the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) on the return of irregular migrants from the EU.

Following the Joint Commission meeting between the EU and Bangladesh on July 12 in Brussels, the EU warned Bangladesh to end the negotiations on the SOPs by the end of this month.

After the threat, an inter-ministerial meeting on Tuesday hurriedly finalised the SOPs agreeing to bring back all its irregular nationals through nationality verification within a "logical time."

The Joint Commission meeting and subsequent European Commission President's warning apparently prompted the government to go for an immediate negotiation to resolve the issue.

The foreign ministry handed over the copy of the approved SOPs to EU Ambassador in Dhaka Pierre Mayaudon on July 25, expressing desire to conclude the negotiation soon.

Earlier, the joint commission meeting, the EU alleged that Bangladesh has

long been making "unnecessary" delay in the name of nationality verification and asked to complete the verification within 48 hours. The Bangladesh side termed it absurd.

The responsibility of verification goes to the home ministry and there is common feeling among the line ministries that the law enforcing agencies took longer to verify the nationality.

Dhaka argued that nationality verification is a complex process as many Rohingya from Myanmar have been found claiming to be Bangladeshis in different countries. Bangladesh is unwilling to take the responsibility of Myanmar nationals.

Bangladesh also highlighted the need for "widening the scope of safe, orderly and regular migration".

Earlier, the EU submitted SOPs to Bangladesh government in June 2016 to expedite the return of the irregular migrants while Bangladesh submitted amendments of the draft SOPs on July 12 this year. The EU expressed its regret at the lack of progress on these negotiations.

Though the EU has not yet given any list or specific number of the irregular migrants, unofficial figure said the number could be up to 93,000.

According to the EU sources, the first 100 days of 2017 saw 4,645 Bangladeshis illegally arrive in Italy. Over the same period in 2016, there were only three Bangladeshis making the same trip.

In 2016, a record 8,131 Bangladeshis were registered by authorities at landing points in Italy, now the main gateway to the EU states.

Technical education

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poor go to technical schools.

"We don't want to send our children to polytechnic institutes. We send them to universities. This mindset has to be changed," said Ramhari Lamichhane, director general of Colombo Plan Staff College.

Underscoring the need for developing the curriculum of technical education, he said the country still follows the curriculum of 1990s.

"We have to incorporate critical thinking, cognitive abilities, ICT and communication skills in the curriculum," said Ramhari.

He said the earnings of Bangladeshi workers abroad are less than several South Asian countries like Sri Lanka because of lack of knowledge in ICT.

"Labour markets need higher educated skilled workers and we have to make stride towards that," he said, suggesting that the policymakers learn lessons from the countries like Australia and South Korea.

Saying the IVET is not given due importance in Bangladesh, Sungsup Ra, director of Human and Social Development Programme of South Asia Regional Department of Asian Development Bank, said, "You're not preparing your own students for the future."

For a better future of the country, he recommended training students with technical skills and designing curriculum to this end.

Many agencies are working for the development of technical sector without any coordination, he said, adding that the agencies must work in a coordinated way to get the benefit of IVET.

Anir Chowdhury, policy adviser of Access to Information (a2i) programme under the Prime Minister's Office, said around 3.3 million youths are now unemployed, while 11.6 million are classified as "not in education, employment or training (NEET)".

He said the country would require many technically skill people in future as the government has taken up many

projects.

For that to happen, the number of enrolment in TVET will have to be increased rapidly, he added.

Speaking as the chief guest at a session, Abul Kalam Azad, principal coordinator of SDG implementation of the PMO, said, "We need to take preparation in such a way so that jobs will search for us."

"A desire changes nothing, a decision changes something but a determination changes everything. The prime minister has a strong determination to change the nation and turn the country into 'Digital Bangladesh' by 2041. You're the main driving force for the change and development," he added.

In his presentation, Mohshin Habib, senior lecturer at International Business of Swinburne University of Technology in Australia, said significant technological, economic, demographic and social shifts are disrupting business models and substantially changing the way "we work and live".

"Routine work is increasingly being replaced by automation system, which, however, creates new needs for skilled workers to monitor and maintain the system," he said.

AKMA Hamid, president of IDEB and chairman of steering committee of the conference, said many people who do not have ICT knowledge and skill would lose their jobs in five to 10 years due to automation system in industries.

"We have huge potentials which need to be explored," he said.

National Skills Development Council Secretariat, Directorate of Technical Education of Bangladesh Technical Education Board, International Labour Organisation, a2i and Palli Karma-Sahayak Foundation, are the co-partners of the conference.

Now, more than 65 percent of the population are of working age, between 15 and 64. By 2040, this window of opportunity to accelerate economic growth would start to close.

Elderly couple found

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said after the couple were not found despite searching in different places, he informed the matter to the police.

The bodies were recovered and sent to Tangail General Hospital morgue for an autopsy, said Gobinda Chandra Pal, assistant superintendent of police (Sadar Circle) in Tangail.

The method of the murder has led them to believe that they were strangled to death first and then drowned, he said.

"No signs of robbery were seen. We, however, are investigating the matter, considering all possible motives behind the gruesome murder," he added.

On the other hand, upon being informed of the killing, the couple's son, Nirmol Chandra Das, rushed to Tangail General Hospital from Dhaka. While in his car, he fainted from the unbearable mental stress. He was later given treatment at the emergency unit of the hospital.

Earlier, on the way to Tangail, Nirmol told this correspondent over phone that he had called his father at 2:30pm on Wednesday and told him he was returning the day after. "Later, I also called my father at 8:30pm on the same day but the phone switched off after ringing twice. I, however thought

there was nothing wrong," he said.

"There was no money at home as I was supposed to return and pay the labourers working at the house," he said.

"My family has no previous dispute or enmity with anyone in the village. However, altercations used to happen between my parents and a few neighbours regarding a minor issue of water overflowing from our place to theirs. Besides that, my two step uncles used to demand money from my father for various reasons," he added.

Poet Rashed Rahman of Rasulpur village, also Anil's ex student, said Anil was the only son of his mother but he had four step brothers who currently live at their ancestral home.

"After Anil's son and daughter got solvent, sir bought several bighas of crop lands at the village and started constructing a three-storey building in place of his tin shed house about one and a half years ago. Sir also got some more land assets from his father-in-law," he said.

"Our sir was very honest and also a dedicated teacher in his professional life. We want the law enforcers to find his killers through proper investigation and also demand exemplary punishment of the culprits," he added.



Jeff Bezos dethrones Bill Gates as world's richest person

CNN ONLINE

Bezos's net worth topped \$90 billion on Thursday, allowing the Amazon founder and CEO to narrowly dethrone Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates as the richest man in the world, according to Forbes and Bloomberg. If Amazon stock holds steady through trading Thursday, Bezos will officially bump Gates, who has been No. 1 since 2013, from the the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Bezos has been hailed as the smartest guy in business for turning a bookselling platform into a disruptive force that has flipped traditional retail on its head.

His world's-richest-man milestone was made possible because of Amazon (AMZN, Tech30)'s surging stock price. The e-commerce juggernaut's market value surpassed \$500 billion this week for the first time ever.

The vast majority of the Bezos fortune is tied up in Amazon stock, of which the CEO owns nearly 17%. That stake alone is worth \$83 billion, meaning Bezos could just as quickly lose his new title as the world's richest man should Amazon's stock decline, or Microsoft's value rise.

In recent years, Bezos's fortune has whizzed past that of legendary investor Warren Buffett, Spanish retail magnate Amancio Ortega and Mexican tycoon Carlos Slim.

Bhramaputra devours school, homesteads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A primary school in Hossainpur upazila of Kishoreganj district has been devoured by the Old Brahmaputra river along with 70 other homesteads this year, leaving students and families in jeopardy.

Some 227 students of Saheber Char Govt Primary School have been attending classes under the open sky since the river washed away the last bit of its establishment on the night of July 17.

Headmaster Sumon Ranjan Sarker said the school founded in 1937 lost its infrastructure to river erosion once before. It was then rebuilt in 1999.

The second infrastructure has also been washed away, rendering the education of the students uncertain, he added.

River erosion at Saheber Char area is not a new phenomenon. It has taken away at least 400 houses in the last 10 years. The affected families have also lost cropland.

Things took a serious turn two years ago and this years has been the worst, said Joynal Abedin, one of the sufferers.

Faisal Ahmed, a fifth grader, and Saptarshi Sarker, a class four student of the school, said they wanted an immediate arrangement so that their education could continue without hindrance.

Meanwhile, class attendance at the school has declined.

Class five students are suffering the most since they have to prepare for their first-ever public exams -- Primary School Certificate exams, the headmaster said.

Sadequr Rahman, assistant upazila primary education officer of Hossainpur, said the higher authorities had been informed of the situation. The administration already took steps to build a make-shift infrastructure.

While students have been waiting for a new arrangement, at least 200 families have been passing their days in the area with fear that they may be the next to fall victim to erosion, said Md Siraj Uddin, chairman of Sidhla Union Parishad.

Honouring

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the identities of the eight.

British Council Chief Executive Sir Ciaran Devane, South Asia Regional Director, Mark Stephans and Barbara unveiled the memorial designed by Shehzad Chowhury.

"This memorial is dedicated to the eight police guards who lost their lives protecting the British Council," reads a plaque before the memorial.

Nitish Kumar upends

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scrapping of high-currency notes last year to fight black money, Indian military's surgical strike against Pakistan and Janata Dal (U)'s backing for BJP candidate Ram Nath Kovind in Presidential elections.

66-year-old Kumar quit as chief minister on Wednesday evening citing the refusal of his deputy Tejashwi Yadav, son of Lalu, who was embroiled in a controversy following an FIR related to alleged corruption in allotment of prime land by Lalu in 2006 when Lalu was India's railway minister for construction of a hotel in Patna.

The FIR also alleged that Lalu's family, including Tejashwi, also allegedly got a prime plot of land in Patna in return for awarding tenders to a business group.

Only last week, India's Central Bureau of Investigation had conducted raids at the premises of Lalu and Misa in Delhi and Patna.

Kumar took the moral high ground that his conscience did not allow him to continue the alliance with RJD in the wake of corruption charges not only against Tejashwi but also against Lalu's wife Rabri and daughter Misa.

The coming together of BJP and Kumar's Janata Dal (United) four years after the latter had parted ways with the saffron outfit opposing Narendra Modi's projection as PM candidate in 2014 general elections, could come as a setback to Congress and rest of the opposition struggling to contain Modi's surge in a series of state-level elections in the last few months.

The speed with which BJP rushed to the assistance of Kumar after he severed the ties with RJD that the script for the fresh alignment of forces was prepared in advance.

Soon after Kumar's resignation as chief minister last night, Narendra Modi took to his Twitter account and congratulated Kumar for joining the fight against corruption. The PM's tweets were a clear pointer to the unfolding fast-paced political drama last night.

Secondly, BJP's highest decision-making forum -- the parliamentary board -- met in Delhi and promptly endorsed the decision to support steps to avoid mid-term elections to the Bihar legislative assembly, an euphemism to support Janata Dal (U) and share power with it in the state reviving a coalition which had worked successfully there till the year 2013.

Siddiquir flown

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The physicians had earlier said Siddiquir suffered a "blunt" injury in his eyes caused by some thick and heavy objects.

From a poor family in Tarakanda in Mymensingh, Siddiquir is a third-year political science student at Titumir College.

The students of seven colleges -- Dhaka College, Eden Mohila College, Government Shaheed Suhrawardy College, Kabi Nazrul Government College, Begum Badrunnesa Government Mohila College, Mirpur Government Bangla College and Government Titumir College -- staged demonstrations at Shahbagh for their seven-point demand that include announcement of their exam dates.

The authorities of the colleges, affiliated with Dhaka University, announced the exam dates after the incident on July 20.

The police action on the students especially on Siddiquir, during an apparent peaceful demonstration sparked huge outcry on social media, with a call to bring the responsible policemen to book.

Following the incident, police that night filed a case against around 1,200 unnamed students of the seven colleges for "attempting to kill policemen, rioting with lethal weapons and damaging properties".

A three-member probe committee is investigating the matter.

Stronger police

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President Abdul Hamid, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers, state ministers and deputy ministers.

The DCs gave 321 proposals. Of them, the major ones include retaining the executive magistrates' power to run mobile courts, which was declared unconstitutional by the High Court in May, and allowing the DCs to go on UN peacekeeping missions.

During yesterday's meeting, the home minister sought the DC's assistance in maintaining law and order in the country. He also directed them to continue working in coordination with law enforcement agencies.

Later, Asaduzzaman asked the DCs to work for the rehabilitation of drug peddlers on their surrender for helping them return to normal life.

Sources at the meeting said, the DC of Feni proposed strengthening border patrolling to prevent drugs smuggling into the country while the divisional commissioner of Rajshahi suggested constructing ring roads and installing lights to ensure security in areas along the border.

Thirdly, BJP President Amit Shah spoke to his party colleagues in Bihar last night and a meeting of the party's legislators was held in Patna late in the night to express support to Kumar. Around the same time, Janata Dal (U) legislators also met and at midnight, a joint meeting of legislators of the two parties was held where it was decided to share power again.

Nitish Kumar's party, which had a 17-year-old alliance with BJP till 2013, was reduced to just two parliamentarians from 20 out of the total of 40 Lok Sabha seats in Bihar in 2014 parliamentary polls. Then in 2015, Kumar aligned with RJD for 2015 state legislative assembly elections and BJP suffered its first defeat under the leadership of Narendra Modi.

BJP has been concerned about its electoral prospects in Bihar as the party knows that an overarching alliance of Janata Dal (U), RJD and Congress not only in the state but also across India was tough to beat.

The manner in which the alliance in Bihar had successfully stopped BJP had raised hopes in the opposition camp that this could be replicated nationally to thwart the Modi juggernaut. By bringing Janata Dal (U) on its side in Bihar, BJP seems to have put paid to opposition expectations and undermine efforts to form a grand anti-BJP alliance for the 2019 general elections.

The coming together of BJP and Janata Dal (U) once again may help the saffron party in consolidating its position in India's two political key adjacent states -- Uttar Pradesh and Bihar -- which together account for 120 Lok Sabha seats. BJP is already firmly in saddle in UP where it won a landslide mandate in April this year in state legislative assembly polls. In 2014, BJP won 70 of the 80 parliamentary seats in UP, demolishing regional satraps like Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati and repeated the act in assembly polls three years down the line.

Bihar is also crucial for BJP in its quest for retaining power in 2019. BJP and its allies won 31 of the 40 parliamentary seats.

The BJP-Janata Dal (U) alliance could dent the chances of key regional parties in states joining hands with Congress to combat BJP under Modi or spur arch rivals like Mulayam Singh Yadav and Mayawati and join a "secular" alliance to try and stop BJP's dominance.

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