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Yunus visits injured at neurosciences hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday visited the injured victims, who were shot during the July-August student-led movements, at National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in Dhaka's Agargaon.

He inquired about the conditions of the victims who were injured critically by the security forces during the movement.

The hospital's Director Kazi Deen Mohammad said, "He (Prof Yunus) saw the four students who were being treated in the Intensive Care Unit of the hospital."

"All of them were hit by bullets in their heads. Their health conditions are improving," he said.

At least eleven people, including eight students from universities and colleges, are being treated at the hospital.



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus visits an injured student at the National Institute of Neurosciences and Hospital in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar yesterday. The students were shot during the protests of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

PHOTO: PID

Commuters suffer as job seekers block Shahbagh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Commuters in Dhaka's Shahbagh area faced severe traffic disruption yesterday as hundreds of job seekers blocked the intersection for around eight hours, demanding an increase in the age limit for government job applications from 30 to 35.

Vehicular movement around Shahbagh came to a standstill from noon, according to eyewitnesses.

"I was stuck for several hours near Science Lab due to the blockade. Eventually, I had to leave my car and walk to my destination," said Ashraf Al Alam, a businessman.

Whether their demands are valid or not doesn't matter -- the issue is why should the roads be blocked? Dhaka is already known for its traffic. If roads are blocked constantly, where will we go? This is no longer acceptable. The government must address this.

ABDUL HANNAN, a commuter

By the time this report was filed at 8:30pm, the protest had been ongoing for over seven hours, with demonstrators still gathered on the road.

Abdul Hannan expressed his frustration, saying, "I often face huge traffic congestion in this area due to frequent protests. It seems like every few days, a new group blocks Shahbagh intersection with their demands. Whether their demands are valid or not doesn't matter -- the issue is why should the roads be blocked? Dhaka is already known for its traffic. If roads are blocked constantly, where will we go? This is no longer acceptable. The government must address this."

Another commuter, Rafiqul Islam, added, "Now is the time for change. The authorities should think seriously about these issues."

One of the protesters explained their demands,

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Committee to turn Gono Bhaban into museum by today: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee involving architectural experts and museum officials will be formed by today to turn the Gono Bhaban, the former official residence of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, into a museum within the quickest time.

"Possibly we will start our work from the next week," Post and Telecommunication Adviser Nahid Islam told reporters after visiting Gono Bhaban yesterday morning.

"We want to inaugurate the museum as soon as possible," he added.

Adviser to the Ministry of Industries Adilur Rahman Khan and Sports and Youth Adviser Asif Mahmud accompanied him during the visit.

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'New govt, same old crackdown on workers'

Anu Muhammad compares interim govt's approach with previous regime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Noted economist Anu Muhammad yesterday said none of the demands of protesting workers have been given proper attention by the interim government.

"We are observing that the approach of the interim government, their statements, and actions are no different from the previous government. They continue to label every movement as a conspiracy or driven by outsiders, while crackdowns against the protesters persist," the former professor of Jahangirnagar University said at a programme at Dhaka Reporters Unity.

For the last few days, garment workers in industrial areas

such as Tongi and Konabari in Gazipur have been staging protests, demanding better wages and working conditions.

Why is this unrest continuing? The reason is simple -- there has been no change in two fundamental areas: perspective and legal framework.

"Why is this unrest continuing? The reason is simple -- there has been no change in two fundamental areas: perspective and legal

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Don't reform constitution, rewrite it

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is a need for a new constitution as merely amending the current one would not fulfil the aspirations of students or prevent the rise of future tyrants, said speakers at a roundtable yesterday.

Bangladesh Policy Discourse organised the event, held at Cirdap Auditorium in the capital, where participants called for significant state reforms and a constitution that ensures civil equality and balance of power.

"A one-party system was established in parliament. If the state fails to create strong institutions, the country will face destruction," warned Prof Robaet Ferdous of Dhaka University's mass communication and journalism department.

He accused the previous government of dismantling all constitutional institutions over the past 15 years. "We must move forward with the collective intellectual knowledge of the world, ensuring that the original spirit of any revolution is not compromised."

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

'No plans to change nat'l anthem'

Says religious affairs adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Religious Affairs Adviser Dr AFM Khalid Hossain yesterday said there are no plans to change the national anthem.

The interim government will not do anything that creates "controversy", he said.

"Currently, our top priority is maintaining law and order. We do not want to do anything at this moment that might create controversy. We want to build a beautiful Bangladesh with everyone," the adviser said while addressing reporters before a meeting with representatives of all religious communities at the Rajshahi Islamic Foundation.

In response to a question regarding threats

SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

Ten arrested over attempted robbery in Gulshan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 10 people were detained after attempting to rob a building in Gulshan-2 early yesterday.

Witnesses and police said around 50 people arrived on Road-103 on motorcycles and in cars before entering a building around 1:00am.

The building, "Finance Square", houses several financial institutions.

The robbers tied up the security guards on duty and attempted to carry out the robbery.

Upon hearing the hue and cry and receiving information, locals, along with police and army members, rushed to the scene, capturing 10 robbers while the rest managed to flee.

"They entered the building, tied our hands, and taped our mouths to stop us from calling for help. They took our wallets and mobile phones," a security guard told reporters.

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Swarna's death in BSF firing protested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Students and locals of Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila demonstrated on Friday night, protesting the death of 16-year-old Swarna Das, who was shot by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at Lalarchak border in the upazila.

Swarna was reportedly killed in BSF firing on the night of September 1.

In light of the incident, a torch march and a protest rally were brought out in the upazila around 8:00pm on Friday, while civil society members visited the victim's house yesterday afternoon.

Local leaders and activists, including Faridul Haque, political coordinator of "Rashtra Sanskar Andolon," and the platform's executive committee member Pritam Das, met with Swarna's family. Later, the platform organised a press briefing, which was attended by the platform's Dhaka metropolitan leaders.

Don't want to see killings like Felani again: home adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday instructed the Border Guard Bangladesh to carry out its responsibilities with professionalism, emphasising the importance of border security and anti-smuggling efforts.

Addressing senior BGB officials at the force's headquarters in Pilkhana, Dhaka, the adviser expressed his strong stance against border killings, referencing the death of Felani Khatun in 2011.

"I do not want to see killings like Felani again. Do not show your back at the border," he said.

Felani Khatun, a teenage girl, was shot dead while attempting to cross the India-Bangladesh border.

Her body was left hanging from a barbed-wire fence for four and a half hours on January 7, 2011.

Despite massive outcry over the incident, her murder case remains pending in the Supreme Court of India.

He also issued a stern warning against corruption, declaring that any involvement in bribery or corrupt practices would result in strict punitive action.

"Corruption will not be tolerated under any circumstances. If necessary, they will be dismissed," he said.

The adviser further said the BGB must always act in accordance with the law.

BGB Director General Maj Gen Ashrafuzzaman Siddique and senior officials attended the meeting, while all region commanders, sector commanders, battalion commanders, and other BGB personnel joined via video teleconference.



Braving the heavy rain, rickshaw-pullers and a motorcyclist navigated the streets while shielding themselves and their passengers from the downpour. The photo was taken in Dhaka University area yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN