



Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus joined a dialogue led by World Economic Forum Founder Prof Klaus Schwab at the Congress Centre yesterday, on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting in Davos, Switzerland.

PHOTO: PTI

‘Don’t create division with 1/11 accusations’
Mirza Abbas slams Nahid Islam

UNB, Dhaka

Accusing BNP of paying the way for another 1/11-style government will only create division and harm democracy in Bangladesh, said the party’s standing committee member Mirza Abbas yesterday.

Speaking at a doa and milad mahfil marking the 10th death anniversary of Arafat Rahman Koko, the younger son of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Abbas criticised Information Adviser Nahid Islam for accusing BNP of trying to establish a regime similar to that of 1/11.

“If you continue to make statements that lead to division and conflict, democracy will never be restored in the country,” Abbas said.

“No one has suffered more from the horrific consequences of 1/11 than BNP. From Khaleda Zia to our grassroots activists, none were spared,” he added.

The remarks came after BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir raised concerns about the neutrality of the interim government during elections, which Nahid Islam later linked to a

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4,813 bodies of migrant workers arrived in 2024

The number is record high, shows statistics from Wage Earners’ Welfare Board

JAMIL MAHMUD

- 4,552 bodies arrived in 2023
- Deaths increased yearly since 2021
- 67.4% of deaths occurred in Gulf countries
- Many labeled as heart attacks without proper probe

The latest statistics was published on January 14 on the WEWB website.

However, accurate reasons behind their deaths, many of whom die at a young age, remain unexplained.

The statistics shows that from 1993 until last year, WEWB received 56,769 dead bodies of migrants.

Jasiya Khatoun, director of



Welfare Association for the Rights of Bangladeshi Emigrants (WARBE) Development Foundation, said there could be multiple reasons behind the untimely deaths of many Bangladeshi migrant workers abroad.

There are issues related to workplace safety and substandard accommodation. Moreover, they remain under extensive pressure to regain the money they invested as migration costs. So they work for additional hours and do not consume enough food, she told this newspaper over the phone.

“Heart attack is commonly mentioned [in the death certificates issued by the receiving countries] as a cause of death. But there should be further medical examination to know the cause of death accurately,” she added.

Jasiya suggested the Ministry of Expatriates’ Welfare and Overseas

Employment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs should work together to enhance monitoring on migrant workers to prevent their untimely deaths.

Bangladeshi missions abroad also have a big role to play to this end, she added.

WEWB maintains the statistics of migrant deaths as it issues a cheque for Tk 35,000 against each dead body as burial and transportation costs as part of its welfare activities.

Besides, it gives Tk 3 lakh against each death as compensation.

The WEWB statistics, however, did not segregate how many dead bodies arrived from which countries last year.

Between July 2016 and June 2022, according to WEWB annual reports, Bangladesh received 17,871 dead bodies, 67.4 percent

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CLIMATE CRISIS 33m schoolchildren affected last year

Says Unicef report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Extreme weather events, fueled by climate change, disrupted the education of at least 247 million schoolchildren across 77 countries in 2024.

Children in Bangladesh were among the worst affected, with around 33 million facing multiple rounds of school closures.

This was revealed in a first of its kind Unicef report, released yesterday, titled “Learning Interrupted: Global Snapshot of Climate-Related School Disruptions in 2024”. According to the report, South Asia was the most affected region.

In Bangladesh, schools were closed countrywide for around two weeks between April and May in 2024 due to nationwide heatwaves that left children at risk of dehydration and heat strokes. Subsequent disruptions happened in several districts later due to cyclone Remal, followed by intense flooding in June, which affected around 18.4 million people in the country, including 7 million children.

Sylhet was the worst-hit district, with more than 6,00,000 learners left without access to education for up to eight weeks, according to Unicef.



Schools were closed for around two weeks between April and May in 2024 due to heatwaves that left children at risk of dehydration and heat strokes. Subsequent disruptions happened in several districts later due to cyclone Remal, followed by intense flooding in June, which affected around 18.4 million people, including 7 million children.

Khulna, Chattogram and Rangpur districts also suffered around six weeks of climate-induced school closures in 2024.

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’72 constitution an obstacle to multi-party democracy
Says Nasir Uddin Patwary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is not possible to have a multi-party democracy under the 1972 constitution, said Nasir Uddin Patwary, convener of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, yesterday.

“We want a constitution, formed through a constituent assembly, that will ensure fascism can never return to this country,” Nasir said at a rally titled “March for Unity and Justice” in the capital.

The rally, organised by the private university unit of Students Against Discrimination, took place in front of the National Museum. Participants called for the recognition of the July mass uprising and justice for those killed during the movement.

“In order to resolve the country’s crisis, we must unite and move towards elections for a constituent assembly. The constitution that emerges from the assembly must honour the sacrifices of the workers who were martyred during the 2024 mass uprising, as well as the voices of mothers and women,” Nasir added.

He said that anyone attempting to obstruct the

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STABBING TRADERS
Chhatra Dal leader held, supporters ‘attack’ cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five police personnel were injured when supporters of a Chhatra Dal leader allegedly assaulted them at New Market police station early yesterday. The assault occurred to free the leader from custody after his arrest over an attack on two computer traders.

Mohammad Hossain alias Mithun, 35, joint general secretary of Chhatra Dal, was arrested by police from the 300 feet area in Purbachal.

At least 30 of Mithun’s supporters attempted to block the police vehicle as it entered the New Market police station premises around 4:00am.

They then clashed with police officers in an effort to free Mithun, according to DMP Additional Commissioner (Crime and Operations) SN Nazrul Islam.

Tariq Latif, Assistant Commissioner of the New Market zone, was among the injured cops.

A case has been filed for assaulting police officers.

Six individuals were arrested from the scene, including Bashir Islam, Mohammad Hasan, Mohammad Imon, Masum Mahmud, Mohammad Alamin, and Akbar Ali, said Talebur Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of DMP.

Mithun’s arrest is linked to an attack on two computer shop owners, Wahedul Hasan Dipu and Ehteshamul Haque, on Elephant Road on January 10. The two traders were attacked with sharp weapons by a group of criminals, including top criminal Sanjidul Haque Emon, following their refusal to meet extortion demands.

A case was filed by Wahedul, who is also the elder brother of criminal Imamul Hasan Helal, alias Pichchi Helal.

The FIR alleges that after August 5, the accused began demanding money from traders in the Multiplan Centre, leading to the violent attack when the traders resisted.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Dal suspended Mithun and Riyazul Hasan Rasel, assistant general secretary, last night.

Hit by train, 2 bikers die at level crossing
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two motorcyclists were killed on Thursday night when a train hit them at the Konabari Khola Para level crossing in Gazipur.

Ujjwal Chowdhury, 35, and Ripon Mahmud, 45, died on the spot, said Nazrul Islam, officer-in-charge of Konabari Police Station.

The motorcyclists were heading towards Sakashwar around 11:00pm when a Dhaka-bound train from Rajshahi hit their bike as they were crossing the rail gate.

SI Nadiruzzaman of Joydevpur Railway Police said, “There is no gateman, rail barrier, or security system at this crossing.”

Asked, Hanif Ali, station master of Joydevpur Junction, said, “I need to check with the neighbouring Mouchak station before providing any information.”

Nadir Uzzaman, sub-inspector of Joydevpur Railway Station Police, said they will take necessary legal actions in this regard.

Honouring the heroes of July uprising

Prothom Alo launches photo exhibition

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangla daily Prothom Alo launched an eight-day photo exhibition titled “July Uprising” yesterday to honour the courage and sacrifices of students and the public during the July uprising.

The exhibition was inaugurated at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy by Syeda Rizwana Hasan, environmental adviser; Sharmeen S Murshid, adviser to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women and Children’s Affairs; and British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Sarah Cooke.

The exhibition highlights the July uprising and Prothom Alo’s journalism during the movement. It features photographs by the newspaper’s photojournalists, significant news reports from print and online platforms, investigative video reports, artworks, special supplements, and various documentary materials related to the uprising.

A dedicated section showcases personal items belonging to the martyrs of the uprising, including clothes, books, sports equipment, and other belongings of Abu Sayeed, Mir Mahfuzur Rahman Mugdha, Mahmudur Rahman Saikat, Naima Sultana, Shafiq Uddin Ahmed Ahnaf, and child martyr Jabir Ibrahim.

Additionally, the exhibition includes materials used

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Syeda Rizwana Hasan, environment adviser; Sharmeen S Murshid, adviser to the Ministry of Social Welfare and Women and Children Affairs, and British High Commissioner Sarah Cooke at an event at Shilpakala Academy yesterday. Bangla daily Prothom Alo launched an eight-day photo exhibition to honour the sacrifices of students and people during the July uprising.

PHOTO: STAR