



Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus poses for a photograph with the recipients of the prestigious Ekushey Padak, including the Bangladesh women's football team, at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in Dhaka yesterday. PHOTO: PID

90s economic problems still persist

Says noted economist Rehman Sobhan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The economic and governance problems identified at various times since the 1990s have now come to the forefront again, requiring closer examination of why they still exist, said noted economist Rehman Sobhan yesterday.

He cited an article he wrote back in 2004 titled the political economy of mal-government to further his point.

"So all the mal-government problems that you have identified, I had written about this in 2004," he said at the launch of two books -- 'Bangladesh's Economy: Current and Future' (in Bengali) and 'Bangladesh: Contemporary Development Issues' -- written by Selim Jahan, the former director of the Human Development Report Office of UNDP, New York.

The event held at the RC Majumdar Auditorium at the University of Dhaka was organised by Banglar Pathshala.

"Why have they persisted and why have we not really been able to do anything about this?"

Many issues are being repeated in the task forces commissioned by the interim government, similar to those found in the 29 task forces Sobhan led after the fall of the military regime in 1990, he added.

Successive governments have failed to implement the recommendations made in the 29 task force reports led by Sobhan in the 1990s, said Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

"My experience is that there is a disconnect between our policymakers, policy implementers and academia."

Even when academics succeed in convincing

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'TK 297CR GRAFT' Former BB governor Atiur, 22 others sued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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The amount was misappropriated from Janata Bank in the name of AnonTex Group, according to the statement of the case filed with the ACC's Dhaka integrated district office.

Rahman, who was the BB governor from 2005 to 2015, and Abul Barkat, who was the chairman of Janata from 2009 to 2014, allegedly colluded to approve loans amounting to Tk 297 crore to 22

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'Tone down' US criticism

Trump aide urges Ukraine as Russia warns against Nato troops

REUTERS, Washington

The White House continued to press Kyiv yesterday with its efforts to bring an end to the Russia-Ukraine conflict, urging it to rein in criticism and quickly sign a minerals deal pushed by US President Donald Trump.

"They need to tone it down and take a hard look and sign that deal," Mike Waltz, the White House national security adviser, said in an interview with Fox News.

Pushback from Ukraine on the minerals deal and how Trump is carrying out peace talks is simply unacceptable, Waltz said, given everything the United States has done for Ukraine. Waltz's comments come a day after Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky traded insults, with Trump calling Zelensky a dictator and Zelensky saying the US president was living in a disinformation bubble and spewing talking points from Moscow.

However, Waltz said US differences with Ukraine were not irreconcilable, saying: "The president also said how much he loves the Ukrainian people." Trump on Wednesday said the Russians "have the cards" in negotiations on ending the war in Ukraine.

"I think the Russians want to see the war end... But I think they have the cards a little bit, because they've taken a lot of territory, so they have the cards," Trump told reporters on Air Force One.

Zelensky said he was counting on unity at home and in Europe as well as pragmatism from Washington, striking a conciliatory tone.

Meanwhile, the Kremlin said yesterday that any plan to send Nato troops to Ukraine as part of a potential peacekeeping mission would be unacceptable for Russia and that it was monitoring such proposals with concern.

In a separate development, Russia launched 161 drones and a dozen missiles overnight, targeting gas infrastructure in Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv region and hitting power supply in the southern Odesa region for a second night in a row, Ukrainian officials said yesterday.

Russia has recaptured 64 percent of the territory captured by Ukraine in the Kursk border region since Kyiv's offensive there last summer, a senior Russian military leader said.

The Russian army rarely gives figures on the amount of territory taken by Ukraine in Kursk, which spans nearly 30,000 square kilometres.

- » Moscow holds 'the cards' in peace talks: Trump
- » Zelensky calls for US pragmatism after Trump calls him 'dictator'
- » Russian air attack targets Ukrainian infrastructure



A PARAKEET'S PARADISE...

Every year, when the Gumai Beel bursts into gold with ripe paddy, it is not just the farmers who rejoice. Hundreds of thousands of red-breasted parakeets descend from the mountains to claim their share of the rice. Just before the end of the Boro and Aman seasons, these birds enjoy a lavish feast as they soar over the golden fields. Gumai Beel, also known as the grain storehouse of Chattogram, is the second largest paddy field in the country after the Chalan Beel. Spanning 3,000 hectares, it can produce enough paddy to feed the entire population of Bangladesh for at least two days -- a proud claim by the farmers of Rangunia upazila.

PHOTO: M HAIDER ALI

'Red card' to politics on campus

Kuet students continue demo over Tuesday clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Students of Khulna University of Engineering and Technology at a demonstration yesterday displayed red cards in protest against all political student organisations and the university administration.

At a gathering at the Durbar Bangla Chattar around noon, they directed their protest at student parties and platforms, including Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League, Chhatra Shibir, Chhatra Union, and the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement.

Demanding an end to on-campus politics, they chanted slogans and held placards reading "No student politics in Kuet" and "Red card to student politics".

The protesters also called for the resignation of the vice-chancellor, pro-

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SC restores appointment of 1,137 candidates of 27th BCS exams

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday restored a 16-year-old High Court verdict that ordered the government to appoint 1,137 candidates, who had passed the first viva voce of the 27th BCS examinations.

The apex court delivered the judgement after allowing three appeals filed on behalf of the 1,137 candidates challenging its 2010 verdict that scrapped the HC ruling.

A five-member full bench of the apex court, led

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Sylhet MC College student beaten up by 'Shibir activists'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A student of Sylhet MC College was attacked allegedly by Chhatra Shibir activists at a dormitory in Sylhet early yesterday over a Facebook comment about the recent clash between activists of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement and Chhatra Dal at Kuet.

The victim, Mizanur Rahman Riyad, is a third-year English department student at the college and the information and technology affairs secretary of the college unit of Anjuman-e-Talim-e-

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'Ex-Rab official raped wife of detainee'

Chief prosecutor tells ICT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ICT prosecution yesterday said former Rab officer Alep Uddin raped a university student by threatening to kill her detained husband.

While serving in the Rapid Action Battalion in Narayanganj in 2018, Alep, an additional superintendent of police, called the woman to his office during the month of Ramadan and threatened to execute her husband by "crossfire", Chief Prosecutor Muhammad Tajul Islam told the International Crimes Tribunal.

"Later, Alep forcibly took her to the officers' mess near his office, forced her to break her fast,

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Jubo League activist beaten to death Two suspects held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Jubo League activist was beaten to death by unidentified men in the Noapara area of Raozan, Chattogram, on Wednesday night.

Mohammad Hasan, 35, may have been killed over political rivalry or personal enmity, said Monirul Islam Bhuiyan, officer-in-charge of Raozan Police Station.

Police yesterday arrested suspects Rakib and Tipu.

"In primary investigation, we found evidence suggesting that the crime took place over political

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