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Imagine big to change the world

Prof Yunus asks students at PKU



BSS, Beijing

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged students to imagine big things and aim to change the world.

“Imagination is the greatest power of the earth. If you imagine [something], it will happen. If you do not imagine, it will never happen,” he said, addressing a function at Peking University (PKU) in Beijing yesterday morning.

Asking students to look back in history, he said great things happened

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Shahbagh intersection was almost empty around noon yesterday, as many city dwellers have left the city to celebrate Eid in their hometowns or villages. Tailbacks on all four streets are all too common here.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

NEWS ANALYSIS

Remittance up as rates stabilise

Crackdown on money laundering also helps

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Steady growth in remittance inflow has helped the interim government arrest the decline in foreign currency reserves, leading many to wonder why the remitters are sending more and more money back home.

Remittances have risen consistently each month since the political transition in August 2024, with the remittance in March on track to cross \$3 billion and set a new record for the highest single-month inflow.

Bangladesh received a record \$2.94 billion in remittances during the first 26 days of the month, driven by the largest Muslim festival, Eid-ul-Fitr.

“The interim government has gained the remitters’ trust, which is why they are sending more money through banking channels.”

Mohammed Nurul Amin
chairman, Global Islami Bank

Central and commercial bankers and foreign exchange dealers believe multiple factors have contributed to the rising trend of remittance inflow in recent months.

These include a stable foreign exchange rate, a reduced gap between the rates on formal and informal markets, the government’s crackdown on money laundering, improved banking services, Bangladeshi expatriates’ trust in the interim government, growing manpower exports, and strict monitoring by the central bank.

“We are observing that Bangladeshi expatriates who previously did not send their money through banking channels are now using formal channels,” said Arif Hossain Khan, Bangladesh Bank spokesman and executive director.

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JULY UPRISING

Hasina, eight journos sued for attacks, incitement

UNB, Dhaka

A case has been filed against 165 individuals, including ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and eight journalists, in connection with their alleged involvement in the mass killing of protesters during the July uprising.

Md Rafiqul Islam Bepari filed the case with the capital’s Paltan Police Station on March 16, said Nasirul Amin, officer-in-charge of police station.

The accused journalists are Ayub Bhuiyan, general secretary of Jatiya Press Club; Santosh Sharma, editor of daily Kalbela; Shariful Islam Mollah, managing editor of Samakal; Saiful Islam, former president of Dhaka Reporters Unity and former chief editor of Boishakhi TV; Julfiqar Ali Manik, former planning editor of Boishakhi TV; Motahar Hossain of Climate Journal Online; Asaduzzaman of Samakal; and Hira Talukder, former reporter of Shomoyer Alo.

The plaintiff alleged that the individuals, who are affiliated with the Awami League, played a role in the violent attacks that led to the deaths and injuries

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US moves to shut USAID

Trump admin formalises plans, fires remaining USAID staff

AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump’s administration announced plans Friday to effectively close the US international development agency USAID, formalising widely-criticised plans to dramatically cut foreign aid spending.

“Today, the Department of State and the US Agency for International Development (USAID) have notified Congress on their intent to undertake a reorganisation that would involve realigning certain USAID functions to the Department by July 1, 2025,” US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said in a statement.

The State Department, he said, also plans on “discontinuing the remaining USAID functions that do not align with Administration priorities.”

“Unfortunately, USAID strayed from its original mission long ago,” he said. “As a result, the gains were too few and the costs were too high.”

Trump’s administration told Congress on Friday it would cut nearly all remaining jobs at the USAID and shut the agency, even as Trump promised that the US would provide assistance to Myanmar following a devastating earthquake.

Humanitarian aid experts expressed alarm at the new cuts to an agency whose humanitarian aid has gained Washington influence and saved lives across the globe for more than 60 years. USAID plays a major role in coordinating earthquake assistance.

Thousands of USAID staff and Foreign Service officers assigned to the agency learned in an internal memo that all positions not required by law would be eliminated in July and September.

In the memo, Jeremy Lewin, the acting head of the independent agency, reportedly said the State Department also planned to retire most of USAID’s independent operations in the coming months.

After taking office in January, Republican President Donald Trump signed an executive order freezing US foreign aid for 90 days.

Dramatic cuts to various USAID programs followed, with some exemptions granted for vital humanitarian aid.

The aid freeze has caused shock and dismay at the independent agency created by an act of the US Congress in 1961.

Senate Democrats on the

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Three brothers killed in road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Three brothers, two of whom are children, were killed after a bus ran over a motorcycle in Barguna’s Patharghata upazila yesterday.

The deceased are Md Naimuzzaman Shuvo, 22, Md Shanto, 14, and Md Nadim, 8, sons of Md Nasir Khan of Tikikata union under Mathbaria upazila of Pirojpur.

The incident took place around 7:30am in the Sonar Bangla area of Raihanpur union.

Police and locals said the three brothers were travelling from their maternal uncle’s house in Mathbaria to another uncle’s residence in Patharghata upazila’s Keramatpur on a bike.

On their way, a Dhaka-bound Rajib Paribahan bus collided head-on with their motorcycle, killing all three on the spot.

Yakub Hossain, inspector (investigation) of Patharghata Police Station, said the bodies were recovered and sent to Barguna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Till the filing of the report, police were yet to seize the bus or make any arrests.

Legal action will be taken after an investigation, the inspector said.

SEPARATE RAPE CASES

One jailed, one held

STAR REPORT

One man was sent to jail while another was arrested yesterday on charges of rape in two separate cases in Thakurgaon and Lalmonirhat.

In Thakurgaon, a court sent Rashidul Islam, 30, of Sadar upazila’s Ghonibistapur village, to jail in a case filed over the rape of an eight-year-old girl.

The court recorded the victim’s statement under Section 22, court inspector Belal Hossain said, adding that Senior Judicial Magistrate Rajib Kumar Roy then passed the jail order.

AKM Nazmul Kader, officer-in-charge of Ruhia Police Station, said the incident took place in a village in Thakurgaon Sadar on Friday afternoon.

According to the case statement, Rashidul lured the girl into a maize field near his in-laws’ house and raped her. After returning home, she informed her family.

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Autorickshaw ‘robber’ killed in mob beating

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Munshiganj

A man was killed in a mob beating after he allegedly attempted to hijack an autorickshaw in Tantar area of Munshiganj’s Sreenagar upazila yesterday.

Md Zahid, 35, a resident of Gazaria upazila succumbed to his injuries at the Sreenagar Upazila Health Complex around 11:00am.

Two of his associates – Jafar, 32, and Arif Sikdar, 33, – were seriously injured in the beating, and their condition is critical, said police.

Sreenagar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Shakil Ahmed said, “Four people boarded an

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Eid diaries with showbiz stars

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Prime Bank

PRAYER TIMING MARCH 30

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:36	12:45	4:45	6:14	7:45
JAMAAT 4:46	1:15	5:00	6:29	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
29	30		6:14
30	31	4:34	6:15



Holidaymakers throng the ticket counters of trains to Jamalpur, Netrakona and other nearby districts at Kamalapur Railway Station yesterday. Tickets for trains to these districts are not sold online or in advance.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

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