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Prof Yunus warns youth against concentration of power, wealth at BIMSTEC

UNB, Bangkok

Highlighting the risks of concentrated wealth and power, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said that a society would eventually collapse if it experiences such concentrations.

"Unless wealth is shared, you cannot sustain a society," he said while delivering his keynote speech at the BIMSTEC Young Gen Forum.

Prof Yunus, a pioneer of microcredit and social business and a Nobel Peace Prize winner for his work in alleviating poverty, is on a two-day visit to Thailand to attend today's BIMSTEC Summit.

Thailand is hosting the 6th Summit of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), and Bangladesh will assume the chairmanship of the group today.

Thailand has taken over the BIMSTEC Chairmanship from Sri Lanka since 30 March 2022.

Addressing the youth summit, Prof Yunus said

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2



HIDDEN GEMS OF THE FOREST

Deep in Fatikchhari's Hazarikhil Wildlife Sanctuary, the elusive grey peacock-pheasant, or Burmese peacock-pheasant, moves through the undergrowth. Found in lowland and hill forests of Bangladesh, Northeast India, and parts of Southeast Asia, these birds prefer dense forests and bamboo thickets, foraging for seeds, fruits, and small invertebrates. The males, adorned with iridescent, eye-like spots, perform elaborate courtship displays. Unlike most pheasants, they are monogamous, forming lifelong bonds. Their soft hoots and whistles echo through the trees, often revealing their presence before they are seen. Despite their striking plumage, they remain masters of camouflage, blending seamlessly into their surroundings -- a rare gem hidden within the forest's shadows.



PHOTO: KOMOL DAS

MYANMAR QUAKE Death toll hits 3,000 Heat, rains fuel disease risk

REUTERS, Bangkok

Extreme heat and heavy rain in Myanmar could cause disease outbreaks among earthquake survivors camping in the open, global aid bodies warned yesterday, complicating rescue efforts made difficult by a civil war, as the death toll surpassed 3,000.

Last Friday's 7.7-magnitude quake, one of Myanmar's strongest in a century, jolted a region home to 28 million, toppling buildings such as hospitals, flattening communities and leaving many without food, water and shelter.

Deaths rose to 3,085 yesterday, with 4,715 injured and 341 missing, the ruling junta said.

The World Health Organization flagged a rising risk of cholera and other diseases in the worst-affected areas, such as Mandalay, Sagaing and the capital of Naypyitaw, while it prepared \$1 million of relief supplies, including body bags.

"Cholera remains a particular concern for all of us," said Elena Vuolo, the deputy head of its Myanmar office, pointing to an outbreak last year in Mandalay.

The risk was worsened by damage to about half of healthcare facilities in the quake-hit areas, including hospitals destroyed by the quake in Mandalay and

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

ISRAEL'S NEW 'SECURITY ZONE' Palestinians flee Rafah again

Hundreds of thousands seek shelter as Israel advances into 'last refuge' city in Gaza; 97 killed in 24hrs

REUTERS, Cairo/Gaza

Hundreds of thousands of fleeing Gazans sought shelter yesterday in one of the biggest mass displacements of the war, as Israeli forces advanced into the ruins of the city of Rafah, part of a newly announced "security zone" they intend to seize.

A day after declaring their intention to capture large swathes of the crowded enclave, Israeli force pushed into the city on Gaza's southern edge which had served as a last refuge for people fleeing other areas for much of the war.

Gaza's health ministry reported at least 97 people killed in Israeli strikes in the past 24 hours, including at least 20 killed in an airstrike around dawn in Shejaia suburb of Gaza City.

Rafah "is gone, it is being wiped out," a father of seven among the hundreds of thousands who had fled from Rafah to neighbouring Khan Younis, told Reuters via a chat app. "They are knocking down



what is left standing of houses and property," said the man who declined to be identified for fear of repercussions.

After a strike killed several people in Khan Younis, Adel Abu Falker was checking the damage to his tent. "Is anything left for us? There's nothing left for us. We're being killed while asleep," he said.

The assault to capture Rafah is a major escalation in the war, which Israel restarted last month after effectively abandoning a ceasefire in place since January.

Israel has not spelled out its longterm aims for the security zone its troops are now seizing. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said

SEE PAGE 6 COL 2

Brace for severe heatwave this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mild heatwave swept over 10 districts yesterday, and the country may experience a severe one this month, according to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department.

The highest temperature in the country was recorded in Rajshahi at 38 degrees Celsius, the level of a moderate heatwave.

The other districts experiencing the heatwave were Pabna, Sirajganj, Naogaon, Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Moulvibazar, Rangamati, Jashore, and Chuadanga.

According to BMD, a mild heat wave is considered when maximum temperature stays between 36 and 37.9 degrees Celsius, moderate between 38 and 39.9 degrees Celsius, severe between 40 and 41.9 degrees Celsius, and very severe 42 degrees Celsius or above.

According to BMD data, the country's normal maximum temperature in April is 33.2 degrees Celsius, the highest among all months.

The present weather conditions with soaring temperatures could continue for two to three days, BMD Meteorologist Hafizur Rahman told The Daily Star. The mercury may start to fall afterwards.

Some areas may experience rainfall in the next few days, he said, adding that there was a noticeable amount of rainfall in the Sylhet district over the past few days.

In its weather bulletin, BMD also said Sylhet was the only district to see rainfall with 5mm of rain in the 24 hours till 6:00am yesterday.

It said rain with lightning flashes and temporary gusty winds were likely to occur at one or two places over Mymensingh, Dhaka, Chattogram and Sylhet divisions during a 24-hour period from this morning.

During the period, weather may remain mainly dry with temporary partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country.

BMD also forecast rainfall in different areas of the country for the next three days.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Severe heatwave means highest temperature between 40 and 41.9 degrees Celsius



Despite railway authorities' efforts to prevent rooftop travel, many were seen getting on and off the roof of a Prabal Express train at Chittagong Railway Station yesterday. Recently, two men died after falling from the roof of a moving train in Brahmanbaria's Akhaura. Inset, the station remained packed with holidaymakers bound for Cox's Bazar even yesterday.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN



55-yr-old man held over rape of 8-yr-old Teens arrested for raping 6-yr-olds

STAR REPORT

Police have arrested a 55-year-old man in a case filed over the rape of an eight-year-old girl in Kustia's Khoksa upazila.

Afzal Ali, 55, was apprehended on Wednesday from Khoksa Railway Station while he was trying to flee to Dhaka, said Khoksa Police Station Officer-in-Charge Sheikh Moinul Islam.

Earlier, locals vandalised Afzal's house after the allegation of rape against him spread in the locality.

According to police and locals, on Tuesday, Afzal took the victim and some others to his house to cut freshly picked onions. Though the other children left the house, he tricked the victim to stay at the house and later raped the girl.

The victim is currently undergoing treatment at the 250-bed Kustia General Hospital. She underwent some tests, the OC said.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Bhutan building wellness hub with airport



AGENCIES

Tucked away in the Himalayas, the Kingdom of Bhutan is often regarded as one of the happiest nations in the world. It's the last stronghold of Vajrayana Buddhism, and even measures the collective wellbeing of its citizens through a Gross National Happiness Index (GNH).

SEE PAGE 6 COL 1

BGMEA Election 2025-2027
"Made in Bangladesh with Pride"

BGMEA Complex, House # 7/7A, Block # H -1, Sector #17, Uttara, Dhaka -1230

Election Notice (Revised)

This is to inform all members of BGMEA that the upcoming BGMEA Election 2025-2027 will be held as per the following schedule:

Last date for payment of subscription	: 29 March 2025
Last date for submission of voter nomination	: 09 April 2025
Last date for submission of nomination of candidature	: 26 April 2025
Last date for withdrawal of candidature	: 06 May 2025
Date of election	: 31 May 2025

NB. The earlier Notice published on 09 March 2025 is hereby cancelled.

Secretary, Election Board
Email: electionboard@bgmea.com.bd