



UN must continue evolving for global peace  
Says Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the United Nations, which celebrated its 80th anniversary yesterday, must continue to evolve and adapt if it is to fulfill their collective aspiration for peace and multilateralism.

"We join the call for reforming the UN to make it more agile, integrated, and equipped to deliver the aspirations of all people in an evolving global

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People risk their lives crossing the main road through gaps in a divider in the Mirpur 2 area of the capital, ignoring the footbridge located right above them. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NCP won't be a 'pet' opposition  
Says Sarjis Alam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizens Party aims to either form the government or play the role of a strong opposition, said Sarjis Alam, the party's chief organiser for the northern region, yesterday.

He also said the NCP does not want to be a "pet" opposition like the Jatiya Party.

He made the remark at a coordination meeting of the NCP held at the Shaheed Abu Sayeed International Convention Centre in the capital's Shahbagh area.

The meeting was organised by the party's Dhaka city (north and south) and Dhaka district units.

"NCP did not emerge to become the 46th political party in Bangladesh. We will either represent the people as the ruling party in parliament or become a strong opposition. We are not here to be a pet opposition like the Jatiya Party," said Sarjis.

Sarjis said the party will start announcing convening committees for its district and city units from today. He expressed hope that the convening committees for Dhaka north and south city units would be finalised within three days.

"All district and city convening committees must be formed by

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## DENGUE SURGE Mitford hospital stretched to the limit

HELEMUL ALAM

It was around 1:00pm on Thursday when this correspondent entered one of the medicine wards at Mitford hospital in Old Dhaka. Just at the entrance, two women were found wailing -- they had just lost a loved one to dengue.

The body of Ibrahim, 50, lay on a bed placed on the floor. His daughter-in-law Rachona Akhtar sat silently beside him, her eyes swollen with tears, while her husband and relatives completed the formalities to take the body home to Keraniganj for burial.

"We never imagined this would happen," Rachona said in a trembling voice. "He had fever for three days, but we thought it was nothing serious. We gave him medicine from a local pharmacy."

Ibrahim, who supported his family by selling pickles, was brought to the hospital on Wednesday night when he began struggling to breathe. Despite being admitted at 9:00pm, he passed away 16 hours later.

"We didn't even know it was dengue until yesterday," Rachona said quietly.

Dr Rijon Biswas, medical officer at Mitford hospital, said Ibrahim arrived in critical condition with septicaemia -- an infection that had spread throughout his body -- along with hepatitis and fluid accumulation in his lungs and abdomen.



MITFORD

DENGUE SITUATION

**All 10 ICU beds occupied, patients treated on floor**

**Hospital aims to increase ICU capacity to 30 beds**

**15 dengue deaths, 1,223 cases recorded so far**

**259 deaths reported so far**

**Most fatalities linked to late hospitalisation, comorbidities**

**Multiple viruses circulating, delaying dengue diagnosis**

“Will build a united country with the inclusion of all’  
Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said if his party comes to power, it will make sincere efforts to address the problems of all indigenous groups.

He particularly reassured the Garo community while addressing the Dhaka Wangala Festival 2025, organised by the community on the Banani Bidyaniketan School and College premises in the capital.

Fakhrul said BNP Acting Chairman Tarique Rahman made it very clear in the 31-point reform agenda announced in 2022 that the party would work to build a "rainbow nation" in Bangladesh -- one that will be formed with the inclusion of all communities.

"Our responsibility is to integrate all communities to some extent with the mainstream of society, to improve their economic condition, and at the same time to preserve and promote their cultures and heritages...."

Wangala, the "Hundred Drums Festival," is a post-harvest celebration of the Garo community.

The BNP leader said he had the opportunity to develop close relations with various indigenous communities over the past several months and had also attended their gatherings in Mymensingh.

Fakhrul urged members of the indigenous communities to rise as proud citizens of Bangladesh. "You have to stand tall as Bangladeshi citizens," he said.

## Rezwan's floating school wins Unesco Confucius prize

STAR REPORT

Bangladeshi architect Mohammed Rezwan's solar-powered floating schools have received the Unesco Confucius Prize for Literacy 2025, one of the world's highest honours for advancing education and lifelong learning.

The Chinese government sponsors this award, said a press release.

Among hundreds of nominations worldwide, Unesco selected three winners: Bangladesh's Shidhulai Floating Schools, Ireland's Learn



with NALA eLearning, and Morocco's Second Chance School and Inclusive Education Program.

The 20th award ceremony was held on September 27 in Qufu, Shandong Province, China, the birthplace of Confucius.

Rezwan accepted the trophy and certificate on behalf of his organisation, Shidhulai Swanirvar Sangstha, which launched the world's first floating

school in 2002. Growing up in Chalanbeel, he saw how annual floods forced schools to close for months.

His simple yet transformative solution was to take schools to the water. Today, solar-powered boats serve as classrooms, libraries, and training centres that keep learning alive even when villages are submerged.

Unesco praised the initiative for "delivering literacy education



PHOTO: COLLECTED

to marginalised learners in flood-prone regions through locally rooted innovation." The Shidhulai floating school programme has now been replicated across Bangladesh by other NGOs and inspired similar projects throughout Asia, Africa, and Latin America.

The Bangladesh government has incorporated Rezwan's floating

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