



Need joint research to explore marine resources

Says Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday stressed the need for coordinated joint research with Japan, Indonesia and the Maldives to explore marine resources, mentioning that Bangladesh has a maritime area almost equal to its landmass.

"The problems need to be identified. Research must be coordinated with those who have expertise in this area. Through such efforts, new horizons of the economy will open," he said.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



The Dayaganj-Jurain Road has been in a neglected state for a long time after Bangladesh Railway built a boundary wall along the rail line, significantly narrowing the road. Due to reduced width and severe deterioration, the road has become a struggle for commuters.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

DAYAGANJ-JURAIN ROAD

Once a vital route, now a corridor of chaos

HELEMUL ALAM

Once a bustling thoroughfare just four to five years ago, the road stretching from the Dayaganj crossing to Jurain Railgate has now turned into a neglected and damaged route after Bangladesh Railway built a boundary wall along the rail line, significantly narrowing the road.

The road was once used by vehicles from both directions and even had a divider to ensure smooth traffic flow. Although the divider still exists, the western portion of the road has remained abandoned for the last five years.

This vital link between Dayaganj and Jurain, used by vehicles heading toward the southern region through the Postogola Bridge, has now become a corridor of chaos due to reduced width and severe deterioration.

During a recent visit, large sections of the road were found heavily damaged. The narrowed western side, left unusable following the railway demarcation and wall construction, has turned into a dumping ground for garbage and an informal parking zone for trucks, human hauliers, and rickshaws.

Makeshift shanties have also sprung up along the roadside.

Mohammad Al Amin, a resident of Pipe Rasta in Mirhazirbagh, said, "This problem has been going on for a long time. Ever since they built the boundary wall along the railway line, half of this road has become unusable."

"Since then, there has been no development work here. Later, some work started on the other side, and because of that, this road got even worse. Now only a small portion is usable, and no repair work is being done there either," he added.

Abdul Al Amin, another resident, said the main stretch is riddled with potholes and becomes submerged during rain.

"This road -- from Jurain to Dayaganj -- is extremely important

traffic pressure on other routes," he added.

Residents said while the section near the station remains somewhat functional, the rest of the stretch is broken in places and riddled with potholes.

Mohammad Jony, a resident of Jurain, said, "It used to be a two-way road. Now it is narrow and risky. Auto-rickshaws frequently overturn here."

Contacted, Dhaka South City Corporation Chief Engineer



because thousands of people use it to travel to Gulistan and Tejgaon for work. Now, because of its damaged condition, many vehicles, especially rickshaws, overturn frequently," he said.

"Before the elevated expressway was built on the other side, all the large buses from the southern districts used this Dayaganj road as their main route. If it is repaired and developed again, it could ease

Fakir said the area falls under the railway's jurisdiction, and only one side of the road is currently available for use.

"It is not possible to make it two-way. The existing part is being used as a two-way road. On the abandoned side, no vehicles run because its width varies. In some approach areas, it is only five to six feet wide," he said.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 7

TOFAZZAL MURDER

PBI charges 28 DU students

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Police Bureau of Investigation has charged 28 students of Dhaka University in connection with the killing of 35-year-old Tofazzal Hossain at its Fazlul Haque Muslim Hall in September 2024.

Investigation Officer Md Hannanul Islam, an additional SP of PBI, on December 17 last year submitted a supplementary charge sheet of the murder case before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court of Dhaka.

Of the 28 accused, Jalal Mia, Ahsan Ullah alias Bipul Sheikh, Al Hossain Sazzad, Mottakin Sakin Shah, Md Sumon Mia, and Wajibul Alam gave confessional statements after their arrest.

The remaining 22 accused are Firoz Kabir, Abdus Samad, Sakib Raihan, Yeasin Ali Gain, Yamuzzaman Yam, Fazle Rabbi, Shahriar Kabir Shovon, Mehedi Hasan Imran, Ratul Hasan, Sultan Mia, Nasir Uddin, Mobasser Billah, Shishir Ahmed, Mohosin Uddin Shafi, Abdullahil Kafi, Sheikh Ramzan Ali Raky, Rashed Kamal Anik, Moniruzzaman Sohag, Abu Raihan, Redwanur Rahman Parvez, Rabbikul Riad and Ashraf Ali Munshi. All of them are absconding.

Among the arrested

SEE PAGE 9 COL 4



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

JUSTICE FOR HADI

Inqilab Moncho takes out truck procession

DU CORRESPONDENT

Inqilab Moncho yesterday held a truck-mounted protest march at several locations in Dhaka to build public support for its demand for justice over the killing of its spokesperson Sharif Osman Bin Hadi.

The platform has been campaigning since Saturday after announcing a four-point demand.

Yesterday, it organised rallies at least nine key points in the capital using 10 truck vans.

The march began around 11:30am from Shahbagh and passed through Science Lab, City College, Mohammadpur, Mirpur-10, Uttara, Bashundhara, Badda, Rampura and Jatrabari, before concluding in front of the National Museum in the evening.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 1

'No shortage in LPG supply'

Says energy adviser

BSS, Dhaka

Power and Energy Adviser Fozul Kabir Khan yesterday ruled out any supply shortage behind the recent alleged disruption in liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) cylinder availability.

"About 98 percent of the LPG business in Bangladesh is controlled by the private sector.

Government involvement is limited to around two percent," he said after attending a meeting of the Advisers Council Committee on Government Purchase held at the Secretariat.

The adviser said the abnormal price hike and temporary scarcity were the result of "collusion and deliberate manoeuvring" by wholesalers and retailers, not a failure in imports or production.

The adviser assured consumers that the government would continue to monitor the situation closely and take all necessary steps to prevent further manipulation of the LPG market.

The adviser said LPG imports have increased compared to the previous month, making any genuine supply shortage unlikely.

"From the import side, there is no reason for a crisis," he said, noting that some operators withheld supply in anticipation of higher prices following

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

FIZZ IPL SNUB, AFTERMATH

'Serves interest of neither country'

Finance adviser says it won't impact Dhaka-Delhi ties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed yesterday said the exclusion of Bangladeshi pacer Mustafizur Rahman from the Indian Premier League (IPL) has moved into the "political realm", terming the development "unfortunate".

He added that the sequence of events surrounding the cricketer did not originate from the Bangladesh side and expressed regret over the situation, stating it serves the interests of neither country.

The adviser made the remarks while responding to questions from reporters following a meeting of the Advisers' Council Committee on Government Purchase at the Secretariat.

When asked about the potential impact on Bangladesh-India relations and the economy, with the addition of the ban on IPL broadcasts in Bangladesh, the adviser said, "There has been no impact here. Not a single word regarding sports was uttered during the purchase committee meeting."

Responding to a query on whether this would affect future bilateral trade, he said, "I don't see it from that perspective. The decisions we are taking for the economy

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4



A month-long flower festival is set to begin at DC Park in Faujdarhat of Chattogram, where the park has been adorned with vibrant decorations and 140 species of local and foreign flowers. The festival will be open to visitors daily from 10:00am to 8:00pm between January 9 and February 8. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

STUDENT UNION POLLS

JnU voting ends amid allegations of irregularities

Counting faces delay over technical issues

RAKIB MADBER

Voter turnout in the Jagannath University Central Students' Union (JnUCSU) election stood at around 65 percent, while turnout in the hall union elections was 77 percent.

Election Commissioner Prof Zulfiker Mahmud disclosed the figures around 6:00pm yesterday and said vote counting would begin shortly. However, counting remained suspended for a long time due to technical problems with the vote-counting machines.

Later, following discussions between the election commission and all stakeholders -- including representatives of all panels and independent vice-president and general secretary candidates -- a decision was taken to proceed with machine-based vote counting. Election Commissioner Prof Kaniz Fatema Kakoli announced the decision at around 11:30pm.

Vote counting began shortly afterwards and was underway at the time of filing this report around 1:00am.

SEE PAGE 9 COL 3



VOTER TURNOUT

Central Union 65%
Hall Unions 77%

TOTAL VOTERS

16,649

TOTAL CANDIDATES

Central Posts 190
candidates for 21 posts
Hall Union Posts 33
candidates for 13 posts

VOTING LOCATIONS

178 booths, 39 centres
(38 departments,
1 hall)

Man dies in BSF custody

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Rajshahi

A Bangladeshi man has died after being detained by the Border Security Force (BSF) upon entering India through the Johorpurtek border in Chapainawabganj.

The deceased was identified as Robiul Islam, 35, of Satrashia village in Narayanpur union of Chapainawabganj Sadar upazila.

After his body was handed over at the Johorpurtek border by the BSF yesterday, Robiul's postmortem was conducted in the Chapainawabganj District Hospital and his body was handed over to his family, said Kazi Mostafizur Rahman, commanding officer of the Border Guard Bangladesh's 53rd battalion.

Robiul was detained on Sunday at dawn while he was wearing "only shorts and his body was wet", Mostafizur said quoting BSF.

After being taken to a
SEE PAGE 4 COL 5