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DHAKA THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

Jamir Chowdhury
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Baltimore, USA

Microcredit Summit in Washington and its Far Reaching Impact on US

Micro credit Summit that was held on February 2-4th, 1997, symbolized an international effort of NGOs in addressing poverty reduction strategies in a sustainable way. The summit has opened up an enormous opportunity for NGOs of both developed and developing countries to learn from the experience of each other. Since developing countries have a limited resource and ability to lend money to poor people, financial help from developed countries, big businesses and corporate bodies are needed. This Summit reflected the commitment of developed countries, for example, USA, Canada and other developed countries in helping NGOs initiatives to eradicate poverty and hunger from the earth. Though developed countries have enough resources to address poverty and hunger in their own backyards, they have not done it yet in an extensive way. This conference has been an eye opening event for developed countries to learn much from the efforts of NGOs and government organizations of developing countries to eradicate poverty and hunger among rural people, especially among women. The commitment of financial assistance from donor agencies, big businesses and corporate people was a unique effort to strengthen the hands of NGOs to fight against poverty and hunger. This Summit has also reaffirmed the commitment of NGOs and governments of developing countries to work more for the novel cause of poverty alleviation.

In my view, the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Sk. Hasina has utilized every bit of it to show the world that Bangladesh is a small and poor country but our ideas are among the best in the world. Though she had a lot of scheduled meetings outside the Summit, she did her best to preside over a couple meetings consisting of heads of states and corporate bodies and donor agencies. She continuously worked for three days. Her sincerity and devotion for the cause of poor people has enabled her to earn respect and honor for her and for Bangladesh. She has proved that she might be a woman but her ability to accomplish such a huge conference is something to be remembered for years to come. Her hard work also proved that we are a honest and working nation. She has also demonstrated that women in Bangladesh are no less than men in the developed countries.

The single most important thing was, this summit has formally recognized the great contribution of Dr. Md. Yunus of Bangladesh and his revolutionary concept of GRAMEEN BANK though which poor people, specially poor women were able to claim their socioeconomic independence and dignity as human being.

This Summit has shown us that Government alone cannot fight against poverty, hunger, population growth, illiteracy, and AIDS. The NGOs and private organizations can make a contribution in alleviating poverty, and improving sanitation and public health. This Summit also witnessed that poor people in the United States and in Bangladesh have similar desire to live with dignity and respect. If these poor people are given a chance to get financial and institutional support, their contribution to our social development would be similar or even better in comparison with the wealthy segment of the population.

employment and other financial and business services to 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially the women of the families by the year 2005." The three-day summit was indeed very successful, and believe me it was such a joy to hear the name of Bangladesh and her worthy son Dr. Yunus uttered so many times by thousands of people participating in the Summit. Above all, The Prime Minister of Bangladesh - Sheikh Hasina's presence and her words "JOY BANGLA. JOY BANGLABANDHU. LONG LIVE BANGLADESH" filled the hearts of Bengali expatriates with deep emotions and pride. Let this not become polemics, it was an unmatched international celebration of Bangladesh's concrete contribution to solving the world's most pressing problems in a truly humanitarian fashion. No developing country can do more for poverty alleviation and world peace.

Dr. Md. Yunus were the central and focal point of every speaker including first ladies Mrs. Hillary Clinton. Each speaker spoke about Dr. Md. Yunus and his vision of GRAMEEN Bank. The first lady Mrs. Hillary Clinton talked about her journey to South East Asia, especially India and Bangladesh and praised the work of NGOs to uplift the economic situation of poor people of rural areas. It was no wonder that Dr. Md. Yunus and his vision of GRAMEEN BANK became the central point of discussion. It was Dr. Md. Yunus who started his brave and lonely journey of GRAMEEN Bank from a tiny rural village of Chittagong, Hathazari, ZOBRA and spread it throughout the world. His vision and action oriented projects have changed the views and perceptions of the world about the conventional way of economic development. It is his GRAMEEN Bank concept which has proved that poorest of the poor, specially poor women could get economic and social freedom and could get on their feet through empowerment and sustainable economic programs. It is his whose theory and practice changed the World Bank's traditional lending policies which have always favored

In the end, I would like to thank Dr. Md. Yunus for giving Bangladesh so much honor to stand tall with head high. Since Dr. Md. Yunus is from Bangladesh. Whenever the name of Dr. Md. Yunus came up, the name of Bangladesh also came up. In recent history, he is the man who has popularized the name of Bangladesh throughout the world. I have no apology to say that he is the only man in Asian Subcontinent whose name and fame even surpassed the popularity of Rabindranath Tagore (Nobel) winner. I also would like to thank the honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sk. Hasina for taking advantage of opportunity to preside over such a large international Summit. Her sincere hard work and sacrifice have brought respect and honor for our whole country and people. Eventually, the acceptance of Bangladeshi people abroad will be broadened as our leaders in the different fields make contribution to the world community.

Mohammad Sarwaruddin sarwar@ipt.univ.no
Oslo, Norway

Perhaps Prof. Yunus & his team in Grammen Bank has been able to generate a ray of hope for Bangladesh not only to our people but also to the foreigners.

As a matter of fact, during my three year stay in Norway, I have an impression that outside world know little about Bangladesh rather are aware of the terrible flood, cyclone, over population etc. However, it is the Grammen Bank that breaks the chain.

Congratulations to Prof. Yunus and his team for relentless tasks they are doing for the poorest of the poor.

Rashad Chowdhury rchowdhury@compuserve.com
Washington DC, USA

GRAMEEN Bank has truly revolutionized Microcredit and it was fitting how the Bank from Bangladesh was celebrated by many at the Microcredit Summit in Washington DC. Many Bangladeshi organizations took part in the summit.

But it was Dr. Yunus who was at the center stage of the summit. At times it felt like it was a "GRAMEEN Bank Celebration". And since GRAMEEN Bank originated from Bangladesh, it also seem like a celebration of "Bangladesh" by the rest of the world. It felt proud to be a Bangladeshi and also felt great to be around the people of GRAMEEN Bank who so laboriously have put GRAMEEN Bank in such stature.

But pride is not the point here. The point is the objective of

We are Bangladeshi, So.....
Abdul Baten Mijaj
Abdul.Baten.Mijaj@teol.lu.se
Copenhagen, Sweden:

I am a Bangladeshi national and research student in Lund university, Sweden. On the 12th December 1996 I went to visit Bangladesh by Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) and returned on the 22nd January 1997 by the same Airlines holding ticket No. T/2144404204099. On the way back to Sweden I had to overnight in Karachi Airport. According to PIA's rules we the international passengers are to give hotel until next transit if it is less than 24 hour-transit and passengers themselves are to pay for hotels and meals if it is more than 24 hours. I arrived Karachi on the 21st January 1997 at 1515 local time and my connective flight was on the 22nd January 1997 at 0800 local time. So I had to stay in Karachi long 17 hours. Unfortunately I (with another 14 Bangladeshis who were to fly for Rome and Jeddah, whose transit more than 12 who were holding Bangladeshi passports were not given hotel in Karachi and were badly treated as only we are from Bangladesh. And further more we were informed that no Bangladeshis are being given hotels since last 314 months. Unfortunately I like to inform that most of the Bangladeshi passengers traveling by PIA are laborer working in Middle East and South-East Asian countries. They neither know English nor Urdu. That is why they have to consume everything whatever and however they are treated by the PIA's staffs or Pakistani immigration officials.

I therefore like to draw your kind attention to the fact to make an investigation and proper judgment into this matter, so that no more Bangladeshis are maltreated by them like us.

112274 cusec water less than the treaty calls for
A. Baset
abaset@suhell.net
dhu. USA

I am not surprised at the news of Bangladesh got 112274 cusec less water in Feb than the treaty called for. How is our PM going to explain this to the people. Is it another case of big brother telling little sister what she gets and how much she gets.

Rezwana-ul-Alam
Rezwanaulalam@compuserve.com
London, UK

Does it make any sense to boast about this summit when the country is itself burdened with billions of dollars foreign debt. How much was the cost of organizing this high profile summit? It's another eye-wash and we have again been fooled.

We cannot expect all the time to get economic help from rich country because these days if we look around the world, rich country are not getting higher GDP growth. So they are cutting the aid towards the poorer country.

As a result we have to help ourselves to build our nation to compete the 21st century. I cannot see the better idea than the microcredit system to help the poor people. This system can bring our neglecting poor society to smile. So they can feed themselves without the help of rich society. After all I would like to thank you to create this web page to comment and bring day to day news from our country. It is always good to see how our country goes day by day.

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The Daily Star is not responsible for the opinions expressed in these columns. — Editor

Dhaka Day by Day

Worse than the Busybodies!

by Ayesha Fariha

TAKE MY ADVICE: BE CAREFUL! YOU MAY BUMP INTO OTHER MUGGERS ON YOUR WAY HOME!



Generally speaking, busybodies are people who ask a lot of questions out of curiosity, and out of the ability to take immense pleasure in being know-it-alls. Though many are not exactly harmless, we tolerate (almost) all busybodies because we pretend they care or because we justify their actions because we know they are capable of doing little else.

One breed of people we should NOT tolerate are the vile, self-appointed counselors (VSCs) who offer advice on a wide range of topics extending from make-up and attire to philosophy. These VSCs, both female and male are worse than insufferable and their motives are so blatant that one can spot them in an instant. They are always perfectly dressed for the occasion. If it is wedding, they are wearing the kundani/jarua with the benarasi or elegant suits; if it is a qul, they are wearing light pastel shades with light make-up and intricate tiny pieces of jewellery, or white kurtas; if it is an ordinary day, they are wearing beautifully worked shalwar-kameez sets with matching bags, shoes, and jewellery, or the perfect suits for work with the tiepins, the cufflinks, and not a hair out of place. These VSCs walk about with their heads slightly raised as if to say "We are not snooty, it is just natural for us to be above everyone else". Sporting this attitude they walk around, the eyes daring here, there, and everywhere, until they zoom in on their prey. Not even greatest blessing of the Almighty can soothe the irritation and ire of the cross-examination that ensues.

The VSCs begin with a smile calculated to look sweet and approachable, accompanied with a head to toe appraisal. Then they ask something like, "What are you doing these days?" No matter what the reply, (you could be Bill Gates), your career/vocation/pastime would not be good enough for them. A look of distaste (close to horror actually) quickly replaces the smile, and then the LONG, DREARY LECTURE which begins with "If you ask me/I I were you..."

The VSCs are people who tell you — they saw the watch you bought for Tk 5000 priced at Tk 3000 in another store, they think it is much better to do an MBA in America after you tell them you are enrolled in an MSc programme in England, they know orange lipstick is in when the colour you are wearing is pink, you should weigh 54 kg, when you have succeeded in bringing your weight down to 49 kg, you should live in a two-bedroomed flat in Baridhara when you tell them you live in a three bedroomed flat in New DOHS... and much, much more. I would take 10 busybodies over 1 VSC anyday, wouldn't you?

The Daily Star Entertainment Guide

Thursday 6th March
(All programmes are in local time. There may be changes in the programmes)

BTV

3:00 Opening Announcement: Al-Quran, Programme Summary
3:10 News in Bangla 3:15 Re-teletcast of selected programme from TV Archive 4:00 News in Bangla 4:15 TV Couching 4:45 Carlton Skazzam 5:25 National Television School Debate 6:30 Sor Goal 6:50 Religion and Life 7:00 The News 7:25 Sandha Malatee 8:00 News in Bangla 8:25 Arabian Nights 9:00 Package Programme 10:00 The News 10:25 Switch 11:30 News in Bangla 11:35 Friday's programme summary 11:40 Close down

Frame 11:30 The Vibe VJ Luke
12:00noon Rewind VJ Sophiya
1:30 By Demand VJ Trey 2:00
Frame by Frame 2:30 First Day
First Show 3:00 BPL Oye 4:00
Planet Ruby 4:30 Big Bang VJ
Alessandra 6:00pm Rewind VJ
Sophiya 7:00 By Demand VJ
Trey 8:00 The Vibe 9:00
Videocon Flashback 9:30 Top of
the Pops 10:00 First Day First
Show 10:30 Mailbu Jammin 11:00
Classic Rock 12:00mm Rewind
VJ Sophiya 1:00 Haysab 2:00
By Demand VJ Trey 3:00 Big
Bang VJ Alessandra 4:30 BPL
Oye 5:30 Jump Start VJ
Alessandra



Arabian Nights on BTV, Tonight at 8:25

STAR PLUS

6:30am Nimaad 7:30 Star News
8:00 Star Business 8:30 Star
News 9:00 Sky News 9:30 Aerobics
Oz Style 10:00 Master
Chefs Of Florida Culinary Institute
10:30 E! TV 11:00 Kale &
Allie 11:30 The Oprah Winfrey
Show 12:30 Serial: Picket
Fences 1:30 Santa Barbara
2:30 The Bold & The Beautiful
3:00 Hindi Serial: Tahnikaat 3:30
Khandaan 4:00 Banara Guest
House 4:30 Land of the Giants
5:30 Black Beauty 6:00pm Kate
& Allie 6:30 Master Chefs Of
Florida Culinary Institute 7:00
Manaka's Ark 7:30 Star News
(Hindi) 8:00 Awaz 8:30 Hindi
Serial: Tu Tu Main Main 9:00
Hindi Serial: Ghatan 9:30 Star
News 10:00 Are You Being
Served? 10:30 Baywatch 11:30
The Bold & The Beautiful 12:00
Santa Barbara 1:00 Star News
1:30 Baywatch Nights 2:30
Mystery Movie — Inspector
Morse "Happy Families" 4:00
The Oprah Winfrey Show 5:30
Barnaby Jones

(Arabic Subtitles) 11:30 Classic
Hell And High Water 12 (Arabic
Subtitles) 1:30 Oscar Winner
Best Actress: Blue Sky 15
(Hindi Subtitles) 3:30 Adventure:
The Berlin Conspiracy 15
(Arabic Subtitles) 5:30 Family:
Matsaleem 15 (English Subtitles)
Effects: Fantastic Voyage 12
(Hindi Subtitles) 9:30 US Top
Ten 10:00 Romance: The
Haunting Passion 15 12:00
Horror: Halloween 18 (Arabic
Subtitles) 2:00 Film Club: Str
18 (Arabic Subtitles) 4:00 Horror:
Howling VI The Freaks 18
5:30 Film Club: Less Than Zero
8

Repeats 1:00 Chalo Cinema 1:30
Kabhi Ye Kabhi Wo 2:00 Gujarati
Band Original 3:00 Dard 3:30
Vipul Ka Amar Puri 4:00
Yaadon Ki Baar 4:30 Stand-
by 4:40 Aakhi Dao 5:00 Dear El
5:30 Cine Smyle 6:00 Archies
Top Of The Taps 6:20 ZED 6:50
Bengali Band Original 7:50 Holly-
wood Highlights 8:20 Kinetic
Pride Hasen Pal 8:30 Liberty
10:00 TEMA 10:30 Stand-by 10:40
Hindi Feature Film

PTV

8:00am Tilawat Aur Tarjuma/
Hamd/Naat 8:20 Cartoon 8:30

Khabrain 8:45 Cut Piece 9:20
Aahang & Roshni 9:45 Pheel
Chandi 10:05 Sona Chandi
(Drama Serial) 10:30 Buttons &
Rustys (Eng. Film) 10:55 Milli
Naghma 11:00 Khabrain 11:10
Aabshar (Music Programme)
11:55 Tele Play (Drama Serial)
12:45pm Qawaal 12:55 Qura-
n-Hakeem & Bismillah 1:15 Muqad-
dar (Drama Serial) 2:00 Puthgar
(Drama Serial) 2:45 Perspective
& Health Forum 3:40 Taleemi
Maloomat 4:35 Aural Aur
Qanoon 5:05 Home Economics
5:25 Humaray Saath 5:55 Varna
(Drama Serial) 6:25 Alou
Courses 7:05 Muqabil Hai Aana
7:20 Anak Waia Jinn 7:45 En-

glish News 8:05 Jawaan
Sangeel 8:45 Eendhan (Drama
Serial) 9:00 Break for Headline
News 10:00 Khabraama &
Commercial News 10:35 Mast
Mast Sanyo 11:15 Urdu Feature
Film & Khas Khas Khabrain/
Close down

1:00 Good Shot /Anarh (Serial)
1:30 The Young And The Rest-
less 2:30 Cine 5 Matinee-Hindi
Feature Film 3:30 The Three
Stoges 6:00 Dennis the Menace
6:30 Yadan Ki Bara 7:00 Pre-
mier 7:30 Dream of Jeannie
8:00 Surf-Wheel Of Fortune
(Game Show) 8:30 Buddha
(Serial) 9:00 Sidhi (Serial) 9:30
Hospital 10:00 Aahat 10:30 Ja-
neen Kaha Mera Jigar Gaya Ji
(Serial) 11:00 The Young And
The Restless 12:00 Yeh Sadi
Nahi Ho Sakti (Serial) 12:30
Sunday Ki Sundari 1:00 Nirlon
Rasoi Show 1:30 Surf-Wheel Of
Fortune (Game Show) 2:00
Premier 2:30 Closed

DD 7

10:30 Jamnadin 10:35 Classical
Music 11:00 Dance 12:00 ETV
Programme 12:30 Monorama
Cabin 1:00 Jamnabhum (Serial)
1:30 Trishna (Serial) 2:30 E!
Chanda Ki Ananda (Serial) 3:00
Ghum Nai (Serial) 3:30 Shreoshi
(Serial) 5:30 News 6:30 Mone
Rekho More Gaane 7:00
Darsakar Bara 7:30 Bangla
Sambad 8:00 Saitone Katha
(Serial) 8:30 Chetana (Serial)
9:00 Jamnabhum (Serial) 9:30
Monorama Cabin (Serial) 10:00
Bengali Movie Club Film Show
1:00 Closed

BBC

06:00am BBC World News 06:10
Newsnight 07:00 BBC News-
room inc. World Business Re-
port/Asia Today 12/24 Hours
10:00 BBC World Headlines 10:05
World Focus: Dirty Money 11:00
BBC Newsday 2:00 BBC World
Headlines 02:05 World Focus:
Naked City 03:00 BBC World
News 03:30 Time Out: Holiday
04:00 BBC Newsdesk 06:00
BBC World Headlines 06:05
World Focus: Horizon 07:00 BBC
World News 07:15 World Busi-
ness Report 07:30 BBC News-
hour Asia & Pacific 08:30
Time Out: Top Gear 09:00 BBC
World Headlines 09:05 World Fo-
cus: Dirty Money 10:00 BBC
World News 10:30 Time Out:
Film '97 11:00 BBC World News
11:30 Time Out: The Clothes
Show 12:00 The World Today
02:00 BBC World Headlines 02:05
World Focus: Correspondent 2:50
Earth Report 03:00 BBC World
News 03:30 Time Out: Tomor-
row's World 04:00 BBC World
Report inc. World Business Re-
port/24 Hours

STAR SPORTS

6:00am ISF World Tour 6:30 In-
ternational Motorsports News
7:30 EPGA Dubai Desert Classi-
c H/L 8:30 5 Nations Champi-
onships England v France 10:05
5 Nations Championships Scotland
v Ireland 11:30 Watersports
World 12:30noon Tmas World
Sport 1:30 Indian Football Polish
League Air India vs Indian Bank

STAR MOVIES

7:30am Family: Triumph Of
The Heart 15 (Hindi Subtitles)
9:30 Classic: The Devil Bat 12

ZEE TV

6:00 News 6:30 Adhamiya
Pradhan Mantri 7:00 ZED 8:30
Ru-Ba-Ru 9:00 Disney Hour
10:00 Gaane Anjaane 10:30
Jhatpat Khana 11:00 Andaz
11:30 Zimto 12:00 Khana Khaz-
ana 12:30 Mast Mast Hai
Zindagi 1:00 Aakanksha 1:30
Asian Sky Shop 2:00 Hum
Paanch 2:30 Tara 3:00 Raahat
3:30 Low Cal Show 4:00
Sallaab 4:30 Suhana Safar 5:00
Through The Gears 5:30 Aur
Ek Minute 6:00 Akbar Birbal 6:30
Disney Hour 7:30 Raahat 8:00
Gaane Anjaane 8:30 Chuki
Bajra Ke 9:00 Yah Kahan Aa
Gaye Hum 9:30 Dastaan 10:00
Umeed 10:30 News 11:00 Pa-
keezah/Ek Nazar 11:30 Nirma
Hum Paanch 12:00 Action Hindi
Feature Film 12:30 Darsar 1:00
Hasratein 1:30 Raahat 2:00
Hanste Khetle 2:30 TMM 4:00
Tara 4:30 Casper Kya Scene
Hai 5:00 Suno Bhai Sadho 5:30
Jagran

EL TV

12:30 Hindi Feature Film 1:30
Kinetic Pride Hasen Pal 1:40
Rajni 2:00 Metrodrom 2:30 Karz
3:00 Kal Bhi Aaj Bhi 3:30 Si-
yara Kamal Combination 4:00
Film Chaat 4:30 Teri Bhi Chup
Men Bhi Chup 5:00 Vishwamitra
6:00 Kishore Kumar Special 7:00
Serial 7:30 Dard 8:00 Hindi
Feature Film 11:00 Gujarati Band
Repeats 12:00 Bengali Band

