



## Yunus awarded Nichols Chancellor's Medal

UNB, Dhaka

Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus has called on Vanderbilt University students to help create a world where museums have exhibits on poverty because it is a thing of the past.

"The world cannot remain the way it is. It's our job to create the world that we want to live in. Nobody should be a poor person in that world. There's no need to be," said Prof Yunus while addressing the Vanderbilt graduates on Alumni Lawn as part of Senior Class Day on May 10, according to a message received from the USA.

At the programme, Chancellor Gordon Gee awarded Prof Yunus, an alumnus of Vanderbilt University, the second Nichols-Chancellor's Medal.

Vanderbilt University has been celebrating the Nobel Peace Prize since October in a big way since Prof Yunus is the first Nobel Laureate from the university. The quarterly magazine of Vanderbilt recently had a major cover story on Prof Yunus.

Prof Yunus in his address said the blame for poverty lies in unfair economic systems, not poor people.

"Nothing is wrong with (the poor)," he said, adding, "They're as good and active as anybody else ... Poverty is not created by the poor."

Prof Yunus entered Vanderbilt's Graduate Program in Economic Development for master's study and continued in the economics department for the doctorate, which he earned from Vanderbilt in 1970.

"Dr Yunus is a matchless example ... of how to live a fully human, peace-promoting life," Gees said.

"The methods he has implemented for alleviating poverty are practical, innovative and radically compassionate. He's brought great distinction on this university through his work."

Last year, first lady Laura Bush accepted the first Nichols-Chancellor's Medal on behalf of rescue workers who respond to natural disasters around the world.

## Book on history of railway launched

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday urged the government to take immediate steps to restore past glory of railway department.

They were speaking at the publication ceremony of a book titled 'Purba Banglar Railway Itihas (History of the East Bengal Railway) 1862- 1947' by Dr Dinak Sohani Kabir at the National Museum in the city. Academic Press and Publishers Library organised the ceremony.

Speaking as the chief guest, Vice Chancellor of University of Asia Pacific Dr Abdul Matin Patwari said, "Once the railway was the cheapest, safest and the fastest means of communication, but it now lost its past glory".

Quoting some reports from the national newspapers he said day by day the railway department is becoming a national burden.

Comparing the rail communication system of Bangladesh with that of neighbouring countries, particularly India, he said the authorities of Bangladesh Railway can take lessons from their Indian counterparts.

Political analyst Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly said the author depicted the railway department's impact on social, political and economic development of the country.

Dr Shelly chaired the ceremony while Dr KM Mohsin and Dr Sharif Uddin Ahmed of History Department of Dhaka University, and Publisher of the book Shahina Rahman were also present.

## 'Walk the World' to end child hunger today

UNB, Dhaka

In response to UN food agency WFP's global advocacy event 'Walk the World' to end child hunger, a walkathon, will be staged in the city today.

The walkathon will start from IDB Bhaban at Agargaon at 10:00am and end on the backside of Sangsad Bhaban, Chandrima Udyan (intersection of Bijoy Sarani and Rokeya Sarani).

The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) over the years has organised the global advocacy event, campaigning for raising awareness and funds to feed the hungry children.

Under the programme, hundreds of thousands of people worldwide will walk together over a 24-hour period in each of the planet's time zones, to deliver a message: Child hunger has no place in this world and citizens across the globe can put an end to it.

WFP together with its major global corporate partners, TNT and Unilever, are teaming up with an array of celebrities, dignitaries, employees, NGO partners, families, friends and people affected by hunger themselves, to "Fight Hunger. Walk the World".

# TIB-CUDS DEBATE COMPETITION OPENS

## Help free country from corruption

### ACC chief urges youths

CU CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Lt General (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury has called upon the young generation to play a significant role in freeing the country from corruption.

"We have already detected our problems. This is the high time to fight corruption and we have to win in the fight to build a prosperous Bangladesh," he said.

The ACC chairman was addressing as chief guest at the inaugural ceremony of 'TIB-CUDS 9th Bengali-3rd English Inter-Department Debate Competition 2007' at the auditorium of Chittagong University (CU) Commerce Faculty yesterday.

The competition was organised jointly by Chittagong University Debating Society (CUDS), Transparency International

Bangladesh (TIB) and Sachetan Nagorik Committee, Chittagong.

Hasan Mashhud said the role of young generation is more important than any other section of the society as they are largely believed to be far away from any sort of corruption.

"We know what our problems and the right way to overcome those. So we have to solve our problems by our own. There is no need to hire any foreign consultant in this regard," he observed.

"Any suggestions from either military or civil bureaucracy including stakeholders concerned will not bring any benefit unless and until the students get involved in anti-corruption movement," he said.

Terming the debate on corruption very important, he called for spreading such initiatives across the country.

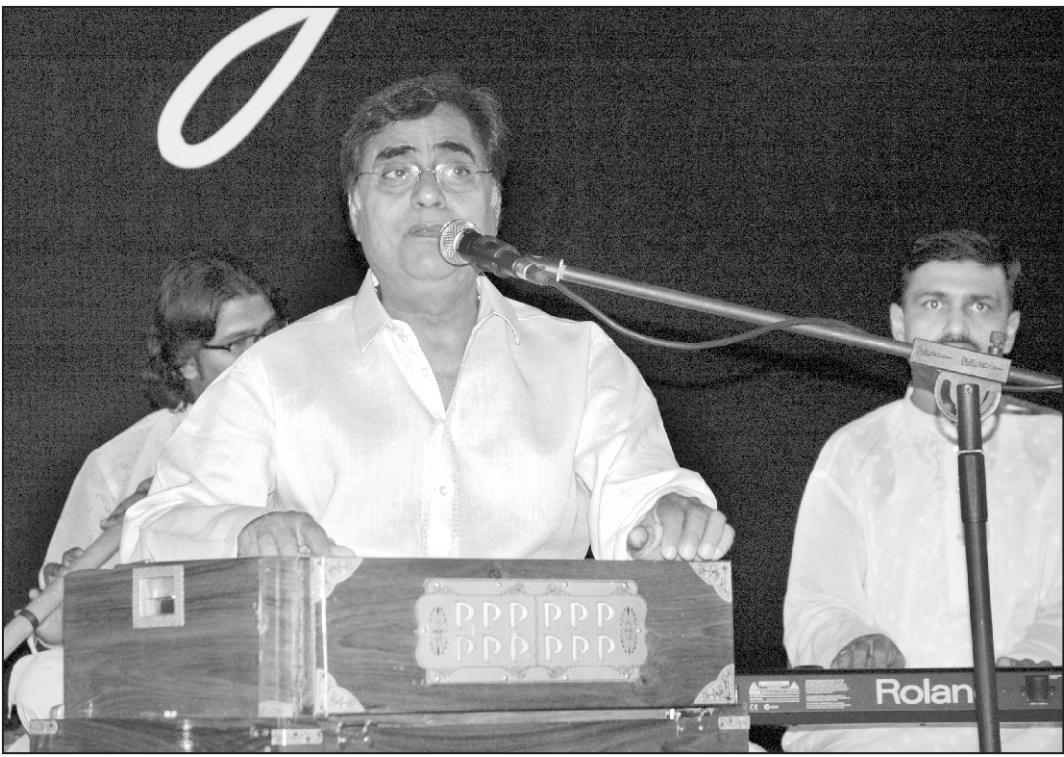
CUDS Moderator Prof Dr Mahbulul Haque presided over the

programme while CU Vice-chancellor Prof Dr M Badiul Alam, former adviser and TIB Trustee Board Treasurer M Hafiz Uddin Khan, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman, Sachetan Nagorik Committee, Chittagong Convener Begum Mushtari Shaif, CU Commerce Faculty Dean Prof KM Golam Mohiuddin, CUDS President Tajul Islam and General Secretary Abdus Samad Himel spoke on the occasion.

Later, Prof Badiul Alam formally inaugurated the competition which is being participated by 34 teams from different departments.

In the four-day competition, different issues on corruption and good governance would be debated.

The ACC chairman is expected to visit three hill districts Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari today as part of his countrywide campaign against corruption.



Renowned Indian Ghazal maestro Jagjit Singh performs at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. CREATAS organised the event.

# CG activities not producing fair results for people

## Justice Rabbani tells press confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The activities of the caretaker government are not producing fair results for the people of the country in many ways, said Justice Ghulam Rabbani at a press conference yesterday.

He said, "Justice is disappearing from each and every corner of life and this is high time for people to play a conscious role."

The press conference was organised by the Citizens Rights Movement at the National Press Club in the city to press home its 11-point demand to communication ministry as well as other bodies concerned.

In support of his remark, Justice Rabbani, who is an adviser of the organisation, said the price of essentials can be an example.

The producers of rice or potato are not getting even their production cost while the consumers are paying high price for the products, he added.

"Nobody knows how the money has been robbed of by the middlemen. It is the duty of the caretaker government to find out the gaps and take immediate steps," said

Justice Rabbani.

Secretary General of Citizens Rights Movement Tushar Rehman in a written statement placed the 11-point demand at the press conference.

He demanded immediate implementation of the tripartite agreement signed on April 8 to bring an end to the misery of city commuters.

He said in order to save the commuters from being cheated it is necessary to fix the city corporation building as the starting point and install milestone after every one-mile distance.

Tushar said although the bodies concerned recommended Tk .07 hike for diesel-run vehicle, the bus companies are charging not less than Tk 1 per mile.

"Though we have gone for BMW, Cadillac, Mercedes and Rolls-Royce, but still we feel an ardent craving for relief materials

and tins meant for poor people," he added.

"We want exemplary punishment to those who are involved in corruption," the speakers urged.

"The communication minister of former government and his close allies took bribes in importing CNG-run auto-rickshaws/taxicabs. They breached the promise of lower fare for CNG-run bus, but took the advantage of tax exemption, and stole money in establishing CNG refuelling stations," they alleged.

Apart from strong monitoring system, the speakers called for steps to ensure that CNG-run three-wheelers/ taxicabs strictly follow the metres, and there is 24-hour service of traffic police in the city.

Journalist Syed Abul Moksud, Dr Dilara Hafiz of Eden College and Group Captain Alfaz also spoke on this occasion.

## Int'l Mother's Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

International Mother's Day will be observed today as elsewhere in the world.

The country has been celebrating the day on the second Sunday of May every year for the last few years.

People in different countries celebrate Mother's Day on different days of the year because the day has a number of different origins. One school of thought claims that this day emerged from a custom of mother worship in ancient Greece.

In the United Kingdom, the Mothering Sunday, commonly called 'Mother's Day' is being celebrated from the 16th century with the belief that mothers would be reunited with their children on this day. Most historians believe that young apprentices and young women in servitude were released by their masters that weekend in order to visit their families.

However, more than 40 countries, including Bangladesh observe the day following American culture that originated from the thought that Anna Jarvis, daughter of Anna Reeves Jarvis was the power behind the official establishment of Mother's Day in 1905.

In 1914 President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day, as a day for American citizens to show the flag in honour of those mothers whose sons had died in war.

In Bangladesh the day is celebrated through different programmes in electronic media and according grand reception to mother of jewels recognising their contribution to family, society and nation. Restaurants and shopping malls are giving special offers on the occasion.

The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel will accord a reception to some successful mothers where Adviser Geeteara Safiya Chowdhury will attend as chief guest.

## Criminal arrested with arms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested a criminal with a foreign-made revolver, one-shooter gun, two bullets and a sharp knife from Kotwali Police Station area in the city yesterday.

Rab sources said the arrestee Liton, 28, was a member of 'Kamal Group' and accomplice of Shaheen who was arrested with firearms from the Mitford Hospital area on Friday while he was collecting tolls from a medicine market near Mitford Hospital.

Rab sources said in the face of police quizzing Shaheen gave statements admitting his involvement in different criminal activities and about his accomplices.

Acting on his information, a team of Rab-10 conducted a raid in a house in Kotwali area at around 4:00am and arrested Liton.

Rab sources said legal action would soon be taken against the arrestee.

## East West University convocation tomorrow

The sixth convocation of East West University will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city tomorrow, says a press release.

President Iajuddin Ahmed will confer the degrees among the graduating students as the chief guest.

Ayub Quadri, adviser for Ministries of Education, Primary and Mass Education and Cultural Affairs, will attend the ceremony as the special guest.

Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam, Professor Emeritus, University of Chittagong, will be the convocation speaker.

A total number of 644 students will be conferred degrees under various graduate and undergraduate programmes. Of them, 435 students will be conferred degrees at the graduate level (BBA-267, CSC-19, CSE-103, ECO-1, ICE-28, English-17) and 209 at the post-graduate level (Masters in Business Administration-153, Masters in Business Administration (Executive Programme)-19, Masters in Bank Management-2, Masters in Development Studies-10, Masters in English-18, Masters in Computer Science and Engineering-3, Masters in Telecommunications Engineering-4). Eleven graduating



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina arrives in front of the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday to pay her last respect to party activist Ridoy Kumar Saha who died on Friday.

## FOUR JOURNOS GET ASF MEDIA AWARD

### 'Launch social movement against acid violence'

DU CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at an award giving ceremony yesterday underscored the need to raise mass awareness to prevent acid violence against women and children.

Only enacting laws is not enough to check the menace, they said and called for a social movement against acid violence.

Acid Survivors Foundation (ASF) organised the ceremony to give away the ASF Media Award 2006 to journalists at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city.

Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geetara Safiya Chowdhury, eminent artist Qayyum Chowdhury, Manusher Jonno Foundation Executive Director Shaheen Anam, ASF Executive Director Monira Rahman and Managing Director of Square Toiletries Ltd Anjan Chowdhury attended the ceremony.

Four journalists won the ASF Media Award in four categories for their contribution to raising awareness about acid violence.

They are Naznin Akhter of Janakantha (best report), Fedous

Faisal of Prothom Alo (best feature), Kishower Laila of Bangla Vision (best report in the electronic media) and Syed Zakir Hossain of The Daily Star (best photograph).

Each winner received a crest, a certificate and a cheque for Tk 30,000.

The ASF also awarded the Prothom Alo a special award for its contribution to the mobilisation of public opinion against acid violence and to the rehabilitation of acid survivors.

A panel of judges headed by Prof Shaikh Abdus Salam, chair of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism, Dhaka University, selected the winners.

Addressing the ceremony, Geetara said parents should make their children aware of the brutality of acid throwing so that they could understand that it is an inhuman act as they grow up.

She also urged the media to take up special programmes to raise awareness about acid violence.

Shaheen Anam said the people who throw acid should be isolated.

Acid survivors do not need anyone's pity; they only want friendship, she added.



Winners of ASF Media Award 2006 pose for photograph with the guests, including Women and Children Affairs Adviser Geetara Safiya Chowdhury, at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday.

# Doctors clash at BSMMU: 2 injured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two doctors of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) were injured following clashes between the pro-Awami League (AL) and pro-BNP doctors yesterday.

Two separate general diaries (GD) have been lodged with Shahbagh Police Station in this regard accusing around 40 people.

The clash erupted at 10:00am when Dr Shafikul Halim, known as pro-AL doctor, protested the beating of a canteen staff by pro-

BNP doctors on the 7th floor of A block.

Dr Halim in his GD mentioned that around 20 pro-BNP doctors beat him as he protested the incident.

Later at 12:00 noon, the pro-AL doctors attacked Dr Nazrul with sticks and rods at B block.

Dr Nazrul in his GD mentioned that the attackers attempted to murder him.

BSMMU sources said tension has been running high since the last couple of days over the control of the management of the hospital by two rival groups.

## Hasina pays last respect to Ridoy

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday paid her last respect to Ridoy Kumar Saha, an office assistant of her party.

Ridoy, who had been suffering from respiratory complications, died at the National Hospital on Friday. His body was brought to the Awami League central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city where Hasina placed wreath on his coffin.

Senior leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Begum Motia Chowdhury, Sheikh Selim, Abdul Jalil, Adv Rahmatullah, Abdul Mannan Khan, Abdul Mannan and Mahmudur Rahman Manna were present.

**Sirajul Mannan Chowdhury** Earlier, Hasina went to Banani to express her condolences on the death of Sirajul Mannan Chowdhury, son of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib's close associate Sirajul Islam Chowdhury. Mannan Chowdhury, 37, died at Apollo Hospitals in the city yesterday morning.

## Int'l Nurses Day observed

BSS, Dhaka

International Nurses Day (IND) was observed across the country as elsewhere in the world yesterday marking the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.

The theme of IND-2007 was 'Positive practice environment: quality workplaces equally quality patient care.'

To mark the day, a colourful procession was brought out from the National Museum to the Central Shaheed Minar in the city.

Health and Family Welfare Ministry and Directorate of Nursing Services organised an award and certificate giving function at Shaheed Milton Auditorium in Dhaka Medical College (DMC).

Health and Family Welfare Secretary Ehsan Ul Fatah attended the function as the chief guest with Director of the Nursing Services Rozland Bibha Barai in the chair.

Addition Secretary of Health and Family Welfare Ministry Jamil Osman, Director of Dhaka Medical College Brig. Gen Dr MA Matin, WHO Representative in Bangladesh Dr Deungvadee Sungkhobol, among others, spoke on the occasion.

DHAKA

T O D A Y

Discussion

Development Organisation of the Rural Poor (Dorp) will hold a discussion on 'Maternity allowances in the national budget to implement PRSP'. Venue: Bilia auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Scientific session

Association of Physicians of Bangladesh will hold the 18th annual conference and a scientific session. Venue: Hotel Sheraton. Time: 9:30am.

View exchange

Bangladesh Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry will hold a view exchange with the media people on the next national budget. Venue: Cirdap auditorium. Time: 10:30am.