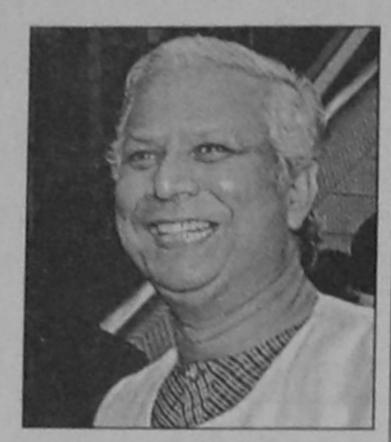
METROPOLITAN/NEWS



Houston mayor declares Jan 14 'Yunus Day' STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Houston, one of the America's largest cities, has declared January 14 'Muhammad Yunus Day' to honour Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus who is cur-

rently on a tour of the US. Mayor Bill White made the declaration on Monday at a reception accorded to Prof Yunus, who was visiting Houston, Texas, as part of his whistle-stop tour to promote his new book 'Creating a world without poverty: Social business and the future of capitalism'.

The mayor also handed over a copy of the proclamation to Prof Yunus at the function attended by over 500 personalities, reports News World.

Prof Yunus described how micro-credit and social business can help alleviate poverty and move a country like Bangladesh forward.

He also addressed two other reception ceremonies hosted by the World Affairs Council and the Bangladesh-American Society. Over 2,000 people attended the functions.

'Withdraw emergency in phases'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Kalyan Party (BKP Chairman Maj Gen (retd) Syed Muhammad Ibrahim yesterday demanded withdrawal of emergency in phases and lifting ban on indoor politics in all districts by the end of this month. He also demanded holding of the

general elections immediately after the completion of the voter ID card project. The BKP chief was addressing his

first press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity auditorium since the launchingofBKPonDecember4. He also urged the government to

identify the war criminals and try them immediately.

When asked about the demand of early election raised from different political parties, the BKP chief said a free and fair election cannot be held without preparing voted ID cards.

KILLING OF MANIK SAHA Citizens' probe demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded forming a citizens probe committee to identify the real culprits behind the killing of journalist Manik Saha. They also said it is a shame that

the verdict of the case has yet not been declared although it has been four years since his assassination. Colleagues of Manik Saha and

some Dhaka-based journalists organised the discussion at Moni Singh-Farhad auditorium in the city to mark his 4th death anniversary. Manik, Khulna correspondent of

the New Age and a stringer of BBC Bangla Service, was killed in a bomb attack near Khulna Press Club on January 15 in 2004. Speaking as the chief guest, Prof

AAMS Arefin Siddique said Manik is no more but his ideology remains alive. "Manik presented facts in his

reporting which are very essential in objective reporting," he added. Nijera Kari Coordinator Khushi

Kabir said Manik always wrote against irregularities, corruption, communalism and fundamentalism and that's why a vested quarter killed him. Journalist Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul

said Manik Smrity Sangsad and a citizens' probe committee could be formed for dealing the case properly and raising voice against repression on journalists across the country.



Death anniversary

Today is the 93rd death anniversary of Nawab Sir Salimullah Bahadur, says a press release.

On the occasion, qurankhwani, doa mahfil, distribution of food among orphans, and discussion meeting will be held.

Media should reflect issues related to poverty cut

Experts tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Issues relating to poverty reduction should be prominently reflected in the media to create platforms for debates leading to formulation of pro-poor policies, said the media and development experts at a discussion yesterday.

The government, civil societies and the international donors have to facilitate this process in a bid to reduce global poverty, they said at the programme organised by Panos Institute Bangladesh at Brac Centre Inn in the city.

"Communication is vital to public awareness and participation, yet media is neglected," said Jon Barnes, head of Globalisation Programme of Panos Institute London, while presenting a report titled 'Making poverty the story: Time to involve the media in poverty reduction'.

Most media however often do not see poverty issues as newsworthy, while public affairs coverage is focused on elite politics and there are pressures of advertisements for revenue that squeeze editorial

Journalists are also underpaid,

for separation

Orphaned Bangladeshi conjoined

twins have survived an initial opera-

tion, but it will be another six

months before they can be sepa-

rated, the Australian charity looking

One-year-old girls Trishna and

Krishna are joined at the head but

have separate brains. If the twins are

not separated, they are expected to

first surgical procedure last week,

have assessed that they can be sepa-

operation. They have got to have six

months of preparation before they

can be separated," Margaret Smith,

Foundation, told AFP.

December 2006.

Rajshahi yesterday.

UNB, Dhaka

City/Town

Chittagong

Cox's Bazar

Rajshahi

Khulna

Barisal

Sylhet

Dhaka

chief executive of the Children First

They are quite normal. They just

Australia late last year from

Bangladesh, where they were living

in an orphanage at an undisclosed

location. According to the charity,

they were orphaned at birth in

They are staying at Melbourne's

Royal Children's Hospital, one of

Australia's leading medical institu-

tions for children, and will live at a

rehabilitation centre in the country-

happen to be joined at the head."

"They are very beautiful little girls.

rated but it will be a difficult task.

Surgeons, who carried out the option

after them said Tuesday.

AFP, Sydney

Orphaned Bangladeshi

They have had one stage of an survive to one year of age. But if one

The children were brought to cover the basic medical costs, but is

Swiss Ambassador Dora Rapold talks to common people at Bakshimoil

School during her visit to some projects at Tanore and Mohonpur upazilas in

Weather will remain dry over the country in the next 12 hours until

country during early morning, Met Office said, predicting nearly

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the

Highest temperature 27.3 degrees Celsius was recorded yester-

The sun sets in the capital at 5:33pm and rises at 6:43am tomor-

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

11.8

13.6

08.7

12.4

11.0

13.3

15.0

Humidityin

percentage

Morning Evening

59

80

50

72

85

83

56

day at Cox's Bazar and lowest 8.2 degrees Celsius at Jessore.

Temperature

incelsius

23.6

24.6

25.0

25.4

25.5

23.5

27.3

Max Min

Dry weather likely

unchanged night temperature over the country.

major cities and towns yesterday were:

conjoined twins set

while there is lack of time for story researches, Jon Barnes said, adding that there is also journalists' lacking in understanding the complex

Demanding more strategic support for media, he said public policies and an enabling environment should be created for media through supportive media legislation and independent media regulation bodies.

Besides mainstream media, alternative media, such as community radio and the needs of local journalists should also be seriously considered," he said.

Moderating the discussion, Panos South Asia Representative SM Mayeen Ahmed said information for the poor and of the poor is not truly highlighted in the media.

"We want the voices of the voiceless to be reflected," he added. He said the participation of media was not actively considered in preparing the document of PRSP

(Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper). "We need budget for media to disseminating information to the poor," he added.

"I have not seen enough investigative reports on poverty issues,"

side if successfully separated, while

which drain from the two girls'

brains are joined, causing blood to

flow from one child to the other. As a

result, the smaller of the two is

neurosurgery at the hospital, has

told Melbourne's The Age newspa-

per the task ahead was "momen-

tous" but separation was the only

problem die before they get to a

major centre, so they've done well to

child dies they both die," Maixner

four operations over the next six

months, with the next scheduled for

Australian dollars (225,000 US) to

still seeking 150,000 dollars to cover

ongoing care costs, of which Smith

said 10,000 dollars has so far been

said the government would see i

there was any way it could help, but

warned it was unlikely as large

numbers of Australians with surgi-

cal needs were unable to pay for

Ser

PHOTO: STAR

Health Minister Nicola Roxon

The girls require another three or

The charity has raised 250,000

told the newspaper.

six weeks from now.

"A lot of these children with this

Wirginia Maixner, director of

suffering heart failure already.

According to reports, the veins

recovering from the surgery.

said Planning Commission Joint Chief Dr M Golam Sarwar.

"As a society our tolerance to poverty probably is too high," he

Dr Sarwar said the second PRSP for 2008-2011 will be prepared by June-July this year, but it will not be possible to go out of Dhaka for consulting grassroots people because of the present nature of the government.

The New Nation Editor Mostafa Kamal Majumder said journalists face difficulties in getting information from the government officials for their secretive nature, while the NGOs want the media to carry only their messages.

When the state-owned media cover only event-based news, the private news organisations are sponsored by politicians, businessmen and even NGOs, he said, adding that an environment should be created in media for balanced reports.

"NGOs and civil society organisations should understand the working conditions of the journalists and prepare materials accordingly in time with due contexts," he

QUESTION LEAKAGE Resignation

of NUVC demanded

DU CORRESPONDENT

Students of Dhaka College and Shaheed Titumir College yesterday staged demonstrations protesting the postponement of English compulsory examinations of the National University (NU) for the second time upon allegation of question paper leakage.

They demanded immediate resignation of the NU vicechancellor for his failure to check question leakage.

The examinations of English compulsory course of BA Honours part-2 were earlier scheduled for November 11, but that were also postponed due to same reason.

Aggrieved students of the two colleges took to the streets and pus. blocked the New Market-Mirpur road and Mohakhli-Gulshan road for over half an hour at noon, causing disruption of traffic movements.

Switzerland to spend 20m francs a year for dev projects

ANWAR ALI, Rajshahi

Ambassador of Switzerland to Bangladesh Dora Rapold yesterday said her country would spend up to 20 million Swiss francs annually for different development projects for next five years.

"We have defined our priorities which include strengthening of the local government and spreading of education among the rural poor,' she said.

"Our second priority will be rural employment and income generating activities apart from funding on micro-credit and small entrepreneur promotion," she Dora was talking to The Daily

Star after her visit to some projects involving indigenous groups on fisheries, sanitation and water distribution system at Tanore and Mohonpur upazilas.

"We took Rajshahi and Sunamganj as our priority region considering poverty and great potentials of the areas," she said.

Switzerland is spending about 4 million Swiss francs for 16 development projects in Rajshahi and Sunamganj under Sharique programme in cooperation with Care Bangladesh.

DEFAMATION CASE RU teacher

gets bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court yesterday granted bail to Rajshahi University (RU) teacher M Faruk-uz-Zaman after he surrendered before the court.

The court on Monday issued an arrest warrant against Faruk following a defamation suit against him by RUVC Prof M Altaf Hossain in August last year.

Earlier in July Faruk, a professor of history department, sent memoranda to the chief adviser, education adviser and UGC chairman alleging irregularities against the VC and demanding his removal.



Prof Kabir Chowdhury speaks at a meeting in memory of Justice KM Sobhan, president of Bangabandhu Parishad, at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Selim Al Deen to be laid to rest today

Condolences pour in STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nation will pay homage to Selim Al Deen, the legendary drama icon of the country, at Central Shaheed Minar in the city today before his burial on Jahangirnagar University (JU) campus.

Teachers, students, theatre men. littérateur and his admirers will take out a procession from the National Museum at 9:00am that will accompany the car carrying the mortal remains of one of the foremost of the theatre figures in the subconti-

nent to Shaheed Minar. The body will be kept on a special alter there till 12:45pm for the people to pay their last respects to the writer.

Later, the body will be taken to Dhaka University (DU) Central Mosque where his first namaz-ejanaza will be held after Zohr

The body will then be taken to JU and the second namaz-e-janaza will be held there after Asr prayers. He will be buried in the graveyard adjacent to JU Central

Mosque afterwards. All classes, scheduled to be held at JU after noontime, will remain suspended for performing the burial to this end.

An emergency syndicate meet-

ing yesterday took the decision while also approving the decision to bury him on the university cam-JU will also hold a condolence

meeting at the central auditorium on January 19 while different cultural organisations have announced of launching programmes in memory of the eminent playwright. Meanwhile, different cultural,

political and social organisations yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of Dr Selim Al Deen, also a professor at the department of Drama and Dramatics, JU. The organisations prayed for

salvation of the departed soul and conveyed sympathy to the bereaved family members. Jahangirnagar Sanskritik Jote

(JSJ) in a statement said Selim Al Deen had been the harbinger of the country's cultural movement and his death caused an irreparable loss to the cultural arena. Gono Forum, Sammilita

Sanskritik Jote, Bangladesh Lekhak Shibir, Bangladesh Centre of the International Theatre Institute, Theatre, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Jahangirnagar Theatre, Jahangirnagar Students' Film Society and Ronesh Dasgupta Chalachhitra Sangsad also condoled the death of the eminent playwright.

DU student found dead at husband's residence

DU CORRESPONDENT

A female student of Dhaka University (DU) was found dead at the residence of her husband on

The body of Fatematuzzohra Eti, a MA student of Bangla Department, was hanging from a ceiling fan at her bedroom.

She was married to one Atiqur Rahman Victor, an employee of HSBC Bank, for one and a half

Eti, who hailed from Rangpur, lived with her husband's family at Rupayan Palace at Mirpur-10.

Eti's uncle Mahfuzur Rahman an employee of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), said Eti's mother-in-law Manwara Parvin informed him over phone at 4:00pm that Eti was not opening the door of her room. Mahfuzur rushed to the spot

and found Eti hanging from a ceiling fan after breaking the door at 10:00pm.

Later, he brought the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. However, Mahfuzur said Eti's

DHAKA

TODAY

Unnayan Onneshan and Overseas

Development Institute (ODI), UK jointly

organise a seminar on 'Stakeholder

perceptions on the aid effectiveness of

multilateral organisations'. Venue:

Bangladesh Enterprise Institute (BEI)

organises a seminar on 'Role of

regulatory bodies in ensuring good

corporate governance practice'.

Venue: BEI conference room. Time:

Centre for Advanced Research in

Humanities, DU organises a lecture on

religious pluralism and humanities.

Venue: 434, Lecture Theater. Time:

Certificate distribution

Certificate distribution ceremony for

the second batch of the Salma Sobhan

Fellowship for Women in Journalism

will be held. Venue: Brac Centre

auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Cirdap Auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Seminar

BEI seminar

10:00am.

Lecture

10:00am.

licence of a revolver of Nanak and some other documents. When asked, Dhanmondi police confirmed the raid but said they were not aware of any arrest. 8 criminals

feet were touching the bed and her

husband's family could not give

He also alleged the family of

him a clear description of the inci-

Eti's husband took Tk 50000 from

her father, who retired recently, on

different occasions.

Joint forces

residence

city last night.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the joint forces con-

ducted a raid on the residence of

Jubo League Chairman Jahangir

Kabir Nanak at Green Road in the

His family members said mem-

bers of the joint forces entered the

house at about 8:30pm and searched

four rooms and two almirahs. They

also took away the photocopy of the

raid Nanak's

in Pallabi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

arrested

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested eight members of a gang led by listed criminal Shahadat from the city's Pallabi area and recovered four firearms along with 19 bullets in the early hours of yesterday.

The arrestees were identified as Md Imran, 20, Al-Mamun, 21, Md Momin, 23, Al-Amin alias Johnny, 22, Ali Islam, 20, Nazmul Islam alias Jewel, 18, Rafiqul Islam alias Robin, 18, and Zisanul Rahman Pial, 18. Rab-4 sources said they arrested

Md Imran, Al-Mamun and Md Momin from the Eastern Housing area at 2:00am and recovered two revolvers, a shutter gun and nine bullets. Acting on their confession, Rab

members arrested five others from Mirpur Section-11 and recovered another revolver with 11 bullets.

Rab said the arrestees admitted their involvement in killing, gunfight, extortion and other crimes.

Crime rate falls, probes make little headway

Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) also resulted in the law and order improvement. Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad recently said an excellent situation has been prevailing in the country since the six top JMB leaders were executed. Extra-judicial killings by law

enforcers, especially by the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police, also marked a significant downfall comparing to the previous years. According to human rights organisation Odhikar, 290 people

were killed in 'crossfire' or 'encounter' in Rab-police action in 2006 and 129 in 2007. The year 2007 was successful for the law enforcers as they found out the motives and detected the

attackers of some of the deadliest bomb and grenade blasts including that of the August 21 on an Awami League (AL) rally in 2004. The law enforcers claim they succeeded as they could work neu-

trally and without any interference. The long trend of harassment of people by police has also marked significant fall last year as the highups had taken a number of steps to checkit. Illegal arrests, issuance of threats to arrest, detaining people wrong-

fully and releasing later in exchange of money, unnecessarily taking arrestees into remand for illegal purpose were some of the significant forms of police harassment. Organised criminal gangs

'Ogyan Party' and 'Molom Party'

were serious headache for the law

enforcers as they doped several people to death. But the law enforcers cracked down heavily on them and arrested Abdul Aziz, the gang's main coordinator. Alarming spread of Yaba trade

and its use appeared as a major concern for the law enforcers. However, a massive crackdown on the drug dealers, suppliers and users curbed Yaba trading and use significantly. The crackdown by law enforcers,

the arrest of a number of people all divisional headquarters. including businessmen and student and Yaba dealers. Rab netted drug baron Amin Huda and unearthed his Yaba producing factory. The year was a new experience

for the police as their high-ups took all-out measures to improve the image of the force. As many as 12,365 policemen suffered different terms of punishment on different charges and 182 of them even lost their jobs.

UNREST IN GARMENT AND JUTE

Several incidents of clashes between workers of different jute mills and law enforcers in Chittagong, Khulna and Narayanganj left one killed and several hundred including policemeninjured.

Workers of a number of garment factories in Tejgaon and Mirpur in the capital and in Gazipur also staged demonstrations, blockaded

roads and highways and clashed

DUVIOLENCE

demands.

Thousands of students on Dhaka University (DU) campus fought pitched battles with police in the night of August 20 demanding removal of an army camp. Much of Dhaka city later turned into a battleground as students continued clashing with police in the fallout from the beating of three DU students by army personnel.

In the aftermath of the violence particularly by the Rab, resulted in the government slapped a curfew in EXECUTION OF SIX TOP MILITANTS

> JMB supremo Abdur Rahman, his deputy Bangla Bhai and four other top leaders were executed on March 29 for killing two Jhalakathi judges on November 14, 2005. The executions mark in all prob-

> ability the end of the country's first overt militancy campaign that rattled the nation through a series of coordinated blasts and suicide bombings in 2005. Abdur Rahman was hanged at

Comilla jail, Bangla Bhai and Abdul Awal, JMB Majlish-e-Shura (highest decision-making body) members and Rahman's son-in-law, at Mymensingh jail. The outfit's military commander

and Rahman's youngest brother Ataur Rahman Sunny and suicide bomber Iftekhar Hasan Mamun were executed at Kashimpur jail in Gazipur, while another Shura member Khaled Saifullah was hanged to with police to press home their death at Pabnajail.



Obituary

Lutfunnessa Hamid, wife of Dr Abdul Hamid, passed away at United Hospital on January 14 due to old-age complications, says a press release.

She is survived by her sons AYM Kamal, former director of FBCCI. AYM Naim, managing director of Travel Trade, AYM Selim, former country director of UNDP in Sri Lanka, and her only daughter Yasmin Hassan.

She was buried at Uttara grave-

A doa mahfil for the salvation of the departed soul will be held at her Uttara House # 43, Road # 1, Sector #13 on Friday, January 18, after Asr

Syeda Nuresh Muksud



Advocate Syeda Nuresh Muksud, a former lawmaker and vice president of Bangladesh Mahila Samity, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at the Apollo

Hospitals in the city on Monday at the age of 68. President and general secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Samity expressed deep shock at the death of Nuresh Muksud and conveyed

They also prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

sympathy to the members of the

Her qulkhwani will be held at her residence at House no18, Road no 6/A, Uttara in the city on January 18.

BSS, Dhaka Rahela Khatun, mother of

Rahela Khatun

bereaved family.

Shamsuddin Haroon, senior vicepresident of BFUJ and Chittagong bureau chief of the daily Manabzamin, passed away at her

She is survived by two sons and three daughters.

Pallabi residence yesterday at the

She was buried at her family graveyard at Pallabi extension. BFUJ President Mozammel Haq, General Secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, EC member Zahidul Karim and President of Chittgong Metropolitan Union of Journalists Shamsul Haq Haidari in a joint statement expressed condolence

Md Mayeen Uddin Mainu

at the death of Rahela Khatun.



Uddin Mainu, assistant general secretary of Bangladesh Truck-Coveredvan Malik Samity, passed away due to a cardiac arrest at his resi-

Md Mayeen

dence yesterday at the age of 45, says a press release. He left behind his wife, four sons, three daughters and admirers

to mourn his death. President, senior vice-president and general secretary of Bangladesh Truck-Coveredvan Malik Samity expressed deep shock at his death

and conveyed sympathy to mem-

bers of the bereaved family.

Hazera Begum

Hazera Begum, mother of former DCC ward commissioner Mahamudul Alam Montu, passed away due to old age complications at her Maizpara residence under Ramganj upazila on Monday at the age of 75, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons, two daughters, and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Chehlum



Hazrat Abdul Karim Al Chisti will be held today at Shajadpur village in Sirajganj, says a press release.

Chehlum of

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the chehlum and pray for salvation of

the departed soul. Qulkhwani

BSS, Dhaka

Qulkhwani of Begum Masuma Aziz, mother of the Jatiya Press Club (JPC) President Shaukat Mahmud, will be held after Asr prayers at JPC auditorium today. Begum Masuma passed away at a city hospital on Saturday.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhwani and pray for the departed soul.

He passed away on December 10 at the age of 95.