

My present goal is to ensure healthcare for Bangladeshis

Prof Yunus tells discussion in US

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus has said he would make every effort to provide healthcare facilities to all Bangladeshis.

"My present goal is to ensure healthcare for all Bangladeshis," he said while speaking at a discussion on 'Grameen America and Social Business' at the John F Kennedy Presidential Library in Boston, USA on Saturday.

Yunus called upon the interested individuals and institutions to come forward to invest in social business.

Terming Bangladesh a potentially rich nation in the world, he

said the potentiality of a significant number of its population remained untapped due to poverty and various diseases.

Yunus urged all to invest in health sector as a large number of the countrymen is deprived of healthcare facilities.

"My dream for tomorrow is to bring all the citizens under the healthcare service," he told the function.

Earlier at a meeting with Yunus, Microsoft boss Bill Gates had expressed his willingness to invest in the healthcare sector of Bangladesh.

He told the gathering that Intel would invest in IT sector to help

change the fate of Bangladeshis. Also on Saturday, speaking as chief guest at the annual graduation of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, Yunus called upon the younger generation to flourish the world by using their potentiality.

Some 2335 graduates, teachers and guardians attended the function.

In the evening, the Nobel laureate attended a reception organised by the local Bangladeshis.

Yunus is scheduled to deliver a speech at the Herbert University before leaving the United States for Brazil.

He is also expected to visit Iran.

HC directs inquiry into shalish over rape case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the authorities to conduct an inquiry within two weeks into a so-called shalish (arbitration) inflicting a young girl, a rape victim, with dorrals (cane sticks) at Sadarupazila in Laxmipur.

Following an application filed by Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity Executive Director advocate Salma Ali, an HC bench comprising Justice Md Imman Ali and Justice Md Emdadul Huq passed the order.

The HC also asked Mohrom Ali who conducted the arbitration to explain why he conducted so.

Advocate Fawzia Karim, who moved the petition, told The Daily Star yesterday that the HC bench asked the home secretary, police super, deputy commissioner of the district and officer-in-charge of the local police station to submit the enquiry report to the registrar of the Supreme Court and also fixed July 9 for further order on this matter.

Some miscreants led by Sohail and Rahman of Purbo Dighal of the upazila raped the girl on May 27 last. The victim's father wanted to complain with the police in this regard.

The local matbors (arbitrators), however, assured him of fair justice and stopped him from going to the police.

The arbitrators of the village, led by Mohrom Ali, conducted the arbitration on June 4 last and fined Tk 15,000 with 100 dorrals to Sohail and Rahman each. They also inflicted the victim with 50 dorrals.

A national daily newspaper yesterday published a report on the incident.

Advocate Salma Ali filed the petition with the newspaper report.

Victim of mugging dies after fighting for life for 9 days

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After fighting for life for nine days, the production official of Kohinur Chemical Company who was stabbed by the muggers in the city, succumbed to his injuries yesterday.

Shafiqul Islam Masud, 32, of East Nakhalpara, was attacked in front of Notre Dame College by a gang of muggers while he was on his way home in a rickshaw from Saydabad bus terminal in the early hours of May 31.

Victim's cousin Mohammad Sagor said, "The snatchers stabbed in his chest and took away bag, mobile phone and other valuables from him."

He was admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital where he died at the intensive care unit in the afternoon.

Appeal for help

Shihab Shahriar, aged 7, is suffering from blood cancer, says a press release. He has been under the treatment of Prof Afiqul Islam of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University for two years.

Shihab needs bone marrow transplantation in Singapore which will cost around Tk 1.50 crore.

His parents, who are teachers by profession, have already spent about Tk 12 lakh for his treatment.

So they have appealed to well-to-do section of the society for financial assistance to save the life of their only child.

Contributions can be sent to Md Abdur Razzak, A/C No 13881, Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, Mirpur, Dhaka, or Md Abdur Razzak, A/C No 3863, Agrani Bank Ltd, Pallabi, Dhaka, or Dilara Afroz, A/C No 5033161001, One Bank Ltd, Mirpur, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact Md Abdur Razzak, Assistant Professor, Accounting Department, Bangabandhu College, Pallabi, Dhaka, Phone: 8019353, 018163412, or Dilara Afroz, Lecturer, Home Economics Department, Harun Mollah College, Pallabi, Dhaka. House # 366/3, East Kazipara, Mirpur, Dhaka. Mobile: 01816341271.

BAF tree plantation begins

Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal SM Ziaur Rahman inaugurated the tree plantation programme of Bangladesh Air Force yesterday by planting a star-apple sapling at Air Headquarters premises, says an ISPR press release.

Principal staff officers of the air headquarters and senior BAF officers attended the plantation programme.

Similar programme has also been taken in different BAF establishments and base areas. Bangladesh Air Force Women Welfare Association will also take part in tree plantation programme.



BNP leaders and activists, demanding unconditional release of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, line up on a road in Sangsad Bhaban area in the city yesterday when Khaleda was taken to a special court.

SABEQUUNNAHAR'S DEATH ANNIVERSARY

Resist those who push students to crimes: Dr Kamal

DU CORRESPONDENT

Eminent Jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said young students are being involved in crime and violence by some vested quarters to achieve their selfish interests.

"We shall have to be united against those evil forces which are pushing our children to crime and violence on the campuses," he said, adding, "It is our national and constitutional responsibility to resist them."

Dr Kamal, also the president of Gono Forum, was speaking at a discussion meeting organised on the occasion of the 6th death anniversary of Sabequunnahar Sony, a female student of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buet), at the Institution of Engineers' auditorium in the city.

Mentioning the glorious role of Dhaka University and Buet students during the Language Movement and the Liberation War, he urged all to identify the evil forces and said, "We cannot let the spirit of the liberation war be destroyed, and it is our sacred duty to make the educational institutions free from crime and violence."

"Dilara Rahman, mother of Sony who was killed during a gunfight between the two factions of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on the Buet campus on this day in 2002, urged the caretaker government to frame laws to stop the politics of teachers and students on the campuses."

She also demanded that the day be observed as 'Crime-free Educational Institution Day'.

Former adviser to caretaker government SM Shahjahan said

what is morally wrong cannot be right politically.

"To save our students from the clutch of the politicians, we have to create an environment of morality on the campuses," he added.

Noted educationists Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui said it is difficult to make the campuses free from crimes without eliminating them from the entire country.

He urged the policymakers to give importance to make the campuses free from crime and violence.

Parbatya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) Chief Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, women leader Shirin Akhter, Sony's father Habibur Rahman Bhuiya, scientist Dr Abed Chowdhury, and Bangladesh Chhatra Forum President Bijoy Shankar Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

Adaptation, mitigation can reduce high risks of climate change

Experts say at workshop

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Experts at a workshop yesterday said climate change as well as its effect is an alarming news for Bangladesh and adaptation and mitigation processes can only reduce the high risks of the climate change.

They said this at a workshop under a collaborative research project styled 'Impact of climate and sea-level change in part of the Indian subcontinent (CLASIO)' at Bangladesh University of Engineering Technology (Buet).

Addressing as the chief guest, Buet Vice Chancellor Prof AMM Safiullah said, "There are two specific ways that human can respond to climate change are through adaptation and mitigation. Adaptation tries to reduce the vulnerability of human system to the stresses of climate, whereas mitigation aims to lower or even remove greenhouse gases."

Bangladesh is one of the countries which will be severely affected by the climate and sea-level change, he added.

Any undesirable change is going to affect economic development, poverty alleviation, food security, public health and safety, quality of life and protection of the natural environment, he said.

The workshop was jointly organised by Institute of Water and Flood Management (IWFM), Buet and Centre for Environmental and Geographic Information Services (CEGIS).

The research project is being carried out by Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, Wallingford, UK; Proudman Oceanographic Laboratory (POL), Liverpool, UK and Hadley Centre, Meteorological Office, UK. The project is funded by Department for International Development (DFID), UK.

Prof Jahir Uddin Chowdhury of IWFM said changes in availability of water and frequency of water-

related hazards due to climate change are likely to cause enormous impact on livelihood activities, economic growth and social prosperity in the country.

Adaptation and mitigation measures can create new opportunities as well as cause losses of livelihood opportunities depending on the characteristics of the changes in water regime brought about by climate change, he added.

Jahir further said studies are needed to identify and quantify the possible impacts of climate change on water regime.

Prof and Director of IWFM Anisul Haque said, "The low-lying topography, the riverine and coastal flooding, tropical cyclones, storm surges, poverty, higher population density and poor institutional development have made Bangladesh more vulnerable to climate change and variability."

Ahmedul Hassan of CEGIS and Frank Farquharson of CEH also addressed the session.

Verdict in corruption case against Ershad June 18

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday fixed June 18 for pronouncing verdict of a corruption case filed 16 years back against former president and Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad.

Another court will decide today whether the final report (FRT) of a corruption case against Beximco Holdings Ltd Chairman Sohail F Rahman, its Vice-chairman Salman F Rahman, former managing director (MD) of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd CM Koyes Sami and seven others will be accepted.

ERSHAD CASE Judge Golam Mortuza Majumder of the Special Court for Dhaka Division set the date for delivering the verdict after completion of arguments from the prosecution and the defence.

During the hearing, the prosecution told the court that they were able to prove the corruption charges regarding the purchase of electronic news gathering (ENG) equipment against Ershad beyond doubts and prayed for the highest punishment to the accused for committing the offences.

The defence appealed to the court for their client's acquittal, saying that the prosecution utterly failed to prove the charges brought against their client.

The court recorded statements of 21 prosecution witnesses including the complainant and the investigation officer (IO) of the case during trial.

The case was filed with the Tejaagon Police Station in 1992.

According to the case proceedings, Ershad during his tenure as the president allegedly directed the

authorities concerned to purchase ENG equipment worth about Tk 2.93 crore for personal use although all broadcasting facilities were available at his secretariat.

Ram Mohan Nath, an official of now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC), also the IO of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on September 15, 1994.

The trial of the case began on March 29, 2003.

Earlier, Ershad was acquitted of five graft cases and a gold smuggling case.

SALMAN CASE After scrutinising the case documents, Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Senior Special Judge's Court will pass the order on the probe report that cleared Salman and other accused of the charges.

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Assistant Director Mahbubul Alam filed the case with the Mohiuddin Police Station against 10 people including Salman and Sohail on October 1 last year on charges of misappropriating Tk 191.39 crore.

The complainant alleged that the accused showed 151.51 acres of land in Gazipur as security for getting loans, although the lands belong to the government and others.

The accused included former AB Bank Ltd MD Abu Hanif, former officials of the bank MA Awal and Tawhidul Islam, Beximco Holdings Ltd Directors Iqbal Ahmed, MA Qasem, and Osman Kaiser Chowdhury and its ex-official Binoy Krishna Nath.

ACC Assistant Director Mojiur Rahman, also the IO of the case, submitted the FRT to the Dhaka CMM's Court on June 5.

In the probe report, the IO

mentioned that the case was filed against the 10 for resorting to fraudulence to obtain a bank loan of Tk 191.39 crore.

But the charges brought against the accused were not proved, the IO said adding that the accused paid the loans taken from the bank.

The IO appealed to the court for discharging the accused from the charges.

The former bank officials were accused in the case for providing the loans without checking the documents, which later were found out to be forged.

Citizens' charter for textile ministry ready

BSS, Dhaka

A citizens' charter has been prepared for the Ministry of Textiles and Jute aiming at bringing dynamism and improving standard of its work.

The ministry is working for development of the foreign currency earner and environment-friendly textiles sector to compete in the world market, said an official handout yesterday.

The citizens' charter provides description of work and services of the ministry, and time limit for providing services for individuals and organisations.

It is hoped that the charter would be helpful to ensure rights of the citizens. All information related to the charter would be available at the following website:

www.mot.gov.bd.

Israil made DG of Attorney Department

UNB, Dhaka



His Director General on June 4.

Israil Hossain, absorbed in the Legislative Drafting Wing in 2000, worked as joint secretary in the Law Ministry since August 2005.

He also worked as deputy Secretary of Law Ministry and Additional Project Director of Legal and Judicial Capacity Building Project.

The caretaker government set up the Government Attorney Department on June 2 this year according to the Government Attorney Service Ordinance for dealing with cases in court and performing other duties on behalf of the state.

Proposals for further empowerment of women

Nari Uddyog Kendra team meets president

UNB, Dhaka

A 10-member delegation of Nari Uddyog Kendra (NUK), a platform of elected representatives of local government bodies, called on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday and put forward proposals for further empowerment of the womenfolk.

During the meeting, the delegation members apprised the president of their different activities to empower women and ensure women's participation in the national development process.

They also emphasised ensuring 40 percent women representation in different local government bodies as well as specifying the women representatives' jurisdiction in the activities of local bodies in the country.

Iajuddin gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured them of extending his "all-out cooperation" to them.

Shamima Sultana Sima, a commissioner of Khulna City Corporation, Anju Ahmed, a commissioner of Rajshahi City Corporation, Taslima Kalam Poly, a commissioner of Barisal City Corporation, and Jebun Nahar, a commissioner of Sylhet City Corporation, were also present.

Military Secretary to the President Maj Gen Mohd Aminul Karim, Secretary of the President's Office Md Sariful Islam and President's Press Secretary Abdul Awal Howlader were present.

Jamuna Fertiliser resumes urea production

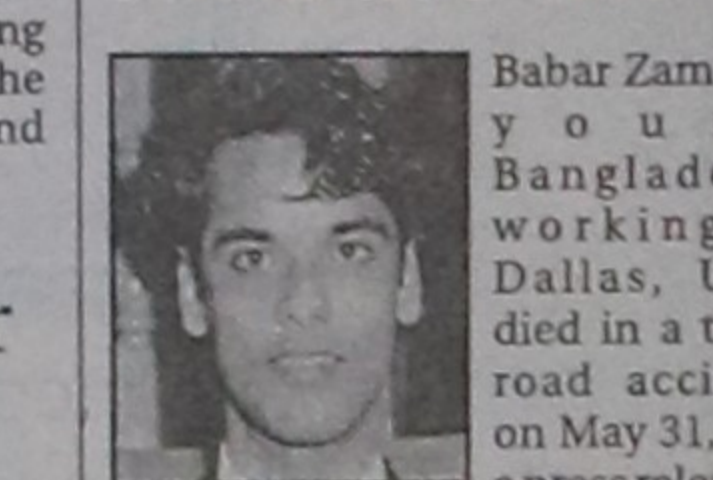
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Production of urea resumed at Jamuna Fertiliser Factory (JFF) at Tarakandi in Jamalpur yesterday after suspension of the production for technical glitches for four days.

According to the sources, technical faults were detected in the urea plant of JFF, country's highest urea producing factory, seven days ago and production of urea was suspended since Tuesday morning for its repairing work.

After repairing, urea production resumed in the factory since yesterday afternoon, sources added.

Bangladeshi dies in US road accident



He was serving there as a senior project manager of FedEx Kinko's. He is the only son of Quazi Anisuzzaman and Hira Zaman.

His body will arrive in Bangladesh this week.

Obituary



release. A doa mahfil for salvation of the departed soul will be held today after Maghrib prayers at her residence (Sheltech Symphony, House-9, Road-33, Gulshan) in the city.

Graft suspects in committee to review BSMMU irregularities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The high-level officials of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), allegedly involved in corruption and irregularities during the last government, have been included in a newly formed committee to review irregularities at the institution.

A new committee was formed yesterday with six syndicate members at the 27th syndicate meeting of the BSMMU to implement the report of the review committee.

A number of BSMMU senior teaching staff told The Daily Star of their apprehension over the inclusion of alleged corrupt teachers in the committee, asking how they can investigate their own irregularities.

The newly formed committee, led by Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Tahir, will implement the report of the review committee. Other members are Prof Mobin Khan of

Hepatology Department, Prof Shirajul Haque of Cardiology Department, Iqbal Arslan of Biochemistry Department, Dhaka Medical College Principal Prof Deen Mohammad and DAB President Azizul Haque.

However, there are allegations against most of the committee members, including the VC, and the committee is formulated only to pass time and also to dilute the reports, said a group of senior teachers on condition of anonymity, adding that things have been diluted much already in the review report.

The committee is nothing but a farce when the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) is still continuing its investigation, they added.

The ACC has identified that Prof Tahir, who was the then Pro-VC, embezzled Tk 64 lakh in the name of renovation work prior to arrival of the Saudi health minister. The then treasurer Prof Mobin Khan was also involved in misappropriating around Tk 8 crore,

according to the report of the probe committee that was submitted on July 26 last year.

DAB President Azizul Haque was also the member of the central purchase committee. Anomaly of around Tk 3 crore was found in case of purchasing Cathlab, an important instrument for heart surgery that also involved Prof Shirajul Haque, chairman of cardiology department.

Asked about the rationality of formulating the new committee to implement the report of the review committee, BSMMU VC Prof Tahir expressed unwillingness to say anything as the registrar only is responsible to disseminate messages of the syndicate meeting, according to the decision of the syndicate.

Registrar and Syndicate Secretary Muhammad Abdul Gafur, however, said, "ACC has been investigating the issues of BSMMU since April 8 this year and we want it to continue its work independently."

Workshop for English teachers held at Laxmipur

A month-long workshop for English teachers of 10 schools at Laxmipur was held at the auditorium of Khilbaisa GF Union High School last month, says a press release.

Rtn Sayed Kamaluddin, editor of the weekly Holiday and president of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga, distributed certificates among the participants while Prof Dr Ruhul Amin was special guest on the occasion.

Deputy commissioner of Laxmipur inaugurated the workshop on May 1.

The workshop was sponsored by Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga in association with the Old Students' Forum of the school.

Former additional secretaries NG Paul and AMM Reza-e-Rabbi and Brig Gen Mirza TH Beggs (ret), chairman of English department of South East University, also spoke on the occasion.

Rtn Lt Col Md Ruhul Amin (ret), programme director of the course and principal of BEPZA Public College, conducted the workshop.

The speakers highlighted the importance and various aspects of English education and appreciated the initiative in an area where there is acute shortage of English teachers.

Amin, who is also the chairman of the managing committee of the school, hoped that such programmes would be organised at upazila and district levels.

He suggested setting up an association of English teachers in Laxmipur along with a library with the active support of the district and upazila authorities. Sayed Kamaluddin and the DC assured of their support to this end.

Air Arabia starts operation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UAE-based low-cost carrier Air Arabia started its operation from the Zia International Airport (ZIA) in the city yesterday, which will help Middle East-bound Bangladeshi workers travel at a lower price.

The inaugural flight of Air Arabia left ZIA for Sharjah at 7:40pm. This is for the first time any budget airlines got permission to operate from ZIA.

A colourful programme was organised at ZIA to mark the occasion. Syed Mohammad Zobaer, secretary, Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, and UAE Ambassador Khalifan Battal Ali Al-Mansouri were present at the inaugural ceremony.

Initially, Air Arabia will operate four flights a week from Dhaka. The plane fare costs about Tk 9,300 (one way and excluding tax).

The entry of the low-cost carriers, analysts say, will help thousands of Bangladeshi workers go to the Middle East at a fare approximately \$100 less than the fare offered by the conventional carriers.

Low-cost airlines are able to offer airfare \$100 to \$150 less than that of the legacy carriers. This is because of using same category aircraft and crew, low maintenance and fuel cost, short-haul flights, curtailment of onboard services like food and beverage, restrictions on baggage weight, online booking system and non-refundable tick-

ets. The services onboard are however available on demand.

GRAFT CASE

HC quashes proceedings against Tasmima

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday quashed the proceedings against Tasmima Hossain, wife of former minister Anwar Hossain Manju, in a corruption case filed by Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Upon a writ petition, an HC bench comprising Justice Mohammad Abdur Rashid and Justice Md Ashfaque Islam passed the judgement.

Barrister Rafique-ul Huq, counsel for Tasmima, in a statement yesterday said following the HC verdict the proceedings against Tasmima in this case pending with the Special Judges Court No 10 in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban area have been stopped.

The ACC filed the case under emergency power rules (EPR) with Dhanmondi Police Station last year.

Following a quashment petition filed by Tasmima, the HC earlier issued a rule upon the ACC to show cause as to why the proceedings against the petitioner should not be quashed. After hearing on the rule, the HC yesterday declared the initiation and continuation of the proceedings in the case illegal.



Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at a few places over

Dhaka, Rajshahi and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting nearly unchanged day temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 34.4 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sylhet and lowest 23.8 degrees Celsius at Sandwip.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:45pm today and rises at 5:10am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	31.0	26.8	79	77
Chittagong	30.7	26.2	77	79