



Monica Yunus honoured

METRO DESK

Monica Yunus, a noted soprano at Metropolitan Opera of New York and elder daughter of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, has been awarded the Doha 21st Century Leaders Award from Qatar, says a press release.

The award is granted to individuals who, whilst being leaders in their own fields, have also made a serious commitment and significant impact on their chosen cause.

The award is given to individuals, who have used their influence to raise awareness, their celebrated status to raise funds, and the respect and prominence which they have gained from successes in their chosen profession, to make positive policy changes to progress either environmental or humanitarian concerns.

Monica has been chosen in the category of Outstanding Humanitarian. From early on in her opera career, Monica has championed the theme of 'Everyone has something to offer which in turn empowers people of all backgrounds to be in a position to make a difference.'

Other recipients of the Doha 2009 21st Century Leaders Award are Sir Bob Geldof, KBE, Sir Kingsley, CBE for Outstanding Humanitarian; Josh Hartnett, Danny Boyle and Christian Colson for Outstanding Humanitarian, Serena and Venus Williams for Outstanding Humanitarian and Sir Richard Branson for Outstanding Leadership.

The Award Ceremony will take place on October 30 in Doha and will be attended by members of the Al-Thani royal family who have also invited Monica to attend the Reach Out Asia Royal Gala Dinner on October 31.

Guests include Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Sheikha Moza bint Nasser Al Missned, Heir Apparent Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani and his wife Sheikha Jawaher bint Hamad bin Sohaim Al-Thani, Sheikha Al-Mayassa bint Hamad Al-Thani and Prime Minister of Qatar Sheikh Hamad bin Jassim bin Jaber Al-Thani.

Scout conference begins in Kuala Lumpur

UNB, Dhaka

The five-day 23rd Asia Pacific Regional Scout Conference began in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, yesterday.

A 34-member high-level delegation of Bangladesh Scouts is now in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to attend the conference.

Power Secretary and Chief National Commissioner of Bangladesh Scouts Mohammad Abul Kalam Azad is leading the delegation.

Other members include Communications Secretary Mohammad Mozammel Haque Khan, Habibur Alam, Prof Sayedur Rahman, Prof Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, Prof Rafiqul Islam Khan, AKM Istaq Hossain, Mesbahuddin Bhuyan and Nazrul Islam.

The delegation will also participate in different forums, workshops and seminars.

Bangladesh Scouts will contest with Thailand and Indonesia in the conference for holding the 24th APR conference in Bangladesh in 2012.

This year, the conference is being held with the participation of 23 Asia Pacific countries for development and expansion of scouting.

Save Mirpur green square: Paba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Paribesh Bachao Andolon (Paba) along with the local residents around Mirpur stadium organised a rally yesterday protesting a fresh attempt to construct a market on the remaining green patch in the area.

The residents called on the government to protect the green space, locally known as Sabuj Chhattar (green square) to help children grow properly.

In 2007, Sabuj Chhattar at Block H of Mirpur Section-2 was allotted by National Housing Authority to construct a market.

The attempt was foiled after a storm of protests from the local residents and environmentalists. The High Court

later ordered an injunction on the construction of the market after the residents filed a writ petition.

The residents at the rally alleged that fresh attempts are being made to settle the case.

Paba Chairman Abu Naser Khan said, "Open spaces of the city are protected by law. But still there are efforts to create more establishments which are turning the city into a concrete jungle. Even the government and the policymakers are not aware of the need of parks and open spaces."

"Children don't have places for recreational activities in the city which is hindering their natural growth. We should protect the last remaining greenery, because

it also helps relieve pollution," he added.

Md Yakub Ali, president of Mirpur Ward Seven Green Space and Children's Park Implementation Committee, said, "Our children play here and the elders stroll in the morning. This small piece of greenery is very precious to us. We want to protect this open space at any cost."

Sabuj Chhattar covers only 550 yards by 30 yards of land and also houses around 50 types of herbal as well as medicinal plants, he informed.

Paba General Secretary Kamal Pasha Chowdhury and member of the implementation committee Murshed Ali also spoke.

Folk singer Kuddus Boyati performed at the programme.

CASE AGAINST TARIQUE, MAMUN

Court asks ACC to submit probe report by Nov 30

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to submit by November 30 the probe report in a money-laundering case against senior joint secretary general of BNP Tarique Rahman and his business partner Giasuddin Al Mamun.

Metropolitan Magistrate Abdur Rahim passed the order after accepting the first information report (FIR) of the case.

ACC Assistant Director Mohammad Ibrahim filed the case with Dhaka Cantonment Police Station against them on charges of laundering Tk 20.41 crore to Singapore during the period between 2003 and 2007.

"Tarique withdrew \$55,000 and Mamun \$79,000 from this account using the debit cards. So, Tarique was also implicated in the case," the ACC added.

Later, Mamun confessed to converting the money into Bangladeshi currency, which was recovered and deposited with the Sonali Bank, Cantonment branch, during the caretaker government, according to the case statement.

Mamun, an accused in 12 extortion cases, was sentenced to a total of 23 years' imprisonment in separate cases filed against him for possessing firearms and ammunition, for not submitting his wealth statement, and for amassing huge wealth through illegal means.

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