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Step up watch on militants, market

PM tells deputy commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday directed deputy commissioners to strengthen monitoring of militant activities, and prices of essential commodities.

She also told them to deal with iron hands encroachments on rivers, canals, and other water bodies, and to work with district and upazila level public representatives to boost development activities.

"As administrators you must take measures so none can destabilise the country, and at the same time you must work as friends of the people, whose taxes pay for your salaries," said the premier while addressing the inaugural session of a three-day DC conference in the International Conference Centre of the Prime Ministers' Office.

In her 55-minute speech on subjects related to the central



- Thwart any attempt to create anarchy
- Monitor prices of essentials
- Deal with river and canal encroachers with an iron hand
- Be friends to the people
- Work in coordination with elected representatives

government and local issues, she said, "We have restored democracy overcoming many obstacles. Remain alert, so the hard-earned democracy is not hindered by any quarter. We want peoples' representatives to rule the country, and democracy to continue functioning."

Hasina, also the president of ruling Awami League accused that the last BNP-Jamaat government gave rise to militancy, sponsored militants, and through them blasted bombs simultaneously at 500 spots in the country, besmirching Bangladesh's global image.

"But our government will leave no room for militants. You will have to work in coordination with law enforcement agencies, so there is no militancy in the country," she said.

About price hike of essentials, the prime minister

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LAW AND ORDER SLIDE DCs point out lack of coordination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deputy commissioners yesterday expressed grievances over the negligence of senior police officials in attending monthly law and order committee meeting.

They were holding a closed-door meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the first day of the DC Conference at Prime Minister's Office.

The DCs also demanded more authority as district magistrates to play an effective role in maintaining law and order and checking prices of commodities.

"Maintaining law and order is being hampered as senior police representatives are reluctant to attend the monthly law and order meeting presided over by a deputy commissioner," a DC told The Daily Star last night.

In first such conference held in July 2009, the DCs identified lack of coordination among different authorities in field administration as the key reason for deterioration of law and order.

"The premier, like the first

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Int'l crimes tribunal starts proceedings today

Prosecution seeks directive to show 4 Jamaat leaders arrested for 1971 war crimes

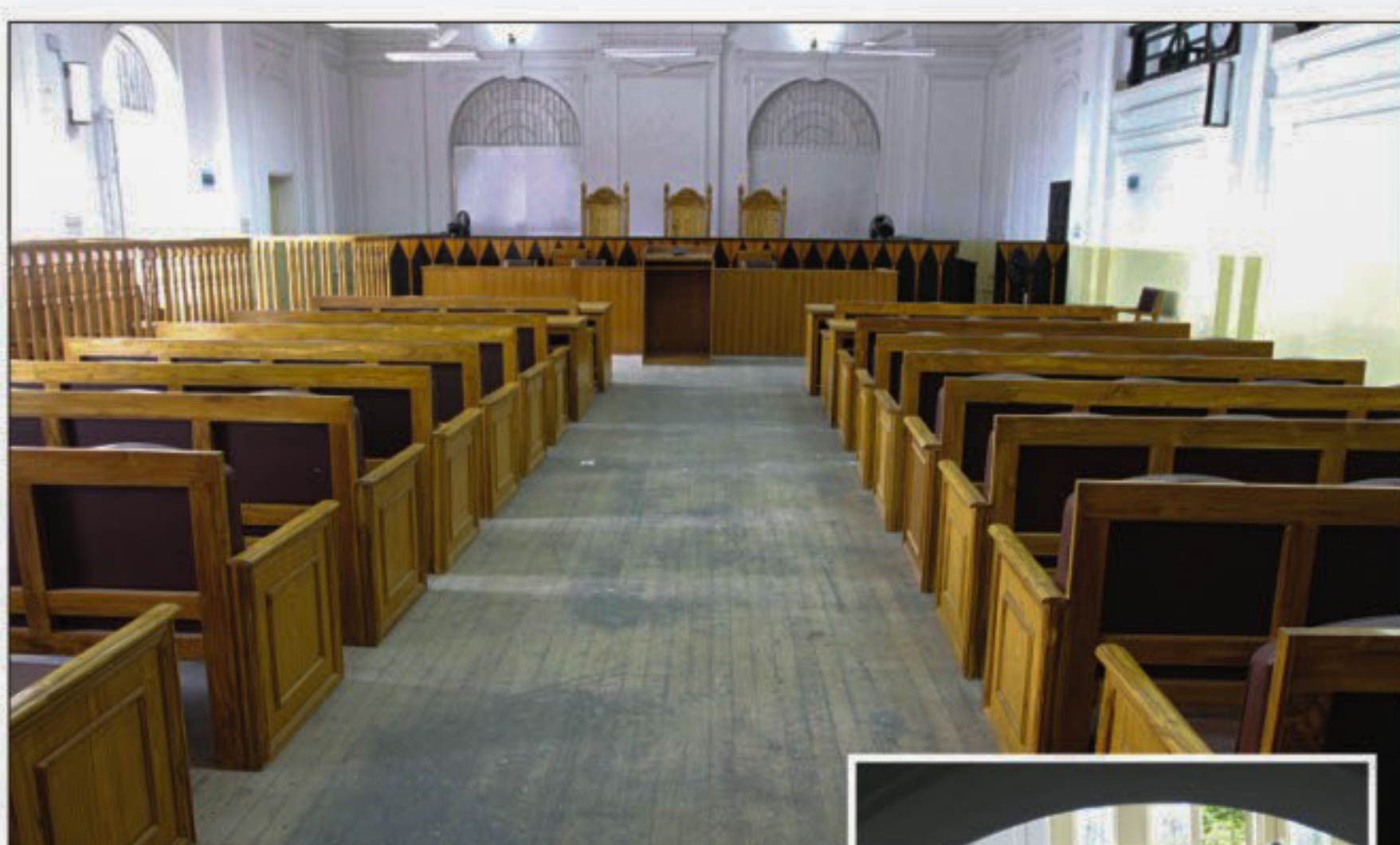
JULFIKAR ALI MANIK and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The special prosecution yesterday filed the first petition with the International Crimes Tribunal seeking direction to show top four Jamaat leaders arrested or detained on charges of committing war crimes in 1971.

The four accused are Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami, its Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Mojahid and senior assistant secretaries general Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Abdul Quader Molla.

Four months into the formation of the tribunal, this is the first ever incident in the history of judiciary to seek direction to show any person arrested under the International Crimes Tribunal Act, 1973.

The three-member tribunal headed by Justice Nizamul Huq



yesterday accepted the petition and fixed 10:30am today for holding the hearing. Justice ATM Fazle Kabir and Justice AKM Zaheer Ahmed are the other two judges of the tribunal.

The tribunal will today hold its first sitting in the open courtroom set up at the old High Court building. The courtroom was made ready for the prosecution yesterday.

The six-member prosecution team formed only to work in the

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International Crimes Tribunal at Old High Court building in the capital is all set for war crimes trial proceedings to begin today.

PHOTO: STAR

MUTINY CASES BDR plans to set up more special courts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) authorities have planned to increase the number of special courts for quick disposal of the cases relating to the 2009 mutiny of the border guards.

BDR Deputy Director General Brigadier General Obaidul Haque said this yesterday at a press conference at Pikhana BDR Headquarters in the capital.

Apart from the existing six special courts, sector wise special courts might be formed and each of the 12 sectors of the BDR might get a special court, he added.

Earlier, six special courts were formed to try the case of February 25-26 BDR mutiny that left 74 people, including

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Probe body accuses 11 of question scam

Report says influential gang behind the crime

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The probe committee formed by the education ministry primarily identified 11 people to be directly involved with the leak out of question papers for the assessment of assistant teachers for public high schools.

Of them, four are employees of Bangladesh Government (BG) press, two of Government Printing (GP) Press, one official of Public Service Commission (PSC) and the principal of a college in Nilphamari and three others who are not in any government service.

The BG press employees are compositors Shahidul Islam Fakir and ATM Mostafa. Mostafa's wife Laboni Begum, a binder, and Abdul Jalil, format proof pressman of offset branch.

The GP press employees are Khandaker Mohammad Ali, deputy director, and Hamidul Islam, a binder, while Abdur Rauf is an administrative officer of PSC, and Mahfuzur Rahman principal of Kishoreganj Women's College.

The other three persons identified are Atiqul Islam, Arif and Shafiq Rahman.

Of the 11, Shahidul Islam, Atiqul Islam and Arif are still at large.

The five-member probe committee yesterday submitted its 32-page report with 15 recommendations to Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid. The report said that the question papers leaked out from BG Press.

It mentioned a powerful organised group was behind the scam but could not identify any such syndicate. The committee suggested that the home ministry find out the group.

The probe body still considers the detained 167 people in this connection and a few others as suspects. However, it could not quiz any of the detainees as they are under court's jurisdiction.

The committee's report came with a set of suggestions on improving BG Press management and its security system, printing several copies of question papers and expediting the

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JS SPECIAL BODY BNP threatens tougher programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forming the special committee to amend constitution is nothing but a conspiracy, and its formation did not follow the rules of procedure of the House, BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain said.

"The one-sided special committee was formed hurriedly, they [the ruling party] didn't give us enough time. They didn't even reply our letter," he said while addressing a BNP organised protest rally at the city's Muktangan yesterday.

BNP, the main opposition, organised the rally in protest at the government's refusal to allow the party to hold a mass hunger strike at Paltan

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Unctad report and Bangladesh reality

INAM AHMED

As Unctad released its World Investment Report for this year, a few curious things emerged.

The first -- Bangladesh scored quite low as a foreign direct investment catcher in South Asia, even much lower than Pakistan. And the second, the comments of the Board of Investment executive chairman who found not energy but

militants.

Bangladesh, in comparison, offers a far greater safe place for investment. It did not suffer from a terrible anti-insurgency fight like Sri Lanka did, and for which Sri Lanka's FDI flow also dipped sharply. The remnants of the militant bands in Bangladesh are on the run and the government is firmly committed to fight extremism. Bangladesh's economic health is also quite stable in the region, and it has made reasonably commendable advancement in social index. And yet we scored low -- we need to think hard about it.

Why countries like Pakistan and Nigeria -- you would find it hard to book a ticket to Lagos because of passenger pressure -- are still preferred by investors, needs to be looked into carefully. It is the policies, opportunity to make money, and image that matter most.

When Bangladesh passed a new telco law that threatens stringent punishments such as

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India to track foreign visitors

INDIAN EXPRESS

Every foreigner who visits India will soon be "tagged", and his or her unique case file identity folder will be stored as part of a massive database being created under the home ministry.

A new tamper-proof, machine-readable India visa sticker, sources said, will be launched by next month as part of this larger effort to revamp the foreigners' visa, registration and tracking system.

Once the basic system has been set up, biometrics will be introduced for all visa applicants to be launched on an experimental basis next year.

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1 shot dead in Ctg clash

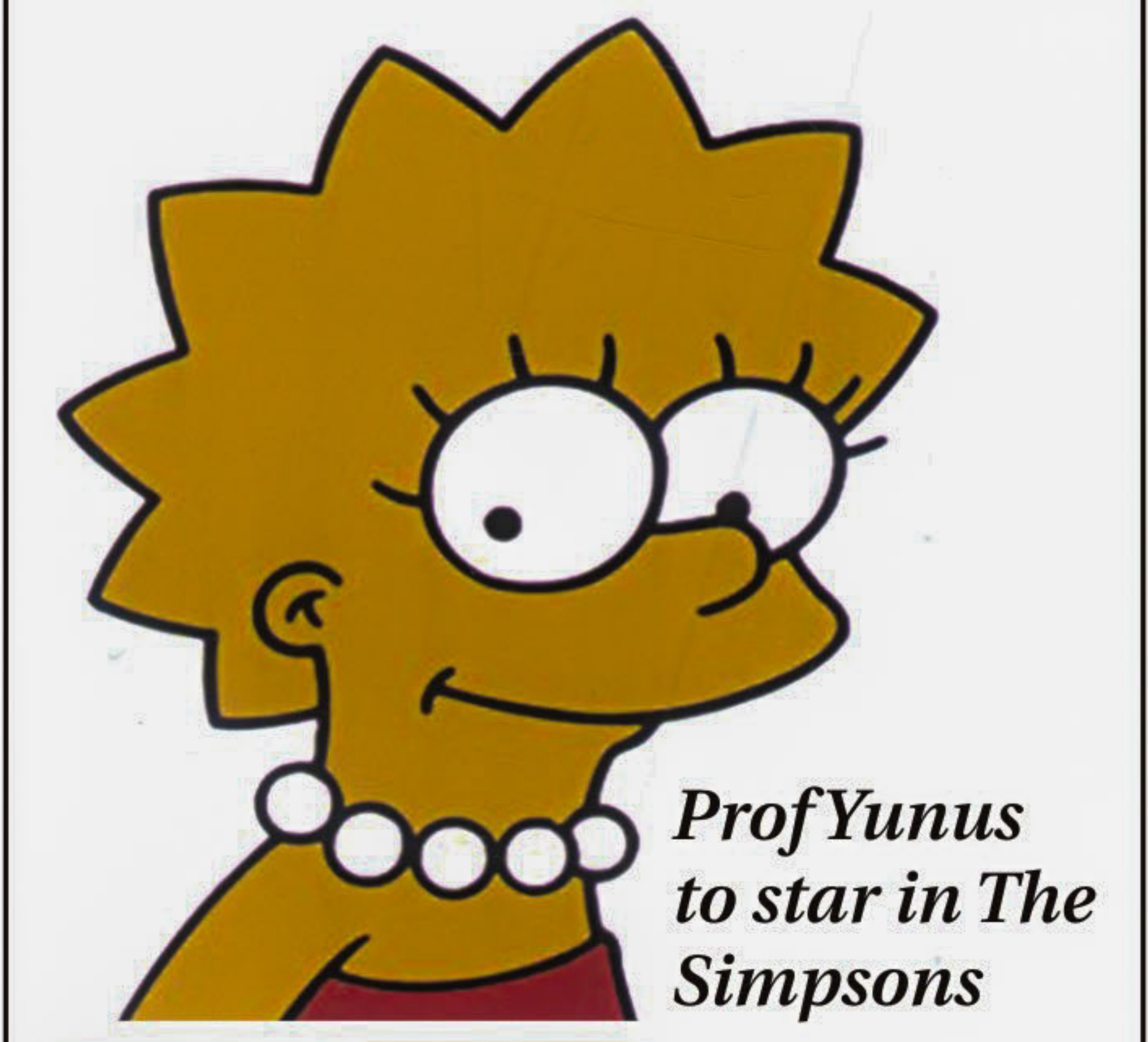
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A youth was shot dead and four others were injured in a clash between two rival groups over establishing supremacy at the port city's Bashundhara Residential area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Abdul Monaf, 30, son of late Abdul Gafur while the injured were Monaf's uncle Mohammad Shahjahan, 30, Shahed Alam, 40, Hriday, 09, and Imam Ali, 60, of Bashundhara Residential Area at Maddhayam Rampur under Halishahar police station.

The body was sent to

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Prof Yunus to star in The Simpsons



Yearley Smith (L), who lends her voice for The Simpsons character 'Lisa', is now in the capital to prepare an episode on Grameen Bank's micro-credit schemes, and feature of Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

PHOTO: STAR

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CTG PORT Dockers call off strike after sit-in

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The dockers of Chittagong Port postponed their 10-day long agitation programme following a meeting with the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) yesterday evening.

Emerging from the meeting, Golam Mohammad, president of Awami League-backed Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation said, "We postponed the programme as the CPA assured us of issuing identity cards to the workers from today [yesterday]. They also promised to

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Jubo League man killed by toll takers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A local Jubo League leader, who was tortured on Friday night at his business centre by extortionists in the capital's Kafrul area, succumbed to his injuries at a hospital yesterday.

The deceased Gias Uddin, 25, was president of unit-7 Jubo League of East Shewrapara.

His elder brother Bachchu Mian said a gang of 20 youths led by local extortionist Mahub swooped on Gias and his friend Tareque while they were sitting inside his own

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Heartiest Congratulations Gold Medal Award - 2010

Seamark (BD) Limited Deputy Managing Director, **Mr. Kamal Ahmed** received the National Fisheries Award (Gold) 2010 and certificate from the Honourable **Prime Minister** of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh on 21.07.2010 at a ceremony held at Osmani Memorial Hall, Dhaka on the occasion of The National Fisheries Week 2010. The Gold medal and certificate were awarded by the government of Bangladesh to **Seamark (BD) Limited** in recognition of the company's contribution to fishery resources development in Fish & Fishery Product export sector.

The entire management of **Seamark Group** all over the world are proud to share this achievement and congratulate their Chairman and Managing Director, **Mr. Iqbal Ahmed OBE**, Deputy Managing Director, **Mr. Kamal Ahmed** and Director, **Mr. Bilal Ahmed** on this auspicious occasion. May Allah give them a long, happy and prosperous life.

We thank the government officials, bankers, our loyal customers, suppliers and contractors associated with our company for their continuing support and assistance without which this success would have not been achieved. Thanks to all our staff for their dedication and hard work making it possible for our company to continue to grow.

The Management of Seamark Group