

NEWS IN *brief*

More eminent citizens stand by Prof Yunus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Twelve distinguished personalities in a statement here yesterday said some quarters are expressing and publishing opinions and news about Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, which do not focus the truth.

They said that it seems the quarter is out to damage the image of Dr Yunus who in his long life has done many welfare activities for poor people in the country.

Everyman may have different opinions on the activities of Prof Yunus, but the opinions given by the quarters are destroying the country's reputation across the world, they added. They also said there is no scope to raise any question after the Norwegian government's opinion on the matter.

The eminent persons are: East Delta University Vice Chancellor (VC) Sikandar Khan, Prof Dr Moinul Islam of Economics department of Chittagong University (CU), Prof Mahfujul Hoque Chowdhury of Political Science of CU, former CU VC Abdul Mannan, writer Fahmida Amin, women leader and writer Begum Mustari Safi, ULAB University Prof Mohit-ul-Alam, journalist Abul Momen, Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian, Chittagong District Lawyers' Association President Salehuddin Haider Siddique, and freedom fighter Farooque-e-Azam Bir Pratik.

8 language veterans honoured

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eight Language Movement veterans were honoured by a weekly newspaper, Shamodhara, at a city hotel marking its first anniversary yesterday.

Language veterans Dr Abdul Matin, Dr Mustafa Nurul Islam, Prof MA Mannan, Prof Mirza Azharul Islam, Dr Jasim Uddin Ahmed, Md Lutfar Rahman, Prof Mirza Mazharul Islam, Sabir Ahmed Chowdhury and Rawshan Ara Bacchu received crests of honour by former chief justice Mohammad Fazlul Karim.

Call to resist stalking

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a debate programme yesterday urged people of all strata to come forward to resist stalking and stressed the need for implementation of existing law and family awareness regarding the offence.

They made the call at the final round of inter-departmental debate competition organised by Victoria Government College Debate Society of Comilla at the college auditorium, says a press release.

Housewife 'forced' to drink poison after torture

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was beaten up and forced to drink poison allegedly by her in-laws in the city's Badda yesterday.

The in-laws also made her clasp tight some pills to convince others as if she were trying to kill herself.

The victim, Nabila Nusrat Leena, 22, wife of Saudi expatriate Arifur Rahman Sohail, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Nabila told The Daily Star that on October 9 last year, her parents-in-law drove her away from their house but kept Nausheen, her six-month-old daughter, with them.

The local ward councillor along with others took her back to the house yesterday after 'settlements'. As soon as he left, they began torturing her, she alleged.

Nabila said Arifur kidnapped her from in front of Uttar Badda Model High School when she was a student of class VIII seven years ago and married her performing Islamic rituals but with no registration.

Her in-laws did not accept the marriage, but she stayed with them following arbitrations, she said.

Neela said her husband, in Saudi Arabia since 2007, and in-laws now want to keep only Nausheen with them.

Ward Councillor MA Qayyum told The Daily Star that her in-laws were humiliating Nabila for long and urged to settle the matter legally.

Badda police said they heard the incident and would take action after any complaint is filed.



Slight rise in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain dry with temporary partly cloudy sky over the country in next 24 hours till 6:00pm today.

Light to moderate fog may occur over the river basins of the country during late night till morning, Met Office said.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:00pm and rises tomorrow at 6:22am.

Country's highest temperature 32.2 degree Celsius was recorded today at Sitakunda and lowest 12.9 degrees at Chuadanga.

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	30.7	19.6	52	30
Chittagong	30.3	16.8	62	52
Rajshahi	30.0	14.0	69	51
Rangpur	29.2	17.0	76	49
Khulna	30.5	15.0	62	56
Barisal	30.5	13.6	66	51

Govt plans another seaport: PM

Six more marine academies on cards

BSS, Chittagong

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government has a plan to construct a seaport in between Barguna and Patuakhali to handle the growing external trade, apart from building a deep-sea port in Chittagong.

She said this while laying the foundation stone of Sheikh Mujib Maritime University under the "Enhancing Marine Academy into Maritime University" project at a cost of Tk 260 crore on Marine Academy premises in Chittagong.

About maritime boundary, she said Bangladesh had lodged its submission formally to the United Nations on Friday claiming an area of over 400 nautical miles in the seabed of the Bay of Bengal. Foreign Minister Dipu Moni who is now in the USA made the submission, she added.

The maritime university, which will be established as a regional university in South Asia, will start its academic activities in 2013. It aims at meeting the growing demand of skilled marine human resources home and abroad.

Sheikh Hasina said her government has taken steps to set up six more marine academies in Barisal, Khulna, Pabna, Rangpur, Narayanganj, and Sylhet at a cost of about Tk 800 crore. She said the government is also procuring full-mission deck bridge simulator and full-mission engine control simulator for Marine Academy that costs about Tk 80 crore under another programme.

Hasina said the university will provide masters, M Phil, and PhD degrees on ship building engineering, shipping management, international and national maritime transportation, and maritime laws.

Earlier, the prime minister attended the Cadet Graduation Parade of 45th batch of Bangladesh Marine Academy and distributed special merit awards of the academy to the cadets for their outstanding performances.

She said the government has so far raised the number of trainee cadets in the academy to 200 from 100 and has a plan to further raise the number to 500.

She also watched a spectacular march past and took salute of the graduating cadets.

On her arrival on the Marine Academy premises, the prime minister was received by the shipping minister and the commandant of the academy.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Cadet Graduation Parade of 45th batch of Bangladesh Marine Academy on the academy premises in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: PMO

Obituary

METRO DESK



Shahed Noman, chairman of Financial Excellence Ltd and former managing director of Dhaka Bank, passed away at his house in Dhanmondi on Thursday due to cardiac arrest at the age of 60, says a press release.

He was buried the next day at his family graveyard in Azimpur. He left behind his wife and two sons. Qulkhani of Noman will be held at his residence after Asr prayers tomorrow.

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'Preserve historic sites of Old Dhaka'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Buildings of great architectural value in Old Dhaka should be restored to serve as archaeological sites for tourists, said leaders of Bangladesh Poribesh Banchao Andolan (Bapa), yesterday.

If the buildings are properly refurbished, tourists visiting the sites can have a flavour of the former glory of the old town, said the speakers at a kite-flying programme at the Lalbagh Fort, according to a press release.

The archaeological sites can also generate a steady income for the local residents, they said at the programme titled "Demands for conserving all historic archaeological sites in old town" organised by Bapa.

Awami League lawmaker Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin was present as the chief guest at the programme with Bapa Chairman Mozaffer Ahmad in the chair.

The speakers said the constitution clearly states protection of historic places from any kind of damage or grabbing as the state's responsibility.

However, no government has taken any fruitful step yet to protect the relics, many of which have been terminally damaged or distorted over the years, they added.



VESTED PROPERTY RETURN ACT

Human rights being violated: Mizanur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Chairman Dr Mizanur Rahman yesterday said the existing vested property return act, since its enactment, has been violating the human rights of minority communities in the country.

The act has created social discrimination and panicked the minorities that they would lose their lands, he said.

Both discrimination and panic are considered effective tool for violation of human rights; so the act should be

reviewed to end those disputes permanently, added Rahman.

The NHRC chief was addressing a roundtable on "vested property return (amendment) act" at Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Noted economist Prof Abul Barakat said around 12-lakh Hindu households have been directly affected by the vested (enemy) property act form 1965 to 2006.

These families have lost their 26-lakh acres of land, he said, adding that the total loss caused by the act can be put at Tk 3,50,412 crore.

The roundtable was jointly organ-

ised by the Association for Land Reform and Development (ALRD), Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad, Ain O Shalish Kendra, Nijera Kori, and Human Development Research Centre (HDRC).

Justice Mohammad Gholam Rabbani chaired the function and Rana Das Gupta, general secretary of the Oikya Parishad, presented the keynote paper.

Sultana Kamal, JSD President Hasanul Haque Inu, Barrister Amirul Islam, Additional AG MK Rahman, and Bangladesh Adivasi Forum general secretary Sanjeeb Drong also spoke.



KNOWLEDGE CORNER



COMICS & CARTOONS

Comics & cartoons- both are graphical media of entertainment created to represent the things that can be done by men in dreams but not in real life. That's why all the superheroes, unreal creatures, talking animals made their first appearances in the strips of comics or on the screen in a cartoon film.

Trajan's Column of Rome (113 AD) emphasizing sequential depictions can be regarded as the earliest example of comic strips. "Ally Sloper's Half Holiday" from England was the first ever weekly comic published in 1884. USA started its endless journey in comic industry with the publication of "Funnies on Parade" in 1933.

Marvel Publishing Inc of USA captured the international comic industry soon enough with their very own superheroes including Spiderman, Captain America, Fantastic Four, X-men & many more. Europe has also been a very fertile land of comics. "The Adventures of Tintin" by Herge, "Asterix" by Rene Goscinny are two very bright examples of European comic revolution. Chacha Chowdhury, Nonte-Fonte, Pinki, Billu etc comic books took the hearts of people of all ages living in this subcontinent.

Science geek Dexter, playboy Johnny Bravo, Popeye the sailor man, always afraid ghost-hunter Scooby Doo, dogfighters Swat Kats, Casper the friendly ghost & many more fictional cartoon characters have nourished our childhood.

The art of comics and cartoons are not confined in the West. They have crossed the boundary and become an influential part in the East, especially in Japan. Japan developed a new genre in the realm of comics which are called manga. Manga also possesses subgenres like shonen manga and shojo manga. The shonen manga is appropriate for boys and shojo for girls. Similarly cartoons have taken different look in Japan and they are called anime. Actually anime are not influenced by cartoons from the West, they are mainly influenced by manga.

Walt Disney is the most successful name in the cartoon world that has seen so far. He is the father of 'Mickey Mouse', 'Bugs Bunny', 'Donald Duck' and many other world famous cartoon characters. The first animated film of the earth 'Snow White & Seven Dwarfs' was also his production. Walt Disney has been nominated highest 59 times in the Academy Awards & won 26 times including 4 honorary Oscars. Unbelievable, huh?

WORLD'S PHYSICAL FACTS

Every place on the earth's surface has features that distinguish it from other places on earth. Geographers divide theses features into either physical or human feature. Physical features

include landforms, bodies of water, climate, natural vegetation and soil.

The Earth's terrain varies greatly from place to place. About 70.8% of the surface is covered by water, with much of the continental shelf below sea level. The submerged surface has mountainous features, including a globe-spanning mid-ocean ridge system, as well as undersea volcanoes, oceanic trenches, submarine canyons, oceanic plateaus and abyssal plains. The remaining 29.2% not covered by water consists of mountains, deserts, plains, plateaus, and other geomorphologies.

The elevation of the land surface of the Earth varies from the low point of -418 m at the Dead Sea, to a maximum altitude of 8,848 m at the top of Mount Everest. The mean height of land above sea level is 840 m.

Though generally described as several 'separate' oceans, these waters comprise one global, interconnected body of salt water sometimes referred to as the World Ocean or global ocean. This concept of a continuous body of water with relatively free interchange among its parts is of fundamental importance to oceanography.

The major oceanic divisions are defined in part by the continents, various archipelagos, and other criteria. These divisions are, Pacific Ocean- which separates Asia and Australia from the Americas, Atlantic Ocean- which separates the Americas from Eurasia and Africa, Indian Ocean- which washes upon southern Asia and separates Africa and Australia, Southern Ocean- sometimes considered an extension of the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian Oceans, which encircles Antarctica, Arctic Ocean- sometimes considered a sea of the Atlantic, which covers much of the Arctic and washes upon northern North America and Eurasia.

A mature river is fed by many tributaries and has more discharge than a youthful river. Its channels erode wider rather than deeper. Examples include the Mississippi, Saint Lawrence, Danube, Ohio, Thames and Paraná rivers, a river with a low gradient and low erosive energy. Old rivers are characterized by flood plains. Examples include the Yellow, Ganges, Tigris, Euphrates, Indus and Nile rivers.

The highest mountain on Earth based from sea level is Mount Everest (8,848 m (29,029 ft)) in the Himalayas of Asia. The highest known mountain in the Solar System is Olympus Mons on the planet Mars at 21,171 m (69,459 ft).

Classified by the geological processes that shape them, there are five major types of mountains namely: Fold Mountains, Fault-Block Mountains, Volcanic Mountains, Dome Mountains and Plateau mountains.

The major mountain ranges of the world are Andes, Rocky Mountains, Himalayas and Mid-ocean ridge.

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Initiative of The Daily Star & teamcreative

Death anniversary

METRO DESK



Mozibur Rahman, says a press release.

On the occasion, prayers will be held at his graveyard at Azimpur in the city while a milad mahfil at Jalkuri of Uttarpara in Shiddhirganj after Asr prayers today.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the programmes and pray for salvation of the departed soul.

Mariam Shamim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the seventh death anniversary of Mariam Shamim, a former country manager of Bangladesh Biman, says a press release.

She passed away at BSM MU hospital on February 27, 2004 while she was undergoing treatment.