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The government is demeaning the country

We are watching the happenings around us with deep anguish and dismay, it seems that sense and sensibility has departed. Those who are at the helm of the country are doing most outrageous things. Removing Nobel Laureate Dr. Muhammad Yunus from Grameen Bank is so deplorable that we are stunned and just cannot believe it.

The government is putting forward many excuses but people are no fools, they can easily sense the real reason. Intoxicated by power, consumed with jealousy the Awami League government has become blind and is thinking that people will believe whatever they say, but they are living in a fool's paradise.

The popularity of Dr. Yunus at home and abroad is displeasing the government, instead of making it happy, hence this move to harass him. We hope the government will come to its senses and show due respect to the person who brought glory to the country.

Nur Jahan, Chittagong

Where is our sensibility?

What is going on in Bangladesh? Where is our sensibility? The Attorney General says in an interview right after the petition, "If anyone is supposed to get a Nobel peace prize in Bangladesh it should be either Sheikh Hasina or Shantu Larma." What is happening? Is this a competition on but-tering up?

Cantara Wali, On e-mail

Love for country

While reading Chinese writer Han Suyin's book "My House Has Two Doors" my eyes fixed on a particular sentence. Here, a Chinese citizen disclosed to the writer that he was not a communist but he loved his country and was willing to study Marxism. In our country, sadly some political leaders couldn't come out of their particular agendas. In fact, a large number of our politicians are busy with parochial agendas of making fortune and taking their respective parties to power. The mentality is in sharp contrast with the progress and development of the country. We have won independence about four decades back and it is high time for our leaders to give a serious introspect into the matter. If they change their mindset, only then people will see a tangible progress in the country.

Khizir Ahmed
Shegunbagicha
Dhaka

We can do it



PHOTO: AFP

First of all, as a Bangladeshi I am proud of Bangladesh's victory against England. It was badly needed. Just one week earlier we lost to Ireland and a lot of people questioned about our test status. Today we have shown we can come back from any situation. One day or one match does not say everything.

I would suggest Indian former cricketer Sidhu to do some constructive criticism for the betterment of cricket. Of course Ireland is a good team. They can be considered to get test status. But we are going to be super power of cricket real soon. If the development trend of Bangladesh continues then who knows at 2015 who will win the World Cup!

After the shameful defeat against West Indies, a lot of controversies has arisen. Sakib and some former cricketers were at the center of this. Also an unacceptable picture of Sakib has been published in a national daily. Dear Sakib, please bear in mind you are not only the captain of Bangladesh cricket team, you are the ambassador of Bangladesh around the globe; so, please behave accordingly. Last but not the least; we are sorry to the West Indies cricket team.

Maidul Islam
Dhaka

Shift DSE from Motijheel

Motijheel Commercial Area is the commercial hub of Dhaka. Many high-rise buildings, hundreds of public and private organisations, offices, establishments, banks, insurance companies, export and import enterprises, mercantile houses and DSE are located here. Motijheel Commercial Area always buzzes with economic and monetary activities, trade and commerce.

Unfortunately, from time to time the whole area suffers from panic and all types of normal and routine works come to a dead stop and the road traffic is disrupted for hours together due to sudden and abrupt pandemonium, disturbance, violence and subsequent Police/RAB action in and around Dhaka Stock Exchange due to fall in share price. Due to law and order situation in Motijheel Commercial Area, the sufferings of the public know no bound. We would, therefore, appreciate if the authorities concerned shift Dhaka Stock Exchange from Motijheel C/A to a newly constructed building in a less commercially important, less crowded place, at least 100 to 200 feet away from any public road in the interest of public service.

O H Kabir, Dhaka



JASHIM SALAM / DRIKNEWS

Problem number one

Population problem is number one problem of Bangladesh. Our population was about 75 million in 1971, but within a time span of 40 years, it has now crossed 160 million. Such a huge population with a growth rate of about 1.5%, huddled up in an area of only 1, 47,570 sq. km, poses the greatest challenge to all of our development efforts. Acute poverty, widespread unemployment, food shortage, deteriorating law and order situation, illiteracy, environmental disruption etc are the main problems we are trying to solve, but we should always keep it in mind that our

ever-increasing population is the mother of all these problems. Therefore, our govt. should immediately adopt a well-defined population policy having a time-frame for achieving zero growth rate within the shortest possible time. As one of the steps to reach the goal, a massive public awareness drive especially among the poor should be launched and continued with the help of all govt. and non-govt. agencies, NGOs, intellectuals and members of the civil society.

Md. Mohsin Ali
Nuton Courtpara, Kushtia

Yunus is our golden boy

As a nation, we cannot evaluate appropriately a revered person. Probably this is one of the reasons why we are lagging behind. We have hardly any internationally recognised persons in our country. There are people who are talented in our country, but the irony is that they are not appreciated or acknowledged properly. Therefore, those brilliant people tend to lose interest in giving their best efforts in building the nation. The way GOB has played its role in removing Nobel Laureate Prof. Yunus from the Grameen Bank is nothing but a display of government's lack of prudence. Despite all the controversy, Prof. Yunus is our golden son and only individual to represent Bangladesh in international arena. My deepest gratitude to Muhammad Zafar Iqbal for writing such a humane article titled 'Prof. Yunus and Bangladesh' published in The Daily Star on 7th March, 2011.

Shohag Mostafij
University of Dhaka

The grabbing of Grameen

The sacking of Dr Yunus (OK, let us call it "Removal") was 'justified' by the Hon'ble (?) Finance Minister before some worried members of the Diplomatic Corps as reported in DS on Friday, 4th March. Grameen Bank repudiated it on 5th, saying most of the FM's statements are "inaccurate" (would 'lies' have been more appropriate?).

Bangladesh Bank woke up after 10 years that Dr Yunus is 'over-aged' and must be removed. Does a person become inept, inefficient, infirm, incapacitated or even insane after 60? If so, then why do all public servants and representatives, NOT render their resignations on their 60th birthday? Our public servants and representatives, not possessing an iota of conscience and integrity, never do so.

Not content with the hundreds of thousands of crores of takas up for grabs in the shape of Freeways, Airports, Metro Rails, Power projects, River Grabbing etc, in future, some bright lad has sold the idea that a 3.5% stake in any

institution constitutes "total ownership". So, here is another 60,000 crores being readied for grabbing from 80 lacs, mostly poor women, owners of GB. Our 'financial wizards' have done their worst in the stock market and politicised the World Cup. In pursuit of the 'big bucks' some people often shoot themselves in the foot, but here in Bangladesh, our financial pundits use a cannon to do so!!

Sikander Ahmed
Niketon, Gulshan-1, Dhaka

Nobel Prize? It's so easy!

After Dr. Muhammad Yunus got the Nobel Peace Prize, I have observed an interesting attitude among some people of our country Phooo! Nobel Prize? Nothing very difficult to accomplish, it's so easy! When man like Dr. Yunus can get Nobel, why not me and you?

Dr. Yunus got the Nobel Prize for his remarkable accomplishments towards uplifting the lot of the common people not only of Bangladesh but people world over. So, Bangladesh as a whole should pay due honour to Dr. Yunus to retaining the dignity of the Nobel Prize so that in future some other Bangladeshi can get such prestigious award in recognition of his/her contributions in the arena of science and the humanities.

Under this reference, I would like to record here another observation of mine. Perhaps to develop new leadership and dynamism our present Prime Minister has absorbed some young professionals but less politically popular persons into her cabinet. I would also request her to include some senior and experienced Awami League leaders who have great potentiality to help government solve the existing problems and contributing towards realizing government's development goal. What I strongly feel is that qualification is important, but qualification plus experience works more effectively in smooth running of the state affairs.

Professor M Zahidul Haque
Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University
Dhaka

Short bridges responsible for river choking

The news item, 'low bridges choke rivers' published in your daily on 9 February, 2011, has drawn my attention. In fact, short bridges, shorter in length than the width of the rivers and canals on which they are constructed, are more responsible

than the low bridges for the choking of the rivers and canals. It has become a practice in Bangladesh that when a bridge is constructed over a river or a canal, to save some money or whatever the reason, it is made shorter in length than the actual

width of the river or the canal; then the bridge is connected to the road by earth filling on both sides, and thus choking of the river or canal starts.

Faruque Hasan
Uttara, Dhaka

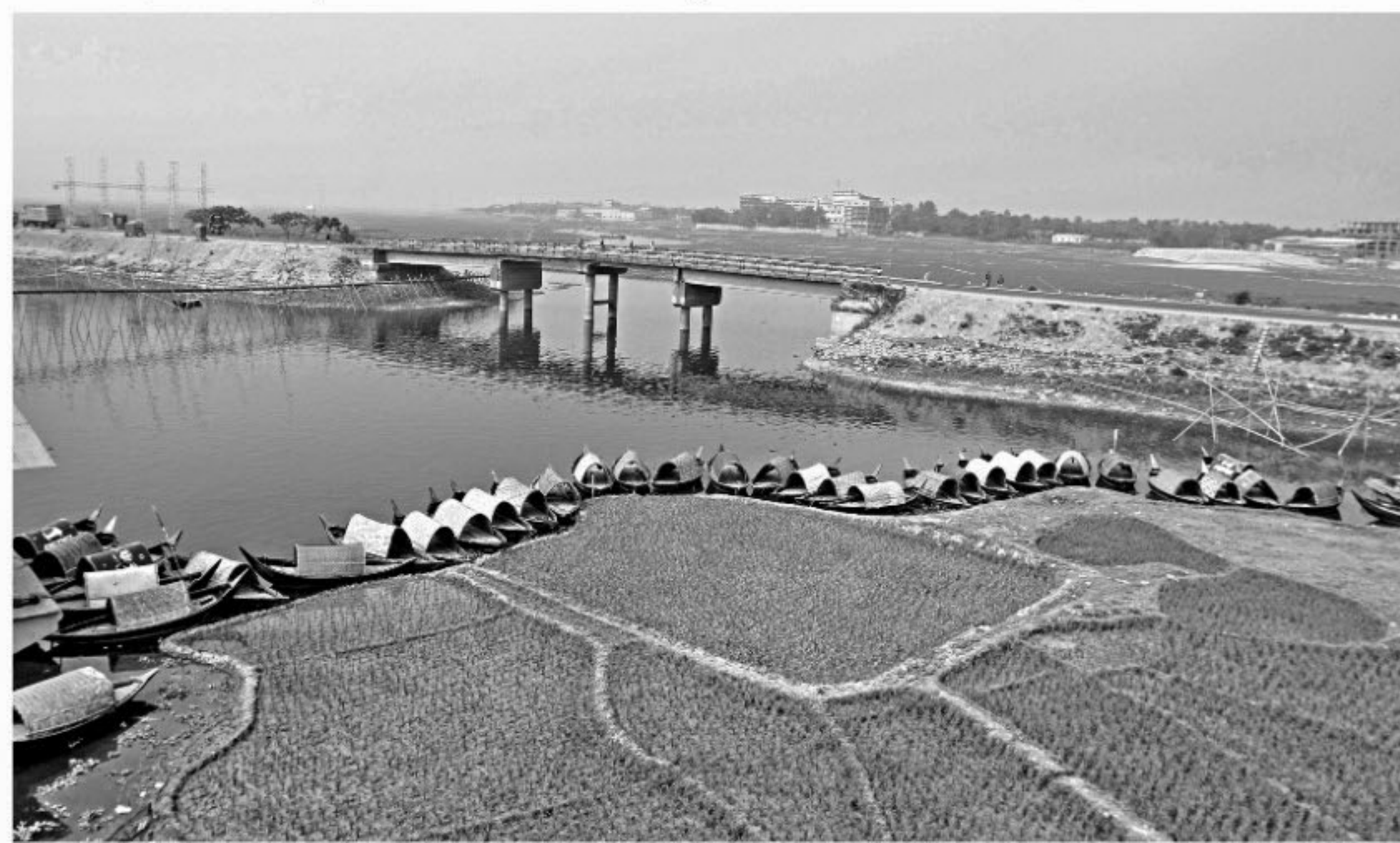


PHOTO: STAR

READERS respond

Here are some comments that came in response to Saturday's The Daily Star report headlined "GB chair's strange email".

Ghulam Mustafa

Thank you very much for 'GB chair's strange e-mail.' Mr Chairman is a conflicting personality for which he was terminated from Grameen. The government has chosen him as Chairman of the org. just to serve the purpose of the government. So it's quite likely to send the trash through e-mail to assassinate the character of Dr Yunus. Every one should condemn this mean fellow.

MBI Munshi

The article in question by Nayeemul Islam Khan that has been disseminated by the Grameen Bank Chairman is actually very objective, dispassionate and extremely well argued. I assume the chairman thought it would draw a line on this controversy allowing the bank to move on from this disgraceful episode. The article by Nayeemul really deserves a response and Dr Yunus should counter all the points contained therein. If Prof Yunus does this he will gain many more supporters.

Manobota Ahmed

Ill intention can never bring anything good. An uneducated poor person can make mistake, but we cannot expect intentional mistakes from our reputed politicians, journalists, editors, and high officials. You can never hide the truth from international community. Be appreciative please!

Nazrul M Islam

Prof Yunus gave the post of Deputy Managing Director to Khalid Shams instead of Muzammel Huq. Muzammel thought he deserved it because he has been with Yunus for long time and joined Grameen in its initial period. Yunus appointed the best person available for the job and not for familiarity or friendship. Muzammel is a typical Bangalee, can't overcome the culture of favoritism and nepotism. Even having long association with Yunus he didn't understand him, the man of highest integrity in any measure. For personal reasons, he is trying to destroy a unique organization like Grameen Bank where he served as the General Manager for so long.

Robin

David Bornstein correctly portrayed Bangladesh as an endemically corrupt country with corrupted government at the helm. One Muzammel Huq's effort to defame Professor Yunus doesn't change his greatness. How can Bangladesh expect any skilled overseas Bangladeshi to go back after what was done to Professor Yunus? Overseas Bangladeshi technologists and scientists are losing confidence on Bangladesh.

Abu Zubair

I think this is the part of project of ruling elites to defame the image of renowned person and the country.

Imon

Oh dear! If the so-called Chairman of GB does this, then you can imagine the fate of Grameen! We demand the immediate removal of Muzammel.

Opee Monir

Government appointed Chairman of the Grameen Bank Mr Muzammel Huq certainly did not behave like a Chairman of an institution and lacked in eloquence while talking to journalist in general. It is very sad.

Muht Islam

Mr Muzammel Huq is trying to please his Political Masters to safeguard his position. This type of behaviour is normal from the Bangladesh civil servants generally and not at all surprising.

Pokraj

I am ashamed, although I am a Bengali myself. Thank God, there are also other types around. What did you expect of an upstart like Muzammel?

Shelley Shahabuddin

This issue is hurting the image of Bangladesh, Sheikh Hasina and the government abroad. If this goes on, Dr Yunus and all the above entities will be the loser.

Iftekhar Moniruzzaman

Professor Yunus is persecuted at home. It is not uncommon in this part of the World; giants are harassed and even put to death. Mahatma Gandhi and Bangabandhu are glaring examples of this. Jealousy, hatred and conspiracy is unfortunately the dark side of our glorious heritage. Professor Yunus has wisdom and capability, which is rare; he cares for ones that are victims of injustice and unfair treatment in the society. Let me take the pleasure of being one of the first to propose Dr Yunus as a candidate for the next Secretary General of the United Nations. He will make an excellent choice for the position. Let us all join in this campaign.

Women's dignity

My sister-in-law Juthi had to break up with her husband who constantly belittled her. Coming from a respectable family, she was unable to stomach her husband's condescending attitude towards her. Her husband constantly reminded her that it was because of him that she led a rich life in a luxury condo in Dhaka. Only Allah knows how many girls are being humiliated by their husbands like this.

When we observe the International Women's Day, we see girls being harassed on their way to schools and by private tutors. The statistics of girls succumbing to sexual harassment by criminals is reaching an alarming proportion, still we feel complacent about the fact that both our prime minister and the leader of the opposition are women. In spite of empowering women, they hardly find a house to call their own. The narrow version of religion established in the society have ensured women to live a segregated life with no chance to participate in the prayer side by side with the men as it was practiced during our beloved Prophet's (pbuh) time. We often grab our sisters' due share of heir as they are married off. All along deprivation marks women's life. Can't we come forward to give our sisters the prestige and privilege they deserve?