



TIMELESS SOPHIA

Hollywood comes out to honour Sophia Loren

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PRESS FREEDOM

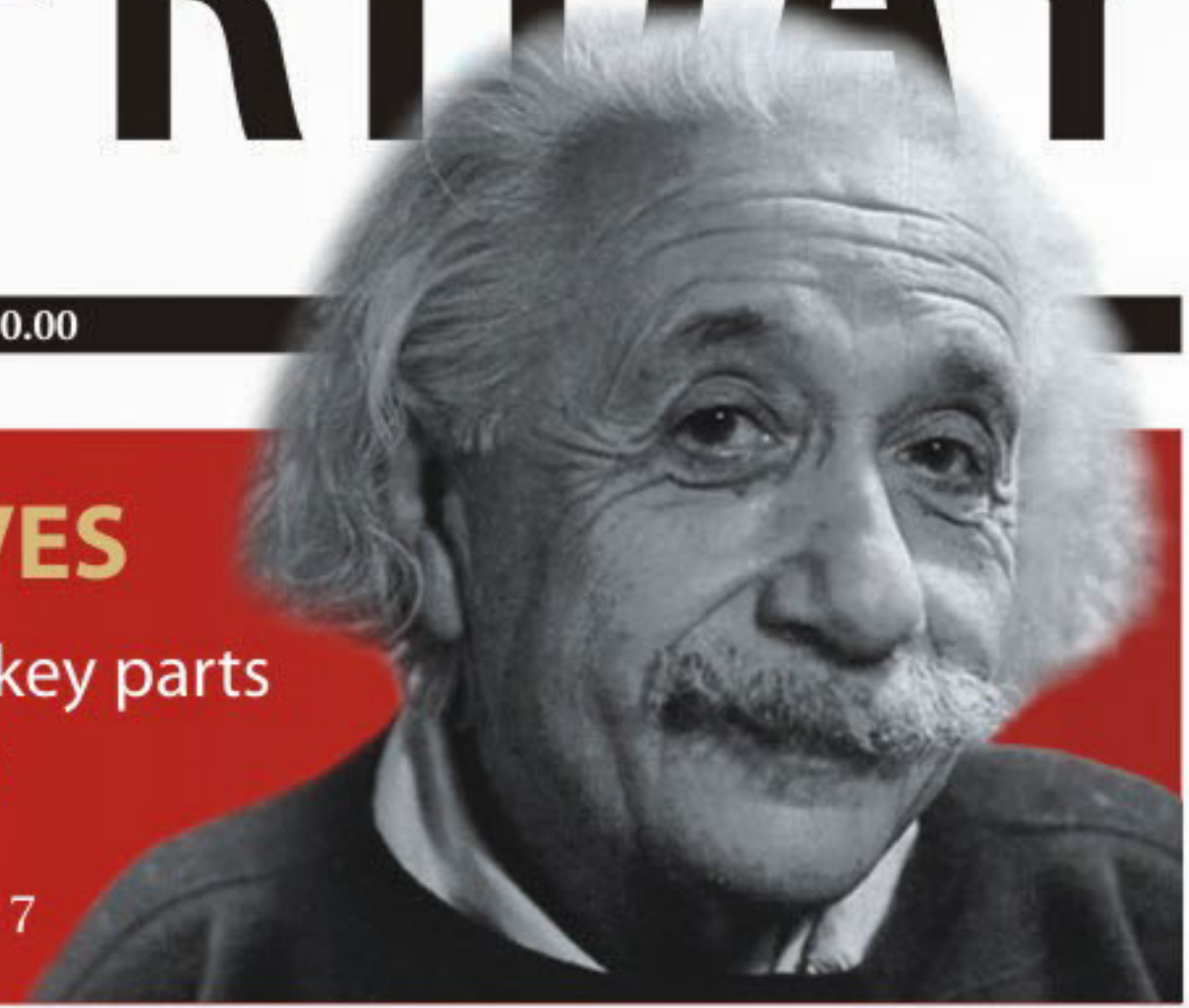
Shah Husain Imam takes a look at important aspects

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EINSTEIN SURVIVES

Nasa probe confirms two key parts of Albert Einstein's theory

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Yunus removal upheld by SC

Nobel hero to seek review

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

The Supreme Court yesterday affirmed a High Court verdict upholding the dismissal of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus as managing director of micro-lender Grameen Bank he founded three decades ago.

A seven-member bench of the SC, led by Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque, delivered the verdict in a packed courtroom.

It came as a blow to the "banker to the poor" whose contributions in lifting millions out of poverty earned him and Gramneen Bank the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize.

Yunus, 71, launched his legal fight in early March after Bangladesh Bank removed him from the bank saying he violated the organisation's retirement rules that mandate an official to retire at the age of 60.

He challenged the central bank's decision in the HC, SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

Achievements in 10 'unlawful' yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

When a person passes a decade in a position "unlawfully" and then is suddenly removed for that "unlawful" occupation, one tends to ask what he did and how his organisation fared during that passage of time. For Prof SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Rosina Begum, one of the nine directors of Grameen Bank, addresses a press briefing at the bank's office yesterday after the Supreme Court affirmed a High Court verdict upholding the dismissal of Prof Muhammad Yunus as the managing director of the micro-finance institution.

Make Yunus chairman

Demand Grameen Bank staff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The board members and employees of Grameen Bank have urged the government to appoint Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus as the bank's chairman.

Grameen Bank Karmachari Samity (employees' association) made the call yesterday, SEE PAGE 6 COL 6

Utilise Yunus' experience in running GB

Suggest 3 economists

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three senior economists yesterday said the government should utilise the expertise of Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in running Grameen Bank.

Akbar Ali Khan, former SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

SHOT INTO DISABILITY BY RAB Limon finally gets bail

HC asks govt to bear cost of his treatment at hospital of his choice, explain why inquiry commission should not be formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Limon Hossain, shot and maimed by Rapid Action Battalion, was granted six months' bail by the High Court yesterday in an arms case filed by the elite force.

The court also directed the government to arrange better treatment for him in a reputed hospital of his choice, and to bear the cost.

An HC bench of Justice Nozrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Anwarul Haque issued a rule upon the government as well to explain within two weeks why it should not be directed to form an inquiry commission to find out the facts behind the maiming of Limon.

The bench in the rule also asked the government to explain why Limon should



not be granted regular bail in the case filed with Rajapur Police Station in Jhalakathi.

The rule and the order came in response to a bail petition filed, as public interest litigation, by Ain O Salish Kendra, a human rights organisation.

The organisation's Executive Director

Advocate Sultana Kamal filed the petition yesterday.

Petitioner's counsel Dr Shahdeen Malik told The Daily Star that there is no bar on releasing Limon from police custody now, following the HC order.

He said the government should immediately form a commission headed by a SEE PAGE 19 COL 1

Oil prices hiked by Tk 2 a litre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday increased the prices of all petroleum products by Tk 2 per litre to adjust to the prices in the international market, said Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).

BPC Chairman M Muktadir Ali said the government has to count a huge subsidy on petroleum products as the prices in the international market have recently increased. To cut the subsidy a bit, the decision to raise the prices has been taken.

The decision will take effect from today, Ali said. Retail prices of diesel and kerosene will be Tk 46 per litre while petrol Tk 76 per litre, octane Tk 79 per litre and furnace oil Tk 42 per litre, he said.

Earlier in January 2009, the government reduced the prices of petroleum products by Tk 2 per litre after the prices in the international market decreased.

At present, the government is subsidising Tk 33.44 per litre for diesel, Tk 32.49 per litre for kerosene, Tk 8.02 for octane and Tk 12.96 for furnace oil, said a statement.

Syed Yusuf Hossain, chairman of Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission (BERC), said "The BERC is not aware of the price hike of petroleum products."

Generally the commission's approval is required to increase the prices of petroleum products, but this time SEE PAGE 19 COL 8

Pak army threatens to cut ties with US

Wants cuts in US military personnel; Islamabad officials term Laden killing "cold-blooded"; new photos show three dead men on Abbottabad compound

REUTERS, Abbottabad/Rome

Pakistan's army, in its first comment since Monday's raid that killed Osama bin Laden, threatened to halt cooperation with its military sponsor if it repeated what it called a violation of sovereignty.

Pakistan's Chief of Army Staff, General Ashfaq Kayani, issued a statement saying any new US raids would mean a possible end to cooperation with the Pentagon on security and



intelligence.

"Any similar action violating the sovereignty of Pakistan will warrant a review on the level of military/intelligence cooperation with the United States," the army said.

Also yesterday, the army called for cuts in the number of US military personnel inside the country to protest the American commando raid.

The statement was issued after a meeting SEE PAGE 19 COL 5



Almost two-thirds of the Balu river at Mashkul in Khilkhet has been filled up by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha to build a bridge. However, the Department of Environment has stopped the construction after The Daily Star ran a report on the issue yesterday.

FILLING UP BALU DoE stops bridge work

Rajuk-hired firm fined

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Environment (DoE) yesterday stopped the unauthorised construction of a bridge on the Balu river at Mashkul in Khilkhet by Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk).

The DoE also fined the Rajuk-hired construction firm Tk 5.5 lakh for harming the river ecology and ordered to remove within a week 45,500 cubic feet of earth from both banks of the river.

Rajuk, the city planner, filled up the Balu narrowing it down to nearly half its width for building the bridge to connect the SEE PAGE 19 COL 2

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