

# A SOCIAL CARNIVAL

APURBA JAHANGIR

PHOTO: COURTESY

“We are not job seekers, we are job givers;” this quote of Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus has been the slogan for social business enthusiasts for over a few years. In the book *Creating a World Without Poverty* Yunus describes social business as a self sustaining, non loss, non dividend business which has to cater to a particular social problem. When the concept of social business went viral in 2008, lots of followers started working with the idea which led to hundreds of people in our country practicing the model. These business persons are known as Nabin Uddokta in social business terms.

On May 28, Yunus Centre organised the Social Business Day for the 6th time in Bangladesh, where social business enthusiasts from all over the world joined. One of the main attractions of this conference was the *Nabin Uddakta Mela* where these social business entrepreneurs showcased their social businesses and talked about how they are contributing to the society in their own way.

The opening ceremony of Social Business Day included a session with a few of these social business entrepreneurs where they talked about their lives and how starting a changed their lives. Most of the entrepreneurs come from a poor socio-economic background. “I don't know what I would do if I didn't start this business. Considering where I came from, I would never have imagined that I would be sitting here on a stage, facing all you people,” said Jannatul Afrin, on stage



with the Nobel Laureate. Afrin started her business, Erina Fashion House, with loan a couple of years ago from Grameen Kalyan. Now she is her own boss and has also trained and hired three women to work for her.

From drug stores to carrom boards, these entrepreneurs have proved that any idea can be turned into a social cause. The *Nabin Uddakta Mela* was highly praised by national and international participants.



“KING OF THE BLUES”

MAD GENIUS

B.B. King, known for his hits Lucille, Sweet Black Angel and Rock Me Baby, died in his sleep in Las Vegas. Born in Mississippi, King began performing in the 1940s, going on to influence a generation of musicians, and working with Eric Clapton and U2. He fused together both jazz and blues on his beloved guitar, a Gibson ES-344 he lovingly dubbed "Lucille". In the early part of his career, he played to exclusively black audiences, but his heartfelt vocals and undeniable talent saw him embraced by a much broader fanbase as time went on - touring Europe and topping the charts. Younger musicians such as Clapton and Steve Miller, who admired his work, introduced him to a new generation of fans in the late '60s with hits like *The Thrill is Gone*.

“EVERYBODY WANTS TO GO TO HEAVEN, BUT NO ONE WANTS TO DIE TO GET THERE!”

THE BEAUTIFUL THING ABOUT LEARNING IS NOBODY CAN TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU.

THE BLUES WAS BLEEDING THE SAME BLOOD AS ME.”

SOURCE: THE DAILY STAR AND BRAINY QUOTE

## STARDIARY



PHOTO: KAZITAH SIN AGAZ APIURBO

# HARASSMENT EVERYWHERE

The other day, my friends and I were hanging out at a food court. We met after a long time and were absorbed in chit-chatting and totally oblivious of our surroundings. Suddenly, I noticed one of the waiters staring at us through the reflection in a mirror, as the food court was aesthetically decorated with lots of mirrors. As soon as I looked, he averted his eyes pretending to have done nothing and subsequently made a run toward the kitchen. I ignored the matter considering it as mere peccadillo. But I lost my cool when I discovered one of the other waiters was taking our photo from the reflection of the mirror secretly. I want to share this incident as people are often cheated with hidden cameras or secretly taken photos.

Samiul Raijul  
North South University, Dhaka



PHOTO: ZAHIDUL IKHAN

## UNFORGETTABLE INCIDENT

I'm still quite shaken about the incident. It happened 2 weeks ago, while I was going to my campus from home. I need to change two buses to reach my campus. Somehow, I reached the second bus-stop that was Dashuria, Pabna a little later after the last bus had left. I also had a campus-mate there and we decided to go together. It was around 10 at night, when suddenly a micro-bus headed for Kushtia approached us. We got in and sat with 3 other people passengers who were already in the micro-bus. After 4-5 minutes into the journey, they suddenly started attacking us and said they would kill us if we didn't give them our belongings. To save our lives, we gave them everything, including mobile phones and cash money. After snatching everything away, they pushed us from the running micro-bus. A police car passing by saw us and came to us. They heard everything that happened to us and instead of taking action against the criminals, questioned us about why we were out at night!

Bappy Sadhu  
Islamic University, Kushtia

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