



TALKING TO MEDIA Law officers must get AG's nod

Says AG office after DAG talked to journos about Prof Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After a deputy attorney general said he declined to sign a statement regarding Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, the Attorney General's Office has asked all its law officers to get permission from the AG before making any statement to the media.

Md Nasir Uddin, administrative officer at the AG office, issued a notification to this effect on September 5.

On September 4, DAG Imran Ahmed Bhuiyan told reporters at a briefing on the Supreme Court premises that the AG's office was preparing a statement protesting a letter from global figures about the trial proceedings against Prof Yunus and that Imran had refused to sign the statement.

The next day, the law minister told reporters at the Jatiya Press Club that Imran had breached discipline by making the statement to the media.

"He is a DAG at the Attorney General's Office. If he has to speak to reporters, he should either resign and speak or get the attorney general's permission to speak. He had done neither. He has breached discipline," Anisul said.

Attorney General AM Amin Uddin, also on that day, told newsmen that Imran intended to make "somebody happy" by talking to reporters.

He also claimed that his office was not preparing any statement regarding Prof Yunus' trial.

On September 4, DAG AKM Amin Uddin Manik told this correspondent, "Many lawyers including the law officers under the attorney general's office have signed it [the statement]. Nobody is being compelled to sign. I have signed the statement."



THE FISH OUT OF WATER ... A male *Periophthalmodon septemradiatus*, one of the 25 species of mudskippers, roaming the mudflats of the Sundarbans. Found in muddy swamps and rivers along tropical and subtropical regions of Africa, Australia and Asia, this fish prefers land over water. As a matter of fact, prolonged stay in the water can even cause it to drown!

PHOTO: TIMU HOSSAIN

Govt wants to put Prof Yunus in jail

Alleges Fakhru

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir has alleged the government is going after Prof Muhammad Yunus and it will only stop after putting him in jail.

"You are trying to send Dr Yunus to jail to seek vengeance... Because of your enmity, you are trying to victimise him and imprison him through lawsuits," Fakhru told a discussion at Dhaka Reporters Unity yesterday.

He then criticised Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader for implying that the BNP was relying on Yunus.

"There is no reason for us to rely on him. We solely rely on the people of this country."

He then said the government did not want polls under a caretaker administration, because of its fear of losing.

A young life taken over alleged theft

Construction workers beat to death 14-yr-old boy out of suspicion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Akash was the centre of Dipa's world since he was just an infant.

He lost his mother when he was nine months old, and his father got remarried and abandoned his two children.

Dipa, Akash's paternal aunt, then took it upon herself to raise the children as her own and avoided getting married to focus on them.

After Akash's sister was married off, he was all Dipa had.

And in the blink of an eye, he was gone.

Akash Mia, 14, was beaten to death allegedly by construction workers who suspected him of stealing construction materials in Aziz Mohalla area of the capital's Mohammadpur early yesterday.

The incident occurred when the seventh grader, also a resident of



Akash Mia

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ENDING ILLITERACY IN BANGLADESH 9 projects done in 30yrs, still one in four illiterate

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

One in four Bangladeshis is illiterate despite the fact that at least Tk 4,232 crore have been spent by successive governments since 1991 to wipe out illiteracy.

The non-formal education authorities have completed nine projects in this regard over the last three decades. Another scheme, which is now underway, has seen 85 percent progress till June this year.

Officials and education rights activists blame the lack of a comprehensive approach to address the issue, coordination among the project authorities, and poor planning and irregularities in projects for so many people still being illiterate.

Officials said they have completed the projects also with an aim to carry out post-literacy and education training programmes so that the people can have income-generating skills.

Under the projects, non-formal education was provided to primary school dropouts and also to those children who never went to school.

"Many of the projects lacked proper planning," said Tariq Ahsan, a professor at the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University.

He said that most of the projects were based on theoretical knowledge and the beneficiaries were not educated properly on how to implement their knowledge in practical life.

"As a result, they forget what they have learnt and they can hardly sustain their literacy skills," Tariq told The Daily Star.

The literacy rate in Bangladesh stood at 35.3 percent in 1991 among the people aged 15 and above.

According to the Bangladesh Sample Vital Statistics 2022 of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, 76.8 percent of Bangladeshis aged seven and above are literate. The figure is 74.4 percent among those aged 15 and above.

Against this backdrop, the country is observing the International Literacy Day today.

The Bureau of Non-Formal Education (BNFE), formerly known as the directorate of non-formal education, implemented the nine projects spending Tk 2,912 crore, according to BNFE officials, EFA Progress Report of Bangladesh 2012, and Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division of the planning ministry.

It has also spent another Tk 1,320 crore till June this year for implementing the

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INTERNATIONAL LITERACY DAY

FORBES LIST Summit's Aziz Khan 41st richest man in Singapore

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muhammed Aziz Khan, chairman of Summit Group, advanced one notch in this year's

Singapore's 50 Richest list, coming at No. 41 with his net wealth of \$1.12 billion.

A year earlier, the 68-year-old energy magnate's net wealth was about \$1 billion, according to Forbes, which compiles the list every year.

Khan, who permanently resides in Singapore, entered the list in 2018 at No. 34 with his net wealth was \$910 million.

Much of his wealth was derived from Bangladesh's power sector, which has recently been in public discourse for the outside capacity payments being enjoyed by the producers.

In its three terms, the

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Amateur makes 'gold find of the century' in Norway



AFP, Oslo

A Norwegian out walking on doctors' advice unearthed rare sixth-century gold jewellery using a newly bought metal detector, a discovery archaeologists said yesterday was Norway's "gold find of the century".

"At first I thought it was chocolate coins or Captain Sabertooth coins," said 51-year-old Erlend Bore, referring to a fictional Norwegian pirate. "It was totally unreal."

The cache comprised nine Norwegian gold medallions and gold pearls that once formed an opulent necklace, as well as three gold rings. Archaeologists say the find is unique because of the design on the medallions -- a type of horse from Norse mythology.

Bore, who dreamt of becoming an archaeologist as a child, made the discovery on a farmer's land near Stavanger in August after he bought a metal detector on his doctors' recommendations to get more exercise.

10 injured falling off CU shuttle train

Students demonstrate demanding better train service

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Students of Chittagong University last night vandalised furniture and a number of vehicles after 10 people, including four students, were hit by tree branches and injured while travelling on the roof of the university shuttle train.

Students said they have long been demanding higher number of carriages and trips of the shuttle train, but the university administration did not pay heed to their demand.

They alleged that students are forced to travel on the roof due to overcrowding of the carriages.

The shuttle train carries students to and from the port city.

Mohammad Shahjahan, senior officer at Hathazari Fire Service Station, said they rescued four students and sent them

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An investigator works at the site where a Ukrainian drone was downed by Russian air defence system, in central Rostov-on-Don, Russia yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Modi calls for climate finance ahead of G20 meet

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi yesterday said leaders of the G20 summit he is chairing this weekend must support developing nations to tackle climate change with more cash and by sharing technology.

Against a backdrop of record-breaking temperatures and deadly heatwaves across the globe, climate scientists and activists have warned of dire consequences -- particularly for developing countries -- if leaders fail to forge a consensus.

Modi has pitched India as a self-styled leader of the "Global South", a bridge between developed and developing countries.

"Many countries of the Global South are at various stages of development and climate action must be a complementary pursuit," Modi wrote in an editorial carried by several Indian outlets as well as international dailies including in Britain and Japan.

Globally, wealthy nations missed their pledge to provide, by 2020, \$100 billion a year in climate finance to poorer nations, eroding trust that polluters will help vulnerable countries least responsible for warming to tackle the challenges of climate change.

The Group of 20, which will meet in New Delhi this weekend, consists of 19 countries and the European Union, making up about 85 percent of global GDP, and a similar amount of its carbon emissions.

