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Prof Yunus honoured by rights body

Human Rights Report: Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus on 27 August said the ultimate goal of the Liberation War was to establish peace in the country and it was yet to be achieved. "If we can bring peace to our country, we will be able to move ahead of the countries that are more advanced than us," he said when a delegation of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) called on him at the Yunus Centre, Dhaka.

Different socio-political and rights organisations have expressed support for the microfinance guru since the government on June moved to take over Grameen Bank, the institution he founded in 1983.

Apart from the BHRC, a team from BHRC visited the Nobel laureate at the Yunus

Centre on 27 August 2013. The rights body gave Yunus the title of Best Citizen of Bangladesh while handing over to him the National Human Rights Award-2013. "Our immediate aim of the

Liberation War was to have a country of our own by ousting the Pakistanis and we have achieved this. But our main objective to establish peace and to live with honour in our own country is yet to be achieved," Prof Yunus said.

"Forty-two years have passed since liberation. But we still have not been able to build a Bangladesh of our dream. And we will be defeated if we cannot reach our final target," he said, adding the process of peace starts through holding a peaceful election.

He said it was urgent to find

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out as early as possible in T which way a peaceful election could be held. "Through a peaceful election we want to elect those who we think will be able to establish peace in the country." BHRC Chairman Justice AKM Sadeque, Secretary General Dr. Saiful I. Dildar, National Adviser Dr. ASM Badruddoza, BHRC EC member Rokeya Nurun Nessa, Md. Nazrul Islam, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad, Chittagong Divisional Coordinator Mrs. Setara Gaffar, President of BHRC Dhaka City Corporation South Branch Md. Fazlul Haque Bachchu, General Abdul Secretary Aziz, President of BHRC Dhaka Corporation North City Branch AKM Akhteruzzaman Babul also present the occasion. Dr Yunus asked all to work for building a country where everyone will be able to express his or her opinion without fear.

During his 20-minute speech, he recalled how he along with others in the US worked relentlessly in favour of Bangladesh in 1971.

At one stage of his speech, the Nobel laureate said the people of Bangladesh elsewhere in the world do not understand why the government is so mad at Grameen Bank, which earned glory and honour for the country by winning the Nobel Prize for peace.

Sharing his thoughts with the rights body BHRC, Dr Yunus said its support for Grameen Bank has made him brave.

Ban Ki-moon talks political situation with Hasina Khaleda Govt not against dialogue with opposition : Hasina tells Ban Ki-moon?

Human Rights Report: UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Friday had phone talks with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia on Bangladesh's current affairs,

including the country's latest political that situation appears to be confrontational over election issues. The executive chief of the United Nations made separate phone calls to the two leaders for the discussion, urged the opposition to join the next parliament session to place its proposal over election-



Sheikh Hasina

time government. Ban Ki-moon expressed his sympathy to Sheikh Hasina for the killing of her father Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman with most



Khaleda Zia

phone conversation between them, Hasina told Ban Ki-moon arrangement of the national polls and transfer of power will be done through the elected representatives of people as handover of power to non-elected persons and arrangement of election by them is conflicting to the Constitution. "Only elected representatives of the people have the right to rule the country and people also want that," she was quoted as telling the UN chief. Hasina also told him that nearly 6,000 free and fair local and by-polls had been held under her government through which nearly 36,000 representatives of people were elected, and in many places the pro-government candidates were defeated. The people of the country, various international quar-

incidentally as the situation showed little signs of improvement although one of his deputies had recently visited Bangladesh and suggested a negotiated solution to the disputes between the two successive ruling parties. Prime phoned the He Minister in the morning when she told Ban Ki-moon that the coming national polls would be held as per the country's Constitution, and the government would also welcome any proposal from the opposition. Prime Minister's media adviser Iqbal Sobhan

Chowdhury said this while briefing journalists, adding that Sheikh Hasian has also of his family members on 15 August 1975 and for the grenade attack on Sheikh Hasina's rally that claimed 24 lives on 21 August in 2004. The UN Secretary-General invited the Bangladesh Prime Minister to join the coming UN General Assembly while she also invited him to visit Bangladesh.

Hasina told Ban Ki-moon that her government is not against discussion and dialogue with the opposition. She had proposed dialogue with the opposition earlier but the opposition leader gave her ultimatum in lieu of her proposal and tried to create instability in the country. During the 30-minute tele-

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ters, observers and local and foreign media have hailed those elections, she added. The premier further said in 38 years after the killing of the father of the nation in the 1975 change in power had occurred sometimes unconstitutionally and sometimes through election.

"Awami League and the government want peaceful election through spontaneous participation of people and peaceful handover of power, and the government is promise-bound to do this," she added.

Sheikh Hasina informed the UN Secretary-General that the caretaker government system was cancelled through amendment of the Constitution following the verdict of the highest court of the country. A special committee was formed to amend the constitution and the opposition was invited to join the committee, but they didn't.

Discussions were held and recommendations were taken from the people of all walks of life, including civil society, business community and media. In the light of the opinion and recommendations of all and on the basis of the verdict of the highest court and long discussions in parliament the the Constitution was amended, she added.

The premier further said before the last parliament session the opposition placed an adjournment motion, and for the first time in parliamentary democracy, the ruling party welcomed the motion. There was a chance to discuss the motion, but the opposition closed the door of discussion through withdrawing the motion before the parliament session began. The next parliament session will begin on 12 September and there is chance to hold a discussion there. If the opposition places any specific proposal, the government will welcome it.

Ban Ki-moon lauded Bangladesh's tremendous successes in the fields of democracy, economic growth and millennium development goals under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Iqbal Sohan added. The UN chief further told the Prime Minister that Bangladesh has been acclaimed internationally for its firm stance against terrorism, militancy and fundamentalism and added that the world needs a leader like

> Salar . **qybewaKyi -**(

Sheikh Hasina. He expressed the hope that Bangladesh's advancement in democracy, economy and anti-militant activities would continue under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina.



Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin no more

Former Chief Justice Kemaluddin Hossain died of cancer at a city hospital early 21 August. He was 90. Doctors at the city's United Hospital said that the former chief justice breathed his last at the hospital at 4:55 am. His namaz-e-janaza will be held on the Supreme Court premises and at the Gulshan Azad mosque and he will be buried at the city's Banani graveyard.

Justice Kemaluddin was chief justice of the country from 1978 to 1982. He was also the first chairman of the Law Commission.

Women's Rights in Islam

issue of The women in Islam is a factor of great misunderstanding due to a lack of understanding, but also partly due to misbehavior

Chowdhury of some Muslims which has been taken to represent the teachings of Islam. We speak here about what Islam teaches, and that is that standard according to which Muslims are to be judged. As such, my basis and source is the Quran the words of Allah, and the sayings of the Prophet, his deeds and his confirmation. Islamic laws are derived from these sources. To

Tarek

facilitate our discussion we can discuss the position of women from a spiritual, economic, social, and political standpoint all over the world. According to the Quran, men

and women have the same spirit; there is no superiority in the spiritual sense between men and women. Noble Quran [4:1, 7:189, 42:11] In terms of moral, spiritual duties, acts of worship, the requirements of men and women are the same, except in some cases when women have certain concessions because of their feminine nature, or their health or the health of their babies.

In the area of economic rights, we have to remember that in Europe until the 19th century, women did not have the right to

own their own property. When they were married, either it would transfer to the husband or she would not be able to dispense of it without permission of her husband. In Asia Indian Hindu women had horrible life they had no economical rights on the other hand they bound to died alive with their dead husband like this women were victims most part of the ancient world. More than 1300 years earlier, that right was clearly established in Islamic law. "Whatever men earn, they have a share of that and whatever women earn, they have a share in that." [Noble Quran 4:32] Secondly, there is no restriction in Islamic law that says a woman cannot work nor have a profession that her only place is in the home. In fact, by definition, in a truly Islamic society, there must be women physicians, women nurses, women teachers, etc. This professionals not only help them self but also serve the society.

In Islam if any women chooses to work, or if she's married with the consent of her husband, she's entitled to equal pay, not for equal work, but for work of equal worth. Thirdly, when it comes to financial security, Islamic law is more tilted in many respects towards women. During the period of engagement, a woman is to be on the receiving side of gifts. At the time of marriage, it is the duty of the husband, not the bride's family. He is supposed to pay for a marital gift. The Quran called it a gift, and it is exclusively the right of the woman. She doesn't have to spend it on the household; she doesn't have to give it to her father or anyone else. If the woman happened to own any property prior to marriage, she retains that property after marriage. It remains under her control. Also, in most Muslim countries, the woman keeps her own last name, and her own identity. If the woman has any earnings during her marital life, by way of investments of her property or as a result of work, she doesn't have to spend any money of that income on the household, it is entirely hers. The full maintenance and support of a married woman is the entire responsibility of her husband, even though she might be richer than he is. At the time of divorce, there are certain guarantees during the waiting period and even beyond for a woman's support. If the widow or divorcee has children, she's entitled to child support. In return for these listed securities, it is clear why the Islamic laws pertaining to inheritance give men a higher share.

From the social standpoint, women will find that credit goes to Islam for stopping the barbaric practice of pre-Islamic Arabs of female infanticide. These ignorant people used to bury female daughters alive. The Quran forbade the practice, making it a crime. Surah 81 Additionally, the Quran condemned the chauvinistic attitudes of some people who used to greet the birth of a boy with gladness, but sadness in the case of a girl.

The duty, not the right, the duty of education, as the Prophet said, is a duty on every Muslim, male and female. As far as treatment of daughters is concerned, Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him) said, "Anyone who has two daughters, and did not bury them, did not insult them and brought them up properly, he and I will be like this," holding his two fingers close together. Another version adds, "And also did not favor his sons over daughters."



arrest of Adilur Human Rights Report: Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) Chairman Justice AKM Sadeque and Secretary General Dr Saiful I has condemned the Dildar arrest and police

remand of Adilur Rahman Khan (Shubro), Secretary of Odhikar, a human-rights organisation. They alleged the arrest was made at the government's behest.

BHRC leaders demanded the release of human rights activist and Odhikar

and urged that they be used in accordance with interna-

tional laws. "We believe that such strikes violate international humanitarian law and therefore should be stopped," Pakistan's permanent representative to the UN Masood said during Khan the Security Council's open debate on Monday.

"Negotiations in this regard must be intensified," he said in the debate that coincided with World Humanitarian Day.

"We endorse the Secretary General's views that these principles also apply to the use of new technologies, including armed drones. We support High Commissioner Navi Pillay's call made today for clarifying the legal basis of armed drones strikes."

The Pakistani envoy said that, even as the Council was meeting, wars and conflicts were unfolding, with the majority of their victims, civilians.

"Despite established norms and laws, the abysmal state of civilians in armed conflicts had changed little," he said, adding that it was imperative to translate strategy into action on the ground.

secretary Adilur Rahman. "This renowned person shouldn't have been

arrested. At best, a case could've been filed against him. BHRC consider this incident as the violation of

human rights," they said. "The human-rights situation in Bangladesh is grave. The government is swooping down on those who are speaking on the issue," BHRC leaders said in a statement on 12 Aug. 2013. Mr Adil was arrested on Saturday night at Dhaka's Gulshan for allegedly 'distorting information' over the May 5 police drive against the rampaging Hifazat-e Islam at Dhaka's Motijheel. Adilur Rahman was a Ex. Deputy Attorney General during the last government. Odikhar, in one of its recent reports, claimed 61 people were killed in the Motijheel drive but the government rejected it saying there had been 'zero casualties' in the drive.

UN human rights chief questions legality of drone strikes

Human Rights Report: The Security Council met today to hold an open debate on the protection of civilians

in armed conflict. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay told the meeting that "the current lack of transparency surrounding their use creates an accountability

vacuum and affects the ability of victims to seek redress." Speaking by videoconference, Pillay said she was "seriously concerned about human rights implications for the protection



military operations including in Pakistan, Yemen and Gaza." "I urge relevant states to clarify the legal basis for such

guards in place to ensure compliance with applicable international law," Pillay said. A top Pakistani diplomat also called for an end to drones strikes as he

backed the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's stand that they must operate within international law. On his visit to Pakistan earlier this month, the UN Secretaryof civilians of armed drone General had expressed con-

strikes carried out in the con- cern over the loss of life text of counter-terrorism and caused by the armed UAVs

> Sector **avbevna Kvi - 8**

Mozena concerned over contempt charge against HRW

Human Rights Report: The U.S. ambassador in crimes against humanity and

Bangladesh said on 21 August he was concerned about a contempt petition prosecutors were seeking against Human **Rights** Watch over а

Bangladesh war crimes case. Ambassador Dan Mozena said that a human rights organization like it has "a critical role to play."

The prosecutors sought permission Tuesday from a special tribunal to file a contempt notice against the New York-based rights organization because of a statement in which HRW said the trial of former Jamaat-e-Islami party chief Ghulam Azam was "deeply flawed" and did not meet international standards. The statement the group issued Friday alleged the "judges had improperly conducted an investigation on behalf of the prosecution" and mentioned "collusion and bias among prosecutors and judges."

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genocide and sentenced to 90 years in jail for his actions during the nation's independence war against Pakistan.

Bangladesh says

Azam was convicted of

Pakistani soldiers, aided by local collaborators, killed 3 million people and raped 200,000 women in the 1971 war.



city on 18 August afternoon. He was chief Reporter of Daily Ittefaq. He served the Daily Ittefaq till 1998. He was about 66. He was suffering from various diseases for several years. He was recipient of Ekushey Padak. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and one son besides a host of friends and well wishers to mourn

his death He was an MA in Economics from Dhaka University. He was recipient of Bangladesh Institute Diploma of Engineers Award and ICT sector journalist award. He was born in Abottabad, Pakistan on September 11, 1948.

He was a permanent member of Jatiya Press Club. He began his journalistic career with Dainik Samachar



BGMEA takes charge of 300 children of Rana Plaza victims

Human Rights Report: Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association yesterday took charge of 300 orphans, who lost their parents in the Rana Plaza

collapse on April 24. The trade body handed over 10 of the orphans to ORCA Homes, an initiative of Old Rajshahi Cadets Association, at

Civil Defence for the extraordinary performance of its staff members in the rescue operations.

Islam in a statement said, after the Rana Plaza collapse, an expert panel of the trade body, comprising engineers, 10 inspected structural designs of 524 garment factories in Dhaka and 105 in Chittagong. Upon

and also served Bengali Daily (now defunct) Paigam and Bengali Daily Sangbad prior to joining Daily Ittefaq. He was Advisor Editor and publisher of Weekly Rastra. He earned name and fame in journalism for his dedication. The Managing Committee of Press Club deeply condoled of the death Mostan. Kamaluddin Sabuj and Syed Abdal Ahmed, president and general secretary respectively of Jatiya Press Club also condoled his death. He was buried at Kalshi Mirpur graveyard, after Namaz-e Janaza on Sunday night.

said. seven workers got appointment letters at the programme. The BGMEA also handed over a cheque for Tk 10 lakh to Bangladesh Fire Service and

market, Islam said. ferent garment factories, while

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make them ready for the job The trade body plans to offer jobs to 1,107 survivors in dif-

BGMEA President Atiqul Islam ORCA Homes will educate the orphans up to class 10 and then provide vocational training to

office in Dhaka to mark 100 days of the deadliest accident. "We will rehabilitate the rest of orphans in phases," the

a programme at the BGMEA

buildings 236.

converted ones. Jahangir Kabir

weight of tradition, the history

expended in its name, and role

as cultural cornerstone stands

out among the world's lan-

guages, hardly troubles with

Yet somewhere along the way,

as the forces of globalisation

defanged national cultures of

such pedantry.

buildings constructed for residential purposes and later turned into factories are the

Purpose-made buildings are for

setting up factories only, while the shared buildings can be used for other purposes, and

that the number of purposemade buildings both in Dhaka and Chittagong was 846, shared buildings 462 and converted

four in the port city due to structural flaws in the buildings. In a survey, conducted after the

collapse, the trade body found

inspection, the BGMEA closed

16 factories in the capital and

Nanak, state minister for Local agencies' handling of the affair Government, Rural has also given cause for scruti-Development & Co-operatives, said the government will confiscate the land where the Rana Plaza was built and construct structures there for the victims. Dr. Saiful I. Dildar Secretary General and M. Nazrul Islam EC Member of Bangladesh Huaman Rights Commission-BHRC attend the occasion. A vested quarter is conspiring to destroy the garment sector of

the country as well as its economy, Nanak said. The government has already allocated 550 acres of land to construct a 'Garment Palli' at Bausia in Munshiganj to relocate the garment factories there, he added. Nanak also said a total of Tk 17.50 crore has so far been given to the relatives of the dead victims from the Prime Minister's relief fund. Dr Md. Enamur Rahman, chairman of Savar-based Enam Medical College and Hospital, where a total of 1,746 victims received treatment, and Nazma Akter, of Sammilito president Garment Sramik Federation, a platform of workers, also spoke.

The cancer on our society

It is the story that has held the nation spellbound for over a week now - a bewitching cocktail of murder, sleaze, and substance abuse amid adolescence gone wrong that has scandalised a society not known for tough introspection. For added flavour, the lawn-enforcing ny, as to how the written laws and regulations of the country come to be applied when it comes down to it - whether all of us, at all times, including when we are most vulnerable, can actually avail them. To headline writers and primetime news producers, Oishee may soon be forgotten, once the next cat out of the bag has managed to snare our attention away from her. But to those concerned with the state of the nation, how she came to be

accused of the murder of her parents, in a fit of adolescent anger brought on by parental restrictions, should remain a marker, as the moment this entire nation came to realise the ill it had brought upon itself, over years of constantly overlooking the devil at its doorstep, in the interest of maintaining appearances.

For as naturally as conservatism may come to us Bangladeshis, and more generally the peoples of South Asia, it is of course well-known that they do enjoy a walk on the other side - only in their own time, and preferably with noone watching. That is of course a preserve due to every human being, and Bangladeshis make sure to extract it. Traditions and social mores may punctuate our existence, but no-one really minds a missed comma here or there, or steering clear entirely of the semi-colon. Incidentally our own language, that by

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their distinguishing features, the march in-step with the global order prescribed certain changes to the lifestyle. Already a composite of many influences that came to make their mark on this land, now it had to imbibe certain gears to play catch up with the West's template - for better or worse, the only game in town once the Soviet Union was dissolved. And so while tasting of the reward-system that this model opens up, the hard part of the bargain involves Bangladeshis accepting its pitfalls as well. It's a fact that recent years have witnessed a visible upsurge in phenomena that sociologists the world over have identified and associated as manifestations of the symptoms that mark out the problem of alienation that comes to affect capitalist societies. Initial bursts of economic growth are often marked by increased inequality - particularly as those at the upper end of the income scale see their lot improve at an advanced rate. While poverty may be cut at the other end of the spectrum, improving conditions for those used to living in grinding poverty.

'Arab leaders tacitly back crackdown on Brotherhood'

Most Arab leaders tacitly support Egypt's deadly crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, fearing the group's growing regional influence since the Arab Spring threatens their own power, analysts say. Egypt's army, directly or indi-

rectly in power since 1952,

"For that reason, they are hoping for a return to the classic situation of a strong power in Egypt, a pivotal country in the Arab world." These countries, Saudi Arabia

in particular, "have noted with disapproval the growing weight of Turkey and Iran... and their

support for the Egyptian regime demonstrates their desire to return to a purely Arab regional system based more on

classical lines.' Turkey,

whose Islamist government is ideologically aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood, has widened its influence in the Arab world since the outbreak of the Arab Spring.

And Iran has reinforced its links with the regime of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and established relations with the Brotherhood in Egypt. Hami Shadi, a Middle East expert at the Brookings Doha Centre, said what happened in Egypt "is a product of a big regional issue, which is this kind of 'Arab Cold War', and it is clear

what side... is winning.' For Riyadh and Abu Dhabi, the coup delivered a "blow to their major regional opponent, the Muslim Brotherhood, so it would not make much sense for them to turn around now and say "well, we don't like what you are doing anymore.'



The International Human Rights Commission-IHRC strongly condemned Egyptian forces' bloody crackdown on protesters and denounced the imposition of a state of emergency. IHRC President Drs. Will Janssen and Secretary General Dr Saiful I Dildar urged the Egyptian military to show restraint after a crackdown on supporters of deposed elected president Mohamed Morsi.

Hundreds of people were killed on 14 August assaults on two Cairo protest camps of supporters of ousted Islamist president Mohamed Morsi in the country's worst violence in decades, it is clearly genocide IHRC strongly condemns the use of violence against protesters in

Egypt. Violence will only make it more difficult to move Egypt forward on a path to lasting stability and democracy and runs directly counter to the pledges by the interim government to pursue reconciliation. IHRC denounced the use of force by the military-backed interim government to clear two protest camps in Cairo. IHRC deeply concerned at the escalating violence and unrest in Egypt.



ousted the Brotherhood's democratically elected Mohamed Morsi as president in a July 3 coup and installed an interim civilian government in its place. Morsi's supporters set up protest camps in Cairo and promised to stay put until the former leader, now in custody, was reinstated. The government ordered them to disperse and, after a number of delays, police backed by troops stormed the camps on Wednesday. The death toll from ensuing clashes, in the capital and across Egypt, has reached nearly 600 people. But only Qatar, a Brotherhood patron, and Tunisia, whose ruling Ennahda party is affiliated with the the movement, strongly condemned the assault. "All the Gulf monarchies, except for Qatar, and Jordan fear that the Muslim Brotherhood revolution will be exported to them," said Khattar Abou Diab, a professor at University of Paris-Sud.

