# NEWS

discussed the current political situation

in the country. The meeting observed

that if Hasan is made chief of the next

interim government, people would

they want a neutral and non-partisan

caretaker government in accordance

with the Constitution. But KM Hasan

and Aziz are BNP loyalists. The chief

adviser of caretaker government

should be appointed on the basis of a

consensus and the Election

Commission must be reconstituted to

Referring to a BNP leader's com-

ment that people would take to the

streets with sickles to face those with

oars and poles, the meeting said a

serious situation might arise. Political

confrontations and crisis are inevitable

if a peaceful solution to the reform

Barua, Nurul Islam, MA Gani, Zakir

Hossain, Pankai Bhattacharva,

Mainuddin Khan Badal and Nazmul

peace because economics and

peace are interrelated--economics

"Hunger is one of the main rea-

nfluences people's life

Haque Pradhan.

issue is not made immediately, it felt.

ensure a free and fair election.

Briefing newsmen later, Tofail said

react sharply and take to the streets.

# Greatest reformer

## FROM PAGE 1

countries has prompted Prof. Yunus to demand that credit should be recognised as a human right, just as important as all other fundamental rights enshrined in the UN Charter of Human Rights

Prof. Yunus' greatest achievement is that when the whole world was mesmerised with growth and globalisation he kept his faith with the poor and kept on shouting from every platform he could get on, that take care of the most deprived and they will take of the world. In awarding him and Grameen Bank the Nobel Peace Prize the world has, hopefully, recognised Prof. Yunus' core message, the timeliness of it cannot be overemphasised.

Bangladesh today is recognised as one of the best performers in terms of social indicators among SAARC countries and among the developing countries of the world. That has been possible because of what Prof. Yunus started in the early seventies. There were several other notable contributors, especially BRAC and its founder Fazle Hasan Abed that changed the scene of rural Bangladesh. But it was Prof. Yunus' untiring zeal and exceptional organising ability that brought microcredit to the notice of the world as a serious alternative to the conventional methods of poverty eradication.

Prof. Yunus' faith in women's ability for entrepreneurship was also something guite extraordinary. With more than 95 per cent of his borrowers being women he clearly showed through example that if rural poverty is to be addressed women will have to be at the centre of all efforts. As the main anchor of the family if a woman is empowered then a mini social revolution takes place. Women of Bangladesh proved him right more than 14 million times, the number of Grameen borrowers at present.

In one of my numerous visits with him I saw what struck me to be rather peculiar. Women borrowers when they come to their weekly meetings they stand straight, look up into the eyes of others and salute. I asked why the salute. Prof. Yunus said women in our villages seldom stand erect in public and never raise their face and look into the eyes of others when they talk. I introduced the salute because it forces them to stand straight and look up those she is talking to. "Psychological and emotional impact of this small desture is immeasurable". What an amazing insight.

People often confuse Grameen Bank to be an NGO, which he proudly negates saying it is a bank that runs on sound commercial principles. It has the same rules. perhaps even more, than other commercial banks. But where it differs- and the difference is fundamental- it caters to those that commercial banks not only leave out but will never touch, simply because they are considered "unbankable" Prof. Yunus has proven that they are not only "bankable" but more so than many rich borrowers, and if the world has to become fairer and more just it is these so-called unbankable" people who will do it. His other most exceptiona contribution is his tireless advocacy for adoption of modern technology in rural life. His introduction of mobile telephone for rural women, where they earn money by providing telephone service, his tireless advocacy for introducing internet services in rural areas by opening

up VOIP service and introduction of solar energy in villages speak of a man who not only focuses on the poor but sets his eyes on the most modern of technologies to change their lives. Seldom has there been a better example of a man to who blends the backward and the mod-

ern in such a practically workable relationship. While he has devoted his life for the emancipation of the poor, he has programmes. never advocated charity. The freshness of his ideas come from a total Sangram Parishad also held a rally adherence to commercial principles and demonstration demanding in serving the poor. Business, he realisation of their five point demand says does not have to run on "profit including withdrawal of false cases motive" only but can also run on a against the leaders of garment motive to improve peoples' welfare. workers, announcing Tk 3,000 as He believes that there can be a very minimum wage and payment of the happy marriage between commerarrears, bonus and salary before the cial principles of capitalism and Eid festival. basic urge of human being to be

associated with social good. Thus Malaysia asks he advocates for a new business ethos that will give birth to socially FROM PAGE 1 oriented business enterprises. Malaysia conducts periodic sweeps A fact that needs to be specially for illegal immigrants, mainly

FROM PAGE 16

the rampage in the factories.

Radzi said RELA, a uniformed

"In fact, RELA is detaining some

Since 1992, Malaysia has

Malaysia is one of the largest

Consolation win

Bangladesh, it was crucial to go

Bangladesh earlier lost to Sri

Brendan Taylor scored 52 off 72

Lanka and West Indies who have

qualified for the tournament proper.

balls but it was not enough for

Zimbabwe to chase down the total

as they lost their wickets at regular

Rookie Sakib Al Hasan, who

contributed a fine 36 with the bat,

was the most successful bowler with

three for 18 in 10 overs while fellow

left-arm spinners Abdur Razzak and

Mohammad Rafique chipped in with

party and its front organisations

during the transition period, added

and our prime minister will return to

thousands of people will gather in

front of the party office to show their

Mahbubuddin Ahmed. Housing and

Public Works Minister Mirza Abbas,

State Minister for Cultural Affairs

Selima Rahman, Gayeswer

Chandra Ray, State Minister for

Labour and Employment Aman

Ullah Aman, and Women and

Children Affairs Adviser Barkat

Ullah Bulu, SA Khaleque MP, Nasir

Uddin Ahmed Pintu MP, and Shafiul

Loans to poor people without any

financial security had appeared to

From modest beginnings three

decades ago, Yunus has, first and

foremost through Grameen Bank,

developed micro-credit into an ever

more important instrument in the

to live a decent life. Across cultures

and civilizations, Yunus and

Grameen Bank have shown that

even the poorest of the poor can

Micro-credit has proved to be an

Economic growth and political

Yunus' long-term vision is to

micro-credit must play a major part.

Bari Babu attended the meeting.

Citation

be an impossible idea.

struggle against poverty.

LIBERATING FORCE

FROM PAGE 1

the world.

support for Khaleda Zia.

"BNP will not leave the streets

intervals under lights.

two wickets each

FROM PAGE 16

the sources.

**BNP** plans

back home with some consolation.

FROM PAGE 16

mentioned today is that Prof. Yunus Indonesians who work in the counwas a very active freedom fighter. try's plantation and construction Early on he gave up his job and joined others in the US to launch a sectors. most effective advocacy to gain support to our independence movecivilian task force which participates ment in the US. Those who worked n campaigns to track down and with him remember him with admiradetain illegal immigrants, was tion his commitment, tireless zeal already rounding up people. and effectiveness as an organiser to gather support for our independ-80 illegal immigrants a day," he said.

ence. A very humble man in personal launched several operations life Prof. Yunus is always accessible and meets whoever wants to against illegal workers, but each see him, time permitting. One of his one has led to a labour shortage biggest qualities is his ability to followed by a new wave of illegal inspire people. In Prof. Yunus' immigration -- a pattern which was hands microcredit has become far apparent after a blitz last year. bigger than a method of fighting poverty. It has become a way of mporters of foreign labour in Asia. restoring faith and dignity to the Foreign workers, both legal and people, especially the poor and the illegal, number around 2.6 million of oppressed. He is a great "enerits 10.5 million workforce, officials gizer", invigorating people especially those who feel frustrated with say

all the negatives that is happening all around. He is always full of ideas to do thing and loves to meet people who have new things to tell him. Being a visionary he always has implementation high in his mind. He has no time for an idea that cannot be implemented. He moves about in an office microbus, works out of non-air conditioned office sitting on a wooden chair behind a very ordinary rectangular table. His only "luxury" is shelves full of books that line his office walls. He is computer savvy and an answers his own emails promptly.

Always smiling and full of life, he has a great sense of humour. In celebrating Prof. Yunus' Nobel Peace Prize let us emulate the greatest social reformer of our time in renewing our faith in the people of Bangladesh and give them the respect that we deny them all the time and inculcate a bit of humility so that we can serve our nation better.

River transport

enforce the strike because the

director general and other high

officials of the Department of

Shipping did not pay heed to our

demand despite repeated appeals,"

Alhaj Golam Moulana, president of

Nouian Sramik Federation, told the

Federation's General Secretary

The Department of Shipping did

not issue new certificates for drivers

in the last 14 years while certificates

for masters were not issued in the

last two years, Ashigul alleged.

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Daily Star

Yunus makes nation proud RMG workers the garment owners have decided

FROM PAGE 1 to take stern action against the

Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank movement of the workers. But they were chosen for the prestigious are not taking any actions against award from among 191 candidates, the criminals belonging to the politiincluding 168 individuals and 23 cal parties who were involved with organisations.

Filing false cases against thou-Yunus, dubbed "Banker to the sands of garment workers will lead Poor". began fighting poverty during to further unrest, said leaders of a 1974 famine in Bangladesh with a Revolutionary Garment Workers loan of \$27 out of his pocket to help Solidarity and Bangladesh Trade 42 women buy weaving tools to Union Federation at separate save them from the clutches of the moneylenders Leaders of Garments Sramik

"They got the weaving tools quickly, they started to weave quickly and they repaid him quickly," said Miøs.

"Yunus and Grameen Bank have shown that even the poorest of the poor can work to bring about their own development," the Nobel Committee said in its citation.

The economics professor is now seen as one of the main developers of the concept of micro-credit, which gives entrepreneurs who are too poor to qualify for traditional bank loans very small sums to start up their own enterprises.

Prof Yunus in his immediate reaction told Norway's NRK television by telephone that he was "delighted, really delighted".

"You are endorsing a dream to achieve a poverty-free world." he

This is a historic moment for the nation, he told the press in Dhaka.

particularly women, who are too

poor to qualify for traditional bank

loans, to start up their own enter-

The United Nations warmly

welcomed the award to Yunus and

his bank. Secretary General Kofi

Annan's spokesman Stephane

Dujarric described them in a state-

ment as "long-standing allies of the

United Nations in the cause of

development and the empower-

tive enterprises to grow and for

In Brussels, the European

Union's executive commission

expressed "heartfelt congratula-

tions", saying micro-credit was tied

into the fight against poverty and

opment philosophy," the commis-

"That corresponds to our devel-

supported individual initiatives.

sion said in a statement.

communities to prosper," it said.

"Thanks to Professor Yunus and

FROM PAGE 1

ment of women".

prises.

'The Nobel Peace Prize has acknowledged the merit of Bangladesh as a proud nation in the world

"We have so far taken a lot from others. Now, we have been able to give the world something in return," Prof Yunus said referring to his concept of micro-credit.

Prof Yunus will visit the Central Shaheed Minar at 10:00am today to pay his tribute to the martyrs of the country's 1952 Language Movement.

"This is the last prize. That's what's so special about it ... it's the sky," Prof Yunus told Reuters from his residence in Dhaka.

"It's very happy news for me and also for the nation. But it has burdened us with further responsibility. Bangladesh now must remove poverty from the country and also put in more effort to eradicate poverty from the world

"Now the war against poverty will be further intensified across the world. It will consolidate the struggle against poverty through microcredit in most of the countries...There should be no poverty, anywhere," Prof Yunus said, envis-

aging a better world. "At Grameen Bank, credit is a cost effective weapon to fight poverty and it serves as a catalyst in the overall development of socioeconomic conditions of the poor

World leaders greet Yunus

who have been kept outside the banking orbit on the ground that they are poor and hence not bankable." the Nobel Committee said.

Today the bank claims to have 6.6 million borrowers, 97 per cent of them women, and provides services in more than 70,000 villages in Bangladesh. Its model of microfinancing has inspired similar efforts around the world.

"Micro-credit has proved to be an important liberating force in societies where women in particular have to struggle against repressive social and economic conditions," the Nobel Committee noted.

Prof Yunus' Nobel victory was a surprise--bookmakers had tipped former Finnish president Martti Ahtisaari for his efforts in brokering peace deal last year in the Indonesian province of Aceh.

Australia's former foreign minister Gareth Evans had also been tipped for his International Crisis Group that analyses conflicts and proposes solutions.

Prof Yunus said he was looking forward to visiting Oslo to receive the prize on December 10. "Definitely, I'm going to come," he said.

Prof Yunus and the bank will share in the \$1.4 million prize as well as a gold medal and diploma.

# Massive protests

FROM PAGE 16

and poles will keep the capital block-aded until the reform demands are met. Prime Minister and BNP chief

Khaleda Zia's recent comments on the reform proposals have made the opposition leaders apprehend that the governmentwould not accept those

Meanwhile, after four days of talks between BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on the reform issue, they told newsmen that they have come 'very close' to resolving many problems.

But sources close to both the leaders said the dialogue got stuck over the issue of Justice Hasan, which might get settled on October 16.

Branding Justice Hasan and Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz as BNP loyalists, the opposition combine has long been agitating for appointment of a 'neutral person' instead of Hasan as chief of caretaker government, removal of Aziz and 29 other demands to ensure a free and fair election.

The meeting criticised the govern-"Come to Dhaka, with whatever ment's role in handling readymade you can lay your hands on, on the day garments sector. It also stressed a the present government will step down compromise between the owners and and KM Hasan will assume office employees of this sector in the greater without realising our demands. We will nterest of the nation. see how Hasan-led caretaker govern-The leaders who attended the ment and Aziz-led Election Commission continue functioning, meeting included Motia Chowdhury, Hasina roared at a mammoth rally in Obaidul Quader, Abdul Mannan, Dilip

the capital on September 18. 14-PARTY MEETING

The 14-party at a meeting yesterday at the AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue with Tofail Ahmed in the chair

# Peace to last only

FROM PAGE 1

"Congratulations Dr Yunus, you got the Nobel prize,' the TV channel greeted me, and a moment later I heard the declaration in English and it was 3.03pm," said the first ever Nobel laureate of the country.

the Nobel committee and Norwegian deputy prime minister phoned and congratulated me," said Dr Yunus.

After hearing the news, Prof Yunus went to the Grameen Bank head office at Mirpur, which turned into a place of celebrations, happiness and joy when hundreds of wellwishers came to share the moment. "This is fantastic news, it's unbe-

lievable...it's a very happy moment for me, my family, colleagues and for my country," Dr Yunus told local and foreign reporters.

"I did not expect the prize this year because every year this kind of rumours go on but this year I did not hear any discussion, so I was not hopeful.

The 65-vear-old economist appeared before the local press flanked by his wife Afrozi Yunus and daughter Deena Yunus

Dr Yunus was seen embracing his near and dear ones and admirers who rushed to his residence to dent. congratulate him. The Noble laure-Fire victims were found wailing at ate was seen smiling, but also could not hold a few drops of tears of joy.

LGRD and Cooperatives incident in the area that originated from Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Principal Secretary to the prime the TS Trading situated at a tin-roofed ding of Nama Posta. Most of the people have taken shelter at their relatives' houses while a temporary shelter set up at a local school has scanty accommodation facility. Many of the homeless people are now staying under the open sky

#### that believe they could benefit from Yunus' system also expressed their recognition of his work. Uganda's Finance Minister Ezra Suluma said he was "delighted" and development hoped the award would boost the micro-credit programs the African

country is introducing. "Uganda is following his footsteps so that poor communities can access credit." he told AFP. "This prize strengthens some of us who are working towards achieving what he has been doing.

the Grameen Bank, microfinance In Rwanda, Albert Kinuma, the has proved its value as a way for managing director of Village Phone. low-income families to break the a Grameen-backed scheme that vicious circle of poverty, for producprovides telephone services to rural areas, also hailed the award.

Patrice Kavibanda, who used a micro-loan in Rwanda to buy a village phone and now sells the service, said the work of Yunus and Grameen had been "a major blessina"

"I have now repaid the loan (and) at the same time I have managed to keep my children in school through selling the phone service." he said

A Chinese political figure France and Germany also hailed the announcement, with German responded to the prize announce-Chancellor Angela Merkel calling it a ment by calling for Yunus' services. "good and noteworthy decision". US-based Chinese dissident and French President Jacques Rebiva Kadeer asked Yunus to help Chirac hailing micro-credit as an introduce his poverty eradication "intelligent and generous measure, concept to minority Uighur Muslims based on the dignity of the human." in China.

In Spain, King Juan Carlos and Non-government campaign Queen Sofia -- who has for years groups welcomed the recognition of been a supporter of micro-credit --Yunus' work, highlighting the role of

People from other poor countries Charly Poppe, trade campaigner for Friends of the Earth Europe, based in Brussels, said it highlighted the importance of the economic element of sustainable

> "It's a recognition that there is indeed a link between economic development and the development of a healthy and liveable environment for everyone," Poppe said.

Yunus, an economics professor, began fighting poverty during a 1974 famine in Bangladesh with a loan of 27 dollars to save a group of villagers from the clutches of monevlenders.

The 66-year-old from Chittagong set up Grameen Bank two years later. It now has some 6.5 million borrowers, most of them women.

The Geneva-based World Business Council for Sustainable Development added its endorsement on Friday. Its spokesman Lloyd Timberlake said Yunus' award would make micro-credit a "mainstream issue"

"Muhammad Yunus has improved the lives of millions by the simple act of offering credit and at the same time has almost singlehandedly created the international

microcredit boom," he said. "He's shown it can work, and others seem to be taking up the

sons of anarchy. If poverty can be reduced from the society, peace will orevail on earth." he added. "After a few minutes, members of HOW THE MONEY WILL BE SPENT Dr Yunus said, "I will not spend the prize money for myself... I will

rather spend it in social business on a no-profit-no-loss policy. We will also establish an eye hospital where even beggars will be given treatment at the cost of Tk 10-20. "We will make yogurt with all

kinds of nutritious elements. We want to provide nutrition to the poor and children," Prof Yunus said figuratively.

## Fire victims FROM PAGE 16

fire that gutted 20 plastic factories and over 1,000 houses and left around 5,000 people homeless in Lalbagh on

Thursday noon. At least 50 people including two fire ighters were also injured in the inci-

the debris while some were looking for their valuables in rain. Locals said it is this year's third fire

## ADB

## FROM PAGE 1

statement from its headquarters in Manila.

Chowdhury Ashiqul Alam said they "The program will help reduce gave an ultimatum to the costs for users and increase the Department of Shipping for removcountry's competitiveness for ing all kinds of undemocratic rules, investment" while trimming the including the two new rules by government's budgetary support, October 7. the ADB added.

Along with the loan, the ADB will also extend a two million-dollar technical assistance grant to support Bandladesh Railway's reform measures.

President, PM, Hasina

#### FROM PAGE 1

President lajuddin Ahmed in a message said the image of Bangladesh will be brightened further across the world with Prof Yunus' winning the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize

He wished Prof Yunus good health and happiness and further success in his mission for economic emancipation of the poor in Bangladesh.

PM Khaleda Zia in her message said the much-awaited award for Dr Yunus is the highest recognition to his outstanding contributions to poverty alleviation in Bangladesh and elsewhere in the world.

Bangladesh is proud of the first ever Nobel Prize for any of her citizen, she said, adding that the achievement will enhance the dignity and honour of the country in the international arena.

The micro-credit programme of Prof Yunus has benefited millions of poor Bangladeshis while his innovation has been applied successfully in many countries of the world, she said.

Leader of the Opposition and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, who is now in the USA, congratulated Prof Yunus and his Grameen Bank for winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

In a message Hasina said Prof Yunus has made Bangladesh and its people proud and the prize is not only a areat honour for Prof Yunus himself but also a pride for Bangladesh

She prayed for Prof Yunus' good health so that he may continue his mission.

Congratulating Prof Yunus, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain said Prof Yunus' winning the Nobel Peace Prize is a recognition for all, especially the oppressed and tortured. He wished the society would be free from oppres-

sion and torture and peace would be established. Speaker in parliament Jamir Uddin Sircar, Deputy Speaker Akhter Hamid

work to bring about their own devel-Siddigue, cabinet members, Dhaka opment University Teachers' Association President Prof Sharifullah Bhuivan mportant liberating force in societand General Secretary ies where women in particular have Akhtaruzzaman, Jatiya Party to struggle against repressive social Chairman Anwar Hossain Monju and and economic conditions Secretary General Shahidul Islam, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal President democracy can not achieve their full Hasanul Haque Inu and General potential unless the female half of Secretary Syed Zafar Sajjad, humanity participates on an equal Sammilto Samajik Andolon, footing with the male. Bangladesh Manobadhika Samonnoy Parishad, Bangladesh Cricket Control Board, World Peace Mission, Gonoshasthaya Kendra, of micro-credit alone.

Post Graduate Doctors' Association, Bangladesh Protibondhi Kalyan Samity, and Samata also lauded Prof Yunus for winning the Nobel Peace Prize 2006.

he people after passing power on to and the country's Socialist governthe caretaker administration," a ment congratulated Yunus. leader of BNP central committee told The Daily Star adding that

ment.

his micro-credit system in developgauntlet.

# First loan he gave was \$27

#### Among others, BNP Standing Committee Member Khandaker FROM PAGE 1

Fulbright scholarship. He did some teaching in Colorado University too.

Towards the end of his sevenyear stay in America, Yunus supported the Bangladeshi freedom movement when West Pakistan forces occupied the capital Dhaka. Returning to Bangladesh and observing the poverty of rural people in the clutches of exploitative moneylenders. Yunus came up with the idea of microcredit.

After staying seven years in Bangladesh. he joined Chittagong University as a professor of economics

#### **GRAMEEN BANK**

Yunus first involved himself in fighting poverty during the 1974 famine in Bangladesh. Yunus discovered that very small loans could make a significant difference to a poor person's ability to survive.

The first loan he gave was of Grameen Bank has been a source \$27 from his own pocket. He lent it to 42 female basket weavers in of ideas and models for the many the village of Jobra near institutions in the field of micro-Chittagong University. He discovcredit that have sprung up around ered that they could repay the amount very quickly by selling Every single individual on earth their goods in the market. has both the potential and the right

Before this, they used to take loans from village loan-sharks with high interest rates. In some cases, the interest rates stood at a staggering 10 percent a week.

However, banks were not interested in giving tiny loans to poor people and they considered the poor to be bad borrowers.

In 1976, Yunus launched the activities of Grameen Bank and started giving loans to poor Bangladeshis against the advice of banks and the government. He carried on giving out micro-loans and in 1983, he officially formed the Grameen Bank, meaning village bank, on the principles of trust and solidarity.

eliminate poverty in the world. That The Grameen Bank's method vision cannot be realised by means of giving out loans is now used in projects in 58 countries, including But Muhammad Yunus and the US, Canada, France, the Grameen Bank have shown that, in Netherlands and Norway. the continuing efforts to achieve it,

In 1997, Professor Yunus led the world's first microcredit sum-

### mit in Washington, DC. AWARDS

Dr Muhammad Yunus received over 60 different national and international awards before winning the Nobel Peace Prize, 2006. The national awards he

received are: President's Award 1978, Central Bank Award 1985, Independence Day Award 1987, Rear Admiral MA Khan Memorial Gold Medal Award 1993, Dr Mohammad Ibrahim Memorial Gold Medal Award 1994, RCMD Award 1995, IDEB Gold Medal Award 2000 and Bangladesh Computer Society Gold Medal 2005

The international awards are: Ramon Magsaysay Award 1984, Aga Khan Award for Architecture 1989, Humanitarian Award 1993, Mohamed Sahabdeen Award for Science (socio-economic) 1993, World Food Prize 1994, Pfeffer Peace Prize 1994, Max Schmidheiny Foundation Freedom Prize 1995, International Simon Bolivar Prize 1996, Distinguished Alumnus Award of Vanderbilt University 1996, International Activist Award 1997, Planetary Consciousness One World Broadcasting Trust Media Awards 1998, The Prince of Austurias Award for Concord 1998, Sydney Peace Prize 1998, Ozaki (Gakudo) Award 1998, Indira Gandhi Prize 1998, Juste of Humanitarian Action 1999, Rathindra Puraskar 1998, Omega Award of Excellence for Lifetime Achievement 2000, Award of the Medal of the Presidency of the Italian Senate 2000, King Hussein Humanitarian Leadership Award

2000, Artusi Prize 2001, Grand Prize of the Fukuoka Asian Culture Prize 2001, Ho Chi Minh Award 2001, International Cooperation Prize Caja de Granada 2001, Navarra

International Aid Award 2001 Mahatma Gandhi Award 2002, World Technology Network Award 2003, Volvo Environment Prize 2003, National Merit Order Award by the Honorable President of the Republic of Colombia in 2003, The Medal of the Painter Oswaldo Guayasamin Award 2003 Telecinco Award 2004, City of Orvieto Award 2004, The Economist Innovation Award 2004, World Affairs Council Award 2004. Leadership in Social Entrepreneurship Award, Premio Galileo 2000, Special Prize for Peace 2004, Nikkei Asia Prize 2004 Golden Cross of the Civil Order of the Social Solidarity 2005, Freedom Award 2005, Prize II Ponte 2005, Foundation of Justice 2005, Harvard University Neustadt Award 2006, Global Citizen of the Year Award 2006 Franklin D Roosevelt Freedom Award 2006, ITU World Information Society Award 2006 and Seoul Peace Prize 2006. Additionally, Yunus was

awarded 27 honorary degrees. Of them, only one is not a doctorate degree. He has also been given 15 special awards.

Yunus has been on the board of many national and international organisations. Besides Grameen Bank, he has created a number of companies in Bangladesh to address the diverse issues of poverty and development.

The companies are: Grameen Phone, Grameen Cybernet, Grameen Communications. Grameen Software, Grameen Information Technology Park, Grameen Fund, Grameen Capital Management, Grameen Textile, Grameen Knitwear, Grameen Renewable Energy, Grameen Health, Grameen Education, Grameen Agriculture, Grameen Fisheries and Livestock, Grameen Business Promotion, etc

minister Dr Kamal Siddique, econo mists Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud, Dr Hossein Zillur Rahman, Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, among others, went to his residence to congratulate Dr Yunus.

This is an honour for the country, for the nation...This kind of incident does not happen often to a nation,' Prof Yunus said, thanking the Almighty.

"We [Bangladesh] have taken many things from the world, now we have given something to the world. We have placed a model before the world," he added.

"Now I dream of Bangladesh as the first country to be free from hunger," he said.

Asked if the prize is appropriate for peace, Dr Yunus said, "I was not astonished to get the Nobel prize in

# US envoy

FROM PAGE 16

US proposals, calls for wide-ranging economic, military and financia sanctions, particularly targeting North Korea's nuclear, ballistic missile and other weapons of mass destruction programmes.

It drops a blanket arms embargo in an earlier draft and instead calls for a ban targeting missiles, tanks, warships and combat aircraft and calls for nspection of all cargo to and from North Korea

It demands that Pyongyang scrap all of its programs involving nuclear weapons, other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ballistic missiles "in a complete, verifiable and irreversible manner."

It also calls on Pyongyang to return immediately to six-party nuclear disarmament talks "without precondition" and provides for a travel ban on senior North Korean officials involved in the nuclear, ballistic missile and other WMD-related programmes.

Earlier the leaders of China and South Korea agreed yesterday that the UN Security Council must take "necessary and appropriate" action against North Korea for its declared nuclear test.

South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun, in Beijing for a one-day working visit, reached the agreement with his Chinese counterpart Hu Jintao during nearly two hours of talks.

'The two leaders agreed to support appropriate and necessary counter measures by the UN Security Council against North Korea," Roh's national security adviser, Song Min-Soon, told South Korean reporters.

However Song said the two lead-1998

amid rain. No government relief reached the victims as of yesterday noon.

A former parliament member supplied some food but it was too nadequate to meet the requirement. Widowed Ambia Begum, who used

to sell clothes moving from door to door has become penniless as clothes worth Tk 20,000 that she bought for selling on the occasion of the Eid festival were gutted.

"I have nowhere to go with my three kids and am waiting to get relief. But I lived in a rented house and don't know whether they would provide me any relief or it would be only for the house owner," said Ambia.

ers' agreement was on the general principles of UN action, not on the specifics of a draft resolution currently before the Council that would impose a range of tough sanctions.

"The two leaders did not discuss details of the necessary and appropriate countermeasures by the Security Council," Song said.

He said Hu and Roh had restated during the talks their firm commitment that North Korea, which said it tested an atomic bomb on Monday, should not be a nuclear power.

"Roh and Hu confirmed their staunch opposition to North Korea's nuclear weapons test and asked the North to observe its previous commitment to the denuclearisation of the Korean peninsula," Song said.

China and South Korea have consistently taken a softer line against North Korea than the United States. Japan and other nations during the four years that Pyongyang's nuclear capabilities have been under close

scrutiny. China, recognised as North Korea's closest ally and its biggest provider of aid, led world condemnation of Monday's test and initially called

for punitive action against Pyongyang. South Korea, which has long championed a policy of engagement with the North, also immediately said it may consider abandoning its "sunshine policy" that has helped prop up the bankrupt communist state since

the Year Award 1998, Rotary Award for World Understanding 1999, Golden Pegasus Award 1999, Roma Award for Peace and

Business Innovation Prize 1997, Help for self-help Prize 1997, Man for Peace Award 1997, State of the World Forum Award 1997,