

NOBEL LAUREATE BANKER TO THE POOR



1



3



2



4



5



6



7



8

1) People from all walks of life throng the Grameen Bank office in the city yesterday to congratulate Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus. 2) Prof Yunus and his wife Afrozi Yunus wave at people at the National Memorial at Savar. 3) The Nobel laureate pays homage to the martyrs of the Language Movement at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city. 4) Prof Yunus with economist Dr Atiur Rahman and Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Salehuddin Ahmed. 5) The micro-credit guru poses with children of the Grameen Bank staff. 6) The Nobel laureate speaks at a press conference at the Grameen Bank office. 7) M Hafizuddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government, embraces the banker to the poor. 8) The Nobel Peace Prize winner waves at people at the Central Shaheed Minar.

PHOTO: STAR

Any polls under updated voter list to be illegal

Says Justice Naimuddin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Any elections under the updated voter list would be illegal, Justice Naimuddin Ahmed observed yesterday.

"There is still some time to make a new voter list and I may name a chief election commissioner who would be acceptable to all as well as eligible to hold a free and fair election," he said at a roundtable on "Free and fair election: Expectations of the nation."

The Lawyers for Transparency organised the roundtable at Abdul Ahad Hall on the Supreme Court premises.

Justice Naimuddin also said that



the constitution does not give the chief adviser of the caretaker government the authority to do anything that influences elections.

"Article 58 D(2) clearly states that the non-party caretaker government shall give the Election Commission all possible aid and assistance that may be required for holding the general election of members of parliament peacefully, fairly and impartially," he said.

Since the constitution only permits the chief adviser to carry out routine activities of such a government with the aid and assistance of employees of the republic, what the last chief adviser did by involving himself in the transfers and appointments is nothing but a violation of the constitution, he added.

Justice Naimuddin also stressed the need for political parties' commitment to democracy. All the problems would be resolved if they really want to strengthen democracy instead of competing for power, he added.

Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque said that reforms are a must as democratic practices are not respected in the country.

The speakers also called for making registration of political parties mandatory, ensuring democracy within the parties, resolving the election disputes within 180 days after the election and not allowing

black money holders and criminals to take part in the election.

Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and ABM Bayezid, president of Lawyers for Transparency, also spoke at the roundtable.

River transport workers call off strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An indefinite strike enforced by Nougjan Sramik Federation was called off 14 hours into its beginning yesterday following a fruitful meeting between workers, launch owners and officials of the Department of Shipping.

"We have temporarily withdrawn the strike at 2:30pm after the owners agreed to consider our demands by November at a meeting at the Department of Shipping today," Golam Mulla, president of Nougjan Sramik Federation, told The Daily Star last night.

He said they also considered the sufferings of passengers during Ramadan and ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Scientific edn

FROM PAGE 16

Sixty-two young professionals involved in teaching, law practice, banking, journalism, research, agriculture, garment export, information technology, architecture, engineering, and business took part in the discussion.

In his presidential speech, Prof Zafar Iqbal suggested that the Nagorik Committee bring the education issue at the top of its priority list.

The young professionals rightly pointed out education as the main problem in the country, he said.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, convener of the Nagorik Committee, urged the young professionals to take charge of the country with passion and commitment. He recalled that it was the younger generation who had taken the leading role in preparing the manifesto of the country's independence.

Nagorik Committee member ASM Shahjahan suggested turning the politicians' faces towards lights for resolving problems.

The young professionals got locked into a debate on the question of what role the Nobel prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus should play in the next election.

Several speakers suggested giving him the charge as chief of the caretaker government for holding a free and fair election while some others observed that Yunus should remain above party politics and out of all controversies.

The next-day world will be divided into two groups -- efficient and inefficient, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam said, adding that Bangladesh should try its best so that it does not fall in the inefficient group.

He suggested the young professionals to acquire knowledge from the world at large and utilise those for development of the country.

Anam spoke for an intelligent patriotism of the people instead of blind patriotism. People should feel proud that we have an independent and sovereign country that many peoples cannot achieve even after fighting for long, he said.

CPD Member Secretary Debapriya Bhattacharya conducted the discussion.

The young professionals who took part in the discussion include: Monir uddin Ahmed, engineer S Fahim, Ashiful Bashar, Shamim Ahsan, Mujibur Rahman, Suman Kumar Mitra, Shakawat Hossain Khan, Sadru Majumder, Dr Rifat Zaman, Sumana Sharmeen, Amit Dasgupta, Hishamuddin Chisti, Tarin Hossain, Suman Salahuddin, Syed S Kaiser, Farhana Sharmeen, Mostafizur Rahman Khan, Nazim Farhan Chowdhury, Ali Baset Chowdhury, barrister Tania Ameer, Tazim Anwar, Kamruzzaman, Azad Bin Mahfuz, Moshahid Sultan, Muniti Saha, Shakil Ahmed, Monjur Elahi, and lad Ali Fakir.

Global press sings Yunus song

FROM PAGE 1

projected to the international media. But, Friday and yesterday was different.

Media across the globe proudly delivered the news of Dr Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank of Bangladesh winning the Nobel Peace Prize.

The New York Times ran a report under the headline 'Bangladesh Banker to the Poor Wins Nobel Peace Prize'. It says the prize is for grassroots efforts to lift millions out of poverty that earned Yunus the nickname of 'banker to the poor'.

It describes Yunus as inventor of microcredit and said the system has been copied in more than 100 nations from the United States to Uganda.

Another story of the same newspaper headlined 'Banker to the poor who helps Bangladesh's neediest' said Yunus's philosophy is to help the poor help themselves: give a man a fish and you feed him for a day, but only by teaching him how to fish do you feed him for life, the report read.

International Herald Tribune carried the headline 'Bangladesh Nobel Peace Prize winner calls award 'great news' for his homeland.' It lauded Yunus's effort and said his microcredit finance programmes have helped improve the lives of millions of poor people.

The Guardian says Yunus and the Grameen Bank emerged as the surprise winners of the prestigious Nobel Peace Prize for their pioneering work in lending to the poor.

It quotes the Nobel committee and said: "Muhammad Yunus has shown himself to be a leader who has managed to translate visions into practical action for the benefit of millions of people, not only in Bangladesh, but also in many other countries. Across cultures and civilisations, Yunus and Grameen Bank have shown that even the poorest of the poor can work to bring about their own development."

The Times Online, UK ran a story headlined 'Banker who lends to the poor wins Nobel Peace Prize'. It termed Yunus the inspirational economist who helped to lift millions of his fellow Bangladeshis from poverty through a pioneering scheme that lends tiny amounts of money to the very poorest of borrowers.

Yunus has shown himself to be a leader who has managed to translate visions into practical action for the benefit of millions of people, not only in Bangladesh, but also in many other countries. Another story in The Times headlines 'A truly inspiring choice for Nobel Peace Prize'. The Times also gave a biography of Yunus depicting his inspiration in forming the Grameen Bank.

The Grameen Bank presents a very different approach. It was not dreamt up by a faraway western aid

agency. It is tried and tested; it is a business solution, which comes from the grassroots.

Grameen shows us the poor and the destitute not as pitiable charity cases condemned to their lot but as thwarted entrepreneurs who just lack the means to improve their families' lives. It is a profoundly optimistic view of human nature. With this inspired choice, the Nobel Committee has lit a path that could lead to the eradication of poverty in our time.

The Washington Post reports Yunus was something of a surprise winner in a large field of nominees that included diplomats who brokered peace deals in hotspots like Indonesia's troubled Aceh province and global celebrities like U2 lead singer and development advocate Bono.

But in awarding the \$1.36 million prize to the Vanderbilt University-trained economist, the committee said his work showed that "Even the poorest of the poor can work to bring about their own development."

Predictably, all Indian dailies yesterday front-paged the news of Nobel Peace Prize going to Yunus and Grameen Bank and some of them wrote commentaries on this. A few newspapers also reprinted his interview given four to six years back, our New Delhi correspondent reports.

The Indian Express newspaper in its editorial said "by awarding this year's Nobel Peace Prize to Yunus and the Grameen Bank, the prize committee has attempted a new definition of what constitutes peace. Yunus has brought banking to some of the poorest people in one of the poorest nations of the world. This in itself is cause enough for celebration."

"As an alternative system of credit, the Grameen Bank has been able to provide a lifeline to millions, especially women in rural Bangladesh," it added.

The daily, however, said the Grameen Bank has a 'few problems' and questions have been raised about the use to which such microcredit was put.

The Editor of Business Standard newspaper TN Ninan, in a commentary, said, "The Nobel Peace Prize does not usually go to a businessman but Muhammad Yunus is a money lender with a difference."

"The idea that Yunus pioneered three decades ago is now well on its way to becoming mainstream," he added.

The awarding of Nobel prize to Yunus and his Grameen Bank "is not any less salutary for being long overdue. There are real life stories that leave a lump in the throat for the sheer audacity and grand sweep of the lives that they change. Yunus' creation in Bangladesh and his popularisation of what has come to be known as microcredit is one of

these." The Financial Express said in its editorial.

The Star Online of Malaysia says 'Bangladeshi microcredit pioneer and his bank win Nobel Peace Prize'. It says the prize is given for their work in advancing economic and social opportunities for the poor that has helped millions lift themselves from crushing poverty.

Yunus has drawn praise for developing and advancing microcredit, not just in Bangladesh, but across Asia, Africa and into the Middle East, which has been credited with helping poor women to advance their lives and pull them out of poverty.

The Mail and The Guardian Online headlines 'Bangladesh banker to the poor win Nobel Peace Prize' and the story goes on say the prize is for grassroots efforts to lift millions out of poverty that earned him the nickname 'banker to the poor'.

It quotes Former Australian foreign minister Gareth Evans, whose own International Crisis Group had been tipped as a possible winner this year, saying, "Yunus was an outstanding choice. It's one of those inspirational, groundbreaking innovations that only come along every now and again, and I think it's highly appropriate and I congratulate him."

The ABC Radio of Australia said 'Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus and the Grameen Bank he founded have won the Nobel Peace Prize for their efforts to create economic and social development from below'.

The Australian read 'Credit for poor earns banker Nobel prize'.

The Houston Chronicle read 'Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus and his Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize for their pioneering use of tiny, seemingly insignificant loans -- microcredit -- to lift millions out of poverty'.

A Norwegian online news portal, the Aftenposten, says the Norwegian Nobel Committee surprised many by awarding this year's Peace Prize to Muhammad Yunus, and has shown a new sense of creativity in linking peace, or the lack thereof, to poverty. Many in Norway were calling the award a victory for the fight against poverty.

The Edinburgh evening news says the Nobel Peace Prize goes to Bangladeshi bank pioneer. It goes on to say Yunus has drawn praise for advancing microcredit, which has been credited with helping poor women to advance their lives and get out of poverty.

Mass reception to Prof Yunus tomorrow

A mass reception will be accorded to Nobel Peace Prize winner Professor Muhammad Yunus, banker to the poor, at 2:00pm tomorrow (Monday) at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city, says a press release.

The programme is open to all.

Obituary



Shahidul Alam Badal, a freedom fighter and Awami League leader, passed away due to brain haemorrhage at the age of 58 yesterday, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and one daughter.

Badal, youngest son of Mosehuddin Ahmad was elected member of the first Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducus) after the independence.

Badal will be buried at his family graveyard at Gulshakali at Matherbaria in Pirojpur today after Asr prayers.

Death anniversary



Today is the first death anniversary of Habibur Rahman, former ambassador and general secretary of Salimullah Muslim Hall, says a press release.

On the occasion, doa mahfils will be held at his home in Bera Dakuri village in Gopalgur in Tangail after Asr prayers today and in London at Residence-77, Skeena Hill SW18, SPJ.

Friends, relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programmes and pray for the salvation of his departed soul.

Quikhwani

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Quikhwani of Mosammad Ershadunnessa, mother of Shykh Siraj, director (news) of Channel 1, will be held at her residence at Khilgaon in the city after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

She passed away at Ibrahim Cardiac and Research Centre on Friday at the age of 78.

Relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the quikhwani.

WEATHER TODAY

Rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at one or two places over all the divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.4 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.2 degree Celsius at Rangmati.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.33pm today and rises at 5:57am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in Percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.1	24.6	81	91
Chittagong	30.7	24.7	75	80
Rajshahi	32.8	24.2	88	81
Khulna	32.5	25.5	80	90
Barisal	32.0	24.8	92	92
Sylhet	33.0	25.0	77	67
Cox's Bazar	32.0	24.0	71	83

Appeal for help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A schoolteacher has appealed for financial assistance for the treatment of his daughter Krishna Roy Putul, an SSC examinee from Monipur High School, who has been suffering from blood cancer since September 2005, says a press release.

Sunil Kumar Roy, a teacher of Mohammadpur Girls' High School, has already spent all his savings on the treatment of his daughter, but now he needs Tk 8 lakh more to complete the treatment.

Putul is also one of the best dance students at Chhayanaut.

Her father, who is now broke, has appealed to the generous people and organisations, to extend a helping hand to save his daughter.

Contributions can be sent to Sunil Kumar Roy, Savings A/C No.-347, Sonali Bank, Satmasjid Road branch, Dhaka, or Savings A/C No.-3538, Pubali Bank Ltd, Akuratakur Para branch, Zila Sadar Road, Tangail.

Interested persons can also contact Sunil Kumar Roy at 8122661 (res) or 9122224 (school).