



Yunus unveils vision to end global poverty

Nobel Committee terms him 'Modern Gandhi' as he receives peace prize

AFP, Oslo

Micro-credit pioneer Prof Muhammad Yunus of Bangladesh, founder of Grameen Bank, unveiled a bold vision for ending global poverty as he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize yesterday.

"Poverty is a threat to peace," the economist turned humanitarian banker said accepting the 1.1 million euro (1.4 million dollar) prize. "The frustrations, hostility and anger generated by abject poverty cannot sustain peace in any society in the world."

The Grameen Bank, which shared the award, has helped millions in Bangladesh extricate themselves from penury through tiny, collateral-free loans, and has been successfully emulated throughout the world over the last decade.

In his prepared speech, Yunus outlined the contours a parallel economy based on self-sustaining



Prof Muhammad Yunus and Grameen Bank representative Mosammat Taslima Begum receive the Nobel medal and diploma from the Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize Committee Ole Danbolt Mjoes at Oslo City Hall yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

"social businesses" -- such as Grameen and several joint ventures he has created with multinational corporations -- that reinvest profits rather than paying dividends.

"By defining 'entrepreneur' in a broader way we can change the character of capitalism radically, and solve many of the unresolved social and economic problems within the scope of the free market," Yunus said.

See page-20 for full text of Prof Yunus' Nobel lecture

Once recognised in law, Yunus predicted, these social businesses will eventually develop their own capital markets to attract investment.

Calling the 66-year-old Bangladeshi a "modern Gandhi," the Norwegian Nobel Committee saluted his efforts "to create economic and social development from below."

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

Iajuddin's 'doing alone' policy enrages advisers

They meet him today for clarification, may take drastic decision if CA continues to act unilaterally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seething with frustration over President/Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed's unilateral moves including the latest order for army deployment, some advisers might soon take radical decisions unless the caretaker government head changes his "go-alone attitude".

A number of advisers already communicated with the president yesterday and had appointment set for today. They plan to clarify their positions on different issues as they feel the CA had not duly consulted them before taking a number of major decisions, said sources.

"We are discussing what can be done in the wake of the prevailing situation. You might come to know of our decision by tomorrow," Adviser Sultana Kamal told reporters, replying to a query about their next course of action.

Finance Adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan said, "We are still trying to deliver. We will step down when we will find ourselves too stuck to

contribute anymore."

Asked whether he might resign following the latest developments, Adviser Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury said, "I will take that sort of decision only if I'm told to do so by my own principles and conscience."

He told reporters that none of them [advisers] think that the current situation in the country calls for army deployment. The deployment without consultation with them has in fact become a "prestige issue" for them, he added.

Asked whether he will step down, Mashhud said it will not take long to know. "You can check by the evening if I am continuing or not," he added.

Adviser CM Shafi Sami, who on Saturday night said the deadlock would be resolved by Sunday, termed the deployment unwarranted.

He said they will cease staying with the government the moment they will feel they cannot contribute to holding of a free and fair

election anymore.

Some of the advisers, who felt aggrieved at the president's unilateral decision to call out the military, yesterday discussed the latest situation.

Five advisers--Dr Akbar Ali Khan, CM Shafi Sami, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury, Mahbul Alam, and Sultana Kamal--met at an adviser's office at around noon. Later, except Mahbul Alam they sat again at another adviser's office at the secretariat.

Meanwhile, the CA yesterday did not call any advisory council's meeting to carry forward the negotiations over the package proposals including the all-important one for recasting the Election Commission (EC).

The efforts to end the current political crisis reached a stalemate due to the president's objection to the sending of Election Commissioner SM Zakaria on leave as proposed by the advisers.

The discussions among the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Holding head high in Oslo chill

INAM AHMED, from Oslo

In the freezing Oslo morning, Anisur Rahman and his wife Meherunnessa were standing in a long queue in front of the City Hall. They had come all the way from Sweden to walk tall, to hold their head high once in many years.

A little behind stands Zaman Sarkar who is travelling from Finland with the same purpose -- to get back self belief and a sense of pride in being a Bangladeshi.

Inside the huge hall, the mood was festive. Women in saris and kamiz busily walk around with

broad smiles on their faces. Men in panjabi and prayer tops bought right from Baitul Mukarram Mosque footpath hug each other and shake hands.

Today Bangladesh and its people were going to get the biggest prize in its history. And the microcredit guru, "modern time Gandhi" Prof Muhammad Yunus has brought them the gift.

"When I first heard that Yunus had got the prize, I could not hold my tears," Meherunnessa said. "For the first time in my life abroad, I could walk with my head high. It

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

CA justifies army deployment in his address to nation

UNB, Dhaka

President and Chief Advisor Prof Iajuddin Ahmed last night assured the nation that the democratic and constitutional process would continue in the country despite the deployment of army.

"I would like to firmly assure you that our hard-earned democratic and constitutional process will continue," he said in an address to the nation, the third after he assumed office of the chief advisor to the caretaker government.

"I do expect that I'll be able to

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Troops take to streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The army joined ranks with other law enforcement agencies in securing the presidential residence, Bangabhaban, as the armed forces moved out of garrisons and took positions at key locations across the country early morning yesterday.

Troops in combat gear fanned out following a presidential order on Saturday that earned mostly negative reactions from a broad cross-section of citizens.

The troops were seen patrolling the main thoroughfares of the capital while being stationed in different community centres in the

capital.

The forces did not begin their operation on a large scale yesterday but are likely to do so from today, according to sources.

Deployment of troops in all district headquarters was completed yesterday, the home ministry said, hoping that the deployment will secure economic activities, a sense of peace, and a congenial atmosphere for the upcoming election.

The navy and air force were deployed in coastal zones and airports.

"Naval forces have been deployed in the coastal belt of

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



Armoured personnel carriers of the army head towards the Bangabhaban yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Stalled EC talks sadden US, UK, Canada

Countries hope army to act in nonpartisan manner

UNB, Dhaka

The United States, the United Kingdom and Canada yesterday hoped the army will act in a non-partisan manner so the troop deployment doesn't undermine the efforts towards creating a positive election environment.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Hasina lashes out at Iajuddin over troops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sharply reacting to the sudden deployment of army, Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said no such situation has been created in the country that requires deployment of armed forces.

"One alliance leader [Khaleda Zia] wants to steal votes, the president wants to help the 'thief' and for this he has deployed army whereas the duty of the army is to

guard the country," the AL chief said at a crowded press conference at her Dhammondif office.

"When we have postponed our demonstration programmes including sit-in demonstrations around the Bangabhaban after the advisers' request and instructed our leaders to go their localities to help updating the voter list, what situation has led to the army deployment?" Hasina posed the question.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

Army in early for longest polls job

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The sudden deployment of the armed forces to maintain law and order situation ahead of the election came 44 days before the polling date of January 23, which is unprecedented regarding the timing.

The home ministry circular issued on Saturday night did not specify the duration of the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1

CA criticised for calling in army

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Several political parties and organisations have criticised President and Chief Adviser (CA) Iajuddin Ahmed for his decision to deploy the army, saying that the move will further deepen the political crisis.

They also demanded immediate withdrawal of the troops.

In a press release, LDP President Badruddoza Chowdhury accused

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

14-party's anarchy led to troops deployment

Says Khaleda

UNB, Dhaka

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday said army has been deployed to assist civil administration in the prevailing unstable situation stemming from "anarchic" activities of the Awami League-led 14-party combine.

She alleged that Awami League (AL) is now making adverse comment regarding the army whereas

the party, while in power, had deployed troops for "traffic control".

The BNP chairperson and immediate past prime minister made the remarks at a function at her Banani office where some retired army officers joined her party.

Nine army officers led by Brig Gen (ret'd) Dr MR Khan formally joined the BNP presenting a bouquet

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

No such situation arose for army deployment

Observe 4 advisers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four advisers to the caretaker government yesterday said the current situation in the country does not warrant troops deployment and the advisory council was not consulted about the decision to call in the army.

Energy and Power Adviser Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury said the advisers consider that no such

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

FELICITATION



Workers, employers and officers of the enterprises under Purbani extend heartiest felicitation to Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker, Chairman & CEO and an eminent industrialist of textile sub-sector on his being elected unopposed President of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) for the term 2007 & 2008. It is worth mentioning that in the election of the Board of Directors held on the 07th December, 2006, Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker together with his full panel members was elected Director by the Yarn Manufacturers, General Group, polling highest number of votes (98.99%).

We strongly believe, in the context of razor-edge competition amongst RMG exporters in the global export market, merit, long experience and dynamic leadership of Mr. Abdul Hai Sarker will help formulate appropriate guidelines and future course of actions of BTMA in arresting the crises prevailing in the transition period of domestic textile industry. We wish him continued success and long life.

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PURBANI

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