

# No happy

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"The judgement may be technically correct, but not morally," said Binayak Sen, an economist. "We expected a better sort of a judgement considering his contribution to the country," he noted.

Hafizuddin Khan, a former adviser to a caretaker government, said he is unclear on what grounds the court rejected Prof Yunus' petition. But the judgement was not too unexpected as he sensed the ill intention of the government.

Hafizuddin was concerned about the repercussions of Prof Yunus' removal, not only at the bank but also in the microcredit industry.

In its ruling the High Court yesterday said Prof Yunus was wrongly reappointed as the managing director of Grameen Bank in 1999, as it was not approved by the central bank.

The court also agreed to Bangladesh Bank's argument that Prof Yunus had violated the country's retirement laws by staying on at his job long past the mandatory retirement age limit of 70.

Prof Yunus is 70 now.

Seven days ago, Bangladesh Bank issued a letter to the Grameen Bank board asking it to remove Prof Yunus from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank, of which he is the founder. Later, Prof Yunus went to court for justice.

"Age is not a big problem for him. He is still a creative and innovative man and not exhausted," said Salehuddin Ahmed, former governor of Bangladesh Bank.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, former adviser to a caretaker government, and Prof Mustafizur Rahman, executive director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, said they are sorry to see such a disgraceful treatment of a man like Prof Yunus who has brought immense prestige to the nation.

"We need to keep in mind the greater interest. The development surrounding Prof Yunus would neither strengthen Grameen Bank, poverty alleviation efforts nor the country's image at the international arena," said Hossain Zillur Rahman, also a leading economist.

Prof Mustafizur Rahman said, "We've demeaned him [Yunus], whose development experience has been spread out across the world and considered as a model."

Mustafizur expected a better treatment of Yunus and transition of power at the bank. The way the issue is being settled is not a praiseworthy one, he said.

Sultana Kamal, another former adviser to a caretaker government, said she hopes everything concerning Prof Yunus will be dealt with due process and without any political motive.

**US REACTION**  
The United States still hopes that an acceptable compromise could be figured out of the conundrum of Nobel laureate Prof Yunus' post in Grameen Bank, UNB reports.

After the High Court verdict that dismissed Prof Yunus' writ, a spokesperson for the US embassy in Dhaka told UNB that they are monitoring the situation.

# Syed Ashraf

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legal recourse. But unfortunately the Nobel laureate took the matter to the court, said Ashraf, also LGRD and cooperatives minister.

He was talking to reporters after an AL secretary-level meeting at the party chief's political office in Dhanmondi.

Asked about the comments of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and others that the government had removed Yunus from Grameen Bank out of political vengeance, he said, "The court does not think so."

Speaking in return for anonymity, a central AL leader told The Daily Star that Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, also AL joint general secretary, briefed the meeting about the international community's stance on Dr Yunus. She said there would be no diplomatic fallout, and that she had talked to US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in this regard.

# BNP to join

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about problems including price hike of essentials, share market crash and killing of innocent Bangladeshis on borders by Indian Border Security Force.

The main opposition BNP has been boycotting parliament since last budget session.

# Joy's 'letter' tells

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the dynamics behind attacks on the country's most prestigious organisation and its founder.

The group, chaired by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, said it has been particularly alarmed by the statements made by Sajeeb.

"Friends of Grameen are shocked by this letter, its existence, signatory, allegations and the themes that are developed, that are now exposing fully the dynamics behind the attacks on Grameen Bank and Prof Yunus, the very strong personal content of the harassment of Yunus and Grameen Bank, the allegations that Grameen Bank has been designed as and remains an organ of state, the clear underlying view that Grameen Bank is a useless organisation that has brought no relief to poverty in Bangladesh, the full and explicit opposition to microcredit as an efficient way to alleviate poverty."

The group said: "He wrote and signed an open letter on Saturday in his capacity of 'Advisor to Sheikh Hasina, Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh', claiming that he was representing the official view of the Government of Bangladesh on the matter, in extremely troubling and defamatory terms."

"Here are the facts from the Bangladesh Government's side on the Yunus and Grameen Bank issue", starts the email. It continues, "Last year Norwegian Television uncovered documents revealing massive financial improprieties at Grameen Bank under Mohammed Yunus..."

Commenting on the fact that the government of Norway has totally cleared this issue, he says "no doubt Yunus lobbied the Norwegian Government."

The letter continues with very acrimonious, pseudo-legal terms, and contains such words as illegal activities, criminal offence, fraud, improprieties, theft, embezzlement, and molestation, according to a statement of Friends of Grameen.

"Even more alarming, Mr Sajeeb Wazed goes on by saying: 'Contrary to the popular perception, Yunus did not found Grameen Bank. The Government of Bangladesh did', and continues with the following conclusion: 'Despite the hype, there is no evidence that microcredit has in fact reduced the rolls of the poor in Bangladesh. Grameen Bank has been in the microcredit business for 30 years, yet Bangladesh remains one of the poorest countries in the world.'"

The letter came as the High Court yesterday ruled that Grameen Bank did not obtain formal approval from the government on Yunus' reappointment as the managing director in 1999.

The Group said the government is the member of the board of Grameen Bank by running three seats out of 12, but it has never questioned the position of Prof Yunus as the managing director.

On the contrary, the board voted unanimously for Yunus to continue as managing director. The court decision is politically oriented and without legal grounds, it said.

Friends of Grameen hoped the position expressed by Sajeeb is not the official position of the government of Bangladesh.

Meanwhile, Óscar Arias, former president of Costa Rica and 1987 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, joined as Friends of Grameen.

# Taylor blazes

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23. Younis Khan (0) lasted only three balls before being castled by a Mills in-dipper, while Kamran Akmal was caught soon after at slip by Taylor off South.

The final nail in the coffin was the dismissal of in-form batsman Misbahul Haq (7), by then Pakistan were reeling at 45 for five. It was not all good news for the Kiwis though as captain Daniel Vettori hurt his right knee while attempting to catch a skier off Kamran.

"Dan hurt his right knee while attempting a catch. He is currently taking ice treatment and was being assessed," team media manager Ellery Tappin said.

A late-order flurry from all-rounder Abdul Razzaq (62) and Umar Gul (34) could not turn the tide in favour of Pakistan. The two briefly gave Pakistan hope of a miracle with a partnership of 66 from 49 balls, but the game was all but over when Razzaq skied a catch to Scott Styris off Jacob Oram (1-47). Pakistan folded one run later for 192.

Earlier, birthday boy Taylor hit a career-best century to lift New Zealand to an emphatic 302-7. Taylor, who had a lucky escape when Pakistan keeper Kamran missed an easy catch before the batsman had scored, celebrated his 27th birthday in style by scoring an unbeaten 131 for his fourth one-day hundred.

Kamran also dropped Taylor in the same Shoaib Akhtar over when he had made just eight. Taylor made the most of his good fortune and ran riot in the 47th over of the innings, hitting paceman Akhtar for two boundaries and three sixes -- 28 runs in all -- to reach his first World Cup hundred off 117 deliveries.

He then hit two boundaries and three sixes to take 30 off Razzaq's 49th over, helping New Zealand add 100 in the last five overs.

Taylor added a blistering 85 for the seventh-wicket with Oram (25 off just nine balls, with three sixes and a boundary) off just 22 balls to punish a hapless Pakistan bowling attack.

Taylor's previous best of 128 not out came against Sri Lanka at Napier in 2006.

In all he hit eight boundaries and seven sixes during his aggressive 124-ball knock.

Akhtar had provided

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Pakistan's breakthrough as early as the fourth ball when he bowled Brendon McCullum for six.

Pakistan had opened the bowling with left-arm spinner Abdur Rehman, the first time they had used such a tactic since April 1998 when Mohammad Hussain opened against South Africa in a one-day at Centurion.

## SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard of the World Cup Group A match between Pakistan and New Zealand at Pallekele Stadium on Tuesday:

**NEW ZEALAND**

Guptill b Afridi	57
McCullum b Akhtar	6
Howlbw Gul	4
Taylor not out	131
Franklin lbwb Hafeez	1
Styris lbw Gul	28
McCullum b Gul	19
Oram c Gul b Rehman	25
Mills not out	7

**Extras:** (lb-10, nb-3, w-11) 24  
**Total:** (For 7 wkts in 50 overs) 302

**Did not bat:** Vettori, South.

**Fall of wickets:** 1-8, 2-55, 3-112, 4-113, 5-175, 6-210, 7-295

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Akhtar	9	0	70	1
Rehman	10	0	60	1
Gul	10	1	32	3
Razzaq	4	0	49	0
Afridi	10	0	55	1
Hafeez	7	0	26	1

## PAKISTAN

Hafeez lbwb South	5
Shahzad lbwb Mills	10
kAkmal c Taylor	8
B South	8
Younis b Mills	0
Misbahul c Styris	7
b South	7
U Akmal c Oram	38
b N McCullum	17
Afridi b Oram	62
Razzaq c Oram b Styris	62
Rehman lbw	1
b N McCullum	34
Gul not out	34
Akhtar c N McCullum	0
b Styris	0

**Extras:** (lb-6, w-4) 10  
**Total:** (All out in 41.4 overs) 192

**Fall of wickets:** 1-5, 2-23, 3-23, 4-23, 5-45, 6-66, 7-102, 8-125, 9-191

Bowler	O	M	R	W
Mills	8	1	43	2
South	8	1	25	3
Oram	10	1	47	1
Franklin	5	0	26	0
N McCullum	6	0	28	2
Styris	4.4	0	17	2

**Result:** New Zealand won by 110 runs.

**Man-of-the-match:** Ross Taylor.

# Nat'l women

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Committee (IABC) called a dawn to dusk hartal on April 4 to protest the cabinet's approval over the policy and the ban imposed on fatwa.

Islami Oikyo Jote (IOJ) Chairman Muffi Fazlul Haque Amini announced the hartal at a protest rally in Muktangan yesterday.

The government has approved NWDP 2011 with a provision of equal share of women in inherited property and in employment and business opportunity.

The approval came at the weekly cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Monday.

The policy is a revival of the 1997 Women Development Policy, and its implementation was pledged by Awami League in the last elections. The 1997 policy was formulated during the party's previous tenure.

Mentioning the policy as against the principles of Quran, Amini called up on all the Muslims and the Madrassah students and teachers to join the hartal.

IOJ will also form a human chain in front of the High Court today morning, he said.

Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami, in a statement, condemned the cabinet's approval and protested the government's move to amend the policy.

Acting Jamaat Ameer Mokbul Ahmed said people would raise huge movement against the policy.

Olama Mashayekh Parishad expressed similar opinion in another statement.

# BGB jawan hurt

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Shadhan Karbaripara over establishing supremacy in the area. The fight continued till 9:00am.

On information, a patrol team of BGB Panchhari 30 Battalion rushed to the spot to quell the fighting.

As they reached there, border guard Aminul Islam was hit by a bullet. He was flown to Chittagong Combined Military Hospital (CMH) by a helicopter. Lt Col Zakir Hossain, commander of the battalion, confirmed the incident.

However, Niron Chakma, press secretary of district UPDF, denied their involvement in any gunfight and claimed that the BGB member was shot by PCJSS men.

A central leader of PCJSS, Sudhakar Tripura, told The Daily Star that he knew nothing about the incident.

# 1 killed

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through Khejurbag area around 2:30am, found Tona and six to seven of his associates holding a meeting there.

Sensing their presence, the criminals opened fire on the elite force that ensued a 'gunfight'.

Tona died on the spot while his cohorts managed to flee the scene.

Rab men recovered one shutter gun and three cartridges from the spot.

Rab sources said Tona was second-in-command of Jinnah Chowdhury gang and, in the absence of Jinnah, he was active in Dhanmondi area.

They also said Tona was a close associate of Rana and Nasir alias Bhatiali Nasir of Keraniganj.

# Triple murder

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killing of brothers Johnny and Babu, and their friend Hasan of Kadomtoli.

"Imran was a youth of the same locality and a member of the same gang as the three dead youths," said the DC.

Since detained Imran did not admit to his involvement, police were still doubtful whether Imran was involved in the murders or were the youths killed due to internal feuds with other group members, the DC added.

Squadron Leader Enayet Kabir Palash, Company Commander of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab-10), said to be clueless in the triple murder incident.

"We have no clue which suggests whether the youths were killed by their group members or other people," he added.

The bodies of the three youths, with throats slit and mouth, hands and legs roped, were found floating in a wetland at West Mohammapur in the city on Monday.

Police said none filed any case in connection with the murders.

# Yunus removal upheld

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manager for information and media co-ordination of the institution, in a statement said, "We have received the order and are very disappointed. We are consulting with our lawyers about the next steps. We hope that in the meantime nothing will jeopardise the stability of Grameen Bank."

"Eight million borrowers and 26,000 members of Grameen Bank have brought the bank to this level through their hard work and are deeply involved in building the future for their children -- we hope nothing will disrupt that," it added.

Barrister Rokanuddin Mahmud, a counsel for Yunus, told journalists in his Supreme Court Bar chamber, "On hearing the verdict, Dr Yunus asked all his counsels whether he should move an appeal with the Supreme Court. All of us suggested going to the Supreme Court to challenge the High Court verdict."

"Dr Yunus might move a provisional leave to appeal before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division tomorrow," he said yesterday.

He said his client may continue in the office of MD of Grameen Bank until its board of directors appoints his successor, as per the Bangladesh Bank's "removal letter".

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam however told The Daily Star that Prof Yunus has no right to stay in the office following the HC verdict.

He claimed the Bangladesh Bank letter does not say that Yunus may continue as the MD until Grameen Bank board of directors appoints a replacement.

Rokanuddin said it is not a setback for Dr Yunus and he has not been reduced in honour. No-one is asking questions about Yunus but about what happened in court, he said.

He said Yunus' lawyers expressed to the High Court on Monday their apprehension that the writ petitions would be rejected, and the apprehension has become true through the judgement.

Rokan hoped that the Supreme Court will cancel the HC verdict after hearing the appeal.

There are many precedents in the history of judiciary that the Appellate Division set aside HC ver-

dicts, he said. "We believe in the rule of law, and the supremacy of the constitution, and we have full confidence in the Supreme Court that we will get justice," Rokan said.

Everything is still now in favour of Dr Muhammad Yunus, he added. "Ordinary people of Bangladesh treat Dr Yunus as a great hope and a matter of pride and achievement. There was no great man like Yunus in Bangladesh except Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," Rokan told the media.

"It is abnormal, unimaginable and surprising that the High Court passed the judgement without issuing any rule," said Barrister Sara Hossain, Yunus' another counsel, in an immediate reaction, terming the day as a sad one for the whole country.

In an SMS she said, "Today is a sad day for Bangladesh, and for all of us who practise before these courts. The government has attacked and vilified one of our most respected citizens, Prof Yunus, who won the Nobel Prize for Bangladesh."

The government appears intent on seizing the Grameen Bank which Prof Yunus founded and built, she added.

"We are shocked but hardly surprised at today's order. We apprehended we would not get justice, and we have not got justice," she wrote.

The lawyer went on, "The court has upheld a grossly illegal order and made an extra-ordinary declaration that Prof Yunus' term of his office expired when he reached 60 in 1999. And that the central bank's clear audits of Grameen and their engagement with Prof Yunus for ten years since amount to nothing."

"If that's the case we should perhaps ask the Nobel Committee whether they would seize the Nobel Prize which was given to Prof Yunus in 2006," she quipped.

No senior counsel for Yunus was present in the court during the verdict delivery.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Mahmud Islam, and Rokanuddin Mahmud argued for Yunus during the three days of hearing on the writ petitions.

Attorney General Mahbubey Alam at a briefing in his office told report-

# CNG price

**FROM PAGE 20**  
between prices of petroleum and CNG discourages use of condensed petroleum products such as diesel and octane produced in local gas fields.

"It is an excuse that transport costs will go up due to increase in CNG prices. Fares are not charged following rules. Fares should be fixed and enforced based on the prices of gas," said Petrobangla Chairman Hussain Monsur, citing the whimsical fare seeking by three-wheeler CNG vehicles.

He also said the increase in CNG prices will narrow down the gap between CNG and petroleum prices.

"CNG is used by the rich who use cars worth even Tk 1 crore. But they want to use gas at low prices. The increase in CNG prices will benefit the 16 crore population," he said.

Petrobangla proposed to raise prices of CNG at a time when some 200,000 vehicles consume 121 million cubic feet CNG every day.

On annual basis, consumption of gas in CNG sector is over 5 percent of total gas consumption in the country, according to BERC statistics.

Petrobangla, which raised CNG prices in April 2008 to Tk 16.75 per cubic metre at consumer level, said the proposed increase will help it generate additional Tk 898 crore.

Dr M Shamsul Alam, representative of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said Petrobangla wants to discourage the use of CNG and force passengers of CNG-run vehicles to pay "increased fares."

Md Faruk Talukder Sohel, a representative of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association, said the assumption that the rich use CNG is wrong.

"You have not considered that CNG vehicles carry general people and goods as well. An increase in prices will contribute to already spiralling prices of essentials," he said.

Zakir Hossain, joint secretary of environmental activist group Bangladesh Paribesh Bachao Andolan, expressed the fear that the hike might encourage people not to use the clean fuel and thus contribute to pollution.

The BERC chairman said they sought documents and answers to all the stakeholders including Petrobangla within March 14. After that it will give its judgement, he added.

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Meanwhile, speculation runs rife over the fate of a Grameen Bank without Yunus at the helm.

Khondaker Muzammel Huq, the government-appointed chairman of Grameen, told The Daily Star that he would soon hold a meeting of the board of directors and set the next course of action.

# Over 7,000 to come home

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Mijarul Quayes said there are 7,000 Bangladeshis at the Al Salloum border in Egypt, some 14,000 at Rasjdair in Tunisia and 1,156 in Greece.

The IOM is playing a crucial role in repatriating the Bangladeshis, he said, adding that the Bangladesh government may share the cost with the IOM.

Meanwhile, 373 Bangladeshis have been evacuated by a private company from Libya's eastern city Benghazi to Alexandria in Greece.

As of yesterday, 350 Bangladeshis were stranded in Tripoli Airport and another 50 in the Bangladesh mission there.

In another development, the Greece government has declined to receive any more Bangladeshi refugees from Libya following the death of three evacuees and missing of over a dozen Bangladeshis, who jumped from a ship on way to Crete Island on Sunday.

The dead are: Mohan Kamal (passport no C 0446731), son of Shahab Ali of Bijoypur village under the Gournadi upazila in Barisal; Mohammad Shafiqul Azam (passport no X0205861), son of Abdul Aziz of Bank Colony at Savar; and Farid Khalifa (passport no A0215178), son of Nurul Haq Khalifa of Domrakandi village under Maksudpur upazila in Gopalganj.

Their bodies will be flown to Dhaka by a chartered flight of Korean Airlines today.

In the same flight, 202 Bangladeshi citizens, the last batch from Greece, will also arrive.

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