

French rally for Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 20
conviction, a giant in the fight against extreme poverty," reads an op-ed titled "We must save Grameen Bank and microcredit in Bangladesh" on March 16 in the French newspaper Le Monde by former prime minister Rocard, former International Monetary Fund (IMF) managing director Michel Camdessus, Member of Parliament Jérôme Chartier, Friends of Grameen Executive President Maria Nowak and Vice-President Martin Hirsch.

"We do not accept that Grameen Bank will become a state-owned tool or, even worse, a tool of propaganda," the article reads, according to a statement of Friends of Grameen.

The opinions came as supporters of the Nobel laureate are increasingly voicing concern that the government, which owns less than 5 percent of Grameen Bank, is plotting to take full control of the bank -- a charge the authorities deny.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday postponed for two weeks a hearing on the petition of Prof Yunus, who faces removal from Grameen Bank after the central bank relieved him of the post of managing director for holding the position without approval.

"It appears the delay is primarily due to increasing divisions within the Government of Bangladesh regarding Muhammad Yunus and independence of Grameen Bank," says Friends

of Grameen.

Famous Brazilian author Paulo Coelho also expressed his support for Dr Yunus. In an article styled "Ignorance and Greed" on his blog (paulocoelho.com), he said, "The only weapon that we currently have and that the government doesn't, is international awareness and presence in media and people's heads."

Similarly, 26 members of the US Congress last week appealed to the Bangladesh government to ensure independence of Grameen Bank.

In a letter to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Congressional Bangladesh Caucus said Washington and Dhaka have championed solid ties in areas ranging from economic cooperation to defence.

"Unfortunately the situation with Dr Yunus is beginning to overshadow these concrete gains and introduce uncertainty regarding one of Bangladesh's most visible and beloved institutions," it said, urging the government to resolve the matter through a mutually satisfactory compromise.

In a gesture of support, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton also telephoned Prof Yunus.

"Friends of Grameen", headed by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and former United Nations high commissioner for human rights, is an international platform set up to promote microcredit and social business, in particular, the microcredit activities of Grameen Bank.

Robert Blake due Saturday

FROM PAGE 20
on March 19 on a five-day visit to hold talks with government leaders, opposition politicians and civil society members.

Blake arrives in Dhaka on the second leg of his three-nation tour of China, Bangladesh and Kazakhstan, US diplomatic sources in Dhaka told The Daily Star.

In Bangladesh, Blake will hold bilateral meetings with the government and meet civil society leaders and the opposition, according to US Department of State. He will also attend the Regional Security Initiative (RSI) Conference in Dhaka.

Sources said Robert Blake's visit to Bangladesh is crucial in the context of removal of Prof Muhammad Yunus from the post of managing director of Grameen Bank and the US concern about it.

The United States said it was "troubled" by Yunus' removal and called on the Bangladesh government and Grameen Bank to reach an honourable compromise on this issue.

Diplomatic sources said that the State Department official is expected to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni and other senior government and opposition leaders.

The sources said Prof Yunus' removal will dominate his talks with the political and civil society leaders. He is also likely to meet Prof Yunus.

He will reach Beijing on a 2-day visit on March 17-18. There he will lead a US government delegation to the US-China Sub-Dialogue on Central Asia. Assistant

Secretary Blake will also discuss regional issues with government officials, and will meet with scholars and students.

Blake will be in Kazakhstan on March 24-25, when he will lead the US delegation at the second Annual Bilateral Consultations. Topics will include Afghanistan cooperation, civil society, human rights, and military cooperation. He will meet with students at Nazarbayev University and members of civil society.

The Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs deals with US foreign policy and US relations with the countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

Muhith

FROM PAGE 1
minister, cabinet members, parliament members and their families will be made public every year.

But in the first two years of its tenure, the AL government did not implement this electoral pledge.

Rather, the prime minister and a number of ministers on different occasions spoke against submission of wealth statements, saying they had already submitted those to the Election Commission before the last parliamentary elections.

Muhith however has made his wealth statement public, and people appreciated it. But his family members' wealth statements are yet to be published.

The finance minister said on February 14 last year wealth statements of ministers, lawmakers and their relatives would be made public by June 2010.

Following the cabinet committee's decision yesterday, Muhith said all members of the council of ministers, advisers, MPs and mayors will have to mention in their wealth statements about their relatives if they are engaged in any contractual business with the government.

They will prepare their wealth statements on the basis of the statements they had submitted to the EC before the parliamentary elections.

The finance minister said he will also send a letter to the chief justice informing him of the government decision on wealth statements.

His ministry will request the chief justice to take measures for submission of the Supreme Court judges' wealth statements to the Cabinet Division, if they decide to disclose those.

Meanwhile, legal and financial experts said submission of wealth statements will greatly help create transparency in the government's functioning, and people will be able to know how much wealth a public representative makes while in office.

The immediate past BNP-led alliance government did not fulfil its electoral pledge on submission and disclosure of wealth statements of ministers and lawmakers.

Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd
A State Owned Company
Tongi, Gazipur
Phone: 9814747, 9802701-06, Fax: 880-2-9812700, Website: www.tss.com.bd
email: mdtss@btcl.net.bd/info@tss.com.bd

Invitation for Re-Tender

1. Ministry/Division	: Ministry of Post & Telecommunications.
2. Agency	: Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd.
3. Procuring entity name	: Managing Director, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd.
4. Procuring entity district	: Gazipur.
5. Invitation Ref. No.	: TSS/FP/ABS Material/2011/4634-1
6. Invitation for	: Procurement of ABS Terluran, Colour Powder, 4 Set Plastic Injection Mod (Dice).

KEY INFORMATION

7. Procurement method	: OTM (International).
-----------------------	------------------------

FUNDING INFORMATION

8. Budget and source of funds	: Own fund.
-------------------------------	-------------

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

9. Division name/project	: PSTN Set Production Plant.
10. Bid publication date	: 20-03-2011
11. Place of tender selling/receiving	: a) TSS, Tongi, Gazipur. b) GPO, Room No. 7 (1st Floor), Dhaka-1000
12. Last date & time of selling of tender document	: 10-04-2011 at 3:00pm (BST).
13. Pre-bid meeting	: 03-04-2011 at 11:00am in TSS, Tongi, Gazipur.
14. Tender closing time & date	: 11-04-2011 at 11:00am.
15. Tender opening time & date	: 11-04-2011 at 2:30pm.
16. Place of tender receiving & opening	: TSS, Tongi, Gazipur.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER

17. Eligibility of tenderer	: Bonafide manufacturers/suppliers or their authorised agents in our country.
18. Brief description of goods	: Procurement of ABS Terluran, Colour Powder, 4 Set Plastic Injection Mold (Dice).
19. Price of tender documents	: Tk 1,000/- (one thousand) cash (non-refundable).
20. Procuring entity details	: Managing Director, TSS, Tongi, Gazipur.
21. Address of the official inviting tender	: Personnel Manager, Telephone Shilpa Sangstha Ltd, Tongi, Gazipur, Ph: 9801035
22. Special instruction	: a) Amount of bid security in favour of TSS shall be Tk 1,00,000/- (one lac). The bid security shall be in form of Bank Guarantee issued by any schedule bank in Bangladesh or from any reputable foreign bank duly endorsed with full obligation and liabilities by any schedule bank in Bangladesh located in Dhaka. b) The tender notice will also be available at TSS website www.tss.com.bd
23. The procurement entity reserves the right to accept or reject in part or full of any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.	

Md. Abdus Samad
Personnel Manager

2 Bangladeshis

FROM PAGE 1
a state of emergency and launched a military operation following waves of violent protests by demonstrators demanding political reform.

Meanwhile, Bangladeshis in the Gulf state are concerned at the deteriorating situation, Ibrahim said.

The crisis deepened after attacks on workers of the Indian sub-continent on Sunday. A group of demonstrators attacked some Bangladeshi and Pakistani workers in Manama, leaving about 20 Bangladeshis injured.

A Pakistani national was killed in the attack, said Ibrahim.

Thirteen of the Bangladeshis were released after initial treatment, while seven were admitted to a hospital in Old Manama. Five more were released yesterday.

The conditions of the two others, who are still in the hospital, were improving.

On brining back the Bangladeshis, Ibrahim said the situation is not "that critical". He hopped the situation will calm down following the military operation.

Meanwhile, the Bahrain Centre for Human Rights (BCHR) condemned the attacks on Asian workers in different parts of Manama.

"The BCHR condemns, unequivocally, the violent targeting or harassment of any segment of Bahraini society," said a statement of BCHR yesterday.

HC irked

FROM PAGE 20
Ziaur Rahman was passively involved in Bangabandhu murder too.

The court's observation came following reported comments made by BNP leaders, including the party's Standing Committee Member MK Anwar, that the government hired a foreign journalist to malign the character of late president Ziaur Rahman also the founder of BNP.

The HC bench of Justice A H M Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik and Justice Sheikh Md Zakir Hossain made the observation during the hearing of a writ petition filed challenging the martial law regulation under which a military tribunal sentenced Taher to death.

Meanwhile, eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday also told the same bench that the trial and execution of Col Taher was illegal and unconstitutional.

"It was clearly a murder," he said while making his submission as an amicus curiae (a friend of the court).

"We are very much disturbed with a few politicians' comments that the government has hired a

foreign journalist. Such comments can impede the course of justice," Justice Manik said adding that the court wanted to put it on record that Lifschultz came to Bangladesh at the invitation of the bench.

"Such people are expected to act more responsibly, and must refrain from making reckless and irresponsible comments," the justice said.

In view of the fact that no document in relation to the trial of Col Taher is available, Justice Manik said, "We are required to record information from those people who observed the trial. Lifschultz has undertaken extensive research on the matter and have written many features on this, and has spoken to many important persons including Major General Monzur."

Noting that Lifschultz has a lot of information about Col Taher's trial since he covered the incident as a journalist, senior Judge Shamsuddin Chowdhury Manik said his deposition will greatly assist the court in finding the truth.

This is the reason why the court invited all such people for their statements, the bench added.

D R K A M A L ' S

SUBMISSION
In his deposition, Dr Kamal said Col Taher was put in solitary confinement for around six months before the trial; he was not even allowed to appoint a lawyer to defend himself.

He added that the "so-called trial" was a shame for the nation, as it was held inside Dhaka Central Jail with heavy machine guns set around it.

Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, the then attorney general, refused to endorse the then government's decision to try Taher inside the jail, the jurist said, adding that Ishtiaq resigned from his post in protest at the decision.

Dr Kamal said it was a shame that the then chief justice Abu Sadat Md Sayem became the chief marshal law administrator, and it was his regime that tried Col Taher, a decorated freedom fighter.

The state machinery was used to try and execute him, Kamal added.

Following Dr Kamal's submission, Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam started placing his before the court as an amicus curiae.

He is expected to continue his submission at the next hearing on Sunday.

ASHUGANJ POWER STATION COMPANY LIMITED

(An enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)
Ashuganj, B.Barua-3402, Bangladesh.

Memo No. APSC/Pro-29/2011/ 695 Date: 16/03/2011

"Amendment of APSC EOI Enquiry"

EOI Name, Enquiry No. & Date	Subject to be Amended for	Shall be Amended as
Request for Expression of Interests (EOI) for Appointment of Local Consultant for Preparation of Master Plan of Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited. APSC/PRO-02/2011/298 Dated.28/02/2011	01) Other details(if applicable) Serial No. 16 of EOI Notice: The intending consulting firms are requested to collect the "Detailed Terms of Reference as well as document" from the office of the Manager(Procurement), Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited during office hours till to 20/03/2011 02) EOI Closing date & Time: 21/03/2011 at 12.00 Noon	01) Other details(if applicable) Serial No. 16 of EOI Notice: The intending consulting firms are requested to collect the "Detailed Terms of Reference as well as document" from the office of the Manager(Procurement), Ashuganj Power Station Company Limited during office hours till to 27/03/2011 02) EOI Closing date & Time: 28/03/2011 at 12.00 Noon

All other terms & Conditions shall remain unchanged

(A.K.M Yaquub)
Manager(Procurement).
APSC

Govt to buy more rice

FROM PAGE 20
The government has been selling rice for Tk 24 a kg under the Open Market Sale (OMS) and other programmes to bear a subsidy of Tk 18 on every kg of rice.

Earlier, the purchase committee had approved procurement of 3.50 lakh tonnes of rice from Vietnam in two phases. Most of the rice has already reached Bangladesh.

The food ministry told the cabinet committee on economic affairs that it wanted to import 2 lakh tonnes of rice in the next two months. The committee gave a waiver of the conditions of public procurement act to import the rice quickly.

The proposal was immediately approved in another meeting of the cabinet committee on

purchase. The food ministry told the committee that the target of collecting boro rice from the domestic market could not be achieved in the last fiscal year.

The government decided not to procure rice in the aman season due to instability in the domestic market and a rise in rice and wheat prices on the international market. The food stock eventually dwindled.

In the current fiscal year, international tenders were floated for purchasing 7.10 lakh tonnes of rice through 21 private importers. But the importers have supplied only 1.33 lakh tonnes of rice till date.

A food ministry official said the government has been continuing sale of rice through OMS and fair

price cards to keep their prices stable.

It is also running other programmes such as Test Relief and Food for Work to distribute rice among members of police and Grade IV employees through rationing.

The finance ministry gave assurance that it would create funds for importing rice to keep the rice prices stable on the domestic market, said food ministry officials.

According to the food ministry's proposal, 1 lakh tonne of boiled rice will be imported from Vietnam for \$575 a tonne, putting the price of one kg rice at Tk 41.97. Another 1 lakh tonne of non-boiled rice will be purchased for \$530 a tonne with a price tag of Tk 38.69 per kg.

Man kills himself

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
A man killed himself by hanging and his wife in vain suicide attempt sustained severe injuries at Malitola in city's Bangshal in the wee hours of yesterday.

Dead is Emran Hossain, 32. His wife Anu Begum, 20, was under treatment at Mitford Hospital.

Anu in the hospital told reporters that they locked into a quarrel at 10:30pm on Monday night.

Around 3:00am, Emran threatened to commit suicide and suddenly shut the door of the adjacent room and hanged himself from the ceiling fan at their apartment on the fourth floor.

Terrified at the scene, Anu jumped through the window of the flat. But she failed to kill herself as she fell onto the hanging cables and then onto the ground.

Emran and Anu were passing unhappy life since they got married two years back.

The Biggest & Only Show for the Automotive World of Bangladesh

Visit
17 ~ 20 March 2011
10.30 am ~ 8.30 pm*
@ Bangabandhu International Conference Centre
Sher - e - Bangla Nagar, Dhaka

* 18th March (Friday), the Show will be open from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm & 5.30 pm to 10.00 pm

Organized by:
CEMS
Corporate Office for Bangladesh:
Tel: +880 2 8818111 - 5, Fax: +880 2 9888816
E-mail: cems@cemsbangladesh.com, Web: www.cemsbangladesh.com
www.dhakamotorshow.com

Partners
DUNLOP **GLOBATT** **Castrol**

Bank Partner
AB Bank

Media Partners
NEW AGE

It's a CEMS Exhibition

Special Attraction
Visit & Enjoy World Cup Cricket on Giant Screen

Cooperate with census takers

Minister urges all

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Planning Minister Air Vice Marshal (retd) AK Khandker yesterday called on all to provide necessary information and extend support to enumerators for successful completion of the ongoing population and housing census 2011.

Everyone can be counted, once the census takers get public support and cooperation, the minister said while visiting Savar to observe the census activities there. He also expressed satisfaction over the countrywide people counting programme.

UNFPA Bangladesh Representative Arthur Erken and USAID Population Adviser Kanta Jamil were also in the visiting team, said a press release.