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Let's build a world with zero waste

Yunus says nations asking for money is humiliating

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has called for making a world where there is zero waste.

"We have created an economic framework based on consume, consume, and consume, and it only generates waste, waste and waste. We need to create a world of zero waste," he said in his address to the World Leaders Action Summit at the COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan, yesterday.

Leaders of 200 nations and territories attended the event. The Nobel laureate also called for mobilising the intellectual, financial, and youth power to lay the foundation for a new civilization. He said the current civilization is at grave risk because of its "self-destructive values".

"We justify this with an economic framework which is considered as natural as the planetary system. That economic framework thrives on limitless consumption. The more you consume, the more you grow. The more you grow, the more money you make.

"The maximisation of profit is treated as the force of gravity which lets everything in the system to play its role according to our desire."

He said in order to survive, humans need to create another culture based on a different life-style, which will limit consumption to essential needs, leaving no residual waste.

Yunus proposed an economy based primarily on zero personal profit, for example, on social business, which is defined as a non-dividend business addressed to solve

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PHOTO: REUTERS

US President Joe Biden meets with President-elect Donald Trump in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington yesterday.

8-yr-old girl's life taken for gold jewellery

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Belapole

Police in Jhikargacha upazila of Jashore arrested a woman on charges of strangling an eight-year-old girl to death to steal her gold earrings and necklace.



Police recovered the body of Sadia Khatun from a bush at Matikumra village around 12:30am yesterday.

Sadia was a madrasa student. Police arrested Champa Begum, a resident of the village, who also has a daughter of the same age as Sadia.

Quoting the victim's family members, police said Sadia went missing Tuesday afternoon after she went to play near her home.

In the evening, her father Babu Moral and locals looked for her across the village but could not find her, said Bablur Rahman Khan, officer in charge of Jhikargacha Police Station.

At night, several villagers informed

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Free election most urgent need now

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Thakurgaon

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir



has said the country's most urgent need is now a free, fair, and acceptable election, as various conspiracies and campaigns are being orchestrated against the nation.

Talking to journalists at his residence in Thakurgaon town yesterday, the BNP leader said the proportional representation electoral system is not feasible in Bangladesh context.

"We're not concerned about Awami League's participation in the upcoming election. Our worry is about when the next election will be held, as the interim government has not yet presented any roadmap for the polls."

Fakhrul added that the government has formed a commission to reform the electoral system, which has already sent the BNP a

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Cabinet expansion a ploy to prolong stay in office

Some BNP leaders say at standing committee meeting; party to put pressure on govt for polls

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

The BNP believes that the cabinet expansion is an attempt of this interim government to prolong its stay in power. Considering this, the party plans to beef up its street programmes to put pressure on the government to call for elections, said party leaders.

The issue of making the cabinet larger was discussed in the standing committee meeting, the highest policymaking body of the party, held at its Gulshan office on Monday night.

At the beginning of the meeting, a standing committee member raised the issues of expansion and the Interim Government Ordinance 2024.

The BNP leaders discussed the draft ordinance that specifies that the caretaker administration will remain in power until the 13th parliamentary election is held and a new prime minister takes charge, with no fixed term outlined. Questions cannot be raised over the appointments of the chief adviser and other advisers as per the draft ordinance.

Party leaders in the meeting said that such a draft was expected but some members expressed concerns about the lack of clarity on the specific number of advisers in the interim government. Regarding the appointments of three new advisers, BNP leaders said that as questions were raised from different quarters about the appointments of two advisers, the party must move cautiously.

If they were appointed after proper scrutiny, controversy could have been averted, said a standing committee member, wishing not to be named.

Earlier, the BNP expressed reservations about another adviser, Ali Imam Majumdar. The interim government appointed renowned filmmaker Mostofa Sarwar Farooki, AkijBashir Group Managing Director

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'Welcome back'

Trump, Biden shake hands in White House; Musk, Fox News host gets key posts as GOP 'retain control of House'

AFP, Washington

Joe Biden welcomed Donald Trump back to the White House yesterday, in a show of civility to a bitter rival who failed to extend him the same courtesy four years ago.

The US president and president elect shook hands in front of a roaring fire in the Oval Office as they pledged a smooth transition -- a stark contrast to Trump's refusal to recognize his 2020 defeat.

"Welcome back," Biden, 81, said as he congratulated the 78-year-old Trump and offered brief opening remarks to the man he has repeatedly slammed as a threat to democracy.

Biden, who dropped out of the election in July but saw his successor Kamala Harris lose to Trump last week, said he was "looking forward to having a smooth transition" and pledged to do "everything we can to make sure you're accommodated."

As the two presidents with a combined age of 159 years shook hands, Biden appeared to look down while Trump leaned forward and looked him in the eyes.

Trump riled up a mob that attacked the US Capitol in 2021 and ran a brutal and divisive election campaign this year -- but sought to strike a gracious tone

on his return visit to the White House.

"Politics is tough, and in many cases, it's not a very nice world. It is a nice world today and I appreciate it very much," Trump said.

Trump added that the transfer of power would be "smooth as you can get" -- despite the fact that his transition team has not yet signed some key legal documents ahead of his inauguration as president on January 20.

Absent from the occasion was incoming first lady Melania Trump, who was a shadowy presence on the campaign trail and spent much of Trump's first term away from the White House.

Outgoing First Lady Jill Biden joined Biden in welcoming Trump and "gave Mr. Trump a handwritten letter of congratulations for Mrs. Trump," the White House said.

The only other people in the room for talks after the handshake were Biden's chief of staff Jeff Zients and Trump's incoming chief of staff Susie Wiles, the White House said.

Biden was expected to push during the meeting for Trump to continue US support for Ukraine's fight against Russia, which the Republican has called into question.



Elon Musk



Pete Hegseth

Govt to decide when army will withdraw

Says army HQ

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will decide how long the army will remain deployed at the field level to help the civil administration, said Col Intekhab Haider Khan, colonel staff of the Directorate of Military Operations at the Army Headquarters.

He was speaking at a press conference at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday. The event was organised to inform the media about the army's activities in maintaining law and order.

Responding to a query, he said it is not true that the army was deployed to assist the civil administration for 60 days.

The army was deployed as per the government's decision, and the government will determine how long the deployment will be needed, Intekhab added.

He said the army is fully aware of the importance of preventing human rights violations or extrajudicial killings.

"Our top leadership has given clear instructions that we must not allow any extrajudicial killings to take place under any circumstances. We will make every

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Workers of Bastuhara slum near Chattogram's Karnaphuli river are busy drying a variety of fish. The months from November to March are ideal for drying fish to make the popular Bangladeshi delicacy -- shutki. After the shutki is prepared, it is sent to the Asadganj Shutkipatti wholesale market and from there, it goes to different parts of the country. Those involved in the drying work usually earn Tk 300-500 per day. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Harvey wins Booker Prize for 'Orbital'

REUTERS, London

Britain's Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel 'Orbital', a story about a single day aboard the International Space Station which she wrote during Covid-19 lockdowns.

The novel, Harvey's fifth, was the top selling book on the shortlist of six finalists and has sold more copies than the past three Booker Prize winners combined, as readers lapped up her depiction of earth's beauty as seen from space.

Judges of the prize, now in its 55th year, praised her writing for the "intensity of attention to the precious and precarious world".

Past winners of the prestigious Booker, which is open to works of fiction written in English, include Margaret Atwood, Salman Rushdie and Yann Martel.

Harvey said she wrote the novel while stuck at home during the pandemic watching footage of the earth in low orbit on her screen. She likened the experience of her six characters "trapped in a tin can" to that of lockdown.

