



## we are only facilitators not rulers say Yunus



'We want to build a beautiful country together, with people of all religions'

Is it newsworthy that Donald Trump's share of the 2024 presidential vote has fallen below 50 percent?

You wouldn't think it's a big deal based on the relatively few headlines triggered by the milestone, which passed quietly last weekend as California and other states continued their glacially slow vote counts. And maybe that's as it should be. After all, Trump's 49.9 percent (for now) is still more than Kamala Harris' 48.3 percent. When the counting is done, the margin will probably have shrunk even further. No matter: It still earns him 312 electoral votes from a population that also gave his Republican Party control of the House and Senate. He won.

Donald Trump is seated with Joe Biden in the Oval Office with portraits of past presidents behind them.

What Donald Trump did this month is a lot like what Joe Biden did four years ago — but with less of the public on his side. | Evan Vucci/AP

All the same, the numbers might seem a wee bit jarring to anyone who has been listening to Washington's triumphal Republicans and self-flagellating Democrats — all of whom seem to have internalized a version of the story that involves a

*The interim government that took the helm of Bangladesh amid high expectations completed its 100 days in office recently. These few months have been fraught with challenges for Chief Adviser Professor **Muhammad Yunus**. The Daily Star Editor and Publisher **Mahfuz Anam** sat down with the Nobel peace laureate for an exclusive interview where he spoke about issues ranging from reforms and election to media and foreign policy. An abridged version of the interview was published on Wednesday. Following is the full interview.*

**The Daily Star:** You gave your first interview to The Daily Star in 1992, and now, as the chief adviser, you are giving us your first interview. Thank you very much for that. You've dedicated your life to work on poverty alleviation and women's empowerment. How does it feel to suddenly step into political life?

**Muhammad Yunus:** I'm trying to get a grasp of it. This is an unfamiliar world for me. I'm trying to see how the work I've all my life done can be reflected in this ... how it can be and from which direction.

This is a world that is very difficult to enter, but sometimes opportunities arise. For example, at COP29, I had the chance to speak, and I shared what I've been saying all my life. Many people thought this was not coming from a government. And I made it clear that these were my own words. I speak for myself. Whether people like it or not is up to them. I will continue to say the same thing, whether I am in government or outside it. Whenever I get the opportunity, I will raise these issues.



He made this statement while addressing the Kothi Chivas Dan (offering of the sacred robe) and the Buddhist Grand rally at the International Buddhist Vihara in Merul Bradda, Dhaka, on Friday afternoon.

In his address, the Army Chief emphasized that the Bangladesh Army is always prepared to take necessary actions to ensure that each religious community can celebrate its festivals peacefully, while maintaining communal harmony.



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