

## **What Is Next for Professor Yunus?**

Now that Dr. Yunus boosted entire Bangladesh in the international arena, one logical question is asked what is next for him to do. Shall he be retired from his intensely active career and enjoy the honor of being a Nobel Laureate for rest of his life? Or shall he bring forward new and revolutionary ideas to impress us further? Or shall he get involved in politics with a hope to eradicate corruption in Bangladesh and set another brilliant example of improving human life?

The immediate statements made by Professor Yunus after winning the Prize for peace indicate that he is willing to bring more good to our country. It is clear that he possesses extensive knowledge of national and internal politics. In a recent interview with Prothom-Alo editor Motiur Rahman, Dr. Yunus stated his views in different political and social issues. When asked what he would do to utilize the strength of unity as a result of his prize winning, Professor Yunus metaphorically said, "I am not a person of politics. I want to stay in the business what I am doing (now). If I am asked to do (politics), I will have to start from the beginning. I did not learn how to ride a horse. Consequently, if I need to do, I must learn riding first. If you ask me to do this (now), I can not make it. I have no preparation to be a politician. I am doing well in what I am doing {(now)}" (Prothom-Alo, October 22, 2006)}. Earlier, in a press conference in Dhaka, Professor Yunus urged Bangladeshi politicians as saying, "Amid today's unity and happiness, we are looking forward to a similar unity among the politicians," (The Daily Star, October 15, 2006).

Although Rabindranath Thakur (please accept as Tagore) was not actively political, he did freely express his opinions against the rulers. It has been almost a century since Thakur was awarded with Nobel. Geopolitical map has been enormously changed since then. There is a new country on the globe named Bangladesh and there is a new passion of its citizens for this new nation. Citizens' expectations to personalities such as Thakur and Yunus are quite different now. Professor Yunus earned such a great honor when his country is suffering a political turmoil, corruption is ruling in all steps of life. I think it would not be an over-expectation that Dr. Yunus will bring his talent one more time to offer Bangladesh a hope of political stability and a social life without corruption. There is a greater probability of achieving these goals by being politically active. Dr. Yunus may initiate a

new political party or form a political alliance with more experienced and fairly honest politicians such as Dr. Kamal Hossein, etc. The first and foremost agenda of such a political institution must be, to my opinion, eradication of corruption from each layer of our society. Only this agenda will distinct them from other major parties.

A political initiative by Professor Yunus will certainly follow a storm of criticism by all interested sides. This will potentially ruin his honorable and respectable life as a Laureate. Dirty stories will be manufactured to label him as a bad personality. However, for greater sake of the country will he take risks of being criticized? Readers may disagree, but I think he should initiate political activities. Even he may not succeed in building a corruption free Bangladesh in his lifetime, there is a huge probability of preparing good and honest politicians for future who may one day succeed in leading Bangladesh corruption free.

Rafique Islam  
October 21, 2006