Prof Yunus honoured by rights body

Nobel Peace Prize winner Dr Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the ultimate goal of the Liberation War was to establish peace in the country and it was yet to be achieved.

"If we can bring peace to our country, we will be able to move ahead of the countries that are more advanced than us," he said when a delegation of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission (BHRC) called on him at the Yunus Centre, Dhaka.

Different socio-political and rights organisations have expressed support for the microfinance guru since the government on June moved to take over Grameen Bank, the institution he founded in 1983.

Apart from the BHRC, a team from BHRC visited the Nobel laureate at the Yunus Centre on 27 August 2013.

The rights body gave Yunus the title of Best Citizen of Bangladesh while handing over to him the National Human Rights Award-2013.

"Our immediate aim of the Liberation War was to have a country of our own by ousting the Pakistanis and we have achieved this. But our main objective to establish peace and to live with honour in our own country is yet to be achieved," Prof Yunus said.

"Forty-two years have passed since liberation. But we still have not been able to build a Bangladesh of our dream. And we will be defeated if we cannot reach our final target," he said, adding the process of peace starts through holding a peaceful election.

He said it was urgent to find out as early as possible in which way a peaceful election could be held. "Through a peaceful election we want to elect those who we think will be able to establish peace in the country."

BHRC Chairman Justice AKM Sadeque, Secretary General Dr. Saiful I. Dildar, National Adviser Dr. ASM Badruddoza, BHRC EC member Rokeya Nurun Nessa, Md. Nazrul Islam, Advocate Abul Kalam Azad, Chittagong Divisional Coordinator Mrs. Setara Gaffar, President of BHRC Dhaka City Corporation South Branch  Md. Fazlul Haque Bachchu, General Secretary Abdul Aziz, President of BHRC Dhaka City Corporation North Branch AKM Akhteruzzaman Babul also present the occasion.

Dr Yunus asked all to work for building a country where everyone will be able to express his or her opinion without fear.

During his 20-minute speech, he recalled how he along with others in the US worked relentlessly in favour of Bangladesh in 1971.

At one stage of his speech, the Nobel laureate said the people of Bangladesh elsewhere in the world do not understand why the government is so mad at Grameen Bank, which earned glory and honour for the country by winning the Nobel Prize for peace.

Sharing his thoughts with the rights body BHRC, Dr Yunus said its support for Grameen Bank has made him brave.

BHRC Team Meet Nobel Laureate

Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus

A high level Bangladesh Human Rights Commission-BHRC team meet Nobel Laureate Prof. Dr. Muhammad Yunus on 27 August 2013 afternoon at Yunus Centre, Mirpur, Dhaka. 15 members BHRC team lead by BHRC Chairman Justice AKM Sadeque (Details news at last).