

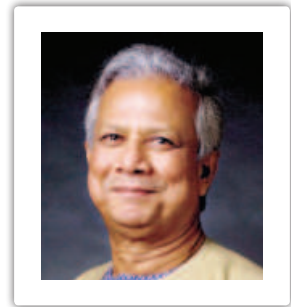
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Yunus may attend UNGA and Bimstec summit



DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Interim Government's Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is likely to attend the Bimstec summit and the UN General Assembly, both scheduled to be held in September.

The Bimstec summit will be held in Bangkok, Thailand, from September 2 to 4.

"The chief adviser is most likely to attend the [Bimstec] summit," said a foreign ministry official yesterday.

Apart from addressing the summit, Prof Yunus will also hold bilateral meetings with the heads of

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Due to the nonstop rain since early morning, the port city's low-lying areas were submerged under ankle- to waist-deep waters yesterday, causing immense suffering to residents. The active monsoon is expected to bring more rain in the next few days. The photo was taken in Chattogram city's Muradpur area.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Banking, revenue sectors need major reforms

Business leaders tell Yunus



BSS, Dhaka

The leaders of the International Chamber of Commerce, Bangladesh, (ICC-B) called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office at the State Guest House Jamuna yesterday.

The delegation, led by ICC-B President Mahbubur Rahman, told him that the country's businesspeople fully support him in his new role, said a press release of the chief adviser's press wing.

Yunus said his administration inherited an economic mess, but he was confident the situation would soon improve following vital reforms.

"It's a very hard situation that we are in now. But it's also the biggest opportunity that we can get. Our job is difficult, but very much doable," he said.

The ICC-B leaders urged the Nobel peace laureate to carry out the much-needed reforms.

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UN ready to help restore democracy

Says Guterres in letter to CA

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres has written a letter to the Chief Adviser to the Interim Government, saying that his leadership will be crucial in bringing an end to violence, ensuring accountability and charting a course towards democratic elections.

In the letter issued on August 16 and shared by the chief adviser's Press Wing last night, Guterres offered his best wishes to Yunus and welcomed his efforts to restore calm and to organise elections in Bangladesh.

"It is my hope that your government will take an inclusive approach, including by taking into account the voices of the youths and women, as well as that of minority and indigenous communities," the letter says.

Guterres said he counts

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GRAFT ALLEGATIONS ACC to probe 2 ex-ministers, 3 former MPs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission yesterday decided to launch probes against five former members of parliament, including two former ministers, for allegedly amassing wealth illegally.

According to an ACC source, the lawmakers who will be investigated are former minister of shipping Shajahan Khan (Madaripur-2 MP), former minister of primary and mass education Mostafizur Rahman Fizar (Dinajpur-5 MP), Awami League Cultural Affairs Secretary Asim Kumar Ukil (Netrokona-3 MP), Jannat Ara Henry (Sirajganj-2 MP) and former general secretary of Jubo Mohila League Apu Ukil (lawmaker from reserved seat).

Meanwhile, ACC also launched probes against Ashraf Alam Khokan, a former deputy press secretary to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, and Md Jahangir Alam, a former personal assistant to the ex-PM, over corruption allegations.

ACC sources said the decision came after allegations were made against Khokan, who holds dual citizenship of Bangladesh and the United States, that he amassed a vast amount of wealth through corruption.

Khokan held the post of PM's deputy press secretary from 2013 to 2021.

Meanwhile, Jahangir Alam, who served the former PM for a long time, has many graft allegations against him, said a senior official of ACC.

On July 14, the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit (BFIU) ordered banks to freeze accounts belonging to Jahangir and his wife Kamrun Nahar.

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Help the govt carry out reforms

Tarique tells BNP rank and file

STAR REPORT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday urged party leaders and activists to ensure effective state reforms and said he believes the interim government will hold elections in due time.

The exiled politician made the remarks in a video message from London, state-run BSS news agency reports.

Tarique also said that a government accountable to the people "must be established by their vote to ensure their participation in the desired state reform to make the democratic rules and regulation sustainable".

So, it is the time to establish accountability-based democracy in the country, he said.

The BNP acting chief said political changeover does not mean only the handover of state power, but the qualitative change of state and politics, for which people's political and economic empowerment is a must.

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Israeli air strike hits Gaza school

12 Palestinians killed; Blinken takes ceasefire push to Egypt, Qatar

AGENCIES

Gaza's civil defence agency said an Israeli strike hit a school in Gaza City yesterday, killing at least 12 people, while top US diplomat Antony Blinken was in Egypt for talks on a Gaza ceasefire.

The bodies of ten men and two children were pulled out of the building "after an Israeli plane dropped a bomb on the second floor of the (Mustafa Hafiz School) building housing thousands of displaced people," agency spokesman Mahmud Bassal told AFP.

He said 15 people were wounded in the strike. The Israeli military said the school was targeted because it housed a Hamas command and control centre. It said it carried out a "precise strike on terrorists who were operating" inside the school.

In recent weeks, the military has

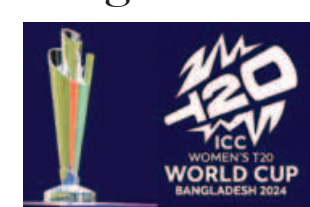
struck several schools across Gaza, primarily in Gaza City, accusing them of housing Hamas command centres, which Hamas denies. Tens of thousands of displaced people have taken refuge in schools since the Israeli offensive in Gaza broke out on October 7.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 40,173 people have been killed in the Palestinian territory in more than 10 months of offensive. The toll includes 34 deaths in the past 24 hours, according to ministry figures.

Blinken flew to El Alamein, the Mediterranean city famous for a World War II battle, yesterday and held talks with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el Sisi at his summer palace. Sisi warned of the risk of the Gaza offensive expanding regionally in a way "difficult to imagine".

- » Mustafa Hafiz School housed thousands of displaced people
- » After US talks, Egypt's Sisi warns of regional war
- » Death toll in Gaza now 40,173

Women's T20 WC moved to UAE from Bangladesh



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Cricket Council (ICC) yesterday decided to move the Women's T20 World Cup from Bangladesh to the United Arab Emirates, owing to the uncertain situation in the country following the month-long student-led protests which ousted the Awami League government on August 5.

The highly-anticipated ninth edition of the tournament, which was scheduled to be held in Bangladesh from October 3 to 20, will now take place in the UAE with Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) continuing as hosts, confirmed the game's global body following a virtual meeting yesterday.

The tournament will

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HEFAJAT'S SHAPLA CHATTAR RALLY

Hasina sued for genocide, crimes against humanity

Faces five more cases; Joy, Putul, Rehana sued over vendor's killing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Another complaint was filed with the investigation agency of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday, accusing former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and 23 others of committing crimes against humanity and genocide during a Hefajat-e-Islam rally at Motijheel's Shapla Chattar on May 5, 2013.

Besides, seven more cases were filed against Hasina yesterday and another one the day before over the killings that took place during the recent unrest.

With these cases, Hasina is now facing 31 cases, including 26 for murder, four for crimes against humanity and genocide, and one for abduction.

Yesterday, for the first time, Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, and sister Sheikh Rehana were accused in a murder case.

ICT CASE

Supreme Court lawyer Gazi MH Tamim filed the complaint on behalf of Mufti Harun Ijhar Chowdhury, joint secretary general (education and law) of Hefajat.

"We've registered the complaint and the investigation has gotten underway," said Ataur Rahman, deputy

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Palestinians carry their children as they flee after an Israeli strike on a school, housing displaced Palestinians, in the Rimal neighbourhood of central Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Tigers take on Pakistan in first Test

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh national team will take on Pakistan in the first Test in Rawalpindi today, their first international fixture following a period of political unrest in the country.

The Tigers have had their preparation hampered during their stay in the country and eventually moved to Pakistan earlier than was scheduled to get the preparations on track. Former skipper Shakib Al Hasan, too, had travelled to Pakistan and joined the side in Lahore amidst the political unrest that followed the fall of the Awami League government.

Bangladesh skipper Najmul Hossain Shanto had to address a question on what had transpired in the country and he talked about moving on to focus

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