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UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY Yunus to draw his vision of an inclusive nation

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will present at the 79th UN General Assembly the interim government's vision of building a democratic and inclusive Bangladesh where human rights will be upheld.



Prof Yunus is to leave for New York early today for his first trip abroad as the chief adviser.

The Nobel laureate will have a bilateral meeting with US President Joe Biden.

Prof Yunus will also address the General Debate of the UNGA on September 27 the theme of which will be "Leaving no one behind: acting together for the advancement of peace, sustainable development and human dignity for present and future generations."

On the sideline, he is likely to hold

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What appears to be fog is actually kicked up dust on Shyampur-Narayanganj road on a sunny day. Locals of Shyampur say the dust is a menace to their neighbourhood and blamed it for people getting respiratory diseases.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

India eager to strengthen ties with Bangladesh

Says Mirza Fakhrul after meeting Pranay Verma

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India is eager to further strengthen its relationship with Bangladesh, said BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday after meeting Indian High Commissioner Pranay Verma.

"They also want to strengthen our relationships with the political parties of their country," Fakhrul told reporters after the meeting at the BNP Chairperson's office in Gulshan.

The meeting, which lasted nearly an hour, is the first formal talks between Indian officials and BNP leaders since Sheikh Hasina's regime was deposed on August 5.

Fakhrul said, "We raised the issues Bangladesh is facing with India, including the water-sharing issue, which requires a swift resolution."

On border killings, Fakhrul said, "We also conveyed the necessity of stopping the border killings."

"We also discussed security concerns between both the countries. They assured us they are vigilant and working towards resolving these problems as quickly as possible."



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Biden, Modi talk about Bangladesh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

The developments in Bangladesh came up during discussions between US President Joe Biden and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the former's personal residence in Wilmington, Delaware, yesterday.

Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said there was also an exchange of views between Modi and Biden about the situation in Bangladesh.

Vikram's remarks came during a media briefing in Washington in reply to a question from India's state-owned TV channel Doordarshan journalist if Bangladesh was a part of the discussions between the two leaders and if he could share the contours of the discussion.

"Look, as I said, these discussions cover subjects that are in the region. They may be of bilateral interest to one party or the other, but they do have significance beyond the region as well. In this context, a number of situations came up for discussion. Bangladesh also figured in the discussions, and there was an exchange of views with regard to the situation there."

Vikram did not elaborate further.

This was the first time that Bangladesh came up in the discussions between Modi and Biden in their first in-person bilateral meeting since the change of guard in that country after the ouster of Sheikh

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Sri Lanka elects Dissanayake as president

REUTERS, Colombo

Sri Lanka elected Marxist-leaning Anura Kumara Dissanayake as its new president yesterday, putting faith in the 55-year-old's pledge to fight corruption and bolster a fragile economic recovery following its worst financial crisis in decades.

Dissanayake, who does not possess political lineage like some of his rivals in the presidential election, led from start to finish during the counting of ballots, knocking out incumbent President Ranil Wickremesinghe and opposition leader Sajith Premadasa to become Sri Lanka's 10th president.

The election was also a referendum on Wickremesinghe, who led the heavily indebted nation's fragile economic recovery from a meltdown in 2022 but the austerity measures that were key to this recovery hindered his bid to return to office. He finished third with 17 percent of the vote.

Dissanayake polled 5.6 million or 42.3 percent of the votes, a massive boost to the three percent he managed in the last presidential election in 2019. Premadasa was second at 32.8 percent after the first round of counting of ballots yesterday.

It was the first time in Sri Lanka's history that the presidential race was decided by a second round of counting after the top two candidates failed to win the mandatory 50 percent of votes to be declared winner.

"The dream we have nurtured for centuries is finally coming true," Dissanayake said in a statement shortly after the announcement yesterday. "This victory belongs to all of us," he added. "Millions of eyes filled with hope and expectation push us forward, and together, we stand ready to rewrite Sri Lankan history."

Wickremesinghe congratulated Dissanayake on the win and said he was "confident" the politician would "steer Sri Lanka on a path of continued growth and stability."

Dissanayake will be sworn in this morning at the colonial-era President Secretariat in Colombo, election commission officials said.



Three addl IGP's sent into forced retirement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Seven more police officials, including three additional inspectors general of police, were sent into forced retirement yesterday.

According to home ministry circulars, signed by Mohammad Abdul Momen, senior secretary of the Public Security Division, the order was issued in public interest effective immediately.

The officers are Additional Inspector General of Police AKM Hafiz Akhtar, Addl IGP Bashir Ahmed, Addl IGP Devdas Bhattacharya, Superintendent of Police (Police Headquarters) Mizanur Rahman, Assistant Commissioner of Police Dadon Fakir, Assistant Commissioner of Police Shamim Or Rashid Talukder, and Assistant Superintendent of Police Rafiqul Islam.

The circulars said the decision was made as per section 45 of the Government Service Act, 2018 (Act No 57 of 2018), in public interest. It also mentioned that the retired officers would be entitled to benefits as per the regulations.

On September 2, four top police officials, including two additional inspectors general of police, were sent into forced retirement from service.

They are additional IGP's Khandker Lutful Kabir of Police Headquarters and Mir Rezaul Alam of Tourist Police, Deputy

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Hezbollah, Israel trade heavy border barrages

Three killed in south Lebanon; 40 more Palestinians killed in Gaza strikes

AGENCIES

Israel and Hezbollah exchanged heavy fire into yesterday, with Israeli warplanes carrying out the most intense bombardment in almost a year of conflict across Lebanon's south and Hezbollah firing rockets deep into northern Israel.

The Israeli military said it struck around 290 targets on Saturday night, including thousands of Hezbollah rocket launcher barrels, and said it would continue to hit more targets.

Israel closed schools and restricted gatherings in many northern areas and ordered hospitals there to transfer their operations to facilities with extra protection from rocket and missile fire.

Lebanon's health ministry said yesterday three people were killed in separate Israeli strikes on south Lebanon.

The UN special coordinator in Lebanon, Jeanine Hennis-Plasscharet, said in a post on X that "with the region on the brink of an imminent catastrophe, it cannot be overstated enough: there is NO military solution that will make either side safer".

The conflict - which sharply escalated over the past week - has raged since Hezbollah opened a second front against Israel after Israeli offensive in Gaza began on October 7.

In Gaza, civil defence rescuers said an Israeli strike on a school-turned-shelter in the Al Shati refugee camp yesterday killed at least 7 people, with the Israeli military saying it had targeted Hamas members.

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- Israel forces hit 290 targets, destroy rocket launchers
- Hezbollah targets airbase with dozens of missiles
- Gaza death toll rises to 41,431

Astronomers find biggest black hole jets ever

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists have found the biggest pair of black hole jets ever seen.

The two stretch 23 million light-years long across the universe. That is roughly as long as 140 of our own Milky Way galaxy stacked on top of each other.

Such jets are vast blasts of radiation and particles that erupt out of supermassive black holes. They can last for millions of years, reshaping the cosmos as they change how matter flows through space, blowing with a total output equivalent to trillions of suns.

Milky Way jets are the largest galaxy-made structures in the universe. But the two newly found are even bigger than we had ever seen before - previous observations had suggested they could only grow to around 16 light years in size.

The previous record holder was a jet system called Alcyoneus. It was found in 2022 by the same team, but was only around 100 milky ways in length.



Smoke billows from the site of an Israeli strike that targeted the outskirts of the southern Lebanese village of Zibqin yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

RMG workers block highway for attendance bonus

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Thousands of workers of a garment factory blocked the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the Bagherbazar area of Gazipur yesterday morning, demanding attendance bonuses.

The protest led to severe traffic congestion from Chandana Chowrasta to Mauna.

According to the industrial police, the workers began demonstrating on the highway at 8:00am. Heavy traffic was reported across multiple points on the highway.

Several protesting workers, who preferred to remain anonymous, told The Daily Star that many garment factories across the country are providing an attendance bonus and they are demanding the same from their factories.

They said it was becoming difficult to manage their household expenses with rising prices of essentials.

"We can't survive on our current salary alone," one worker said, highlighting the urgent need for the attendance bonus.

When contacted, Ziaul Kabir Khokon,

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