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Yunus calls for reviving SAARC in meeting with Pakistan PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday called for reviving SAARC as a top platform for regional cooperation in South Asia.

He made the call when he met Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Shehbaz Sharif on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly at the UN headquarters in New York, according to the Chief Adviser's Press Wing.

During the meeting, the two leaders stressed the need for revitalising the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Yunus said reviving SAARC could be a good way to start the process. He sought Pakistan's support in this regard.

Pledging his support for the initiative, Shehbaz suggested the countries move step by step in reviving the regional platform.

He said Bangladesh and Pakistan should open a "new page" in their relations to enhance cooperation in different sectors. "It's very essential we revive our relations."

Sharif expressed Pakistan's interest

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Jaishankar confident of constructive ties with Dhaka

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has expressed confidence that his country's relationship with Bangladesh and Sri Lanka will continue to be "positive and constructive".

Speaking at an event titled "India, Asia and the World" hosted by the Asia Society and the Asia Society Policy Institute in New York on Tuesday, he stressed that India was not trying to control every political aspect of its neighbours.

"I would urge you not to be deterministic about it. It's not like India is seeking to control every political move of every neighbour. That's not how it works. It doesn't work, not just for us, it doesn't work for anybody else," Jaishankar said.

The Indian foreign minister was responding to a remark that India has given unconditional aid to Bangladesh and Sri Lanka but change in governments of both countries seemed to be potentially adverse for India, our New Delhi correspondent reports.

"At the end of the day, each of our neighbours will have their own particular dynamics. It's not our intention to suggest that their dynamics must necessarily adhere to what we might consider as being better for us. I think this is the real world. I mean, everybody makes their choices and then countries adjust to each other and find ways of working it out," the minister was quoted by the PTI.

In the case of Bangladesh, Jaishankar said it was a little different. "What we have done over the last decade is projects



Hezbollah takes aim at central Israel

Claims rocket attack on Mossad HQ; 51 more people killed as Israeli warplanes hit Lebanon again

REUTERS, Beirut

Israel widened its airstrikes in Lebanon yesterday and shot down a missile that the armed group Hezbollah said it had fired at the Mossad spy agency near Tel Aviv, ratcheting up the conflict between the two arch foes.

The Iran-backed Hezbollah claimed to have targeted the Mossad headquarters with what it described as a ballistic missile - the first time in nearly a year of warfare that

Tel Aviv, in central Israel, has been so threatened.

Warning sirens sounded in Tel Aviv, Israel's economic capital, but there were no reports of damage or casualties. Israeli military spokesman Nadav Shoshani said he could not confirm what Hezbollah's target was when it fired the missile from a village in Lebanon.

Israeli warplanes also carried out extensive strikes in south Lebanon and the Bekaa Valley. Hezbollah has fired hundreds of missiles and rockets at Israel in recent days.

Israel's army chief told soldiers to prepare for a possible ground offensive to fight Hezbollah in Lebanon.

At least 51 people were killed and around 223 wounded in Israeli strikes across Lebanon yesterday at five different locations, according to Lebanese health ministry statement.



Smoke billows during an Israeli air strike on the village of Sujud in southern Lebanon yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Legitimate reforms, polls not possible without AL Says Joy

REUTERS

Sajeeb Wazed Joy, the son of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, said he was happy with the army chief's timeline for elections within 18 months, though it was later than expected, but warned that genuine reform and polls were impossible without her party.

General Waker-uz-Zaman, whose refusal to stand by Hasina in the face of deadly student protests prompted her flight to India in August, has told Reuters that democracy should return within a year to a year and a half.

"I'm happy to hear we have an expected timeline at least now," Hasina's son and adviser Joy told Reuters late on Tuesday.

"But we have seen this play out before where an unconstitutional, unelected government promises reform and then things only get worse."

He was referring to Bangladesh's history of coups since independence from Pakistan in 1971. The most recent was in 2007, when the military backed a caretaker government that ruled until Hasina took power two years later in a tenure that ran 15 years.

With the police left in disarray after Hasina fled, the powerful army took a key role in subsequent

US PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION
Harris widens lead over Trump
Reuters/Ipsos poll finds



REUTERS, Washington

US Democratic Vice President Kamala Harris leads Republican Donald Trump 47 percent to 40 percent in the race to win the November 5 US presidential election, as she appeared to blunt Trump's edge on the economy and jobs, a Reuters/Ipsos poll published on Tuesday found.

Harris had a lead of six percentage points based on unrounded figures - which showed her with support from 46.61 percent of registered voters while Trump was backed by 40.48 percent, according to the three day poll that closed on Monday. The Democrat's lead was slightly higher than her five-point advantage over Trump in a Sept 11-12 Reuters/Ipsos poll.

The latest poll had a margin of error of about four percentage points.

While national surveys including Reuters/Ipsos polls give important signals on the views of the electorate, the state-by-state results of the Electoral College determine the winner, with seven battleground states likely to be decisive.

Polls have shown Harris and Trump are neck-and-neck in those battleground states, with many results within the polls' margins of error. A recent New York Times/Siena College poll showed Trump with marginal leads in three of these states - Arizona, Georgia and North Carolina.

Asked which candidate had the better approach on the "economy, unemployment and jobs," some 43 percent of voters responding to the latest Reuters/Ipsos poll picked Trump and 41 percent selected Harris. Trump's two-point advantage on the topic compares to his three-point lead in an August Reuters/Ipsos poll and an 11 point lead over Harris in late July shortly after she launched her campaign.

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MASS UPRISING
Ex-industries minister sent to jail over murder

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A Narsingdi court yesterday sent former industries minister Nurul Majid Mahmud Humayun to jail in a case filed over the killing of a Sramik Dal leader during Anti-discrimination Student Movement in the Madhabdi municipality area on August 4.

Judicial Magistrate's Court Judge Md Rakibul

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