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Help Bangladesh in its quest for democracy

Yunus urges int'l community at UNGA

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has urged the international community to engage with a new Bangladesh that aims to ensure freedom and democracy for all. The power of Bangladesh's ordinary people, especially the youth, presented the nation with an opportunity to overhaul the system and end discrimination, Prof Yunus said, addressing the general debate of the 79th session of the UN General Assembly in New York yesterday.

"I would, therefore, call on the

state in the comity of nations," he said in his speech. Prof Yunus said the people who toppled the autocratic regime in Bangladesh through a movement were long forgotten in politics and development. They dreamt of a just, inclusive and functioning democracy. According to an estimate, over eight hundred people were martyred during the movement, he said. "Bangladesh was born because of her people's profound belief in liberalism, pluralism and secularism. Decades later,

Lamia, a dengue patient from Barishal, is being cared for by her father Mujibur Rahman at the capital's Mugda Medical College and Hospital yesterday. The first-year honours student was referred to Dhaka five days ago after her health deteriorated.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN



INTERIM GOVERNMENT'S PRIORITIES

Protecting all fundamental rights

More allocation for health, education

Good governance in all sectors

Ending all forms of inequality

international community to continue and deepen engagements with Bangladesh in meeting our people's quest for democracy, rule of law, equality, and prosperity, so that we can emerge as a just and inclusive democratic society," he said. Heads of states, governments, or their representatives from 193 UN member countries attended the event presided by UNGA President Philemon Yang. This is the first time Prof Yunus is attending an international event as the head of government, meeting dozens of global leaders like US President Joe Biden, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, UN Secretary-General Anthony Guterres, heads of World Bank, IMF, UNHCR, ILO, and the European Union. "That collective resolve [which led to the ouster of Sheikh Hasina] should define the Bangladesh of the future and place our nation as a responsive and responsible

our Generation Z is making us re-visit and re-imagine the very values that our people stood for back in 1971. As our people also did in 1952, to defend our mother language, Bangla." The interim government has found endemic corruption, ruthless politicisation of institutions, oligarchs, and wealth syphoned out of Bangladesh. The government's key priority is to make individuals in public positions and institutions accountable. It will ensure good governance, promote and protect fundamental rights, and prioritise allocations for education and health over grandiose infrastructure development. The government aims to establish effective mechanisms to ensure the sustainability of the reforms it will bring and create an enabling environment for

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KILLINGS DURING UPRISING Bangladesh can file complaint with ICC

Chief prosecutor of Hague-based court tells Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ICC Chief Prosecutor Karim AA Khan has said Bangladesh can file a complaint at the International Criminal Court against those who committed a massacre during the July-August uprising. He said this in response to a query from Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus regarding the process of filing a case at the ICC against the perpetrators of the massacre on charges of committing crimes against humanity. The ICC chief prosecutor called on Yunus on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York on Thursday. The student-led mass uprising led to the ouster of Shiekh Hasina on August 5. Atrocities carried out by the law enforcers and activists of Hasina-led Awami League and its associate bodies left at least 700 people dead and more than 20,000 injured. During the meeting, Karim apprised the chief adviser of the latest developments on the investigation, launched by the ICC in 2019, into the Rohingya crisis in Bangladesh and Myanmar. Karim said he would visit Bangladesh by the end of this year. He also praised Yunus's three-point proposal to give a new momentum to resolve the Rohingya crisis.

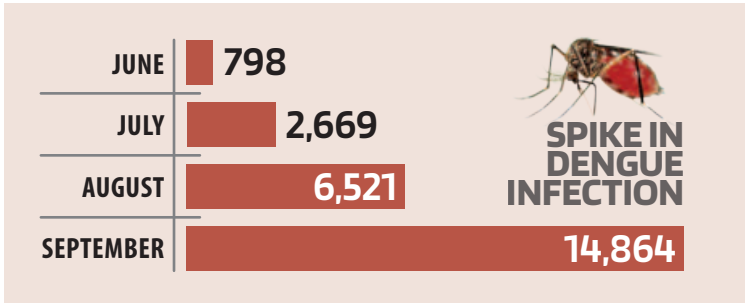
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Rain to raise dengue risk

September sees highest number of infections and deaths this year

HELEML ALAM

The country is already grappling with a rise in deadly dengue cases, and the ongoing rainy weather has stirred up fears of further deterioration of the situation. Experts say intermittent rains and high humidity are very suitable for Aedes aegypti mosquitoes, the known carrier of the dengue virus, to breed. Such weather also increases their biting tendency.



The Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) has reported 27,705 hospitalisations because of dengue this year until yesterday morning. A total of 143 dengue patients have died in this period. More than half of the cases were reported in September during which the death toll jumped by 60 so far. Entomologist Professor Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University said the situation will worsen in October if necessary measures are not taken immediately. A field-level survey led by Prof Bashar showed a high density of Aedes mosquitoes in the capital. The surveyors are using the Breteau Index (BI), an early warning signal to predict a possible outbreak of dengue fever.

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The sooner polls are held the better Says Fakhrul

UNB, Gazipur

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir has said the sooner a general election is held after necessary reforms, the better it will be for the nation. He added that Awami League men are plotting to destabilise the country. "Reasonable time does not mean excessive time. The sooner an election can be held, the better it will be for the nation. We must implement reforms promptly to transfer power back to the people." Fakhrul was speaking at a memorial meeting at Kapasia Pilot High School ground in Gazipur yesterday. The event was organised by Hannan Shah Smriti Sangsad marking the

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MASS UPRISING Hasina sued over attack on protesters Two ex-ministers also made accused

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A case has been filed against 84 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, home minister, state minister for shipping, and three ex-Awami League lawmakers, accusing them of orchestrating an attack on protesters in Dinajpur town on August 4. Rasheda Khatun of Uttar Shekhpara village in Dinajpur Sadar upazila, lodged the case with Kotwali Police Station on Thursday, said Farid Hossain, officer-in charge of the station. Her son Ashrafal Alam, who was injured by shotgun pellets during the attack, is undergoing treatment in Dhaka. Sub-inspector Raja Miah is the investigation officer of the case, said the OC.

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Assisted by a woman, a specially abled child in a wheelchair makes his way along the waterlogged Mugda hospital road in the capital yesterday. According to locals, this road often gets flooded after moderate rain due to poor drainage.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

Prices of egg, veggies go up Chicken also gets pricier

SHAHEEN MOLLAH and MD ABBAS

The prices of vegetables, chicken, and eggs have risen again in the capital's kitchen markets after remaining almost stable for about a month. Vegetable prices have increased by Tk 10 to Tk 20 per kg, while broiler chicken has become dearer by Tk 10 per kg, and Sonali chicken by Tk 10-20 per kg. The price of a dozen brown eggs has soared by Tk 5-10. The Daily Star came to know the prices after visiting the kitchen markets in Karwan Bazar, Kochukhet, Ibrahimpur, Shewrapara, Kazipara, and Mirpur-II yesterday. Vegetable traders attributed the price increase to incessant rain and a shortage of supply. Pointed gourd was being sold for Tk 50-60 per kg yesterday, up from Tk 40-50 last week. Yardlong beans were selling for Tk 80-100 per kg against the last week's price of Tk 70-80. The price of round aubergine has gone up to Tk 80-120 per kg from Tk 60-100 a week ago. Bitter melon was available for Tk 80-100 per kg, up from last week's price of Tk 80-90, and cucumbers were selling for Tk 70-80 per kg against the last week's price of Tk 50-60. Okra was being sold for Tk 60 per kg, an increase by Tk 10. Mosharraf Hossain, who has been engaged in vegetable trade at Karwan Bazar for 50 years, said the prices had been almost stable for about a month. "But the prices have gone up again following incessant

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