

## Prof Yunus reiterates support for Palestine

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has reaffirmed Bangladesh's steadfast support for Palestine.

The International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, introduced by the UN Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, was observed yesterday.

In his message, Prof Yunus called for an independent, sovereign Palestinian state based on the pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital.

He highlighted the urgent need for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire to protect innocent lives in Gaza, particularly women and children.

Prof Yunus called for accountability for atrocities against Palestinians, as underscored by the ICJ's advisory opinion declaring Israel's occupation unlawful.

Bangladesh continues to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people, supporting their rightful struggle for justice, freedom, and dignity.



Displaced Palestinians wait in line to receive food at a distribution centre in Deir el-Balah in the central Gaza Strip yesterday, amid the ongoing Israeli offensive in the Palestinian enclave.

PHOTO: AFP

## 2 Bangladeshi men shot by BSF along Brahmanbaria border

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Two Bangladeshi men were injured when they were shot by the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) at the border area in Brahmanbaria's Kasba upazila.

Confirming the incident, BGB 60 Battalion Commander Lt Col AM Jaber Bin Jabbar said the two injured persons were sent to Cumilla Medical College Hospital on Monday night.

Earlier in the afternoon, the incident took place at the Putia border of the upazila's Bayek union.

The injured were identified as Zakir Hossain, 30, son of Razzak Mia of Putia village in Kasba upazila, and Rukon Uddin, 35, son of Aziz Mia of Barhatta upazila in Netrokona district.

The on-duty doctors of Kasba Upazila Health Complex said that the injured sustained bullet wounds to different parts of their bodies.

The BGB held a flag meeting with the BSF yesterday noon, when the BGB strongly protested the incident and informed the BSF that such incidents should not happen again in the future.

BSF killings along the Bangladesh-India border marked a gradual rise over the last three years despite repeated state-level commitments to bring it down to zero.

Last year, 31 people were killed in BSF shootings, the highest since 2020, when 47 Bangladeshis were killed along the border, according to Ain O Shalish Kendra data compiled based on media reports.

## Keep calm

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He has also ordered law enforcement agencies to step up security in the port city, including in all the vulnerable neighbourhoods.

The interim government is committed to ensuring and upholding communal harmony in Bangladesh at any cost, it added.

Earlier in the day, Saiful Islam, a 32-year-old lawyer was killed during a clash between police and followers of former ISKCON leader Chandan Kumar Dhar, alias Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, in the Chattogram Court Building area.

**DON'T BE FOOLED BY CONSPIRATORS: HASNAT**  
Hasnat Abdullah, convener of the Anti-Discrimination Student Movement, urged people across the country to remain calm.

"Please stay patient and calm. Do not take the law into your own hands or create any kind of unstable environment," Hasnat said in his verified Facebook post yesterday.

"Our Bangladesh is a country of communal harmony. We will not allow anyone to disrupt this harmony under any circumstances.

"Since August 5, a certain group has been deliberately conspiring to create chaos in our country. Please do not get involved in internal conflicts and inadvertently pave the way for these conspirators to realise their heinous plans."

In his Facebook post, Hasnat Abdullah demanded the immediate arrest and prosecution of Saiful's killers.

Calling on everyone to remain calm, vigilant, and patient, he also urged that if any specific organisation is found involved in this murder, action must be taken against that organisation as well.

Meanwhile, in a separate Facebook post, Sarjis Alam, general secretary of July Shaheed Smriti Foundation, said if any individual, terrorist group, or organisation attempts to incite communal riots using religion as a "tool", strict measures must be taken against them.

He said, "Whoever is involved, we demand the highest punishment for murder. No leniency for conspirators. Too much leniency will embolden them."

Sarjis also emphasised that extremism should be judged not by religion but by the act of extremism itself.

## Take strict action against mob justice

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have occurred in front of the offices of the Prothom Alo and The Daily Star, noted that the security of these institutions remains under threat.

The statement, signed by Editors' Council President Mahfuz Anam and General Secretary Dewan Hanif Mahmud, said it views positively the expressions of concern from the Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB), the press wing of the Chief Adviser's Office, and the Information and Broadcasting Adviser Nahid Islam.

It added that the Editors' Council believes that if someone has a difference of opinion about the news or editorial policy of any newspaper, they are free to express this view peacefully; however, attempts to create disorder, disrupting the practice of journalism, are never expected.

## Lawyer killed amid clashes in Chattogram

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Senior police officials requested the protesters to clear the way, but they refused to comply.

Chinmoy was heard calling upon his followers to remain calm from inside the bus.

"We are not against the state and the government. We, the Sanatanis, are a part of the state... We will not do anything to destabilise the state and destroy peaceful coexistence. We will hold a peaceful protest by controlling our emotions and turning them into strength," he said.

At 2:50pm, members of the BGB and police fired several stun grenades and charged batons to disperse the demonstrators. Chinmoy's supporters hurled flower pots and brick chips towards police.

Police had to take Chinmoy to the jail in another vehicle, said CMP's Deputy Commissioner Rais Uddin.

Several cars, motorcycles, and a lawyer's chamber were vandalised on the ground floor of the Court Building Masjid Complex, said police and eyewitnesses.

Chattogram District Bar Association announced that lawyers will be on strike today to protest the murder, said Nazim Uddin Chowdhury.

Around 4:00pm, a group of lawyers began marching denouncing the vandalism and hurled brickbats towards Chinmoy's supporters.

Police later brought the situation under control.

Chinmoy, spokesperson for Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, was arrested at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka on Monday.

On October 31, a case was

filed against him and 18 others in Chattogram on charges of disrespecting the national flag.

The Jote issued a statement last night, stating the group that killed the lawyer was trying to shift the blame on Hindus.

It demanded a judicial probe into the killing. If an investigation is carried out in collaboration with international organisations such as the United Nations and other human rights organisations, the facts will come out.

"We believe in peaceful programmes and are committed to maintaining the stability," it said.

Kanchan Acharjee, a central leader of the Jote, told The Daily Star that those who killed the lawyer must be brought to book.

Many people of the Hindu community gathered on the court premises and peacefully demonstrated for Chinmoy's release, he said.

But law enforcers attacked and dispersed them, he said, adding that the news of the lawyer's death came later.

"We have no idea who killed him," Kanchan said.

**CHINMOY ARRESTED FOR SEDITION: ASIF**

Local Government Adviser Asif Mahmud Sajib Bhuiyan yesterday said Chinmoy was arrested as someone accused of sedition, not as a leader of a community.

"The government will take strict action against any act of sedition that threatens the sovereignty and independence of Bangladesh. Let it be clear to all: no one, regardless of their position or influence, will be spared if involved in such activities," he said during an event.

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury said, "There are many parties with vested interests that may be behind this. The parties which are banned might also be involved. No matter who, stern action will be taken in this regard."

**ATTACKS, PROTESTS**

At the Dhakeshwari temple in the capital, Sumon Kumar Roy, one of the Jote leaders, said attacks on several temples and chambers of Hindu lawyers have been reported in Chattogram.

Earlier in the day, Jagaran Jote demonstrated in Thakurgaon and Dinajpur in protest at the court decision to reject Chinmoy's bail petition.

Bangladesh Nationalist Lawyers' Forum has announced a demonstration at 1:00pm today in the Supreme Court as well as in all district bar associations across the country, in protest at the murder.

In Bandarban, pro-BNP lawyers, Jamaat, and Shibir announced they would demonstrate today against the killing.

Meanwhile, Jamaat Ameer Shafiqur Rahman condemned Saiful's murder, referring to him as a "beloved party member".

He demanded strict legal action against those involved.

Shafiqur also urged people not to take the law into their own hands under any circumstances.

"A certain group, siding with a fallen autocrat, is continuously conspiring and attempting to destabilise Bangladesh. Through provocations, they aim to create unrest. Just as their attempts have failed in the past, they will fail again in the future, Insha'Allah."

schedule.

"We hope the commission will consider our suggestions, which reflect the aspirations of the people, the spirit of the martyrs of the July-August revolution and the current realities of Bangladesh. The proposals aim to ensure that parliamentary autocracy or dictatorship cannot emerge in the future."

He further highlighted the need for reinstating the caretaker government system, calling it "the number one demand of the people".

The matter is pending in court. "We hope the verdict will favour the public."

The BNP's proposals address all aspects of the republic, including the executive, judiciary, legislative, election commission, and the schedule to establish a democratic system within the constitution.

"The aim is to create a balance of power in all branches of the state."

Asked how the constitutional amendments would be carried out in the absence of parliament, Salahuddin said the proposals are now with the commission, which is tasked with reviewing them and making recommendations to the interim government.

The other political parties including Jamaat-e-Islami have also handed in their proposals for constitutional reforms.

"We believe there will be consensus on most points, although differences may arise in some areas."

Once consensus is reached on the reforms needed to the constitution, the commitments would be included in the electoral manifesto and all parties will pledge to implement the constitutional changes once they assume power after the next election.

"We are hopeful our recommendations will be incorporated – it is not the job of the interim government to amend the provisions of the constitution," Salahuddin told The Daily Star.

## CPJ for probe

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Last week, they also staged a protest in front of The Daily Star office in the capital.

On Monday, Information and Broadcasting Adviser Nahid Hossain said that the government will not tolerate any attempts to put pressure on newspapers or media outlets into shutting down their operations.

He also vowed stern action against those who will be involved in vandalising newspaper offices and intimidating the media.

Meanwhile, 34 eminent citizens in a statement yesterday expressed deep concern over the protests outside the offices of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star in Dhaka and Chattogram, as well as the attacks on Prothom Alo's offices in Rajshahi and Bogura.

They also called upon the government and all stakeholders to ensure the safety of media outlets and journalists to safeguard freedom of expression.

"We observe with deep anger and concern that on November 25, at Rajshahi's Saheb Bazar Zero Point, a group under the banner of "Alem Ulama and Tawhidi Janata" created chaos in the name of protests, demanding the shutdown of Prothom Alo and The Daily Star," said the statement.

"Such audacious and violent attacks by communal groups did not only target two reputable newspapers but also the freedom of entire media. It is also a threat to journalists' safety."

"We unequivocally assert that everyone has the right to freedom of expression. Regarding any grievances over any published news or reports, proper legal or constructive measures should be adopted. Protests and attacks demanding the shutdown of newspapers are completely unacceptable," the statement said.

The statement added that some protesters accused The Daily Star and the Prothom Alo of being "architects of turning devout Muslims into militants".

"This is a grave accusation, and it is unclear on what basis these claims are made. Such sweeping allegations, incitements, and the spread of hatred on social media must be investigated to determine whether any vested interest groups are orchestrating these activities for ulterior motives."

The statement noted that the two newspapers had faced numerous lawsuits, harassment, and blacklisting under the previous authoritarian regime.

"The editors of these newspapers

## Six killed as PTI activists clash

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In a post on X from jail, Khan, 72, said his message to his supporters was to fight till the end.

"We will not back down until our demands are met," he said, accusing security forces of firing on peaceful party workers. "All protesting Pakistanis stay peaceful, united and stand firm until our demands are met – this is the struggle for Pakistan's survival and true freedom", he said.

The violence erupted at the end of a march led by Khan's wife Bushra Bibi and his key aide Ali Amin Gandapur that arrived in Islamabad early yesterday.

Calling for the government's resignation among other demands, the marchers ransacked vehicles and set a police kiosk on fire. They also attacked and wounded journalists at two separate locations, people from two media houses told Reuters.

The interior ministry said the army had been deployed to protect diplomatic missions in the fortified red zone area where government buildings and embassies are located. Authorities have said a curfew could be imposed in the capital.

were subjected to dozens of cases filed by party members of the previous government to harass them. After the fall of the autocratic government, the misuse of freedom of assembly and expression to incite communal hatred and create chaos seems to be part of a broader attempt to destabilise the country and render it dysfunctional," the statement read.

The emergence of a new culture of fear is also evident, it added.

"Therefore, we urge the government to take this matter seriously, investigate the instigators and their patrons, and take legal action against them. We welcome the information adviser's commitment to take action against those involved in the attacks on media offices. It is also urgent to take action against the inciters," said the prominent citizens.

They also urged the public to remain vigilant against incitement and misinformation and to stand united in protecting freedom of the press.

The signatories of the statement are Dhaka University Emeritus Prof Serajul Islam Choudhury, DU Prof Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, former Jahangirnagar University Prof Anu Muhammad, human rights activist Sultana Kamal, Nijera Kori Coordinator Khushi Kabir, DU Prof Robaet Ferdous, Supreme Court senior lawyers ZI Khan Panna, Subrata Chowdhury, and Tobarak Hossain, BLAST Honorary Executive Director Sara Hossain, London School of Economics and Political Science Visiting Prof Swapan Adnan, ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, DU Prof Samina Lutfa, Photographer Shahidul Alam, Writer Rehnuma Ahmed, DU Prof Jobaida Nasreen, DU Prof Khairul Islam Choudhury, Bela acting chief executive Taslima Islam, BNWLA Executive Director Salma Ali, Lancaster University Researcher Sadaf Noor, Nagarik Udyog Chief Executive Zakir Hossain, Bangladesh Hindu-Buddha-Christian Oikya Parishad General Secretary Manindra Kumar Nath, SC lawyers Minhajul Haque Chowdhury, Coast Trust Executive Director Rezaul Karim Chowdhury, journalists Saydia Gulrukh and Mahbub Hasan, Sammilita Samajik Andolon General Secretary Saleh Ahmed, Islamic University teacher Farha Tanzim Titil, SC lawyers Ashraf Ali, Shuvra Chakraborty, Shahadat Alam, DU teacher Rushad Faridi, human rights activist Dipayan Khisa, and indigenous rights activist Hana Shams Ahmed.

PTI rejected Sharif's accusation that the paramilitary troops had been rammed, and it reiterated that party supporters would hold a sit-in outside the parliament until their demands were met.

The protest march, which Khan has described as the "final call", is one of many his party has held to seek his release since he was jailed in August last year.

PTI supporters last marched on Islamabad in October, sparking days of clashes with police in which one officer was killed, but this week's protest is bigger in size and more violent, authorities said.

They said the protesters were now armed with steel rods, slingshots and sticks and were setting fire to trees and grass as they marched. Reuters witnesses heard firing around the protests, although it was not clear who was responsible.

PTI has also called for a rollback of constitutional amendments it says the government made to handcuff the judiciary, which has questioned the legitimacy of several cases against Khan.