



Dhaka, Delhi eager to take ties forward

Yunus asks India to help clear the clouds over bilateral relations

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka and New Delhi committed to advancing bilateral relationship for mutual benefit in the first high-level official talks since Bangladesh's political changeover.

In a meeting with visiting Indian Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri yesterday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus elaborated on how students, workers, and people joined hands in the July-August uprising to end Sheikh Hasina's corrupt regime, said the CA's press wing.

"Our job is to keep their dreams alive. It is a new Bangladesh," he said and briefly outlined the reform initiatives undertaken



Vikram Misri



Md Jashim Uddin

by the interim government when Misri called on him at state guest house Jamuna.

Describing Bangladesh-India ties as "very solid" and "close", Prof Yunus asked India to help clear the "clouds" that have

cast a shadow over the relationship in recent times.

Misri said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was among the first foreign leaders to greet Prof Yunus after he assumed office. "We wish you every success," the Indian foreign secretary said.

"We want to carry on from where we left off," Misri said, adding, "We have to do business with the government of the day."

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and a delegation of envoys from 19 European Union countries pose for a photo at an interactive session at his office yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

ACC, judiciary were slaves to Hasina

Says law adviser

STAR REPORT

Law Affairs Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul yesterday accused the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) and the judiciary of being subservient to the Awami League during its time in power, alleging that they failed to ensure justice and accountability in most cases.

"There was an ACC, there was a High Court, but there were no trials except for Khaleda Zia. Corruption has become entrenched in society due to this lack of accountability," he told a discussion at the Institution of Diploma Engineers, Bangladesh, marking the International Anti-Corruption Day, reports UNB.

The programme was organised by the ACC, with its Secretary Khorsheda Yasmin in the chair. Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh and head of the ACC Reform Commission, was a special guest.

Nazrul highlighted the prevalence of corruption during the last 15 years under the AL government, stating that

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MEETING WITH EU ENVOYS Yunus hints at announcement on polls this month

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus yesterday hinted that there would be "some kind of announcement" regarding the direction of his government's reform process and the next parliamentary election.

The disclosure came at an interactive session with the envoys of 19 European countries at the Chief Adviser's Office in Tejgaon. The Delhi-based heads of missions and representatives of Belgium, Bulgaria, Estonia, Luxembourg, Slovakia, Cyprus, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and Romania were present at the meeting along with the Dhaka-based heads of missions of Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Sweden and the Netherlands.

However, before holding the next election, necessary reforms should be carried out, Yunus told the envoys.

When the interim government took charge, it was assigned two responsibilities: transferring the power to the elected government and reforming the whole apparatus of the nation, policies and institutions and so on.

The twin responsibilities are progressing in the same direction, Yunus said.

As many as 15 different commissions are working. The commissions are expected to hand in their reports by the end of December or the

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World cautious as post-Assad era begins in Syria

AGENCIES

Damascus stirred back to life on Monday at the start of a hopeful but uncertain era after rebels seized the capital and President Bashar al-Assad fled to Russia, following 13 years of civil war and more than 50 years of his family's brutal rule.

Busy traffic returned to the streets and people ventured out after a nighttime curfew, but most shops remained shut. Rebels milled about in the centre.

The main rebel commander Ahmed al-Sharaa, better known as Abu Mohammed al-Golani, met overnight with Assad's Prime Minister Mohammed Jalali and Vice President Faisal Mekdad to discuss arrangements for a transitional government, a source familiar with the discussions told Reuters.

Al Jazeera television reported that the transitional authority would be headed by Mohamed Al-Bashir, who ran the administration in a small pocket of rebel-held territory before the 12-day lightning offensive that swept into Damascus.

Syria's banks would reopen today and staff had been asked to return to offices, according to a Syrian central bank source and two commercial bankers. Syria's currency would continue to be used, they said.

At the Interior Ministry that ran Assad's police force, furniture had been looted and staff stayed away. Armed rebels were there to maintain order.

The advance of a militia alliance spearheaded by Hayat Tahrir al-

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ELECTORAL REFORM COMMISSION BNP places 17-point recommendation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has submitted a 17-point recommendation to the Electoral Reform Commission, including changes to party registration policies, electoral code of conduct, and transferring control of the National Identification (NID) server back to the EC.

Addressing a press briefing at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan yesterday, Standing Committee Member Abdul Moyeen Khan outlined the party's recommendations, highlighting the significance for creating a level playing field.

"We believe electoral reform is the most important issue right now. Of the 17 points we've raised, 10 are particularly critical for ensuring transparent and credible elections."

For the 13th national polls, the BNP prefers "upgrading" the voter list over the method of "door-to-door visits".

"Honestly, we want a true and accurate voter list to be prepared. Instead of door-to-door campaign, we proposed using computer and AI ... Today, if we give instructions to a computer, it can do the work on its own ... and it will be absolutely accurate," said Moyeen.

"A computer can even determine when someone turns 18. For that, there is no need to visit the homes

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Edible oil prices up by Tk 8 per litre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday raised the retail prices of soybean

and super palm oils by Tk 8 per litre. Bottled soybean oil price was set at Tk 175, and loose soybean oil and super palm oil at Tk 157.

The new rates would be effective immediately and readjusted every month, according to decisions taken at a meeting between ministry officials and industry leaders.

The decision to raise the

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