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Yunus urges all

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday urged all to come forward at the individual level rather than relying on the government to move the country towards its desired goals.

"The power of people is stronger than that of the government," he said while inaugurating the Walkathon and Social Service Conference organised by the Department of Social Services marking National Social Service Day 2025.

The chief adviser said social service is the responsibility of every citizen and the job of the ministry is to remind all so that no one forgets this responsibility and does not move away from it. "I hope this call will reach everyone."

Prof Yunus said that every person tends to work for the benefit of others

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Taskin Ahmed holds aloft the ball as he walks back to the pavilion following a sensational bowling display for Durbar Rajshahi in a Bangladesh Premier League (BPL) game against Dhaka Capitals in Mirpur yesterday. Inspired by Taskin's seven for 19 in four overs -- the best-ever bowling figures in the tournament's history -- Rajshahi bounced with a seven-wicket win after a defeat in their first match.

PHOTO: STAR

VAT hike won't fuel inflation

Says finance adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The hike in value-added tax on 43 goods and services would not fuel inflation further, said Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed.

The items are an insignificant part of the basket for consumer price index, he told journalists yesterday following a meeting of the cabinet committee on public purchase.

The VAT hike will not impact the prices of essential commodities as the government has waived all duties on essentials at the import stage.

On Wednesday, the council of advisers to the interim government approved the imposition of VAT on 43 goods and services, which includes a 15 percent VAT on restaurants, sweets, clothing and tissue paper.

At present, a 5 percent VAT is collected on restaurant bills, while a 7.5 percent VAT is imposed on sweets, clothing and tissue paper.

"We have increased VAT on over

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Ctg court denies bail to Chinmoy

The accused in sedition case may seek HC bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday denied bail to Chinmoy Krishna Das Brahmachari, a former ISKCON leader, in a sedition case filed over disrespecting the national flag.

Chattogram Metropolitan Sessions Judge Md Saiful Islam rejected the bail plea after hearing arguments from the defence and prosecution for around 30 minutes, Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Mofizul Haque Bhuiyan told The Daily Star.

After the hearing, Chinmoy's lawyer Apurba Kumar Bhattacharjee told this correspondent that they plan to appeal to the High Court for his client's bail.

Chinmoy, also spokesperson for Sammilita Sanatani Jagaran Jote, was not brought before the court.

Lawyer Apurba said, "During the hearing, we told the court that the allegations against Chinmoy are not true. There are no such elements in the case that can prove Chinmoy is guilty."

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CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY

ICT analysing Hasina's phone calls, documents

Say 2 prosecutors of the special tribunal

SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

Sheikh Hasina's phone calls and documents of meetings in July-August are being analysed as part of a probe into allegations of crimes against humanity during the 2024 mass uprising.

The International Crimes Tribunal's investigation agency is analysing the records "carefully" to ensure fairness, according to the prosecution.

To ensure an accurate, speedy and thorough investigation, the agency is utilising state documents and modern technology, such as geolocation tools, video analysis, and forensic reports.

The prosecution said it is focusing on a series of meetings led by the former prime minister before and after the nationwide curfew aimed at suppressing the student-led uprising.

Two ICT prosecutors, requesting anonymity, told The Daily Star that the investigation agency has collected original videos, photos, and phone records related to the killings of students and civilians during the July-August protests.

One of the prosecutors said the investigators are consulting ballistic experts for analysing the sound of gunshots to help identify the individuals involved in the crimes.

The investigation is not limited to Hasina alone. The agency is also investigating other individuals involved, based on the documents it has gathered.

The ICT is prioritising cases involving the former minister, MPs, Hasina's advisers, a former army official, and high-ranking police officials as these individuals held significant power and responsibility.

The investigation team has requested phone records from the National Telecommunication Monitoring Centre (NTMC) and the national identity card server for further evidence.

The NTMC is a national intelligence agency responsible for monitoring, collecting, and intercepting electronic communications, such as phone calls, emails, and social media accounts.

Major General Ziaul Ahsan, who headed the NTMC during Hasina's rule, is also accused of crimes against humanity and is currently in jail.

ICT Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam previously said that Hasina was central to a nationwide network of secret detention cells during the 15 years of the Awami League rule.

He said the investigation team gathered evidence pointing to Hasina's direct involvement in enforced disappearances

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MINISTRY'S NOTIFICATION

227 excluded candidates of 43rd BCS can seek review

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has announced a review opportunity for 227 candidates from the 43rd Bangladesh Civil Service recruitment who have been excluded from the public administration ministry's gazette published four days ago.

The ministry issued a notification yesterday saying that it is now accepting review applications from the excluded candidates.

The decision came following a sharp criticism over the exclusion of candidates who were nominated by the Public Service Commission (PSC) but were not selected for appointment.

According to the notification, the PSC initially recommended 2,163 candidates for appointment on January 25, 2024, under Rule 4 of the BCS Recruitment Rules, 1981.

The recommendations followed preliminary character verification by the Special Branch of Bangladesh Police and district commissioners, it said.

Out of the recommended candidates, 40 failed to attend the mandatory medical examination, and 59 were deemed ineligible based on intelligence reports.

As a result, 99 candidates were

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Scandinavians came to Britain long before Vikings

KOSOVO PRESS ONLINE

People of Scandinavian descent were in Britain long before the Anglo-Saxons or Vikings appeared, researchers have found after studying the genetics of an ancient Roman buried in York.

The arrival of the Anglo-Saxons brought an influx of Scandinavians to ancient Britain in the fifth century. However, researchers studying a man thought to have been a Roman soldier who lived between the second and fourth centuries have found that 25 percent of his ancestry is from Scandinavia.

"The pre-advent that we thought would come with the Anglo-Saxons was probably already there in some parts," said Leo Speidel, the study's first author and a group leader at Riken, a national scientific research institute in Japan.

The discovery is part of a large-scale study that has taken a new approach to analysing ancient DNA, shedding new light on migrations across Europe in the first millennium.

Pontus Skoglund, co-author of the study from the Francis Crick Institute in London, said that much of the history explored in the study was determined by the Romans for other people groups.

Israeli airstrikes kill 43 across Gaza

Medics say women, children in a tent encampment among dead

REUTERS, Cairo

Israeli airstrikes killed at least 43 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip yesterday, including 11 people in a tent encampment sheltering displaced families, medics said.

They said the 11 included women and children in the Al-Mawasi district, which was designated as a humanitarian zone for civilians.

The director general of Gaza's police department, Mahmoud Salah, and his aide, Hussam Shahwan, were killed in the strike, according to the Hamas-run Gaza interior ministry.

"By committing the crime of assassinating the director general of police in the Gaza Strip, the occupation is insisting on spreading chaos in the (enclave) and deepening the human suffering of citizens," it added in a statement.

The Israeli military said it had conducted an intelligence-based strike in Al-Mawasi, just west of the city of Khan Younis, and eliminated Shahwan, calling him the head of Hamas security forces in southern Gaza. It made no mention of Salah's death.

Other Israeli airstrikes killed at least 26 Palestinians, including six in the interior ministry headquarters in Khan Younis and others in north Gaza's Jabalia refugee camp, the Shati (Beach) camp and central Gaza's Maghazi camp.

Israel's military said it had targeted Hamas members who intelligence indicated were operating in a command and control centre "embedded inside the Khan Younis

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MAJESTIES OF THE ORIENT

An oriental pied hornbill couple resting on a tree branch in the Kaptai National Park. Considered to be among the smallest and most common hornbills in Asia, this bird can be found in subtropical or tropical moist lowland forests in the Indian subcontinent and throughout Southeast Asia. Though the two sexes of this bird are similar, the males have much larger "helmets" on their heads, with a slit in which they gather their food and feed the females and the chicks with. Compared to other hornbills, the oriental pied hornbill is also known to be more tolerant of human spaces and can also be found in large city parks as well as open forests and edges.

PHOTO: KAMOL DAS