

Maintain law and order with a firm hand

Yunus asks DCs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Chief Adviser Prof. Muhammad Yunus has asked the deputy commissioners to be firm in maintaining law and order and do everything necessary to curb the prices of essentials.

Speaking at the inaugural session of the DC Conference 2025 at the Chief Adviser's Office yesterday, he said law and order is the top priority. "We must not fail there."

All 64 DCs are attending the three-day conference, the first since the interim government took office in August last year.

Prof. Yunus also asked them to protect the rights of women, children and minority communities.

"The whole world watches how we behave with them [minority communities].... I am not saying this out of that fear. It is our duty to provide security to all citizens.... It does not matter what ideology or political belief one holds. The government is for all the people."

Prof. Yunus added that he urged the minority communities not to demand anything as a minority group. "Rather, place your demands as citizens."

CHIEF ADVISER TO DCs

- No police verification for passports
- Make birth registration easier
- Protect women, minority communities
- Improve civil admin-police coordination

At the annual DC conferences, the discussion should be about how each DC had performed in terms of maintaining law and order, controlling the prices of essentials, and combating extortion, he said.

A system of ranking should be there to create a competitive environment, he said, adding that the ones who top the list might get an award.

"One [of you] will be the 64th. That person will try not to be at the bottom of the list any more.... This [process] creates enjoyment and competition."

Besides the routine tasks, the DCs also have to think creatively to solve problems. "Talk about how you used innovative thinking."

As the government is a team, the police and civil administration should improve coordination, he said.

He then asked the DCs to visit at least a few primary schools every year and talk to the teachers, so that the visit made a lasting impact.

PASSPORT, NID, BIRTH REGISTRATION

"Obtaining a passport is a fundamental right. We have made a rule ensuring that police verification is no longer needed. There is no need for such harassment. The government's job is not to create obstacles."

The general public must be informed that police verification is no longer required for passports.

He then said the process of birth registration must be simplified.

"Every citizen should be able to obtain a birth certificate at any time. We must ease the difficulties through the use of innovative capabilities."

People, both young and old, need national IDs and passports. In case they do not have birth certificates,

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Dhaka, Delhi for addressing challenges

Touhid, Jaishankar meet in Muscat

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain and Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar yesterday acknowledged the challenges facing bilateral relations and stressed the need for joint efforts to address them.

The discussion took place during a bilateral meeting on the sidelines of the 8th Indian Ocean Conference (IOC) in Muscat, Oman, according to a press release issued by the Bangladesh foreign ministry.

"Both sides recognised the challenges the two neighbours are facing in terms of bilateral relations and discussed the necessity to work together to address those," read the release.

During the meeting, Touhid underscored the importance of initiating discussions for the renewal of the Ganges Water Treaty.

He also emphasised the need for convening the Saarc Standing Committee meeting and requested India's support on the matter.

Both sides expressed optimism that various border-related issues would be addressed during the upcoming meeting between director generals of Border Guard Bangladesh and Indian Border Security

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Amid roaring water cannons, a protester stands defiant, fist raised high, voicing her demands in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday. Police used batons, water cannons, tear gas, and sound grenades to disperse those demonstrating for the reinstatement of 6,531 assistant teachers in government primary schools. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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JULY UPRISING PARTY Discord brewing over member secretary post

Nahid, all set to be convener, may quit govt in a few days

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

With Adviser Nahid Islam almost certain to be the convener of the new political party being floated by the July uprising activists, differences of opinion have emerged among the leaders over the member secretary post, the second-highest role in the party hierarchy.

So far, Jatiya Nagorik Committee Convener Nasiruddin Patwary, Member Secretary Akhter Hossen, Joint Convener Ali Ahsan Zonaed and Chief Organiser Sarjis Alam, and Students Against Discrimination Convener Hasnat Abdulla are leading the race for the new party's member secretary post.

Nahid, information and ICT adviser, may quit the government within four to five days, said sources close to him.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Nagorik Committee, the citizens' platform launched after the uprising, is now split into three groups over the top posts of the new political party's convening committee, said insiders.

One consists of leaders of Students Against Discrimination, who had been previously involved with Gonotantrik Chhatra Shakti and Chhatra Odhikar Parishad.

Those previously affiliated with leftist politics form the second faction and the third comprises former members of Islami Chhatra Shibir, at least three leaders of the civic platform told this newspaper, requesting to be anonymous.

The first faction within the Nagorik Committee is supporting Akhter, while Adviser Mahfuj Alam, who plays a key role in the policymaking of the Nagorik Committee, wants Nasiruddin to be the new party's member secretary, the sources said.

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'ILLEGAL WEALTH'

ACC sues
Mazumder,
3 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against Nazrul Islam Mazumder, the chairman of NASSA Group and former chairman of EXIM Bank, for allegedly amassing illegal wealth worth Tk 781.31 crore.

The anti-graft body has also filed three separate cases against former Awami League lawmaker Maj Gen (Retd) Shubib Ali Bhuiyan and his family members for illegally acquiring assets worth Tk 8.85 crore and over suspicious bank transactions amounting to Tk 321.61 crore.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain confirmed this development in a regular press briefing yesterday in front of the ACC headquarters in Segunbagicha.

Akhter said Nazrul Islam Mazumder has been accused of corruption, irregularities, embezzlement, and illegal wealth accumulation. By abusing his position, he allegedly acquired

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Mazumder holds assets worth £43m in UK: BFIU

MD MEHEDI HASAN

Nazrul Islam Mazumder, chairman of Nassa Group and a close associate of deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina, holds assets worth £43.23 million or about Tk 656 crore in the UK, according to the Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit.

Mazumder owns five properties worth £37.95 million in the upmarket neighbourhood of Kensington in London and two properties valued at £5.28 million in the Isle of Man, a self-governing British Crown dependency in the Irish Sea, found the BFIU, the government agency responsible for investigating money laundering, suspicious transactions and cash transaction reports.

However, details on how Mazumder, who served as the chairman of the private bank owners' forum Bangladesh Association of Banks for 17 years, amassed this wealth abroad remain unclear.

Under existing regulations, Bangladeshi businesses can invest abroad, but only with prior approval from the Bangladesh Bank.

No evidence has been found indicating that Mazumder obtained such approval for his overseas investments.

To date, 20 business entities have received approval from the BB to invest abroad, but Nassa is not one of them.

Following the fall of the Awami League government on August 5 last year, the BFIU launched investigations into various irregularities, including money laundering, loan fraud and embezzlement of government and depositors' funds by over a dozen business groups.

As part of the initiative, the BFIU has sought information from authorities in Singapore, the US and the UK regarding money laundering and overseas wealth accumulated by the business groups.

The financial intelligence units of the three countries have provided relevant information to the BFIU. The Daily Star has learnt from officials involved with the proceedings.

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Border killing, fencing high on agenda

BGB-BSF annual meet starts in New Delhi today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 55th border conference at the director general level between the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) and the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) will commence today in New Delhi.

This year's conference will focus on various issues, including killings, detentions and abductions of Bangladeshi by BSF, BGB said in a release yesterday.

The four-day conference will also discuss measures to prevent smuggling of various types of drugs, weapons, ammunition, and other prohibited items from India into Bangladesh.

Additionally, the conference will address the prevention of illegal border crossings, particularly efforts to stop forcibly displaced Myanmar nationals from entering Bangladesh through the Indian border, in violation of international boundary laws, the press release added.

Other key topics of discussion include halting the construction of unauthorised structures, including barbed-wire fences within 150 yards of the border; establishing a proper water treatment facility to remove waste from four canals flowing from Agartala towards Akhaura; opening the mouth of Rahimpur Canal to connect with the Kushiyara River in Zakiganj; exchanging information on the possible locations and activities of regional armed separatist groups; and ensuring the effective implementation of the Coordinated Border Management Plan (CBMP) for improved border management and conflict resolution.

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