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Pakistan FM due in April

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Pakistan's Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar is set to visit Bangladesh in April as part of efforts to boost bilateral ties following the ouster of the Awami League government last year.

The diplomatic relationship between the two countries worsened during the 15 years of the AL government.

For instance, the last time a Pakistani foreign minister visited Bangladesh was in 2012, when Hina Rabbani Khar came for a 12-hour visit. In 2022, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, then foreign minister of Pakistan, attended the D-8 ministerial conference virtually.

After the political changeover in August last year, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif spoke on the phone and met twice --

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Parked trucks occupy several lanes on Mayor Annisul Huq Road in Tejgaon. Several drives to end this illegal activity over the years failed to yield a lasting result as truckers resume illegal parking there days after eviction drives.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Hasina, clan to be tried in person or in absentia

Yunus tells Sky News

BSS, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina will stand trial for crimes against humanity.

"A trial will be taking place. Not only her, but also all the people who are associated with her -- her family members, her clans or associates," Prof Yunus said in an interview with Sky News published yesterday.

Hasina is accused of overseeing a system of enforced disappearances during her time in office, as well as for the mass killing of protesters in July and August last year, the Sky News mentioned.

She is accused of overseeing a network of secret detention centres where it's alleged her political opponents were interrogated, tortured, and some killed -- all under the banner of a "war on terror". After she was toppled by the protests fled to India on August 5, Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal issued two arrest warrants for her.

Bangladesh had sent formal letters for her extradition but received no official response from New Delhi, Prof Yunus said.

However, he insisted that Hasina would face the court, whether

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Protest halts work at BSEC

Officials confine chairman, 3 commissioners after ED forced to retire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The activities of the Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission came to a halt yesterday due to officials' protest against the forced retirement of Saifur Rahman, an executive director.

The protesters confined Chairman Khondkar Rashid Maksud and three commissioners to the BSEC meeting room for around four hours yesterday.

The demonstrators demanded the resignation of the chairman and the commissioners and withdrawal of the order that sent Saifur into forced retirement.

They also threatened to go on indefinite work abstention from today if their demands were not met.

Among other demands, they sought a stop to the issuance of any show-cause notices on BSEC officials through "disputed investigations" and cancellations of previously issued show-cause notices.

The protesting officials also demanded that a lawyer be appointed by the BSEC for 127 officials whose recruitment was controversial.

A writ petition was filed last September against their recruitment amid allegations that due process was not followed.

The demonstrators also demanded an end to alleged mistreatment of officials and insisted on an apology.

Investors apparently remained indifferent as the benchmark index DSEX closed marginally higher yesterday.

This is the first time BSEC has seen such agitation by its officials since its inception in 1993.

In August last year, protests were held on a smaller scale against the appointment of M Masrur Reaz as the chairman of the regulatory body. Masrur then refrained from joining the office.

Prof Shibli Rubayat-Ul Islam, who had been the chairman during the Hasina regime, landed in jail for alleged corruption after Hasina's ouster.

During the protest yesterday, officials did not allow anyone, including journalists, to enter the commission building. They cut electricity supply for a couple of hours when they had confined the four top officials.

Army personnel arrived and entered the office by climbing over the

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Mushfiquer retires from ODIs



SPORTS REPORTER

Bangladesh's veteran wicket-keeper-batter Mushfiquer Rahim drew the curtain on his ODI career, announcing the decision on his social media page late last night.

The murmurs had been growing over Mushfiquer and Mahmudullah Riyad's careers in the past few days after Bangladesh's early exit from the ongoing Champions Trophy. Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB), meanwhile, had delayed approval of a proposed central contract list, with the intention of discussing senior stars' future plans before finalising central contracts.

There was an expectation that something might give, and finally, Mushfiquer

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119 killed by mobs in 7 months: HRSS

2024 deadliest year in past decade; 201 reported cases of mob beatings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mob beatings have surged with at least 119 people killed and 74 injured in 114 incidents since the interim government took office in August 2024, according to the Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

In a press statement, signed by its Executive Director Ejazul Islam, the rights organisation said the highest number of mob beatings in the last decade occurred in 2024, with at least 201 reported cases. These incidents, counted from the beginning of the year, resulted in 179 deaths and 88 injuries.

Though mob beatings were already commonplace, there has been a rise in such incidents after the August 5 political changeover.

Previously, the key reasons included suspicions of theft, robbery, or mugging; however, in the aftermath of August 5, many incidents of mob violence were related to political score-settling.

The continuation of such violence even months after the interim government took office is worrying and exposes how the law and order situation remains vulnerable, according to rights activists.

HRSS statement added that in 2025, at least 30 cases were recorded in the first two months alone, leading to 19 deaths and 20 injuries.

Between 2015 and 2024, Bangladesh witnessed 1,009 mob beating incidents,

resulting in 792 deaths and 765 injuries, according to HRSS data and various media reports.

However, the actual figures could be even higher due to underreporting, the organisation added.

Several recent incidents highlight the brutal nature of mob beatings.

In 2025, at least 30 cases were recorded in the first two months alone, leading to 19 deaths and 20 injuries.

On March 3, two individuals were beaten to death in Chattogram's Aulia union after being accused of robbery. On February 28, five people were killed by a mob in Madaripur's Dasar upazila. A day earlier, on February 27, two individuals were beaten and hung upside down.

On December 15, 2024, an unidentified man died in a mob beating in Rajshahi's Shitalakkhya area. On September 20, a former Chhatra League leader named Shamim Mollah was beaten to death by a mob at Jahangirnagar University, and the day before, a young man named Tolazzal suffered the same fate at Dhaka University.

Earlier that month, another Chhatra

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Govt to blame if crimes against women are spurred on

Says univ teachers body

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The University Teachers' Network yesterday said if continuous sexual harassment, violence, and hatred against women are encouraged, the government and parties concerned must take the responsibility.

The network, comprising university teachers, demanded thorough investigations, justice, and punishment for every instance of sexual harassment and violence against women.

The teachers also denounced the unjust expulsion of nine female students from Chittagong University (CU).

"The nine female students have been expelled in an undemocratic and authoritarian manner, which we consider a systematic form of oppression against women," reads the statement.

There are allegations that the CU assistant proctor and a professor sent messages to members of various political organisations, requesting that they demonstrate in front of the proctor's office under the banner of Students Against Discrimination, demanding that the expulsion of nine students be upheld, says the statement.

"What kind of educators incite one

SEE PAGE 6 COL 4

NZ crush SA to set up final against India

AFP, Lahore

Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson struck hundreds as New Zealand eased to a 50-run win over South Africa in Lahore on Wednesday to set up a rematch with India in the Champions Trophy final.

Ravindra made 108 off 101 balls and Williamson hit 102 off 94 deliveries as New Zealand posted a Champions Trophy record 362-6 before restricting South Africa to 312-9.

David Miller finished unbeaten on 100 but his 67-ball innings came in vain with the game already well out of reach, as South Africa suffered their fifth Champions Trophy semi-final defeat after those in 2000, 2002, 2006 and 2013.

They won the first edition of the tournament in Bangladesh in 1998, when it was named the ICC KnockOut Trophy.

New Zealand captain Mitchell Santner excelled with the ball and took 3-43 with his left-arm spin, breaking a 105-run partnership for South Africa's second wicket by removing rival skipper Temba Bavuma for 56.

Bavuma started slowly before steadying the innings with Rassie van der Dussen, who scored a fluent 69 before being deceived by a beautiful delivery from Santner.

Santner then dealt a critical blow when he dismissed Heinrich Klaasen for three, caught by a diving Matt Henry at long-on, dashing South Africa's hopes of pulling off the highest chase in the tournament's history.

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New Zealand's Rachin Ravindra and Kane Williamson celebrate during their 50-run victory in the second semifinal of the ICC Champions Trophy against South Africa at the Gaddafi Stadium in Lahore yesterday. Ravindra scored 108 off 101 balls while Williamson scored a 94-ball 102 as the Kiwis posted 362 for six before restricting the opposition 312 for nine.

PHOTO: AFP

Zelensky ready for Russia talks, mineral deal: Trump

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