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Yunus to discuss law and order with top cops today

Says press wing; CA will meet Xi on Mar 28 during China visit

AGENCIES

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus will hold a special meeting today with senior police officers on law and order issues.

A total of 127 officers, including those holding the rank of superintendent of police, will attend the meeting at the Chief Adviser's Office in Tejgaon.

Yunus will listen to field-level officials and give necessary directives regarding law and order, CA's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder said at a press briefing at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

Inspector General of Police Baharul Alam will deliver a welcome speech while six field-level officers will speak on six focal points.

Speaking at the briefing, CA's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said Yunus' scheduled visit to China from March 26-29 would be the "most important visit" by a Bangladesh leader over the last 50 years as the two countries were eyeing to take the relations to a new height.

He said that Prof Yunus will address the Boao Forum for Asia conference, called the "Davos of the East", on March 27 with the focus on the changing role of Asia in

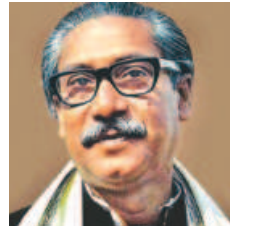


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A craftsman meticulously applies block printing patterns on fabric. Boutique artisans throughout the capital are working diligently, anticipating a surge in demand before Eid-ul-Fitr. The photo was taken recently in Dhaka's New Market area.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Bangabandhu's 105th birthday today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the 105th birthday of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this day in 1920, the architect of the nation's independence was born in Tungipara under the then Gopalganj subdivision.

Through his astute leadership, Mujib mobilised the Bangalee nation to rise against exploitation and repression by the Pakistani rulers. This movement culminated in the creation of an independent Bangladesh after a nine-month-long bloody war in 1971.

Mujib's political journey

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Govt seeks to withdraw over 6,000 'political' cases

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has recommended withdrawal of 6,202 "politically motivated" cases filed to harass opposition leaders and activists during the Awami League government.

The home ministry disclosed the updates in a press release yesterday.

"The central committee formed by the home ministry has reviewed 6,295 cases submitted by field-level committees for evaluation. Of these, 6,202 were identified as politically motivated and recommended for withdrawal," read the release.

To assess the proposals received from the field-level committees, the central committee held eight meetings, presided over by the law adviser.

The senior secretary of the home ministry was also in the seven-member central committee, which was formed on September 22 last year.

A four-member committee, headed by the

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Penalise wealthy tax dodgers

Economists urge govt at pre-budget talks, call for formulating law

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Economists urged the government yesterday to introduce legislation targeting individuals capable of paying taxes but avoiding their obligations.

With a view to broadening the base of taxpayers and improving tax collection efficiency, this proposal was presented during the first pre-budget meeting for Fiscal Year 2025-26, which was held at the State Guest House Padma in the capital with Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed in attendance.

Salehuddin Ahmed, addressing reporters after the meeting, said, "I did not commit to it [enacting the law to punish tax dodgers] as there are legal implications. Such laws exist in other countries with provisions to sue tax dodgers."

At the meeting, he said the experts suggested the interim government devise a framework for future administrations to follow.

They recommended imposing higher tax rates on individuals owning multiple properties or vehicles and maintaining significant bank deposits.

Other recommendations include expanding the social safety net, prioritising allocation to more research-orientated universities, and ensuring proper utilisation of allocation to the primary education sector.

Regarding the size of the upcoming budget, Salehuddin said, "We have recommended avoiding an ambitious budget this time around."

The finance adviser said the government has plans to reduce inflation to 6.5 by next year.

At the meeting, Rehman Sobhan, chairman of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), proposed a specific law to tackle tax evasion.

He also recommended a detailed evaluation of government expenditure to ensure efficiency and the introduction of impact-based budgeting.

Professor MM Akash advocated for the rationing of essential commodities for garment workers and recommended property taxes for those with extensive assets.

Economists further called for a shift

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"We have recommended avoiding an ambitious budget this time around."

Salehuddin Ahmed
Finance Adviser

JULY MASSACRE Tarique promises trials if voted to power

UNB, Dhaka

If BNP is voted to power, the party would bring those responsible for the torture and killing during the anti-autocratic movement and the 2024 mass uprising under trial, said BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman today.

"We can firmly say if the people of Bangladesh give BNP the opportunity to govern in the future, we will ensure trials for all incidents of killings and repression," he said while addressing an iftar event virtually at a city hotel.

Tarique assured that the party would make every effort, alongside various political programmes, to ensure justice for those affected and for those subjected to repression and killings during the anti-autocratic movements and the July-August mass uprising.

Amra BNP Paribar organised the event at Lakeshore Hotel for the families of the victims of enforced disappearances and killings during the Awami League regime, as well as for the martyrs of the 2024 mass uprising.

Eid gifts were also distributed among the victim families at the event.

The BNP acting chief said both the party and the nation expect a fair and neutral

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US strikes kill 31 in Yemen

101 people, mostly women and children, injured; Huthis vow retaliation

AFP, Sanaa

Yemen's Iran-backed Huthis yesterday vowed to meet "escalation with escalation" after a wave of deadly US air strikes, with witnesses to the bombing saying they were taken aback by its intensity, even after years of war.

US President Donald Trump said he had ordered the strikes and threatened more were to come if the rebels kept up their repeated attacks on shipping vessels in the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden.

Attacks on the rebel-held capital Sanaa, as well as on areas in Saada, Al-Bayda and Radaa, killed at least 31 people and wounded 101, "most of whom were children and women", Huthi health ministry spokesperson Anis Al-Asbahi said.

An AFP photographer in Sanaa heard explosions and saw plumes of smoke rising Saturday night.

Footage on Huthi media showed children and a woman among those being treated in a hospital emergency room, including a dazed girl with blackened legs wrapped in bandages.

One father of two, who gave his name as Ahmed, told AFP his "house shook, the windows shattered, and my family and I were terrified".

"I've been living in Sanaa for 10 years, hearing shelling throughout the war. By God, I've never experienced anything like this before," he said.

Trump, in a post on social media, vowed to "use overwhelming lethal force" to end the Huthi attacks, which the rebels say are in solidarity with Palestinians amid the Gaza war.

"To all Houthi terrorists, YOUR TIME IS UP, AND YOUR ATTACKS MUST STOP, STARTING TODAY. IF THEY DON'T, HELL WILL RAIN DOWN UPON YOU LIKE NOTHING YOU HAVE EVER SEEN BEFORE!" he said.

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- Trump warns Iran against backing the Yemeni group
- Iran Guards vow to retaliate against any attack
- Russia urges US not to 'use force' in Yemen and begin dialogue

Dhaka's Deadly Air: What we know and what we can do

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 17

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:50	12:45	4:30	6:09	7:45
JAMAAT 5:00	1:15	4:45	6:24	8:15

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
16	17		6:09
17	18	4:48	6:09
18	19	4:47	6:10



Illegal businesses selling refurbished second-hand furniture occupy pavements and spill over onto the street, causing inconvenience to pedestrians. The photo was taken yesterday near the Shilpakala Academy in the capital's Segunbagicha.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

3 months all alone on a wide wide sea!

AFP, Lima

A Peruvian fisherman was found alive after drifting at sea for 94 days, a navy official said Saturday, as he was discharged from hospital following his ordeal.

Maximo Napa, 61, was rescued in his small fishing boat on Tuesday after being spotted by an Ecuadorian vessel off the coast of Chimbote in northern Peru.

He told local media in a tearful interview that he survived at sea by eating cockroaches, birds and a turtle.

"I didn't want to die, for my mother. I have a two-month-old granddaughter - I clung to that. Every day I thought about my mother," Napa said.

On Saturday, he was discharged from hospital in the coastal city of Paita.

"Mr Napa arrived in good physical condition. He could walk, wash himself. Shocked, but in good physical condition," said Peruvian Navy port captain Jorge Gonzalez.

The fisherman had set sail on December 7 from the port of San Juan de Marcona but bad weather conditions and the current caused him to lose course. His small boat, which had no radio beacon, ended up on the high seas.

"It is a miracle that my father has been found," his daughter Ines Napa told the RPP radio station.

