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Yunus leaves for China today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus is set to leave for a four-day visit to China this afternoon, his first bilateral visit after taking charge of the government on August 8 last year. "His choice for his first bilateral visit is sending out a message. We consider China to be our very important friend. China holds the same sentiment," Foreign Secretary Jashim Uddin told a media briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday. Yunus will lead a 57-member delegation including Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, officials and security personnel in a flight dispatched by the Chinese government. The visit marks the 50 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and China. "China is one of the countries that quickly committed to working with the interim government of Bangladesh. A Chinese delegation of physicians visited Bangladesh and extended support to the injured of the July uprising," Jashim said. On March 27, he will deliver

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People taking an injured worker to the hospital after a clash erupted between garment workers and police when the workers were marching towards the Bangladesh Secretariat demanding arrears and Eid bonuses.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Oikya Parishad report misleading CA press wing on violence against minorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Chief Adviser's Press Wing yesterday said that the recent report of Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad, which claims that violence against religious and ethnic minorities continues to persist unabated in Bangladesh, misrepresents the actual situation. On March 12, the Oikya Parishad released a report saying that in January and February of this year, a total of 92 incidents of violence were recorded, including 11 murders, three incidents of rape, 25 attacks on temples, an accusation of blasphemy, six attacks on indigenous communities, 38 cases of attacks, vandalism, and looting of homes and businesses, two cases of job terminations, and six other forms of attacks. In a rejoinder, the CA Press Wing stated yesterday that these incidents were not connected

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Ha-Meem Group GM's body found in Uttara

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Two days after his disappearance, police yesterday recovered the body of General Manager of Ha-Meem Group Md Ahsan Ullah from a roadside in the capital's Diabari area. The body was recovered from Road 3 of Sector 16, Diabari, around 12 noon. Turag Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Rahat Khan confirmed the matter to The Daily Star around 10:30pm. He said the body was sent to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital morgue for an autopsy. A case was filed with the police station, said the OC, adding that they are looking into the matter. Ahsan Ullah had been missing since Sunday. His family filed a general diary with the police station the same day.

18-yr-old abducted, raped for a week

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

A 25-year-old man was yesterday arrested in a case filed over the abduction and rape of an 18-year-old girl in Manikganj's Shibalaya upazila. Hridoy Hossain, a local, allegedly confined her for a week. The victim has been admitted to the Manikganj 250-bed District Hospital. Later, doctors referred her to the National Institute of Mental Health and Hospital in Dhaka, as she suffered severe mental trauma. The victim's brother filed a case with the Manikganj Women and Child Repression Prevention Tribunal on Sunday accusing Hridoy, and his two brothers - Jasim Uddin, 33, and Sujon Mia, 30. The tribunal later directed the Shibalaya police to record it as a case. Shibalaya Police Station Officer-in-Charge Kamal Hossain said Hridoy was arrested yesterday morning. The two other accused are absconding. According to the case and the victim's family, Hridoy, who is married, used to harass the victim

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SALARY, BONUS Travel ban on 12 RMG factory owners for non-payment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has imposed a travel ban on 12 garment factory owners as they could not pay their workers' salaries and bonuses before Eid holidays, said M Sakhawat Hossain, labour and employment adviser.

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Kyiv, Moscow agree sea, energy truce: US

Russia ties Black Sea truce to lifting of some sanctions

AGENCIES

The United States yesterday reached deals with Ukraine and Russia on a truce in the Black Sea and a pause in attacks on energy facilities, with Washington also pledging to push for the lifting of some financial sanctions against Moscow.

The separate agreements are the first formal commitments by the warring sides since Donald Trump's inauguration. Trump is pushing for an end to the war and a rapid rapprochement with Moscow, which has alarmed Kyiv and European countries.

The US agreement with Russia goes further than the agreement with Ukraine, with Washington committing to help seek the lifting of international sanctions on Russian agriculture and fertiliser exports, long a persistent Russian demand.

The Kremlin said this would mean restoring links between some Russian banks to the international financial system.

Kyiv and Moscow both said they would rely on Washington to enforce the deals.

Ukrainian president Volodymyr Zelensky said the truce agreements would take effect immediately and that if Russia violated them, he would ask Trump to impose additional sanctions on Moscow and provide more weapons for

Ukraine.

"We have no faith in the Russians, but we will be constructive," he said.

He also said Ukraine had not signed on to the US offer to help relieve sanctions on Russia, which was in the US Russia statement but not in the separate statement agreed with Ukraine.

lifting sanctions in its statement, only that it would help restore "access to the world market" for Russia's agricultural and fertiliser exports.

The Kremlin said the truce would "enter into force after the lifting of sanctions on Rosselkhozbank (Russia's state-owned agricultural lender) and other financial institutions involved in providing international trade operations in food and fertilisers."

It also called for those institutions to be re-connected to the SWIFT network, an international payment system that some Russian banks have been blocked from using.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said, "We will need clear guarantees. And given the sad experience of agreements with just Kyiv, the guarantees can only be the result of an order from Washington to Zelensky and his team to do one thing and not the other."

The talks in Saudi Arabia followed separate phone calls last week between Trump and the two presidents, Zelenskiy and Vladimir Putin.

Putin rejected Trump's proposal for a full ceasefire lasting 30 days, which Ukraine had previously endorsed.

But Washington has nevertheless softened its rhetoric

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4

Unite for a prosperous Bangladesh

Army chief tells event to honour families of July victims



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz-Zaman yesterday expressed confidence that a nation united by patriotism, nationalism, integrity, humanitarianism, and discipline will lead Bangladesh to the peak of prosperity, ultimately becoming a happy and prosperous country.

He urged everyone to work together to realise this vision for the nation, according to a press release from the Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

The army chief was addressing a special ceremony at the Army Multipurpose Complex in Dhaka Cantonment yesterday, to honour the families of injured or martyred during the July uprising.

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Prime Bank KASBAH AL-ISLAMIC BANKING

PRAYER TIMING
 MARCH 26
 Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
 AZAN 4-41 12-45 4-45 6-12 7-45
 JAMAAT 4-51 1-15 5-00 6-27 8-15
 SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

| RAMADAN | MARCH | SEHRI | IFTAR |
|---------|-------|-------|-------|
| 25 | 26 | | 6:12 |
| 26 | 27 | 4:39 | 6:13 |
| 27 | 28 | 4:38 | 6:13 |



Bangladesh midfielder Hamza Choudhury fights for possession against India's Liston Colaco in a highly anticipated AFC Asian Cup qualifying fixture, which ended goalless in Shillong yesterday. Hamza, in his debut match for Bangladesh, inspired his side to put forth a spirited display but the visitors will be disappointed with the outcome after having squandered several goalscoring opportunities.

PHOTO: AIFF

মহান মুক্তিযুদ্ধে শহিদ ও বীর মুক্তিযোদ্ধাদের প্রতি বিনম্র শ্রদ্ধা

২৬ মার্চ মহান স্বাধীনতা দিবস

বাংলাদেশ কৃষি ব্যাংক গণমানুষের ব্যাংক