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Kihak Sung given honorary citizenship

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Kihak Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation and a pioneer in Bangladesh's readymade garments (RMG) and textile sectors, was awarded honorary citizenship of Bangladesh yesterday for his outstanding contributions to the industry and the country's economy.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus presented the citizenship document to Sung at the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 at the InterContinental Hotel.

Sung, who first arrived in Bangladesh in the mid-1990s, was one of five individuals and organisations recognised for their significant contributions to Bangladesh.

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Battery-run rickshaws are running on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway though a sign says such three-wheelers cannot operate on that road. Traffic police personnel are seen on duty there. The photo was taken at Matuail around 4:00pm yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

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Delhi wants positive ties with Dhaka Says Randhir Jaiswal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

New Delhi wants a positive and constructive relationship with Dhaka, Ministry of External Affairs Spokesman Randhir Jaiswal told reporters in New Delhi yesterday.

The message was conveyed to Bangladesh during the meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus in Bangkok last week, he added.

"We had a meeting between the two sides in Bangkok. We issued a press release after that listing our approach to Bangladesh. We want to have a positive and constructive relationship with Bangladesh," he said.

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SSC exams start today with revised schedule

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secondary School Certificate (SSC) and equivalent examinations for 2025 begin today under all the education boards across the country.

The tests will continue until May 13, according to the revised schedule released by the Board of Intermediate and Higher Secondary Education, Dhaka.

Under the general education boards, the exams will start with the Bangla first paper and end with the Bangla second paper.

All theoretical tests will be held from 10:00am to 1:00pm on the scheduled dates, while practical exams are slated for May 15 to 22.

This year's SSC exams will cover the whole syllabus, with full marks and full duration for all subjects.

This year, around 19.28 lakh students are

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College girl killed after 'rape' Four children raped

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday recovered the body of a college girl, who is believed to have been killed after being raped, in Chattogram and two persons were sued over raping teenage girls in Noakhali and Netrakona.

The 20-year-old deceased is a resident of Chandanaish upazila and student of Patiya Government College in Chattogram, said police.

She came to her grandmother's home to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr a few days ago, said Nayan Chandra Acharya, sub-inspector of Chandanaish Police Station.

The victim's family members believe that one of their relatives, who was also staying in the house, raped the girl around 2:00am when she went to washroom, the SI said.

The suspect also stabbed the victim's grandparents, he said.

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Khalilur new nat'l security adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Khalilur Rahman, chief adviser's high representative for the Rohingya issue and priority affairs, has been appointed as the national security adviser.

The Cabinet Division has issued a gazette notification in this regard yesterday.

Khalilur will retain his functions as the



high representative for the Rohingya issue. Additionally, he will assist the chief adviser in the discharge of his responsibilities relating to the Ministry of Defence, the statement said.

"I am very grateful to chief adviser for his continued trust and confidence. I am fully

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23 killed in political violence in March

12 others were killed in mob beatings, says rights group

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 23 people were killed and 733 more injured in over 97 incidents of political violence across the country last month, says a report of Human Rights Support Society (HRSS).

In a media release, HRSS yesterday said that at least 40 incidents of "mob beating" took place across the country in March, killing 12 people and injuring 44 others.

In a grim picture of violence against women, at least 284 women and girls were subject to various forms of torture. Of them, 133 were rape victims and 83 were aged below 18.

Meanwhile, seven workers were killed and 120 more wounded in 21 incidents, said the report.

The rights body said violent political infighting occurred over establishing supremacy and extortion. The majority of them were between two groups of BNP activists.

Although the number of incidents of political violence dropped slightly last month from 104 in February, the number of deaths more than doubled from nine.

Of the deaths in political violence last month, 17 occurred in 64 clashes between rival factions of the BNP. These incidents left 502 others injured.

Besides, two were killed and 52 more hurt in 11 clashes between BNP and Awami League activists; one was killed and 81 others were injured in 10 clashes between BNP and Jamaat activists; and two were killed and 31 more wounded in three clashes between BNP and newly formed National Citizen Party

(NCP) men.

Also, one was killed and 40 more were injured in two AL intra-party clashes.

Of the 23 deceased, 18 belonged to BNP, three to AL, and two to the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) based in the Chittagong Hill Tracts area.

BNP activists were involved in 88 of the clashes.

Rights situation in March

- ➊ Extortion, vengeance, establishing supremacy sparked political violence
- ➋ BNP involved in 88 political clashes including 64 intra-party clashes
- ➌ NCP involved in five clashes including two intra-party clashes
- ➍ 151 women and girls tortured
- ➎ 133 women and girls raped
- ➏ 40 mob beatings left 12 dead and 44 injured

The HRSS report said that the number of clashes between BNP and AL men decreased last month from February, but the number increased between the activists of AL, Jamaat, and NCP.

BNP men were involved in two intra-party clashes, injuring 10.

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Polls in Dec or June next year Reiterates Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus reiterated yesterday that the next parliamentary elections could be held either this December or June next year, depending on the extent of reforms the interim government will be implementing.

"If political parties agree on a shorter reform process, elections could take place in December. But if a more extensive reform path is chosen, the election can be held by June," he said during a meeting with Baroness Rosie Winterton, the UK trade envoy to Bangladesh, held at the State Guest House Jamuna.

During the meeting, both sides reiterated their commitments to deepening bilateral ties, with Baroness Winterton acknowledging the "long and trusted history" between the two nations.

"We have a long history together, and we are pleased to see the direction of reforms being undertaken," she said.

Prof Yunus said that Bangladesh is experiencing a transformative period in its history. "It's a very critical time for us. We are focused on rebuilding institutions and reshaping priorities," he expressed.

The two sides also discussed broader areas of strategic cooperation, including education, the textile industry, defence, and aviation.

Baroness Winterton expressed the UK government's support for the current reform agenda.

She also held a meeting with Ali Riaz, the head of the constitutional reform initiative.

Yunus is spearheading a comprehensive reform agenda aimed at rebuilding key institutions and reshaping national priorities in Bangladesh. Six key reform commissions have submitted their reports to the government.

Confiscate S Alam's 7,919 kathas of land Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to confiscate 7,919.52 kathas of land of S Alam Group Chairman Mohammad Saiful Alam, his family members and their beneficiaries in connection with corruption allegations against them.

The properties are in Chattogram and they have a market value of around Tk 325.19 crore.

Judge Md Zakin Hossain of the Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court in Dhaka passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahasina Munabil Haque, who is leading an inquiry team, submitted an application in this regard.

"S Alam and others were attempting to transfer the properties elsewhere," said the ACC official.

On February 23, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 227 bank accounts with a combined balance of Tk 813.56 crore of S Alam and his family over allegations of ill-gotten wealth and money laundering.

On February 12, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 437.85 crore shares of

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With Pahela Baishakh approaching, people are buying colourful handicrafts like dala, kula, pakha (fan), and earthen pots from makeshift shops at Doyel Chattar in the capital as part of their preparations for celebrating the first day of the Bangla new year.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN