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POLLS TIMELINE

BNP questions Yunus' repeated 'shifts'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed has questioned Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus' "repeated shifts" in the election timeline.

Speaking at the National Representative Conference 2025 of the Bhasani Anushari Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, Salahuddin said that such changes would not be well-received.

"Whom are you encouraging? Which undemocratic forces are you giving benefits to midway? To serve whose agenda is the chief adviser constantly wavering between 'December to June', 'December', 'June'? Why can't you stay still?" the BNP leader said.

"You [chief adviser] are a world-renowned, respected person. This kind of shifting will not be well-received by the nation or international community," he added.

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The preparations made for today's Pahela Baishakh festivities at Chattogram's DC Hill were ruined last night when a group of vandals swooped on the organisers, wrecked the stage, smashed chairs, and tore down banners. The event held here to welcome the Bangla New Year is one of the major celebrations in the port city.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

Pahela Baishakh a symbol of our harmony: Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Extending greetings to all on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said people of all faiths and communities in Bangladesh are members of one family.

"Tomorrow [Monday], the first day of Baishakh, is one of the symbols of this harmony. Everyone will celebrate in their own way, according to their customs, and take part in the festivities," he said while laying the foundation stone of "Sampriti Bhaban" at the Dhaka International Buddhist Monastery.

Yunus said despite differences in beliefs, religions, and customs, the Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists, Christians, and other communities living in the mountains and plains of the country

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PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT

Arrest warrants issued against Hasina, Rehana

Rehana's children Tulip, Azmina, Bobby, also wanted

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, and 21 others in three cases filed over irregularities in plot allocation in Purbachal New Town.

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Cancel reciprocal tariffs

China calls on US after Washington announces exemptions for consumer electronics

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday called on the United States to "completely cancel" its reciprocal tariffs after Washington announced exemptions for consumer electronics and key chipmaking equipment.

"We urge the US to... take a big step to correct its mistakes, completely cancel the wrong practice of 'reciprocal tariffs' and return to the right path of mutual respect," a commerce ministry

spokesperson said in a statement.

The world's two largest economies have been engaged in a tit-for-tat tariff war since US President Donald Trump announced this month sweeping global tariffs -- since escalating the blanket duty on Chinese goods to 145 percent.

Retaliatory Chinese import tariffs of 125 percent on US goods took effect Saturday, with Beijing standing defiant against its biggest trade partner.

But after his tariffs sent global markets into a tailspin, Trump announced a 90-

day delay for most countries.

China was excluded from the reprieve. Washington again dialled down the pressure Friday when the US Customs and Border Protection office said smartphones, laptops, memory chips and other products would be excluded from the global levies.

Beijing's commerce ministry yesterday called the exemptions a "small step" by Washington and said that China was "evaluating the impact" of the decision.

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INVESTMENT SUMMIT

Tk 3,100 crore promised: BIDA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The recently concluded Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025 has yielded investment declaration worth Tk 3,100 crore, says Chowdhury Ashik Mahmud Bin Harun, executive chairman of the Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA).

He shared the information at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital yesterday.

"Personally, I believe the summit hasn't achieved a perfect 10. There's still plenty of room

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