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# The Daily Star

SECOND EDITION

DHAKA SUNDAY MAY 25, 2025



REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 126

JAISHTHA 11, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

ZILQAD 26, 1446 HJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00



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## Yunus to stay the course

Advisory council calls for national unity to ensure fair election, stability

“However, if -- under the instigation of defeated forces or as part of a foreign conspiracy -- the performance of these responsibilities becomes impossible, the government will present all reasons to the public and then take the necessary steps with the people.”

ADVISORY COUNCIL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Amid simmering political tensions, the interim government has said it will not abandon its responsibilities and that Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus is not stepping down.

“We’re not going anywhere until our job is done,” said Wahiduddin Mahmud, planning adviser, following an unscheduled meeting of the advisers yesterday.

The announcement follows reports that Prof Yunus on Thursday expressed his desire to resign.

The two-hour meeting presided over by Prof Yunus focused on election, reforms, and trial -- the three core responsibilities of the

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An illegal fish market continues to operate on the banks of the Karnaphuli river in Chattogram, despite a High Court order on May 29 last year that authorised the removal of such structures to protect the river. The photo was taken yesterday afternoon at the mouth of the Chakta and Rajakhali canals.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

TALKS BETWEEN CA AND 3 PARTIES

## BNP sticks to demand for polls by December

Says delay may open door to return of autocracy; Jamaat wants end to tensions; NCP for local polls first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a meeting with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus last night, the BNP restated its demands that the next general election be held by December and the government immediately announce a roadmap to that end.

“If the election is delayed for any reason, we fear it will pave the way for the return of autocracy. The responsibility for this will fall on the current government,” BNP Standing Committee member Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said after the meeting.

The BNP also stuck to its demand for the resignation of two student representatives in the advisory council -- Asif Mahmud and Mahfuj Alam

- ① BNP demands resignation of Mahfuj, Asif Mahmud, Khalilur
- ② Jamaat says election should be held before or after next Ramadan
- ③ NCP wants all polls held during AL regime to be declared null and void
- ④ All parties reaffirmed support for Yunus: CA’s press secy

-- and the CA’s National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman.

After the BNP, the chief adviser sat with the Jamaat-e-Islami and National Citizen Party (NCP) separately at his official residence Jamuna.

The Jamaat demanded a timeline for the election, and another for reforms and trials of Awami League leaders for their alleged role in mass killings during the July uprising.

The party also said the election can be held before or after the next Ramadan.

The NCP demanded reconstitution of the Election Commission, local government polls before the parliamentary election, and

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UK freezes assets worth £90m of Salman’s son, nephew

TIB lauds move, urges other countries to follow suit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The UK’s National Crime Agency (NCA) has frozen nearly £90 million worth of luxury London property owned by two individuals linked to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina, according to the British daily The Guardian.

The move follows increasing pressure on UK authorities to assist Bangladesh in tracing assets allegedly tied to the ousted Awami League regime.

The NCA secured nine property freezing orders against Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman and his cousin, Ahmed Shahryar Rahman, said The Guardian, citing official records.

The orders bar the duo from selling several high-value properties, including apartments in London’s exclusive Grosvenor Square.

The Rahmans were previously named in a Guardian investigation into UK assets owned by associates of Hasina.

The properties, held through offshore entities based in the British Virgin Islands, were seized by the NCA on May 8.



Hamid, in wheelchair, being taken to Gate-33 of the airport for boarding.

ZYMA ISLAM

Further details regarding the exit of former president Mohammed Abdul Hamid suggest he breezed through the airport before quietly departing for Thailand.

Security footage obtained and analysed by The Daily Star shows that Hamid’s car reached the barrier gate of the VIP terminal at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport (HSIA) at 12:46am on May 8.

The car was stopped by an operator of the airport’s Aviation Security Division, who, upon realising the identity of the passenger, returned to his station to contact his line manager.

While he was making the calls, two individuals appeared in the background -- one in a light pink shirt and the other in a blue shirt and grey blazer -- and beckoning the car inside.

Three minutes later, at 12:49am, the two men moved into the foreground.

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## BB may issue redesigned bank notes before eid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank is likely to issue Tk 20, Tk 50 and Tk 1,000 notes with a new design next week.

The new notes, which will not include any picture or headshot of any national leaders including Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be available from bank branches before Eid-ul-Azha.

The new bank notes will feature not only graffiti of the July movement but also images of mosques, temples, historical landmarks and nature.

The Daily Star learned from officials of the central bank that nine types of newly designed bank notes are currently being printed at the Security Printing Corporation (Bangladesh) Limited, also known as the mint, in Gazipur.

However, the new Tk 20, Tk 50, and Tk 1,000 notes will be released into the market before Eid. The revamped Tk 500, Tk 200, Tk 100, Tk 10, Tk 5 and Tk 2 notes will be released after Eid.

About Tk 1,500 crore to Tk 2,000 crore worth of new bank notes are likely to be released into the market, said BB spokesman Arif Hussain Khan.

Not any direct picture or headshot but the very popular graffiti of Abu Sayed, Mir Mugdho, the well-known image showing



Organised by Jubo Dal, Svechchhasebok Dal and Chhatra Dal, the BNP’s youth rally was held at Bogra Central High School in Bogra town yesterday afternoon. Leaders and activists from 16 districts of Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions took part in the rally.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF BNP

## Nagar Bhaban still padlocked

Ishraque calls for resignation of ‘3 non-neutral advisers’

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagar Bhaban, the headquarters of Dhaka South City Corporation, was still under lock and key yesterday even though the supporters of BNP leader Ishraque Hossain suspended their protests for the weekend.

City residents have not been getting any services at the Nagar Bhaban since Ishraque’s supporters, under the banner of Dhakabashi, started demonstrating on May 14 for immediate swearing in of him as mayor. Several employee unions have expressed support for the demonstrators.

The building also houses the Local Government Division office, closed since May 15, preventing Adviser Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuyain from attending work there.

Ishraque yesterday urged DSAC unions to ensure cleanliness in the city ahead of Eid as the failure to get services caused widespread frustration among residents.

Addressing the protesters over the



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