

CA seeks increased support for Rohingyas

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United Nations Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis called on Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at the State Guest House Jamuna in Dhaka yesterday.

The UN Resident Coordinator commended the robust cooperation with the Interim Government, and both leaders engaged in comprehensive discussions on advancing development in Bangladesh.

They explored the extensive support the UN could provide to bolster the government's ambitious reform initiatives.

Gwyn Lewis also highlighted the critical measures undertaken to ensure a seamless transition for Bangladesh's graduation from the Least Developed Countries (LDC) category.

In the meeting, the Resident Coordinator and the Chief Adviser addressed the pressing issues surrounding the Rohingya crisis and the ongoing financing challenges.

They expressed grave concern over the significant reductions in funding, which are already severely impacting education and other essential programmes within the camps.

Prof Yunus underscored the urgent need for sustained solidarity and increased support from the international community to mitigate funding cuts and reinforce Bangladesh's efforts to aid the vulnerable Rohingya population.

Gwyn Lewis reaffirmed her unwavering solidarity with Bangladesh's reform and transition process, emphasising the UN's commitment to supporting the nation's path towards sustainable development and prosperity.



UN Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER GOB/ FACEBOOK

Cattle sales off to a slow start

BNP, allies bag most market leases

HELEMUL ALAM and DIPAN NANDY

Though 20 cattle markets in Dhaka officially started operating from yesterday, the number of customers remains very low.

Cattle traders have already brought in a large number of sacrificial animals but are passing their time idly due to the lack of buyers. Prices of bulls are significantly higher compared to the same period last year.

Fakir Chan, a trader from Gangni in Meherpur, who brought 18 bulls to the Kamalapur cattle market two days ago, said, "None of my bulls were sold as of yesterday afternoon. There are hardly any customers, and those who come offer unreasonably low prices."

Mizanur Rahman, another trader from Meherpur, said, "I bought a bull for Tk 1.89 lakh and raised it for a year. Now I'm asking for Tk 5.5 lakh. If I sell it for less than Tk 4 lakh, I'll incur



a loss, but I haven't received any decent offers." Moksed Ali, also from Meherpur, brought 13 bulls to the Kamalapur market three days ago, with prices ranging from Tk 1 lakh to Tk 5 lakh. "There are no customers. I am hoping to sell all of them in the next few days," he said.

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DEATH OF BAWM YOUTHS IN CUSTODY 384 citizens demand judicial inquiry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 384 citizens issued a statement yesterday demanding a judicial investigation into what they said were the deaths of Lalsangmoy Bawm and Lal Kim Bawm in custody.

In a written statement, they said, "We strongly condemn the indiscriminate arrest of ordinary indigenous people in Bandarban in the name of counter-terrorism -- especially the prolonged imprisonment of innocent civilians, including women and children of the Bawm community."

Quoting the families of Lalsangmoy, the statement said Lalsangmoy, who

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Budget does not reflect July spirit: Nahid

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The proposed national budget fails to reflect the spirit of a discrimination-free society envisioned by the July uprising, said National Citizen Party convener Nahid Islam yesterday.

"The budget shows signs of the old economic system. It does not embody the spirit of the mass uprising, which called for a new political and economic settlement," he said at a press conference.

He also said the government had acknowledged some existing problems but offered "no solutions for real change".

Nahid criticised the budget for lacking a roadmap to reduce inequality.

"Our expectation was that the gap between the rich and the poor would begin to narrow. But the current budget does not include any policies or steps to achieve that," he said.

He pointed out that the tax threshold for low-income earners remains unchanged,

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Open to Dec polls if level playing field ensured Says Jamaat ameer

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said once a level playing field is ensured, the party will be ready to participate in elections anytime.

"We have mentioned a flexible timeline from February to April. We initially proposed February, then extended it to April. BNP has insisted on December. If elections are held in December and we feel that a truly level playing field has been created and that all state organs are prepared for a fair election, we have no issue in joining," he said at a press conference at a hotel in the capital.

The party arranged the briefing following an Appellate Division verdict that restored Jamaat's registration.

Shafiqur said the next national election should

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Two women stood outside the National Institute of Ophthalmology and Hospital in Dhaka yesterday, as services remained suspended for the seventh consecutive day. Doctors and nurses have halted work, citing security concerns after an alleged attack by injured July uprising victims -- currently receiving treatment at the hospital -- and a tripartite clash involving patients and their attendants last Wednesday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Political goodwill needed to reduce waterlogging

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Not just holding wetland grabbers accountable, but ensuring political consensus is also essential to mitigate urban waterlogging, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

They said encroachers often receive protection from various political parties and remain beyond legal reach, even after a change in government.

The views were shared at an online event titled "Urban Waterlogging in Early Monsoon: IPD's Observation," organised by the Institute for Planning and Development (IPD).

In the keynote presentation, Prof Adil Mohammed Khan, director of IPD, said despite several drainage and canal recovery projects in recent years, cities like Dhaka, Cumilla, Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barishal, Khulna, and Mymensingh still suffer from waterlogging following moderate rainfall.

In contrast, coordinated planning and implementation have slightly improved the situation in Chattogram.

Adil pointed out that while some efforts were made to recover canals in Dhaka, re-encroachment of the original Buriganga channel wasted about Tk 30 crore in public funds.

A nearly Tk 900 crore project for canals in Kalunagar, Jirani, Manda, and Shyampur has seen very little progress. Due to a dysfunctional local governance system and the absence of elected mayors or councillors in some areas, there was inadequate monsoon

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Eid travellers to be photographed for added security Says home adviser; steps taken to ensure safety during festival

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As part of heightened security ahead of Eid-ul-Azha, authorities will photograph all long-distance passengers before they depart, aiming to prevent crimes such as robbery, extortion, and harassment during the holiday rush.

"If someone boards a bus in disguise with criminal intent, this step will help law enforcement identify them quickly," said Home Affairs Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury after a coordination meeting with transport owners, workers, and agencies yesterday.

Photos will be taken at key locations like Aminbazar or during the journey if new passengers board.

At a press briefing at the Secretariat, the home adviser said the move is part of a broader plan to ensure safe and smooth Eid travel.

Meanwhile, the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) has increased surveillance across

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