

## Wrap up polls preparations by December

Yunus instructs all relevant authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday ordered the authorities concerned to complete, by December, the preparations for the upcoming national election.

The polls are likely to take place in February or April, he told a meeting with law enforcers at the state guest house Jamuna in the capital.

The meeting, which discussed the law enforcement agencies' preparedness for the election, was also attended by the home adviser, the national security adviser, the home secretary and top officials of the police, Rab, Ansar, Coast Guard and other forces.

Earlier, on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha, Yunus had said elections may take place in the first half of April next year.

"Later, we informed that if preparations are completed and



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A Palestinian woman checks a girl's head inside a heavily damaged building at the site of an Israeli strike on a house in the Shati (Beach) refugee camp in Gaza City yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## US-China tariff war punishes Bangladesh

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Smaller Asian nations, including Bangladesh, have been hit with some of the most punitive duties under the Trump administration's tariff policy. The official justification for these tariffs was to correct what the administration called unfair trade deficits, where countries export more to the United States than they import.

However, analysts widely question the merit of using trade deficit calculations, suggesting the tariff move was a pretext for a broader geopolitical strategy to punish China. The US appears to have targeted countries that rely on or receive substantial investment from China.

Bangladesh is one of those nations that face pressure from Washington to decouple their manufacturing industries from Chinese suppliers, according to officials familiar with trade negotiations.

The threat forces Bangladesh into a near-impossible choice between its largest customer and its biggest supplier, pulling the nation directly into the fallout of the US-China trade war.

President Donald Trump has imposed a steep 35 percent tariff on Bangladeshi goods, primarily due to the high concentration of Chinese inputs in products manufactured here and exported to the United States, according to officials. The move reflects

**The US appears to have targeted countries that rely on or receive substantial investment from China. Bangladesh is one of those nations that face pressure from Washington to decouple their manufacturing industries from Chinese suppliers, say analysts.**

Washington's broader strategy to counter China's economic influence, they said.

In fiscal 2023-24, Bangladesh's imports from China amounted to \$16.63 billion, representing 26.4 percent of its total import bill, according to Bangladesh Bank data. Over 80 percent of these imports consist of raw materials for the garment sector, including fabrics, chemicals and accessories.

This dependency is at the heart of the trade friction. The US is proposing stringent Rules of Origin (RoO) that would require 40 percent local value addition for products to qualify for American markets.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman acknowledged last week that the US proposal on RoO presents a significant challenge for Bangladesh.

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**JULY DECLARATION**  
BNP sends back the draft to govt with its inputs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP has sent its recommendations on the draft of the July Declaration to the government, a senior party leader confirmed early today.

Salahuddin Ahmed, a member of the BNP Standing Committee, told The Daily Star at 12:30am that the draft had been sent to the party on July 8 by Adviser Wahiduddin Mahmud via WhatsApp on behalf of the interim government.

"The recommendations were finalised after analysing the draft during Standing Committee meetings held at the BNP chairperson's office in Gulshan on Tuesday and Wednesday night," he said.

Both meetings were presided over virtually by BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman from London.

Salahuddin would not reveal the contents of the

## 'Wherever they find, they will shoot'

Hasina ordered use of lethal weapons on July protesters, reports BBC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina personally authorised the use of lethal force against student-led protests in Bangladesh last year, according to a verified audio recording of a phone call revealed by BBC Eye.

In the audio, which was leaked online in March and independently verified by the BBC, Hasina is heard instructing security forces to "use lethal weapons" against demonstrators, saying, "wherever they [the forces] find [protesters], they will shoot."

The July 2024 uprising left at least 1,400 people dead, according to UN investigators. Hasina, who has since fled to India, and her party,

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JULY 10, 2024

Protesters refuse to back down

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

The protests over the quota system in government jobs showed no signs of slowing down on July 10 as students across the country vowed to continue their movement despite the Supreme Court's order for a four-week status quo.

Around noon, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Obaidul Hassan, ordered that the High Court verdict reinstating the quota system would not come into effect for the time being. This meant that the 2018 government circular abolishing the quotas would remain in force for at least a month.

The five-member bench of the Appellate Division, while issuing the status quo order, urged the students to return to their classrooms and focus on their studies.

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### সর্বসাধারণের জন্য সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সাম্প্রতিক সময়ে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কিছু অসাধু ব্যক্তি দলবদ্ধভাবে থানাসহ বিভিন্ন সরকারি-বেসরকারি ও আবাসিক/অনাবাসিক স্থাপনায় জোরপূর্বক প্রবেশ করে সরকারি-বেসরকারি সম্পত্তি ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত করা এবং সরকারি কার্যক্রমে বাধা প্রদানের অপচেষ্টা করছে। দেশের বিভিন্ন স্থানে ইতোমধ্যে এ ধরনের অনভিপ্রেত ঘটনা ঘটেছে, যা আইনশৃঙ্খলার জন্য হমকিস্বরূপ।

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের সদয় অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, এ ধরনের কর্মকাণ্ড ফৌজদারি কার্যবিধি, ১৮৯৮ অনুযায়ী দণ্ডনীয় অপরাধ এবং বাংলাদেশ দণ্ডবিধি, ১৮৬০ এর বিধান মোতাবেক দাঙ্গা, সরকারি কাজে বাধা প্রদান ও সরকারি সম্পত্তি খঁসের শামিল, যা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ। উল্লেখ্য যে, আল কুরআনে সুরা বাকারার ১৯১ নম্বর আয়াতে বর্ণিত বিশৃঙ্খলাকে ফিতনা হিসেবে আখ্যায়িত করা হয় এবং তা হত্যার চেয়েও জন্মন্য মর্মে ঘোষণা করা হয়েছে।

### জনসাধারণের প্রতি অনুরোধ:

- এ ধরনের অবৈধ ও শাস্তিযোগ্য কর্মকাণ্ড থেকে বিরত থাকুন;
- এ বিষয়ে কোনো তথ্য, ছবি বা ভিডিও ক্লিপ থাকলে দুট আইনশৃঙ্খলা রক্ষাকারী সংস্থাকে জানাবেন;
- সরকার এ বিষয়ে কঠোর অবস্থান গ্রহণ করেছে এবং অপরাধীদের বিরুদ্ধে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হচ্ছে।

দেশে শান্তি, শৃঙ্খলা ও নিরাপত্তা বজায় রাখতে সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কাম্য।

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