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## Yunus assures probe into jet crash

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday assured an investigation into the Bangladesh Air Force aircraft that crashed into a building of Milestone School and College in the capital's Uttara.

"We will definitely carry out an investigation. But an investigation will not bring them [the victims of the crash] back. We have taken steps to ensure proper treatment," he said in a video message, expressing deep shock over the tragic incident.

Urging all not to unnecessarily crowd the hospitals where the injured are being treated, the chief adviser said, "It is not good for those who are injured. Their bodies are already weak and struggling to recover. If we crowd around them, we cannot be sure that germs from us might not spread to them."

That is why, Prof Yunus said, he



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Bangladesh captain Afeida Khandaker holds the trophy aloft as her teammates celebrate a title-sealing 4-0 victory over Nepal in their sixth and final fixture of the SAFF Under-20 Women's Championship in Dhaka yesterday. Mosammam Sagorika starred with all four goals, sealing Bangladesh's seventh age-group title since 2017. The match at the Bashundhara Kings Arena began with a minute's silence in memory of the victims of Uttara tragedy.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

## July Charter must be made in 10 days Says Prof Ali Riaz

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Emphasising the urgency of reaching a national consensus within the next 10 days, National Consensus Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz has said they feel obliged to complete the National Charter, popularly known as the "July Charter", by July 31.

"A few issues remain to be discussed, and one or two days may be allocated for that. But on some matters, we simply cannot move forward without making decisions," he said during his opening speech yesterday, the 16th day of the second phase of dialogue with political parties.

Meanwhile, after an air force jet crashed on Milestone College in the capital's Uttara, which killed students and injured many others, the commission postponed yesterday's talks, which were held at the Foreign Service Academy.

The topics of the discussion were allowing the prime minister to hold multiple posts and the fundamental principles of state governance.

Stressing the urgency of concluding the dialogue, Prof Riaz said, "You must now say clearly whether you agree or disagree on these points. Since we have allowed the submission of notes of dissent from the beginning, any party may disagree."

"Such disagreements will be mentioned in the National Charter along with the parties' explanations. If needed, you may briefly state your positions, but we cannot engage in prolonged discussions any longer."

"We are now at the decision-making stage. We must take a position through a defined process."

Regarding the introduction of an upper house in parliament, he said, "Whether we will have a bicameral legislature or not is currently under consideration based on your [political parties] feedback. We hope to come to a decision on this within the next couple of days."

Prof Riaz said majority of political parties agreed with the revised proposal on the caretaker government.

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## PR system will lead to instability

Warns Tarique, urges all to preserve unity for nation's sake

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday said the proportional representation (PR) electoral system, as demanded by some political parties, will result in unstable governments, putting the country's sovereignty at risk.

"We have observed that some political parties have demanded the introduction of a proportional representation electoral system in the country. However, in the context of Bangladesh, such a system could pave the way for separatism, fascism, and extremism in the state and politics," he said while addressing a rally organised by Bangladesh Sammilito Peshajibi Parishad virtually.

He said such a system tends to create a fragmented society and can lead to the formation of unstable governments.

"As a result, the country's independence and sovereignty may come under threat," Tarique said.

National Citizen Party, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh, Islami Andolan Bangladesh, and several other Islamist parties have demanded the introduction of the PR system in the upcoming national election.



**Power may have changed hands, but governance has not—this perception threatens democratic institutionalisation.**

TARIQUE RAHMAN

"While some parties may claim this demand as part of their democratic rights, the BNP maintains that Bangladesh is not suitable for such an electoral system," the BNP said, adding that if national unity, gained through last year's mass uprising, is to be preserved, there is no room for such a system.

He said the uprising once again reminded us that the most crucial factor in keeping the country free from subjugation and fascism is the unity of the people.

However, he said a certain quarter is trying to put pressure on the government "cleverly" to delay the polls.

"Those who seek to maintain their dominance by placing a gun on the interim government's shoulder—exploiting its authority to serve their own interests—are the very ones strategically obstructing the national election. This reality is gradually coming to light," he said.

The BNP leader urged them to quit these "deceitful tactics" and urged them to work to uphold the rights of the people.

"We often see many being overly active to take credit for the uprising. Had that same level of effort been used for compiling the list

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## Soil on the Moon could support life



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The soil on the Moon could support life, scientists say. That is thanks to a breakthrough new technology that could allow humans to survive on the Moon.

It could help support a broad hope, held by a range of countries, that future missions to the lunar surface could see humans stay there before heading further into the solar system.

That might only be possible if we are able to make the necessary fuel, water and other resources on the Moon itself, since flying them to the lunar surface could be impossible.

Using samples brought back from a Chinese mission to the Moon, however, scientists were able to find a new method that would allow the astronauts to get the water they need from the lunar soil. Previous attempts to do so have used large amounts of energy and didn't break down CO<sub>2</sub>, but the new system overcomes those problems.



As the guava season gets underway, traders load up their boats with fresh guavas to take them to the country's largest floating guava market in Bhimruli village in Jhalakathi Sadar upazila. The photo was taken on Saturday at the upazila's Shotodoshkathi village.

## GOPALGANJ VIOLENCE AFTERMATH Villages deserted fearing arrest

3 bodies exhumed for autopsies

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

The bodies of three people who were killed in last week's violence centring a political rally in Gopalganj were exhumed yesterday for post-mortem examinations, five days after burial.

In response to a petition on Sunday, Chief Judicial Magistrate Romana Rozy ordered that the victims' bodies be exhumed for post-mortem, necessary for ensuring justice and uncovering the truth behind the killings.

As per the court order, the bodies of Ramzan Kazi, Imon Talukdar, and Sohel Mollah were exhumed and sent to Gopalganj 250-bed General Hospital for autopsy yesterday, said Gopalganj Sadar Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Mir Mohammad Sajedur Rahman.

On July 16, four people, Dipto Saha, Ramzan Kazi, Imon Talukdar, and Sohel Mollah, died after receiving gunshot wounds during the daylong running battles between Awami League followers and law enforcers following an attack on a pre-scheduled NCP rally at Gopalganj Municipal Park.

Later in the day, Dipto's body was cremated, while the bodies of the other three victims were buried without post-mortem examinations or any police inquest report.

Another person, Ramzan Munshi, also sustaining bullet injury during the violence, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital early Friday. His body was buried after an autopsy.

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## Dhaka on 'right path' to secure US tariff cut Says commerce secretary

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh is preparing to submit its formal proposal to the United States as negotiations for a tariff reduction deal gain momentum.

"You can say that Bangladesh is going in the right direction to sign the agreement with the US for the reduction of the tariff rate," he told The Daily Star over the phone yesterday.

Hesaid a position paper detailing Bangladesh's requests and offers has been prepared and would be submitted to the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) today or tomorrow.

The document outlines Bangladesh's commitments to increase imports of US goods and reduce duties on certain items, alongside non-trade commitments the government has deemed non-harmful.

The third round of negotiations with the USTR is expected soon, although a date has not been set. The second round concluded recently, with the government now finalising its stance ahead of the next meeting.

An inter-ministerial meeting was held at the commerce ministry on Sunday to finalise Bangladesh's position. It was attended by Commerce Adviser Sk Bashir Uddin, National Security Adviser Khalilur Rahman, and Special Assistant to the Chief Adviser Fayed Ahmed Tayeb. Eleven secretaries from various ministries also joined the meeting.

According to officials present, Bangladesh has agreed to reduce tariffs on several US goods and increase imports from the US as part of the broader negotiation process.

For example, the government signed an agreement Sunday to import seven million tonnes of wheat from American suppliers annually. Talks are also at an advanced stage to procure 14 Boeing aircraft.

Despite progress, the USTR has not yet confirmed a schedule for the third round of negotiations.

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## Yarlung dam won't affect neighbours

Chinese envoy to Touhid

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China will not withdraw or use any water from the Yarlung Zangbo river, where a hydropower project is underway, Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yao Wen said yesterday.

He made the remark during a meeting with Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain at the foreign ministry, according to a ministry statement.

Wen said the project, which is solely for power generation, would not affect downstream countries.

On July 19, Chinese Premier Li Qiang announced the start of construction of what will be the world's largest hydropower dam in Tibetan territory.

Dhaka had earlier sought information about the project and its possible impacts on lower riparian countries, including Bangladesh.

The Chinese envoy also updated the foreign adviser on follow-up actions from Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's recent visit to China. These included bilateral

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