



Yunus may visit KL on Aug 11-13

PORIMOL PALMA

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus is likely to visit Malaysia on August 11-13 at the invitation of Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, who was the first to visit Bangladesh following the formation of the interim government last year.

The major focus of the visit would be labour recruitment, trade and investment, regional cooperation and Rohingya crisis, according to diplomatic sources in Dhaka and Kuala Lumpur.

During the visit, the two countries may sign six memorandums of understanding (MoUs), include cooperation in the areas of defence, trade and investment, education and training, and culture.

Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain, Expatriates' Welfare Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul and Energy Adviser Fouzul Kabir Khan, among others, will be accompanying Yunus.

Malaysia is a major destination for Bangladeshi migrant workers, with more than 8 lakh working in various sectors.

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NATURE'S OWN PESTICIDE... An oriental hornet having lunch near the National Press Club in Dhaka. To many, its presence sparks fear -- some squirm, others swat, most want to kill. But this reddish-brown insect is more than its sting. Native to Southeast Asia, the oriental hornet helps control pests like grasshoppers and flies, reducing the need for pesticides. Even more fascinating: it harnesses solar energy through its body. While stings can be painful or allergic, extermination isn't the answer. These hornets are crucial to ecosystem balance. Instead of reacting with fear, we must approach with informed respect -- for their safety, and ours.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON



India expelling Muslims unlawfully

Says Human Rights Watch

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian authorities have expelled hundreds of ethnic Bangalee Muslims to Bangladesh in recent weeks without due process, claiming they are "illegal immigrants," Human Rights Watch said yesterday.

Many of them are Indian citizens from states bordering Bangladesh, according to the report of the New York-based human rights organisation.

Since May 2025, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)-led government has intensified operations to expel ethnic Bangalee Muslims to Bangladesh, ostensibly to deter people from entering India without legal authorisation, the report claimed.

The organisation called upon the Indian government to stop unlawfully deporting people without due process and instead ensure everyone's access to procedural safeguards to protect against arbitrary detention and expulsion.

"India's ruling BJP is fueling discrimination by arbitrarily expelling Bengali Muslims from the country, including Indian citizens," said Elaine Pearson, Asia director at Human Rights Watch.

"The authorities' claims that they are managing irregular immigration are unconvincing given their disregard for due process rights, domestic guarantees, and international human rights standards."

Human Rights Watch interviewed 18 people in June, including affected individuals and family members in nine cases. Those interviewed include Indian citizens who returned to India after being expelled to Bangladesh and family members of those who were detained and are still missing. On July 8, Human Rights Watch wrote to India's Ministry of Home Affairs with the findings but received no response.

The Indian government has provided no official data on the number of people expelled, but Border Guard Bangladesh has reported that India expelled more than

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Govt wants balanced ties with all

Says foreign adviser

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The government is maintaining good relations with all countries to avoid overdependence on any single nation, Foreign Adviser Touhid Hossain said yesterday.

Responding to a question on the interim administration's foreign policy, he said, "We are not doing anything that can harm the relations with anyone."

"For India, our objective is to maintain good relations based on mutual respect," he added.

India, along with China and Singapore, has sent medical teams to treat survivors of the Milestone School & College plane crash, which killed at least 34 people, mostly children.

"We sought information from our burn institute and informed India based on the requirement. On that basis, India sent a medical team," Touhid said.

Bangladesh-India ties soured after the fall of the Awami League government last year, with Sheikh Hasina fleeing to New

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WORLD DROWNING PREVENTION DAY

Most child drownings go unnoticed

Lack of policy and awareness makes drowning the second leading cause of death among children under five

NILIMA JAHAN

Largely unnoticed and mostly underreported, drowning remains one of the leading causes of death among children in Bangladesh, claiming thousands of young lives every year.

According to government data, drowning is the second leading cause of death among children under five in the country.

Today, July 25, is the World Drowning Prevention Day, a global advocacy event held annually, which serves as an opportunity to highlight the tragic and profound impact of drowning on families and communities and offer lifesaving solutions to prevent it.

The Foundation for Disaster Forum, a non-profit, which relies on media reports, said that between January and July 19 this year, 601 children drowned across Bangladesh -- 388 girls and 213 boys.

However, the true number of deaths is likely much higher, as there is no official system to track drowning cases. NGOs compile drowning data from media reports, but this captures only a fraction of actual cases, as most incidents go unnoticed and unreported.

Experts say this preventable crisis will continue to claim young lives unless the government adopts a national policy and an effective awareness campaign to address it.

According to the last comprehensive survey by the Bangladesh Health and Injury Survey (2016), nearly 19,000 people are estimated to

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601 children died so far this year

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Most deaths occur in monsoon, extended holidays

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Experts say 86% deaths can be cut if policies implemented

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National Drowning Prevention Strategy yet to be approved

drown every year in the country, including about 14,500 children under 18. That means around 40 children die from drowning each day, 30 of them under the age of five.

However, such a nationwide survey has not been conducted in recent years.

Experts say child drowning follows clear patterns in timing and circumstances, meaning targeted prevention measures can be highly effective.

Drowning deaths often rise sharply during Eid and other extended holidays, when families travel from cities to villages. Between June 3 and 15 this year, around Eid-ul-Azha, 91 children

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BB withdraws dress code for its employees

Governor steps in amid flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Bank yesterday withdrew its internal advisory on workplace attire following an instruction from Governor Ahsan H Mansur amid widespread criticism.

The advisory for its officials and employees had suggested female workers refrain from wearing short-sleeved and short-length dresses, and leggings while on duty.

Male workers were also advised to avoid jeans and gabardine pants.

The withdrawal came after media reports on the dress code drew massive criticism on social media.

In a press statement yesterday, BB said it was an advisory that encouraged its officials and employees to wear professional attire during office hours.

The decision to issue the advisory was made at a departmental meeting, considering the social context of all levels of officers and employees, the statement said.

However, no formal policy decision was taken, and no official circular was issued.

"When this internal matter came to the notice of the governor, who is currently abroad, through the media, he expressed his anger and instructed that the advisory be withdrawn

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Plane crash kills all 48 in eastern Russia

REUTERS, Moscow

A Russian Antonov An-24 passenger plane carrying 48 people crashed in the country's far east yesterday as it was preparing to land, killing everyone on board, the regional governor and investigators said.

The burning fuselage of the plane, which was made in the Soviet era and was nearly 50 years old, was spotted on the ground by a helicopter. There were 42 passengers, including five children, and six crew members on board.

Investigators said they had opened a criminal case into the suspected violation of air traffic and air transport rules, resulting in the death of more than two people through negligence.

Video shot from a helicopter showed the plane came down in a densely forested area and pale smoke could be seen rising from the crash site. There were no roads to the site and a rescue team numbering over 100 people had to use heavy machinery to cut a path there.

Vasily Orlov, the regional governor, offered his condolences to the families of those who died and declared three days of mourning, ordering flags to be lowered to half mast.

The plane was on a flight by a privately owned Siberian-based regional airline called Angara. The aircraft's tail number showed it was built in 1976 and was operated by Soviet flag carrier Aeroflot before the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union.

It was en route from the city of Blagoveshchensk to Tynda, a remote town and important railway junction in the Amur region bordering China, and dropped off radar screens while preparing to land.



Bangladesh's T20I skipper Litton Das walks back after being castled by Pakistan medium-pacer Faheem Ashraf in the final T20I at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday. Litton made a run-a-ball eight, disappointing like most of his teammates, as the Tigers were bundled out for 104 in 16.4 overs while in chase of a 179-run target to lose the game by 74 runs. However, victories in the first two games saw Bangladesh take the three-match series 2-1.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

'AL using Milestone tragedy to regroup'

Hasnat tells B'baria rally

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Hasnat Abdullah, chief organiser for the southern region of the National Citizen Party (NCP), yesterday said the "fascist" Awami League is attempting to reorganise itself by capitalising on the recent Milestone School tragedy.

He called for unity among democratic forces to resist the move.

"We thought fascism had fallen. But the Awami League is now regrouping by exploiting the unfortunate incident at Milestone School," he told a rally at the Paurashabha Mukta Mancha in Brahmanbaria around 1:00pm.

The rally was part of NCP's ongoing campaign titled "July March to Rebuild the Nation".

Calling for a broad coalition against authoritarianism, Hasnat said, "I urge all anti-fascist political forces to unite against the Awami League in the interest of democracy

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