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## Terrorism has no place in Bangladesh

Says Yunus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday reaffirmed his government's firm stance against terrorism, declaring that no terrorist organisation will be allowed to operate in Bangladesh.

"Combating terrorism is our top priority. We have zero tolerance for terrorism in Bangladesh. We will exert every effort to eliminate terrorists from our soil," said the chief adviser during a meeting with US Charge d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson at the state guest house Jamuna in the afternoon.

The 40-minute meeting covered a range of bilateral issues, including the ongoing tariff negotiations between Bangladesh and the United States.

Jacobson expressed Washington's continued support for Bangladesh's reform initiatives and its democratic transition, which is expected to lead to national elections early next year.

Yunus also briefed the US envoy on the progress of the National Consensus Commission, which is working to unite political parties around key reforms. "I believe the commission is doing an excellent job. The members, led by Professor Ali Riaz, are working diligently," he said.

### JULY KILLINGS

Hasina, top AL leaders sued in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Gazipur

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and other top leaders have been sued on charges of killing a person during the July uprising in Gazipur.

A person named Abu Sayed (Raju), son of Sekandar Ali from Harinhati area, filed the case with Kaliakair Police Station on Sunday night, Officer-in-Charge Abdul Mannan told The Daily Star.

In the statement, the complainant said Ilim Hossain, 43, a trader from Rakhaliachala in Kaliakair, was shot dead while taking a stand in front of the Ansar VDP Academy in Shafipur while participating in the "Complete Shutdown" programme on August 5 last year.

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US Charge d'Affaires Tracey Ann Jacobson at a meeting with Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

### Domestic workers still 'invisible' in labour laws

Speakers tell conference; call for legal recognition, protections

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

While domestic workers support the country's economy and social structure, those who perform the duties remain excluded from formal labour protections and social entitlements, said speakers at a conference yesterday.

They called for legal recognition, social protection, and systemic reforms to ensure the rights and dignity of domestic workers.

The remarks came at "The Domestic Workers' Conference 2025", held at Parjatan Bhaban in the capital.

The event was organised by six organisations -- Bangladesh Nari Sramik Kendra (BNSK), AVAS, Shobujer Ovijan Foundation, SOHAY, Ashar Alo Society, and Oxfam -- in collaboration with Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE).

Rasheda K Chowdhury, executive director of CAMPE, said domestic workers remain invisible



#### RECOMMENDATIONS

- Recognise domestic workers under Labour Act
- Set up complaint desks at labour offices
- Ensure pensions, maternity benefits, welfare support
- Translate labour laws into accessible language
- Conduct survey to create domestic workers' database

in legal and policy frameworks. "We must develop provisions for out-of-court settlements

under Section 124 of the Labour Law and set up complaint desks within labour departments. Their protection, dignity, and access to justice are not optional," she said.

CAMPE deputy director Tapon Kumar Dash, who moderated the opening session, said the movement for domestic workers' recognition has been ongoing for decades. "These demands are not new. What is new is our resolve to ensure that they are no longer ignored," he added.

Khadija Akter Antora, programme officer at Oxfam in Bangladesh, shared insights from the "Empowering Women through Civil Society Actors in Bangladesh (EWCSA)" project, which has supported over 45,000 informal workers, including 13,000 domestic workers.

She said the project aims to build leadership among informal workers and ensure their voices are heard in policy discussions

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### TK 2.89CR GRAFT

ACC sues Rehana's son Bobby

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) has filed a case against Radwan Mujib Siddiqi Bobby, son of Sheikh Rehana, on charges of amassing "illegal" wealth and conducting suspicious financial transactions through bank accounts.

ACC Deputy Assistant Director Abdullah Al Mamun filed the case yesterday with the ACC's Integrated District Office in Dhaka, said the commission's Director General Md Akhter Hossain.

He said, "No record of any business activity was found in his income tax documents."

According to the case statement, Bobby has been accused of amassing wealth worth Tk 2.89 crore beyond known sources of income.

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## BIAM BUILDING BLAZE

### Planned attempt to destroy key documents: PBI

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fire at the office of the BCS (Administration) Welfare Multipurpose Cooperative Society inside the capital's BIAM Foundation building was deliberately set to destroy important documents, the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) said yesterday.

PBI officials said the arson was planned and carried out by a group that included staff members of the cooperative.

Two people, including a staffer of the cooperative society, have so far been arrested in connection with the case, which was solved using artificial intelligence (AI) to identify a key suspect.

The fire broke out following an explosion in Room 504 of the building around 3:20am on February 27. The blast gutted the cooperative office, burning official documents, including deeds, land transfer papers, and purchase agreements, as well as cheque books, electronics, furniture, and air conditioning units.

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### AT A GLANCE

- Fire broke out on Feb 27
- Two suspects arrested
- Explosion killed 2 involved
- Some staff members linked to plot
- Probe on to determine contents of destroyed files

## All govt primary headteachers set for pay upgrade

Ministry approves 10th-grade scale for them

REZAUL KARIM BYRON

All headteachers at government primary schools across the country will soon be upgraded to the long-demanded 10th-grade pay scale.

The finance ministry has already approved the proposal and sent a letter to the Ministry of Primary and Mass Education to take necessary steps, a

New pay scale will require an additional Tk 453 crore annually. There are currently 65,502 headteacher posts, of which around 31,000 are filled.

The official said implementing the new pay scale will require an additional Tk 453 crore annually. There are currently 65,502 headteacher posts across the country, of which around 31,000 are filled, he added.

Meanwhile, the primary and mass education ministry in a press release last night confirmed the development.

This decision fulfils the long-standing

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## Bar AL, allies from contesting national polls

Gono Odhikar Parishad urges EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Gono Odhikar Parishad yesterday urged the Election Commission (EC) to remain firm in ensuring that the Awami League and its allied parties are not allowed to participate in the upcoming 13th national election.

Party General Secretary Rashed Khan made the remarks to reporters following a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the EC headquarters in Dhaka.

"The last three national elections were disgraceful. The Awami League held a one-sided election in 2014, a midnight election in 2018, and a dummy election in 2024," he said.

He also demanded the cancellation of the registration of the 14-party alliance, which acts as an ally of the AL.

"Jatiyo Party has sympathy towards the Awami League. By participating in the election, the Awami League might attempt to return to power through it," Rashed said.

He added that the CEC assured them the EC would not take any steps that could bring back fascism in any form or name.

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A labourer, who worked with a firm to help set up the exhibition on July uprising, sits quietly in front of the displayed artworks and photographs at the National Art Gallery of Shilpkala Academy in the capital yesterday. After finishing up work, he takes a moment to reflect on the powerful visuals that depict the key moments and figures of the movement.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

## Review MoU with UN to open rights office in Dhaka

Salahuddin urges govt

DU CORRESPONDENT

BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed yesterday called for a review of the three-year agreement signed with the UN on establishing a mission of the Human Rights Office in Dhaka.

Speaking at a discussion held at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital, he urged authorities concerned to reevaluate their decision so that "Bangladesh does not face international embarrassment".

Highlighting past incidents of enforced disappearances and extrajudicial killings, Salahuddin said the actual death toll from the 2013 Shapla Chattar crackdown has yet to be acknowledged.

Recognising the importance of addressing rights violations, he said, "The application of Western human rights culture in Bangladesh's societal and religious context will not be compatible."

At the discussion, leaders of Hefazat-e-Islam and several political and religious figures criticised the interim government's move to open the mission without consulting political parties.

Hefazat's Secretary General Sajidur Islam said it goes against the "values of Islam" and promotes "western hegemony".

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