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Handa to invest
\$250m, create
25,000 jobs

Co-Chairman Han
Chun meets Prof Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

Handa Industries Co, a Hong Kong-based textile and apparel chain, has announced it will invest US\$250 million in Bangladesh.

Handa Industries Co-Chairman Han Chun announced the plan as he met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna yesterday.

Handa had initially planned to invest 150 million USD in Bangladesh's textile sector and signed a memorandum of understanding with Bangladesh authorities during the Bangladesh Investment Summit in April 2025.

Following further assessments and with strong support from Bangladesh authorities, Handa has since increased its investment plan to approximately USD 250 million.

The company has now decided to set up three factories in Bangladesh -- two garment processing and one knitting and dyeing unit, which are expected to create 25,000 jobs.

"We decided to increase our investment as we gained confidence after talks with the officials of government agencies, including BIDA (Bangladesh

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Demanding a society free from extortion, drugs and terrorism, students, teachers and locals bring out a procession in the capital's Mohammadpur area yesterday. The programme was held under the banner of "Mohammadpur-Adabor Combined Teachers' Association". The photo was taken in Town Hall area.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

No use for
reforms that
don't help
people

Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



MD ABBAS

Md Tanjir Sheikh, 21, of Kushtia, sits with nothing but a mountain of debt and haunting memories.

At the end of 2023, he left for Libya with dreams of earning a decent living, only to be trafficked, tortured, and returned home with nothing.

Tanjir filed a case under the Prevention and Suppression of Human Trafficking Act, demanding compensation for the loss of his family's land and life savings, which were spent to rescue him.

He had taken a Tk 4 lakh loan to pay a local broker who promised him a job at a reputed company in Libya with a handsome salary. But upon arrival, he was forced into working at a madrasa that paid him irregularly, barely enough to survive.

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Trafficked, tortured, and forgotten

Trafficking survivors seek justice; experts
urge effective govt action

WORLD ANTI-TRAFFICKING DAY

- 10,917 trafficking cases filed between 2009, Jan 2025
- 5,450 cases still pending, 5,467 resolved
- 13,424 victims identified in 7,517 cases; 10,579 rescued
- 14,583 traffickers arrested, most out on bail
- Only 247 convictions in over 15yrs
- 93 new cases filed in Jan 2025

"I couldn't even eat regularly," Tanjir told The Daily Star. "Still, I held on for nine months, hoping things would change. But nothing did. Finally, I contacted my family."

When he told the broker that he

could no longer survive, the broker demanded more money to send him to Italy instead. Desperate to save their son, his family sold a piece of land and sent Tk 7 lakh.

But instead of sending him to Europe, the broker, working with Libyan traffickers, sold Tanjir to a local militia group. That group then sold him again, this time to a Bangladeshi mafia operating in Libya.

"They beat and tortured me inhumanely," Tanjir said. "They demanded Tk 25 lakh in ransom. I was the only son. Without a second thought, my father sold our remaining three kathas of land and sent them the money."

After being released, he was abandoned in a remote location along with another Bangladeshi. Eventually, a known contact rescued them. With help

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EC to publish
final voter list
on August 31

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission will publish the draft voter list on August 10, while the final list will be published on August 31 after reviewing and verifying claims and objections until August 21.

EC Additional Secretary KM Ali Newaz shared the information yesterday afternoon while briefing reporters at the EC headquarters in the capital.

EC officials said after adding new voters and those previously excluded, and removing deceased voters from the existing list, the total number of voters for the 13th parliamentary election may stand at around 129.75 million (nearly 13 crore).

According to the EC's voter list as of March 2 this year, the total number of

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Woman's body
recovered
2 days after
falling into
manhole

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The body of a woman, who fell into an open manhole in Gazipur's Tongi on Sunday, was recovered by the fire service yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Faria Tajim Jyoti of Baganpara village in Chuadanga, said law enforcers.

Her body was found at 9:16am under a pile of water hyacinth at the end of the manhole in Tongi, confirmed Shahin Alam, an official of the Tongi fire service.

Jyoti fell into the uncovered manhole in front of Dhaka Imperial Hospital in the Hossain Market area.

She had been missing since then.

The victim's cousin Oishee said Jyoti lives in Mirpur and works as a sales manager at a money trading corporation.



Continuous rainfall since morning has led to severe waterlogging on many Khulna roads, causing immense suffering for both pedestrians and commuters yesterday. According to locals, due to longstanding flaws in the city's drainage system, even light rain causes waterlogging in various areas. The photo was taken from Royal Mor in the city.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN