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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 Investment Development Authority),"



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

Ducsu polls set for September 9

DU CORRESPONDENT

The long-awaited elections to the Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducsu) and hall unions will be held on September 9, 2025, from 8:00am to 3:00pm.

Chief Returning Officer Prof Mohammad Jashim Uddin announced the schedule at a press conference yesterday at the Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Building.

As per the schedule, the draft voter list will be published on July 30. Students will have until August 6 to submit objections, and the final list of voters will be published on August 11.

The initial list of candidates will be released on August 21 at 1:00pm. The deadline for withdrawal of candidacy is August 25, and the final list will be published the following day by 4:00pm.

Voting will take place without interruption on September 9, and counting will begin immediately after polling ends. Results are expected to be announced on the same day.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Prof Jashim said six counting centres have been designated for the 18 residential halls.

Hall union results will be declared at the respective counting centres, although the sealed ballot boxes will also be sent to the central office.

As per the electoral code of conduct, campaigning can begin only after the final voter list is published. From that date, candidates may campaign daily from 10:00am to 10:00pm.

No use for reforms that don't help people  
Says Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka

B N P Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday said that state reforms must lead to tangible improvements in people's lives, particularly for children and families affected by political violence and enforced disappearances.

"We want a change in the state structure and we want reforms. But if these reforms and changes don't help ensure the overall development of our people, don't help build a better future for our children or give them a secure life, then

Trafficked, tortured, and forgotten

Trafficking survivors seek justice; experts urge effective govt action

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.

**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

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

Two-thirds with neuro disabilities lacked edn access

Finds survey

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Around two-thirds of the individuals with neurodevelopmental disabilities said they had no access to education, according to a new study.

A total of 414 individuals took part in the survey.

Access to employment for these individuals with special needs was found to be even lower -- 84 percent of participants aged 18 and above reported having no access to work.

The survey was jointly conducted by BRAC James P Grant School of Public Health and Apasen International, a UK-based charity organisation.

Findings from the study, titled "Health, Education and Employment of Persons with Neurodevelopmental Disabilities in Bangladesh", were shared at a programme held at a Dhaka hotel

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

- Make edn, healthcare more disability-inclusive
- Improve availability, quality of assistive devices
- Strengthen policy enforcement for disability rights
- Promote employment thru vocational training, inclusive workplaces

Stronger laws, awareness key to tackle city waste

Speakers tell public hearing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stronger political will, company accountability, enforcement of legal frameworks, and ensuring the dignity and safety of sanitation workers are essential for effective waste management in and around Dhaka.

These were the core recommendations from a public hearing organised by the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association (Bela) yesterday in the capital.

The event sought to address the realities of waste mismanagement and propose actionable solutions.

Speakers emphasised community involvement, inclusion of women and marginalised groups, waste-to-energy initiatives, and public awareness as critical components of a sustainable approach.

Taslima Islam, chief executive of Bela, said, "Waste management is a human right. Dhaka ranks as one of the world's least liveable cities. We need urgent action."

She cited population growth, unplanned urbanisation, inefficient systems, limited recycling, undervaluing sanitation workers, and public irresponsibility as contributing factors.

Methane emissions from the Matuail landfill also pose serious risks, she added.

Maruf Maimin, assistant director of the Department of Environment highlighted legal loopholes and lack of human resources. A zero-waste policy requires integrated efforts and functional disposal systems.

Rajuk's deputy town planner Abu Kawsar called for



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.

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 Tajnim 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.