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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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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at an event titled, "July Commemoration Event: Implementation of UN Fact-Finding Mission's Report Recommendation" at a city hotel yesterday. The programme was organised by the United Nations Human Rights Mission, marking one year since the July uprising.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

Beijing open to trilateral setup with Dhaka, Islamabad

Says Chinese envoy Yao Wen

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China is open to expanding the trilateral cooperation with Bangladesh and Pakistan for regional peace and development in South Asia, said Yao Wen, the Chinese ambassador to Bangladesh, yesterday.

The stance comes as Bangladesh-Pakistan relations have recently improved, he said at the DCAB Talk, organised by the Diplomatic Correspondents' Association, Bangladesh at Jaitiya Press Club.

"It is not exclusive -- the other countries can join. Some South Asian countries have expressed interest. We are open to expanding this cooperation," he said in response to a question as to why China took such initiative when Dhaka-Delhi relations remain strained.

China has many trilateral cooperation arrangements -- like China-India-Russia or China-Japan-Korea, Wen said. "This format is not new -- the cooperation with Bangladesh and Pakistan is just the latest," he said, adding that the trilateral cooperation will not be directed against any third party.

On June 19, Bangladesh's then acting foreign secretary Md Ruhul Alam Siddique, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Sun Weidong and Pakistani Additional Foreign Secretary

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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

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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

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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Ducsu polls set for Sept 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.



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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 yesterday.

Prof Tanvir Hasan, head of the research team, and Limia Dewan, technical adviser, said the survey included 414 persons with neurodevelopmental disabilities from 33 districts.

The participants included people with autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, cerebral palsy, and Down syndrome.

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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



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.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Govt nominates 12 members to press council

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has nominated 12 persons as members of the Bangladesh Press Council.

The information ministry issued a circular in this regard on Monday.

The tenure of the newly appointed members will be two years from the date of issuance.

Among the nominated members, three represent journalist associations: acting president of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Obaidur Rahman Shaheen, President of the Economic Reporters Forum Doulat Akter Mala, and President of the Dhaka Union of Journalists Md Shahidul Islam.

Three members were nominated by the association of editors of newspapers and news agencies: The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, New Age Editor Nurul Kabir, and Bonik Barta Editor Dewan Hanif Mahmud.

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