



What President Trump is doing is tacit – he wants to dismantle multilateralism... and replace it with unilateralism.

Lula da Silva, Brazilian president on US tariffs

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SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

Star

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY AUGUST 8, 2025



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 195

SRABAN 24, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SAFAR 13, 1447 HJRI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



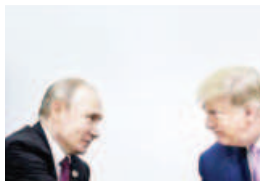
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Trump, Putin to meet in 'coming days'

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As rankings rise, BFF must leap further

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A year of progress with caveats

Govt falls short in ensuring rights, improving law and order

TANIM AHMED and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The recent announcement of election timeline has allayed apprehensions and brought a sense of calm among major political players who have often been at odds with each other. While there has been no overt opposition to the prospect of a February election, the public's reception has been warm. With its success in US tariff negotiations, the interim government marks one year in office on a relatively high note.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's initial pledge of "reform followed by election" morphed into "reform, trial and election" in the face of young July uprising leaders demanding justice for the murder of their compatriots. Another responsibility that the interim government had agreed to shoulder was the July Declaration.

On that front, the trial of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her top aides for crimes against humanity has begun at the International Crimes Tribunal. There are a

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ONE YEAR OF INTERIM GOVT

- Election timeline and July Charter signal progress
- Economic recovery show encouraging signs
- Critical reforms remain pending
- Concerns over rights and justice

Palestinian children receive medical attention at the Nasser Medical Complex in Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday, following Israeli bombardment on the Mawasi area of Khan Yunis.

PHOTO: AFP



Election top priority in govt's 'second phase'

Says Prof Yunus at advisory council meeting



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the foremost task of the interim government's "second phase" is to hold the upcoming national election in a free and fair manner.

Speaking at the weekly advisory council meeting at the Secretariat, Yunus said the government will also continue prioritising its two other key goals – implementing reforms and ensuring justice for the victims of last year's mass uprising.

"The second phase has officially begun with a letter from the Chief Adviser's Office to the Election Commission, requesting it

to initiate preparations for the national polls," Yunus's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam told reporters after the meeting.

He said the chief adviser has instructed officials at all levels to prepare with utmost sincerity to fulfil the government's commitments.

Shafiqul said the government has shortlisted 121 actionable items from the recommendations of 11 commissions. Of these, 16 have already been implemented, 85 are currently being implemented, 10 are partially implemented, and the remaining 10 are under review for feasibility. He,

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NOAB voices concern over Janakantha incidents

Urges govt to safeguard press freedom

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Newspaper Owners' Association of Bangladesh (NOAB) has expressed concern over the recent unexpected incidents centring the daily Janakantha, as well as the overall freedom of media and the safety of journalists in the country.

In a statement signed by its President AK Azad yesterday, NOAB said that the latest report from Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) paints a bleak picture regarding the freedom of media and access to information.

"People of the country united with the expectation of establishing a free, democratic society through a mass uprising, and we firmly believed that

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Bangladesh hopes to set sail stronger as US tariff kicks in

Expects rise in investments, exports as India faces 50% tariff

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

The new tariff on US-bound exports from Bangladesh came into effect yesterday, with hopes of maintaining a healthy flow of garment shipments to the American market.

With this, the effective tariff rate (ETR) for Bangladeshi goods exported to the United States now stands at 36.5 percent, comprising the newly imposed 20 percent reciprocal rate and the existing 16.5 percent tariff.

However, for Bangladeshi exporters, using the advantages of the new rate can mean a stitch in time since some of its regional competitors face similar or higher tariffs imposed by the Trump administration.

The finalisation of the rate has already begun yielding results, as major American retailers and brands have started confirming work orders for upcoming summer and autumn seasons, industry insiders said. Currently, local garment exporters are busy shipping consignments for the Christmas season in the US.

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Tariff finalisation has already begun yielding results, as major US retailers, brands start confirming work orders for upcoming seasons, industry insiders say.

Journo stabbed to death in Gazipur

Another journalist hurt in separate attack

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

A group of miscreants killed a journalist with sharp weapons in front of a crowded market in the Chandana Chowrasta area of Gazipur city last night.

The victim, Asaduzzaman Tuhin, 40, worked as a staff reporter of Mymensingh-based daily Pratikdiner Kagoj for around five years, said its Editor Khairul Alam Rafiq.

Originally from Bhatipara village of Mymensingh's Phulbaria upazila, Tuhin lived in the Chowrasta area, police said.

Quoting witnesses, Shaheen Khan, officer-in-charge of Basan Police Station, said Tuhin got involved in an altercation with four to five youths at a tea stall near the Masjid Market in the Chandana Chowrasta area around 8:00pm.

At one point, the youths stabbed him with a knife. He died on the spot, the OC said.

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BUSINESS

An economic check-in after one year of interim govt

One year into its tenure, the interim government has a record of stark contradictions. While it successfully pulled the economy back from the brink of collapse, it has profoundly failed to restore the confidence of investors, leaving the economic future in a state of vulnerable uncertainty.

The administration can point to clear successes. It reduced the rampant corruption of the previous regime, stopped the freefall of foreign exchange reserves, and bolstered inflows of remittances through tighter financial monitoring.

STORY ON B1



A heavily loaded boat takes logs to the wholesale timber market in Swarupkathi upazila, Pirojpur, from where they are distributed nationwide. The photo was taken yesterday in the upazila's Andakool area.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

EC finalises the code of conduct

Polls schedule in first half of Dec

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission has finalised the Code of Conduct 2025 for political parties and candidates ahead of the 13th National Parliamentary Election, scheduled to be held before Ramadan in February next year.

The code was approved at the EC's ninth commission meeting, chaired by Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin, and held from 11:00am to 7:00pm yesterday at the EC headquarters in Dhaka.

Speaking to reporters in the evening, Election Commissioner Brig Gen (ret'd) Abul Fazal Md Sanaullah said, "The draft of the code of conduct for candidates and political parties, on which we had sought opinions online, has been finalised today based on that feedback."

He also confirmed that the election schedule will be announced in the first half of December.

The EC further announced plans to introduce postal voting for Bangladeshi expatriates, who will receive ballots marked only with electoral symbols, not candidate names.

Voters abroad will cast their votes by selecting a symbol and returning the ballot via post. A three-week window will be provided for registration. Expatriates who register by October 31 will be included in the final voter list.

The EC plans to launch a voter education and sensitisation campaign for expatriates starting in September. Each expatriate vote via postal ballot may cost around Tk 500. The cost for every 100,000 votes could range between Tk 6 crore and Tk 7 crore, said Sanaullah.

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