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Protect rivers from pollution
Says Yunus; inaugurates Nat'l Fisheries Week

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday called on citizens to protect rivers, warning that reckless pollution is contaminating water sources and putting public health at risk.

"We always talk about river management but never about river nurturing," he said while inaugurating National Fisheries Week 2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka.

Expressing concern at the rising levels of pollution, Yunus said, "We throw all our waste into rivers, making the water toxic. That poison then enters our own bodies."

Highlighting the crucial role of fisheries in national life, the chief adviser called for a more compassionate approach towards nature.

"Because of the contribution of the

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and other attendees pose for a photo after the inauguration of the National Fisheries Week 2025 at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: CHIEF ADVISER'S PRESS WING

'Mob violence persists in some parts of country'

Home adviser says incidents reduced near Dhaka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Incidents of mob violence continue in parts of the country, though the government is working to curb them, said Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday.

"Mob violence has not been eliminated. It still happens in places like Rangpur. In Dhaka and its nearby areas, such incidents have reduced, but two or three cases still happen outside the capital. We are trying to reduce it further," he told reporters at the secretariat after the 12th meeting of the Law-and-Order Committee.

Replying to a question on whether the ministry had issued any directive banning the offering of flowers around

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ICT issues arrest warrants for ex-IGP Javed, 4 others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday issued arrest warrants for former inspector general of police (IGP) Mohammad Javed Patwary and four other senior police officials in connection with the killing of seven people in Gazipur's Patartek area in 2016.

A three-member bench of the tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, passed the order following a petition submitted by the prosecution seeking the warrants.

Monirul Islam, then chief of the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, along with the then superintendent of police (SP) and additional superintendent of police (ASP) of Bogura district, are among the accused. The names of some other accused were not disclosed to facilitate their arrest.

During the hearing, tribunal member Shofit Alam Mahmood asked the

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When homes become houses of horror

On average, 19 women were killed each month by their husbands this year, reports Ain o Salish Kendra

NILIMA JAHAN

For the past week, social media has been abuzz over the tragic death of Syeda Fahmida Tahsin Keya, a 25-year-old mother of four from Dhaka's Shewrapara, on the night of August 13.

that she had been cooking dinner that evening. "Half of the meat was on the stove, and the rest was waiting to be added. In such a situation, how could she suddenly decide to take her own life?" they asked.

Family sources added that

and later phoned her family, saying she was seriously ill.

When her parents rushed to the hospital, they found she had already died. Sifat abandoned her body there and fled, leaving their four children with his sister.

Just a week earlier, another

Rakib Hasan.

These incidents have fuelled public outrage on social media, but rights groups say murders by husbands remain a grim, almost daily reality in Bangladesh.

According to Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK), 363 incidents of domestic violence were reported in Bangladesh between January and July this year, resulting in 322 deaths – including 114 suicides.

Among these fatalities, 133 women were killed by their husbands, 42 by in-laws, and 33 by their own family members.

That means, on average, 19 women were killed by their husbands every month this year.

Less than half of these incidents have led to formal cases being filed.

Data from the national emergency helpline 999 underscores the scale of the crisis. Between January and August 15, the service logged 17,341 calls on violence against women, including 9,394 specifically

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Her family alleges that Keya was murdered by her husband, Sifat Ali, who initially tried to present her death as suicide.

Keya's parents told the media

FROM JAN-JULY THIS YEAR

363 incidents of domestic violence reported
322 women killed in domestic violence, 133 by husbands
999 received 17,341 calls on violence against women, 9,394 against husbands
Helpline 109 logged 29,161 calls of physical assault, 19,584 of mental abuse

BBS 2024 SURVEY

70% of women faced at least one form of abuse
54% suffered physical/sexual violence from husbands
64% never disclose abuse
7.4% seek legal action

Keya's elder daughter spoke about the events of that night. After returning home, Sifat allegedly assaulted Keya during an argument, locked her in a room,

young mother was killed. In Gazipur's Kashimpur, 19-year-old Jamey, mother of two, was reportedly suffocated to death with a pillow by her husband,

Publish list of settlers, grabbed land in CHT

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded that the government publish a list of illegally occupied land in the Chattogram Hill Tracts (CHT) and disclose how many settlers were moved there under successive governments.

They also called for making the land commission in CHT effective to resolve land disputes affecting indigenous peoples.

The event, titled "Activation of the Land Commission to Resolve the Hill Tracts Land Problem", was organised by the CHT Peace Accord Implementation Movement at the Dhaka Reporters Unity.

Nazmul Haque Prodhon, general secretary of JASAD, said the Chakma, Marma and Tripura peoples are treated as outsiders, which led to the policy of settling Bangladeshis in the hills.

He urged the government to reveal how much land was grabbed or illegally leased under different governments and how many settlers were moved.

Ruhin Hossain Prince, general secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh, called the land issue the central problem of the hills.

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He said new problems are emerging due to geopolitical realities and other forces becoming active in the region and sovereignty-related issues cannot be resolved without addressing indigenous peoples' problems. "We must keep the struggle alive."

Bazlul Rashid Firoz, general secretary of Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal, said the implementation of the peace accord depends on the united struggle of hill indigenous people and their allies in the plains.

He alleged that Bangalee settlers were taken to the hills with bad intentions.

"Although the accord lacks a clear guideline for resettling settlers elsewhere with dignity, such a plan is necessary," he said.

He said commissions formed by the government lack proper indigenous representation. "The Constitutional Reform Commission has no indigenous representatives, for example."

Saiful Huq, general secretary of Biplobi Workers Party, said after the July uprising they saw deep frustration among hill people.



After weeks of relentless rain, the heat returned, prompting people to splash water from a public pipe to cool off. Some even filled bottles to take home, trying to beat the sweltering temperatures. The photo was taken in the Nilkhet area yesterday afternoon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Exclusive breastfeeding rate declining in country

Experts call for awareness against formula milk

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Health experts and officials yesterday expressed concern over the declining rate of exclusive breastfeeding in Bangladesh and called for raising awareness to counter the growing influence of formula milk.

Exclusive breastfeeding refers to giving infants nothing but breast milk for the first six months.

They also urged immediate enforcement of the Breastmilk Substitutes (BMS) Act, 2013.

The call came at a workshop marking World Breastfeeding Week 2025, organised by the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division in association with the Bangladesh Breastfeeding Foundation (BBF).

At the workshop, speakers highlighted the health risks of breastmilk substitutes and the systemic barriers to breastfeeding.

Exclusive breastfeeding rate was 65 percent in 2017–18 but fell to 55 percent in 2022.

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