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## Yunus promises election on time

Meets 3 parties; BNP says no scope for polls deferral; Jamaat, NCP want July Charter implementation first

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday reaffirmed his commitment to holding the 13th national election in the first half of February next year.

"There is no alternative to election. If anyone thinks of any other alternative, that would be disastrous for the nation," he was quoted as saying.

Yunus gave the assurance during separate meetings with BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and National Citizen Party at the Jamuna, CA's Press Secretary Shafiqul Alam said at a briefing.

Both Jamaat and NCP pressed for prioritising the implementation of the July Charter over the polls and demanded a ban on Jatiya Party's activities, accusing it of abetting the Awami League government in legitimising disputed elections.

BNP, however, said the election must be held within the announced timeframe and there was no scope for deferral.

Speaking with journalists after the meeting, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said the BNP was concerned that a group was working to delay the election and make it questionable. "But there is no chance of that. The election will be held within the announced time. The chief adviser also said the same thing.

"He [Yunus] called us to assure us about the election, that it will be held on time. There should be no doubt about this."

Fakhrul dismissed Jamaat's allegation that preparations were on for a blueprint election as completely baseless.

In reply to a journalist's question, he said that there was no discussion on the Jatiya Party issue.

The BNP leader also condemned the attack on Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur. "This incident is very worrying. In the current political situation, we think a thorough investigation is

There is no alternative to election. If anyone thinks of any other alternative, that would be disastrous for the nation.

Chief Adviser MUHAMMAD YUNUS



Students of Chittagong University rush inside the campus through Gate No-2 to take shelter as locals hurl brickbats at them during fresh clashes yesterday, after an overnight confrontation. Following the violence, section 144 was imposed in Chattogram's Hathazari area in the afternoon.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAHMAN

## CU students, locals clash over assault on female peer

240 hurt; 144 imposed; army, Rab deployed

STAR REPORT

Two rounds of clashes between villagers and students of Chittagong University have left at least 240 people injured. The violence was sparked by the alleged assault on a female student on Saturday night and flared yesterday afternoon.

All classes and exams have been suspended for today, while Section 144, banning public gatherings in parts of the area where the clashes took place, is in force until 12:00am Tuesday.

In the aftermath of the violence, the CU administration, in a meeting last night decided to form a probe committee today. And until further notice, army and Rab personnel will remain deployed in and around the campus.

Meanwhile, violence and protests swept through two other public universities yesterday. Bangladesh

BAU closed after clash between students and outsiders

Scuffle breaks out in RU over inclusion of freshers in Rucus voter list

Agricultural University was declared closed indefinitely after students demanding a single combined degree confined over 200 teachers before being assaulted by outsiders. At Rajshahi University, a dispute over excluding first-year students from the Rucus voter list triggered scuffles between students.

Mostafa Kamal of the CU Medical Centre said at least 200 students were treated since Saturday night, many of

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## Xi, Modi talk friendship in 'chaotic' world

Call for trade, investment expansion

AGENCIES

Chinese leader Xi Jinping told India's Narendra Modi the "right choice" is for their countries to be friends as the two met in China for first time in seven years – a new milestone in a nascent rapprochement between the world's most populous nations accelerated by shared frictions with the United States.



Xi and Modi's highly anticipated meeting yesterday, on the sidelines of a regional summit in the eastern port city of Tianjin, comes as both nations face stiff US tariffs under President Donald Trump global trade war, as well as Western scrutiny over their relationships with Russia as the war in Ukraine grinds on.

"The world today is swept by once-in-a-century transformations," Xi told Modi in opening remarks, as both leaders sat face-to-face flanked

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needed. The government has already started a judicial investigation."

Nur was critically injured in an assault by police and army personnel following a clash between his party and the Jatiya Party on Friday.

According to insiders, at the meeting with BNP, which took place after the ones with NCP and Jamaat, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul raised the proposal for a constituent assembly election, citing the two other parties' demands. BNP leaders, however, rejected the idea, saying the constitution does not allow it.

Jamaat leaders expressed disappointment over the announcement of the election work plan before implementing the July Charter, saying this could derail the reforms. They urged the government to take a tough stance against the Jatiya Party, speed up reforms, and make trials for crimes against humanity during the July uprising more visible.

Meeting sources said Jamaat also pressed for a constituent assembly election to introduce proportional representation (PR), noting that 26 of the 31 parties in the consensus commission dialogue had supported the system. They argued that such an election was needed to gauge public opinion.

After their meeting in the afternoon, Jamaat Nayeb-e-Ameer

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Braving heavy rain, low-income people waited in line to buy essential commodities at subsidised prices from a TCB truck in the Mohammadpur bus stand area in Dhaka yesterday noon.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## DUCSU ELECTIONS

We will balance politics and education

VP candidate Shadik Kayem tells Star

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Abu Shadik Kayem, vice-president (VP) candidate from the Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel in the upcoming Ducusu election, says he wants to transform Dhaka University from what he calls a "political institution" into an academic one by bringing a balance between education and politics.



"Dhaka University has been turned into a political institute through excessive politicisation. But that does not mean I want depoliticisation. Politics is necessary, but it must coexist with education," Kayem, also

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Will launch 'one ID, all solution system'

GS candidate Abu Baker tells Star

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Abu Baker Mojumdar, a former coordinator of Students Against Discrimination (SAD) and now vying for the post of general secretary in the upcoming Dhaka University Central Students' Union (Ducusu) election, pledged to continue political, social, and cultural struggles on behalf of students.



In an interview with The Daily Star, the "Boishommo Birodhi Shikkharkhi Sangsad" panel candidate said he had faced expulsion, repression, and attacks for his anti-Chhatra League politics but always stood by the students. "I never broke my

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