



PHOTO: PID

Feb polls crucial for democratic transition

Says Gwyn Lewis, calls on Professor Yunus

UNB, Dhaka

United Nations Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis met Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus yesterday and affirmed that the UN fully supports the upcoming general election in Bangladesh.

"It is crucial for the country's democratic transition," Lewis said during the meeting at the state guest house Jamuna.

The two discussed ways the UN could assist in ensuring a "transparent, free, fair and peaceful" electoral process.

A major topic of discussion was the upcoming national election, according to Chief Adviser's Deputy Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad Majumder.

The resident coordinator reiterated the UN's commitment to support the

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Two lines of bikes have been parked on this footpath in the Tejgaon area of the capital yesterday, leaving little to no space for pedestrians. This illegal parking is a public nuisance and prevents people from easily accessing the footpath to move through the nearby areas safely.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

RECOVERY OF LOOTED FIREARMS

Announcing rewards brings no fruition

RAFIUL ISLAM

Despite the home ministry's announcement of significant rewards 10 days ago, no actionable information has been provided to the police regarding the firearms looted during last year's July uprising.

Around 1,300 firearms remain missing, looted from various police stations and outposts across the country in July and August of 2024.

Police officials suspect that many of the stolen firearms were sold to criminals and are now being used in illegal activities.

Some individuals involved in the looting are believed to have disposed of the weapons and ammunition in rivers and other water bodies, fearing legal repercussions.

Shahjada Md Asaduzzaman, additional deputy inspector general (operations) at Police Headquarters, said, "We are yet to receive any information from police units about individuals coming forward with details on the looted firearms and ammunition after the reward announcement."

He assured that police operations against illegal firearms and drugs are ongoing.

Police officials and experts have emphasised the need for a coordinated effort to recover the firearms, highlighting the potential risks they pose, especially

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- 1,300 firearms still missing
- 2,50,000 rounds of ammunition unaccounted for
- Home ministry offers up to Tk 5 lakh for info
- Police stress need for coordinated recovery amid polls concerns

Govt to help with travel docs if Tarique decides to return: Touhid

BSS, Dhaka

Foreign Affairs Adviser Md Touhid Hossain yesterday said the government would extend necessary support regarding travel documents if BNP Acting Chairperson Tarique Rahman decides to return to Bangladesh.

"The matter [of returning] depends on his [Tarique's] own decision, but we will address the issues related to his travel documents or passport when it is required," he told reporters at the foreign ministry.

Responding to a question, the adviser said he had no information on whether the BNP leader had applied for a passport at the Bangladesh High Commission in London.

Touhid said Tarique must first decide on his return.

On another query, the adviser said there had been no update yet on Dhaka's request to New Delhi regarding the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

He noted that no second request letter has been sent so far.

Replying to a question about international election observers, Touhid said a pre-election exploratory mission from the European Union had already visited Bangladesh.

STUDENTS' UNION ELECTIONS

Campaigns ramp up as Ducsu polls draw closer



Candidates for the Ducsu elections campaigned vigorously yesterday, with only three days left before the campaign period ends. However, today and tomorrow are holidays, so Sunday marks the final day of campaigning.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

DU CORRESPONDENT

Candidates for the elections to the Ducsu and hall unions had a busy day of campaigning yesterday, with only three days left before the campaign period ends.

According to the election schedule, today and tomorrow will be holidays, and Sunday will be the last day for campaigning.

The elections are scheduled for September 9, and campaigning must conclude 24 hours before the elections.

Yesterday, the university administration met Ducsu candidates running for vice president, general

secretary, and assistant general secretary posts to discuss the latest developments.

Meanwhile, candidates visited various faculties to engage with non-residential and female students, while in the evening, they went door-to-door at male dormitories.

The Islami Chhatra Shibir-backed panel held its projection meeting at Bangladesh-Kuwait Maitree Hall, while Chhatra Dal organised their meeting at Samsun Nahar Hall.

The Boishommo Birodhi Shikharthi Sangsad panel, of Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad (BGCS) panel did not hold any meeting yesterday.

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A safe campus for female students Vows Jucusu GS candidate Tanzila Hossain Boishakhi

SADI MUHAMMAD ALOK

Tanzila Hossain Boishakhi, general secretary candidate from the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal-backed panel in the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union election, has pledged to eliminate gender discrimination on the campus if elected.

"All my life, I have been conscious about rights -- both mine and others'. I could never tolerate injustice," she told The Daily Star.

"Since coming to Jahangirnagar University, this tendency has only grown stronger. I know this campus well, I know its problems, and I want to work on them. Even before Jucusu, we protested these issues and tried to keep the administration under pressure," she said.

"But Jucusu represents students' direct mandate, which will make it easier to secure rights," she added. She said her decision to contest comes from the belief that facilitating real change is only possible from a position of policymaking.

"Women in our country hesitate to enter politics because the field is harsh for them. I want to be a role model -- showing that one can move forward despite obstacles if they have the qualifications."

If elected, Boishakhi said her priority would be to institutionalise democracy on the campus.

"Jucusu is the symbol of democracy here. We aim to ensure Jucusu elections take place every year. There will be conspiracies to stop it, but we will resist and guarantee regular elections."

She also pointed to structural imbalances between teachers and students. "Teachers cancel

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Will put students' interests above all Says Jucusu VP candidate Abdur Rasid Zitu

SHARIF M SHAFIQUE

Abdur Rasid Zitu, the vice-president candidate from the "Swatantra Shikharthi Sammilan" panel in the Jahangirnagar University Central Students' Union (Jucusu) election, has pledged to prioritise students' interests if elected.

In an interview with The Daily Star, the former central coordinator of Students Against Discrimination, said, "I am contesting the election upon students' endorsement. To run for such an important post as VP, support and cooperation from the students is a must. We have selected competent individuals -- those skilled or experienced in their respective fields. Our panel is inclusive and prioritises everyone's opinion. We draw courage because the students are with us. The general students are my party, and we are their party-men."

On his plans, Zitu said, "Many make massive promises before elections, but one must know the jurisdiction of Jucusu first. Based on that, I will work for students to the best of my ability. I won't claim to bring the metro rail to the campus gate. Instead, I will create an environment that benefits students for years. My one principle is -- students' interest at Jahangirnagar University comes first."

He added, "There are many stakeholders here -- teachers, students, officials, and staff. According to the university ordinance, I will ensure everyone's due rights. I will also work so that teachers' dominance does not become autocratic. Academic reforms are

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Saifuzzaman, wife sued for laundering Tk 1,200cr to Dubai

UNB, Dhaka

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has filed a money laundering case against former land minister Saifuzzaman Chowdhury and his wife Rukhmila Zaman on charges of siphoning off Tk 1,200 crore to Dubai.

CID's Special Police Superintendent (Media) Jashim Uddin said the case was filed with Kotwali Police Station in Chattogram.

Additionally, five to seven unidentified people have also been named in the case.

During the investigation, the authorities found that Saifuzzaman allegedly purchased 226 flats in various areas of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) between 2016 and 2023.

These locations include Al Barsha South 3rd, Barsha South, Barsha South 4, Thaniya 5th, Jaddaf, Haiba 6th, Gulf Commercial, Khairan, Yalays 2, Burj Khalifa, Jabal Ali, World Island, Zabeel 2nd, Marsa Dubai, Me'aisem the First, Nad Al Sheba First, and Wadi Al Safa 3.

The total value of these properties is estimated at 33,56,57,168 dirhams.

Additional information revealed two more properties under the name Q Gardens Boutique Residences -- Block B in Al Barsha South 3rd, valued at 22,50,369 dirhams.

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Some individuals have illegally set up a makeshift stable and are keeping horses under the Mayor Hanif Flyover in the capital. These horses are often used to pull carriages on weekends, and they are rarely fed adequately for such strenuous activity. Their long hooves also suggest they are not properly cared for or regularly groomed. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Hasina's 'ghost, cohorts' remain in admin: Rizvi

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi has said that

although Sheikh Hasina has fled the country, her "ghost and cohorts" still remain embedded in the administration, working to create unrest and destabilise the government.

Speaking to reporters in Brahmanbaria yesterday, Rizvi alleged that these elements are plotting to ensure the failure of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus and to prevent free and fair elections.

He said, "Those responsible for Sheikh Hasina's cruelty, repression, and bloodshed have been given green signals from the passport office to leave the country. Such criminals should not get such clearance, but those embedded in

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