

CHIEFS OF SIX REFORM COMMISSIONS



SHAHDEEN MALIK
Constitutional Reform Commission



SHAH ABU NAIM MOMINUR RAHMAN
Judicial Reform Commission



BADIUL ALAM MAJUMDAR
Electoral System Reform Commission



ABDUL MUYEED CHOWDHURY
Public Administration Reform Commission



IFTEKHARUZZAMAN
Anti-Corruption Reform Commission



SAFAR RAJ HOSSAIN
Police Administration Reform Commission

Yunus charts a path to reforms

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electoral process -- the police, public administration, judiciary, and the Anti-Corruption Commission -- is essential for free and fair elections, he said.

Additionally, the interim government feels the need for constitutional reforms to ensure the representation and interests of all layers of society and to reflect the message of the July uprising, he said.

"We seek reforms. Our sincere request is that you not retreat to the spectators' gallery after entrusting us with the heavy responsibility of reforms. Stay with us. We will reform together. It is everyone's responsibility. Bring reform to your own field," Yunus said, adding that the reform of a nation is not just the reform of the government.

Given the reality, the interim government might not have made headway at the desired speed during its first month in office.

"If we can maintain law and order in the country, we hope to gain significant momentum. Therefore, we seek the cooperation of all...our task is very difficult, but as a nation, we cannot afford to fail this time. We must succeed.

"I will not ask you to be patient. We are all growing impatient, wondering when all this work will be completed. We will lose patience. Why wouldn't we? But we will work correctly. We will leave no

sign of impatience in our work."

Yunus called upon workers and owners to keep their factories open to keep the economy afloat.

"You should keep the factories running. Keep the wheels of the economy turning. Let the country's economy stand strong."

Addressing the plight of the workers, the head of the interim government said shutting down the factories will not solve problems. "We will most certainly resolve the problem through discussions between workers and factory owners."

He also urged factory owners to reach an understanding with the workers to ensure the factories remain operational.

"In the garment and pharmaceutical industries, workers have continuously halted operations to voice their complaints. This will inevitably have a negative impact on our economy, which we cannot afford."

The economy the interim government inherited was largely unregulated and rapidly deteriorating. Institutional structures were almost destroyed, and foreign currency reserves hit rock bottom, he said.

"We are trying to inject life into this economy, and we are getting some positive results. But if our industries and factories shut down now, it will severely damage the economy, which is something no one wants."

Yunus said the recent flash floods again revealed

the incredible empathy of the people.

He thanked the armed forces for their roles during all disasters as well as in ensuring justice and stability.

BLACK LAWS, MEDIA COMMISSION

➡ Families of martyred in uprising to be rehabilitated

➡ Curriculum of class-1 to -12 changed

➡ Factories urged to be kept open to keep the economy going

➡ Employment generating projects to get priority

➡ Steps taken to use \$48 billion foreign aid in pipeline

➡ Probe, trial of 5 sensational murders, including Sagar-Runi, to be prioritised

➡ Measures taken to revive SAARC

The chief adviser said the interim government is considering forming a media commission to ensure that the media can operate freely.

"Freedom of the press and freedom of expression have already been assured. We have made it clear that everyone should criticise us openly. We respect all opinions."

He said false cases and those filed with intent to harass people under the Anti-Terrorism Act, Digital Security Act, and Cyber Security Act were being

withdrawn.

A list of repressive laws, including the Cyber Security Act, has been prepared, and these laws will soon be repealed or amended, Yunus said.

"Assistance is being provided to expedite

should be centred on the people, not on any leader or party."

To maintain a steady supply of essentials, meetings have been held with business leaders, industrialists, and business associations, and various measures are being implemented based on their feedback, he said.

Instructions have been issued to the NBR to reduce existing tariffs on some essential commodities, such as onions and potatoes, to lower their prices.

He thanked President Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan of the UAE for pardoning 57 Bangladeshis who had been jailed for participating in anti-fascist protests.

'NONE SHOULD HARM HARMONY'

Yunus said the government is determined to create a democratic framework for the country.

"We must ensure that we never fall into the hands of a dictator again and that we can proudly say we live in a democratic country. We are working towards ensuring that everyone can claim this country as theirs.

"No one should take the law into their own hands. If anyone creates chaos by doing so, we will certainly bring them to justice. We are a country of communal harmony. No one should engage in any action that would harm religious harmony in any way."

REBUILDING PUBLIC ADMIN

All necessary initiatives

have been taken to make the field administration people-friendly, free from corruption, and accountable.

The government started its journey with a devastated public administration. Many top officials in the ministries have resigned or were unable to work due to pressure from their colleagues, and some were forced to resign.

The officials forced to resign during the previous regime or compelled to remain in the same position without responsibilities have been considered in the government's efforts to rebuild public administration.

Resolving all issues and establishing a new public administration structure is the greatest achievement in the first month of the government, he said, adding, "I believe this public administration will make the greatest contribution to fulfilling the will of the people."

A total of 135 additional secretaries, 227 joint secretaries, and 120 deputy secretaries have been promoted.

He said government employees now have to submit a declaration of their assets every year.

The government has taken the initiative to build a new Bangladesh as an environmentally friendly and biodiversity-rich nation.

"We have also undertaken efforts to halt river pollution ...," he said.

'Development not possible without access to info, free speech'

Says UN envoy Irene Khan

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression Irene Khan has stressed the importance of access to information and freedom of speech.

"Development is not possible without access to information and freedom of speech, and democracy cannot survive without them. These are two inseparable and crucial elements in the context of human rights," she said.

During her speech as the chief guest, Irene made the remarks at a seminar organised by Research Initiatives, Bangladesh (RIB), titled "Advancing Accountability and Transparency through Access to Information" in Dhaka yesterday.

She also highlighted the critical role access to information plays in empowering people and advancing human rights.

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CLASS-VI TO IX

Annual exams to be held on short syllabus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

This year's annual exams for classes six to nine will be conducted under a shortened syllabus, according to the guidelines issued by the National Curriculum and Textbook Board (NCTB) yesterday.

The year-end exams, which will run for three hours each, will be evaluated in two parts -- a learning assessment conducted throughout the year and an annual exam.

The learning assessment will account for 30 per cent of the total marks and the annual exam 70 per cent.

The NCTB said the assessments will be based on the contents of textbooks prepared under the National Curriculum 2022.

According to the guidelines, schools are responsible for conducting learning assessments under the supervision of their teachers. They will also have to prepare annual exam questions based on sample question papers provided by the NCTB. Using these questions, schools will administer the annual exams.

The learning assessment would include activities such as unit work and pair work.

The guidelines said the records of the completed assessments must be maintained properly, and all such activities should be completed before the annual exams begin.

A student will pass in a subject if they secure at least a D grade (33-39 marks). However, students receiving a D grade in three or more subjects will not be promoted to the next class.

In such cases, the head of the institution, in consultation with the subject teachers, may promote particular students under special consideration only for the 2024 academic year, the NCTB said.

In the new curriculum of 2022, there were no exams for classes six to nine. Students were promoted based on continuous and summative assessments.

Education Adviser Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud recently said it does not seem that the new curriculum, especially the evaluation method, is implementable.

He said implementation of the new curriculum with the existing teachers is tough. "In many cases, the new curriculum is not suitable for the country."

Rab arrests ex-DMP chief Asaduzzaman

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rapid Action Battalion last night arrested the former Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner Asaduzzaman Mia at Mohakhali in the capital.

Lt Col Munim Ferdous, director of the legal and media wing of Rab Headquarters, told The Daily Star, "Based on specific information, we conducted a drive near Mohakhali flyover and made the arrest at 11:00pm [Wednesday]. Asaduzzaman was wanted in a case filed with the Khilgaon Police Station," he said.

Munim said they would hand over the arrestee to the detective branch of DMP.

On September 3, a case was filed against 13 incumbent and former police officers, including Asaduzzaman, in connection with the death of Nuruzzaman Jony, former general secretary of the Khilgaon Thana unit Chhatra Dal, in police custody in 2015.

Jony's father Yakub Ali filed the case.

Asaduzzaman recently hogged the headlines over corruption allegations. The Anti-Corruption Commission also started an investigation into his wealth.

Woman raped on moving bus

Driver, helper held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two transport workers on charges of raping a 19 year old woman on a moving bus in Chattogram on September 6.

The woman's husband filed a case with Karnaphuli Police Station on Tuesday night.

The arrestees Saidul Islam Mizan, 19, and Azad Khan Rana, 22, were sent to a court, said Inspector Mehedi Hasan.

According to the complaint, the woman boarded a city bus around 9:45pm.

Seeing that she was the only passenger, Mizan, the driver's assistant, first raped her. When she tried to resist, Mizan hit her and raped her twice.

The bus kept on going around the city and headed towards the Moijartek area. Later, driver Rana also raped her in the bus. The duo dropped her off in Patiya around 11:50pm.

The woman later informed her husband, who picked her up from the spot and took her home.

She later identified the accused in Bakalia and informed her husband after seeing them near Gol Chhatar on Tuesday night. With the help of locals, the victim's husband apprehended the two men and called the police.

Police said an arrangement was being made for the woman's medical examination.

