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As the sun sets over the Dhalai River in Sylhet, the sky turns a striking shade of red, casting a warm glow across the horizon. While most have left work to return home, this lone fisherman casts his net in hopes of a rewarding catch. The photo was taken at Dhulaganj village in the district's Companiganj upazila recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Reforms must be inclusive, participatory

Speakers tell event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is imperative to involve people from all levels in the reform process, said panelists at a discussion yesterday.

They were speaking at a segment in an event titled "Meramot Alap (Reform Talks)", organised by Voice for Reform, a citizens' platform formed on September 17 to facilitate state reform.

Syed Hasib Uddin Hasib, a member of the platform, moderated the segment titled "What constitutional reforms are needed to ensure balance of power, accountability, and democracy?". He presented seven key expectations for constitutional reform.

He said no authoritarian regime should be allowed to seize power again, future constitutional amendments must not be declared illegal, and limits on power should be established to protect citizens' rights.

Additionally, he called for elected representatives to serve the public interest, safeguard against the misuse of public funds, initiate inclusive discussions on constitutional reform, and ensure accountability for government employees.

MA Matin, a retired judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court, said fundamental rights should be included as unconditional in the constitution.

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JULY KILLINGS

'We want justice before we die'

Say families of victims at Nagorik Committee event

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has failed to address its top priorities within the first two months of taking office, alleged family members of the martyrs of the July uprising.

They voiced frustration over the delay in starting the trial of those responsible for the massacre, completing the list of martyrs, and beginning the rehabilitation of the martyrs' families.

Speaking at a rally in front of the National Museum yesterday, Md Idris, father of Maruf Hossain, who was killed in clashes with police on July 19 in Rampura, questioned how the government would hold the perpetrators accountable, given that many top Awami League leaders have reportedly fled the country.

"If the leaders have run away, how will you [the government]



It breaks my heart that I cannot hear the word 'baba' [father] from my son anymore. But hundreds of students now call me baba.

SAIFUL ISLAM
Father of martyred Mominul Islam

bring them to justice?" he asked.

The rally, organised by the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, called for justice for the July massacre, rehabilitation for the martyrs' families, proper treatment for the injured, improvements in law enforcement, and measures to address price hike.

Idris recounted how, on July 26, detectives visited his house and interrogated him about his son's involvement with Jamaat Shibir. He said the officers attempted to take him away but left after a lengthy argument with his family.

"If August 5 had not happened, I might have also ended up in Aynagar [a notorious detention centre]," he said.

Denied support from the police, Idris lodged a case with the International Crimes Tribunal. He expressed frustration over the lack

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allowances, medical benefits, and festival bonuses for non-government teachers.

At a separate event at Jatiya Press Club, the Bangladesh Teachers Association Federation demanded 20 percent of the national budget be allocated to education and the retirement age raised to 65.

The adviser also criticised the corruption and political manipulation in private school and college appointments and urged for a well-planned national education policy. He advocated for the inclusion of recent student uprisings in textbooks.

Despite a 22 day teachers' movement in 2023, speakers expressed frustration over unfulfilled government promises.

BTAF President Principal Muhammad Yunus Molla and Senior Joint Convener Muhammad Jahangir Khan spoke at the event.

No more 'Bhater Hotel' in DB office

Says its additional commissioner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rezaul Karim Mallik, additional commissioner of DMP's Detective Branch, yesterday said there will no longer be any "Aynagar" (house of mirrors) or "Bhater Hotel" (eatery) in the DB office.

Speaking at a "Meet the Press" at the DMP Media Centre, Rezaul, in his first formal address since assuming the role, vowed to reform DB's image.

He said that the "disgraced chapter" of DB would end, and the office would become "a place of justice and accountability".

The DB office will not serve as a hangout spot for celebrities and authorities will not tolerate any "Bhater Hotel" there, he added.

The DB chief emphasised that all accused individuals, regardless of their identities and status, will receive fair treatment, and no one under arrest will face torture. He stressed that the DB should not instill fear in the public, only in criminals.

The DB chief said his mission is to uphold justice, professionalism, and integrity throughout his tenure and make the DB a trusted institution, a refuge for victims in a "new Bangladesh".

He further assured that injustice, oppression, or

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DURGA PUJA

'Ensure a peaceful festival'

40 eminent citizens urge gov't

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forty eminent citizens yesterday demanded that the government take necessary steps so that people of Hindu community can celebrate the Durga Puja peacefully.

The citizens, who included university teachers, lawyers and rights activists, also demanded that legal action should be taken against the people attempting to create communal tension centring the festival.

In a statement, they also urged all citizens and students, irrespective of their caste and creed, to unitedly stand against the miscreants trying to create communal tension.

The statement, citing government data, said

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Adequate security measures taken

Says army chief; more than 2 lakh Ansar, VDP members deployed at 32,000 mandaps

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff General Waker-Uz Zaman yesterday said army has taken appropriate measures to ensure safety and security of all during the Durga Puja, while maintaining law and order.

As part of these efforts, the army has been deployed across the country at district levels, said a press release by Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR).

Waker-Uz Zaman visited Dhakeshwari temple yesterday to observe the security measures in place for the celebration of Durga Puja. During the visit, he extended greetings to the Hindu community on the occasion of Durga Puja.

He also exchanged views with the president and other members of the Metropolitan Universal Puja Committee and the Bangladesh Puja Celebration Council who were present at the event.

Meanwhile, more than two lakh members of Ansar and VDP will be deployed at over 32,000 puja mandaps (pavilions) across the country from today.

In response to directives from the Ministry of Home Affairs, the headquarters of the Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party has already provided guidance to field-level officers, personnel, Ansar battalion

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This road in Dhaka's Malibagh area remains waterlogged and littered with debris after rainfall, a recurring issue that brings daily hardship to pedestrians and vehicles alike. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN