



"Occupation forces have taken three hospitals out of medical service because of the repeated attacks... and destroyed parts of them." Says Munir Al-Bursh, director of health ministry in Gaza Strip

The Daily Star

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

SECOND EDITION



DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 25, 2024

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXIV No. 334

POUSH 10, 1431 BS

www.thedailystar.net

JAMADIUS SANI 22, 1446 HIJRI

20 PAGES : Tk 15.00

Restoration of caretaker system to be proposed

Constitution reform commission likely to submit report Jan 7

MD ABBAS

The restoration of the caretaker government and the introduction of a bicameral system in parliament will be among the recommendations to be proposed by the Constitution Reform Commission.

The commission, led by political scientist Ali Riaz, is likely to recommend the inclusion of equality, human dignity, and social justice in the preamble to the constitution.

Its proposal, which is currently being prepared along with the rationale, is scheduled to submit its recommendations by January 7.

"I would say the biggest consensus we received is on the caretaker government. If I were to say 100 percent, it would not be an exaggeration," Riaz told The Daily Star.

Additionally, the commission will propose a two-term limit for the office and curbing the prime minister's absolute power.

It will also recommend establishing a balance of power between the prime minister and the president.

The commission plans to strengthen the parliamentary standing

Additionally, the commission will propose a two-term limit for the office and curbing the prime minister's absolute power.

committees to enhance their ability to monitor and hold the government and the prime minister accountable.

It will also recommend repealing Article 70 of the constitution.

Asked whether the commission is amending or rewriting the constitution, Riaz clarified that it is not drafting a new constitution but rather compiling recommendations so that the constitution would guarantee that no one can snatch the voting rights of the masses and no potential autocrat can grab power.

So far, the commission has received proposals from 28 political entities, including 25 political parties and three alliances.

It has also held discussions with 43 organisations, including civil society groups, some of which have provided written submissions.

Moreover, the commission consulted seven constitutional experts and sought opinions from 27 prominent citizens.

It also took opinions from 10 youths who contributed songs, poems

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



'TIS THE SEASON ... The nativity scene -- a special exhibition, particularly during Christmas season, of art objects representing the birth of Jesus Christ -- shining bright at The Saint Mary's Cathedral in the capital's Kakrail on Christmas Eve yesterday.

PHOTO: ARUN DEVNATH

'We're not drafting constitution'

Says Ali Riaz

MD ABBAS

Ali Riaz, a distinguished Bangladeshi-American political scientist and acclaimed author heading the constitution reform commission, sat down with Star to inform on the commission's progress and some of the key consensus obtained.

DS: What is the progress of the commission?

AR: We have been entrusted with two main tasks: one is to review the existing constitution

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3



Next step after reply from Delhi

Says foreign ministry spokesperson about Hasina's extradition

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka will send a reminder letter to New Delhi if the Indian government does not respond to the diplomatic note sent on Monday regarding the extradition of ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

"So far, we have not received any response from

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

We will safeguard rights of all people

Yunus tells US nat'l security adviser

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus and US National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan during a phone conversation on Monday expressed their commitment to respecting and protecting the human rights of all people, regardless of religion.

Sullivan re-iterated the United States' support for a prosperous, stable, and democratic Bangladesh, and offered the United States' continued support in meeting the challenges Bangladesh faces, said a White House readout.

Sullivan thanked Yunus for his leadership during the challenging period.

Chief Adviser's Press Wing in a statement yesterday said both the

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4



The first Dhaka-Khulna train to use the Padma Bridge was formally inaugurated yesterday at the capital's Kamalapur station. It takes less than four hours for the train to travel between the two cities. Before the bridge was built, the journey used to take almost eight hours. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

Six factories of S Alam Group closed
Shortage of raw materials cited for temporary closure



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Six factories of the controversial business giant S Alam Group in Chattogram were abruptly shut down yesterday until further notice.

The factories declared closed are S Alam Refined

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Advisory council okays draft of new cyber security act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government's advisory council yesterday passed the draft of the Cyber Surokkha Adhyadesh 2024 to ensure the security of vulnerable people in cyberspace.

The new cyber security law "will protect media freedom", said Shafiqul Alam, the chief adviser's press secretary, at a briefing.

All controversial sections of the previous law that were used by the last government to muzzle the press and dissent voices have been dropped in the new draft of the cyber security law, he said.

"The new law will in no way curtail the freedom of the press. You can be sure of this -- we want to make cyberspace safe for all vulnerable people in the country. There are incidents of many people being cheated -- many women and children are being bullied," he added.

On November 7, the advisory council decided in principle to repeal the Cyber Security Act which has been used

to curb press freedom and suppress political dissent.

In September 2023, parliament passed the CSA, replacing the Digital Security Act (DSA) 2018.

Rights defenders and journalists pointed out at the time that the provisions used to repress dissent were carried over from the DSA to the CSA.

The advisory council also decided to implement the recommendation from the "Promotion Committee for Retired Officers Deprived of Promotion", Alam said.

Earlier this month, the committee in its report recommended the promotion of 764 retired officials to various ranks, including deputy secretary, joint secretary, additional secretary and secretary with retrospective effect.

The officials, who retired between 2009 and August 4 this year, believe that they had been deprived by the AL regime.

The government started the legal process to extradite the fallen autocrat

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

ফজলুর রহমান
(১৯৪৭-২০২৩)
প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান ও ম্যানেজিং ডিরেক্টর

কীর্তি তোমার রবে
চিরকাল

সিটি গ্রুপের স্বপ্নদ্রষ্টা জনাব ফজলুর রহমানের
প্রথম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে আমাদের শ্রদ্ধাঞ্জলি