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Hurting Talha 'living the dream' of forging fast bowlers

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Reform now at crucial stage

Interim govt completes 6 months amid a host of challenges

TANIM AHMED and MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR

Poised on the cusp of discussions on its much-promised reforms, the interim government completes six months in office following a wave of turbulence.

The six major reform commissions are set to submit their full set of proposals today while Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus's government grapples with restoring order as angry protesters have torn down symbols of Awami League's autocratic regime.

Prof Yunus faces perhaps the most crucial phase as head of the interim government that took power on August 8, 2024 after former prime minister Sheikh Hasina fled to India after facing a popular uprising. Since then, the Nobel Peace laureate, who took over the helm of Bangladesh amid high expectations, has pledged "reforms followed by election" almost every time he was asked about an electoral roadmap.

Now that the recommendations to reform the constitution, electoral system, judiciary, civil service, police and the Anti Corruption Commission are in, Prof Yunus faces the challenging task of reaching a political consensus before he can proceed with the election.

During the last 15 years of Awami League's absolute ironclad rule, it had rendered the parliament a rubber stamp, destroyed the electoral system, politicised the civil service and judiciary, severely eroding their integrity, and instituted a state-sponsored system of rampant corruption. It will now be the political parties who decide on the extent of reforms on each front.

Since expectations for reforms and ideological stance on key issues diverge sharply across the political spectrum, the challenge of achieving consensus is formidable.

But that is not the only challenge the Yunus-led interim government faces.

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People taking away iron rods and whatever salvageable material they can find from the ruins of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence on Dhanmondi 32 yesterday after its demolition by protesters.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Stop attacks on assets linked to AL or any citizen

Yunus urges all to respect rule of law, help establish peace, order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus calls on all citizens "to immediately restore complete law and order and to ensure there will be no further attacks on properties" associated with the family of Sheikh Hasina and politicians of the fascist Awami League party or against any citizen on any pretext.

The anger of the activists who have attacked properties is understandable because they and their relatives and friends lived through years of tyranny under Hasina, said a statement released by the chief adviser's press wing yesterday.

The government understands the activists' sense of outrage that even from her refuge in New Delhi, Hasina continues to try to mobilise her militants to hamper Bangladesh's recovery from years of abuse under her leadership.



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Dhanmondi 32 now lies in ruins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Only a three-storey skeleton remains to haunt road 32 in Dhanmondi. Once Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence, the house had become a symbol of tyranny for many. Today it stands in ruins as angry protesters swooped in on Wednesday.

Scrap collectors were taking away the iron rods and bricks from the debris while curious people looked on yesterday.

A middle-aged man was using a hacksaw to cut rods from chunks of concrete in the morning. By midday, he had collected almost 10kg of rods. A woman was picking up anything made of metal from a pile of rubble.

There were several others, low-

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BNP worried over law and order

Party leaders may meet chief adviser this week, convey concerns

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is likely to hold talks with Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus this week and express concerns over the country's "deteriorating" law and order situation, especially the demolition of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's residence in Dhanmondi, say several party leaders.

They fear that these attacks and vandalism in the last two days could pose a serious threat to national stability and disrupt the upcoming national election.

The leaders also think that these attacks could be "well-planned", not just mere expressions of outrage.

They said that such incidents could create a chaotic situation for the country and could benefit the Awami League instead.

The party plans to express its position on the current situation and urge the government to take immediate steps to restore law and order.

The meeting with the chief adviser is slated for February 10 with a delegation led by Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir, who will return home from the US tomorrow, according to party sources.

The issues were discussed during a meeting of the Standing Committee, the highest policymaking body of the BNP, at its chairperson's Gulshan office yesterday. BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman presided over the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Trump sanctions ICC for 'baseless' Israel, US probes

The world court vows to continue 'providing justice'

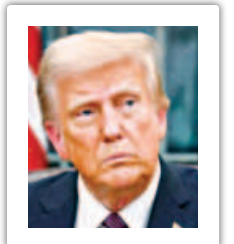
AGENCIES

US President Donald Trump on Thursday authorised economic and travel sanctions targeting people who work on International Criminal Court (ICC) investigations of US citizens or US allies such as Israel, repeating action he took during his first term.

ICC condemned the sanctions yesterday and called on its 125 member states to support its staff.

"The court stands firmly by its personnel and pledges to continue providing justice and hope to millions

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



A policeman snatching a banner from demonstrators in front of the chief adviser's residence, Jamuna, yesterday. They gathered to protest against a High Court verdict that cancelled their appointment as assistant teachers at government primary schools. Inset, some female protesters try to shield themselves from jets of water.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS



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