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A charter of reforms for next govt

Consensus commission decides at maiden meet

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The National Consensus Commission will come up with a charter based on its talks with political parties, and the next government will implement the short- and long-term reforms in line with that charter.

At the first meeting of the consensus commission yesterday, Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said the goal of the reforms should be eliminating the legal and institutional frameworks that allow one to become an autocrat.

"In the past, autocrats took advantage of the loopholes in the legal and institutional frameworks. The reforms will be designed to ensure that all systems and institutions function in an orderly manner," Yunus, also chief of the



Political leaders and others join the National Consensus Commission's inaugural meeting, chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

POLITICAL PARTY BY UPRISING PARTICIPANTS

New student body may also be launched

It will be 'independent, autonomous'

AN APOLOGY TO OUR READERS

We deeply regret and most sincerely apologise to our readers, patrons and well-wishers for our report on US President Trump's meeting with Indian Prime Minister Modi in Washington, published online on February 14. We recognise that our coverage of President Trump's reference to Bangladesh was inaccurate and misleading. The moment we found out about the mistake, we corrected it. We have also thoroughly investigated the matter and taken measures in the digital newsroom to prevent such errors in future.

This paper's editorial policy from its very inception has strongly supported all aspects of Bangladesh's

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ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The July uprising participants are set to launch their much-anticipated new political party in the last week of this month, and they may also announce a new student organisation.

Initially, the party and the student organisation are expected to announce their convening committees. Nahid Islam, a key organiser of the anti-discrimination student movement and an adviser to the interim government, will likely take on a significant role in the new party, either as the convener or member secretary.

Besides, Jatiya Nagorik Committee Convener Nasir Uddin Patwary, Member Secretary Akhter Hossen and Chief Organiser Sarjis Alam, and Students

Against Discrimination Convener Hasnat Abdullah may assume other key positions in the party, five leaders of the civic and students' platforms told The Daily Star.

The two platforms held a series of meetings over the last few weeks to discuss the top posts of the new political party.

"The consensus so far is that Nahid Islam will be the convener of the new party. However, it all depends on Nahid's decision," said two key leaders of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, requesting to be

unnamed.

Two other student representatives in the government -- Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan and Mahfuj Alam -- may join the party as well.

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Adviser Nahid may become convener of new party

Hasnat, Hannan, Umama likely to contest polls

Abu Baker, Abdul Kader may lead new student body

Work ongoing to choose name, draft charter

No one from AL will be allowed in

Abu Sayed's autopsy report altered 6 times Doctor alleges coercion

SHARIFUL ISLAM and
SIRAJUL ISLAM RUBEL

The world saw how Abu Sayed was shot by policemen from across the street. His outstretched arms brandishing a tree branch in one, his chest pushed out in defiance, the young Rangpur undergrad had dared the police to shoot. And shoot they did.

Soon afterwards, he collapsed on the street and then was carried away by other protesters. For the millions who watched the clip, it was clearly evident how he died on July 16, 2024. Sayed became an icon of resistance in the uprising almost overnight.

An assistant professor of forensic medicine at the Rangpur Medical College, Dr Rajibul Islam, had clearly



stated in his initial report that Sayed had died from shotgun pellet wounds. The doctor was forced to change his findings six times as external forces closed in.

He had to mention external head injuries, other wounds, and blood clots in various parts of Sayed's body. His final "conclusion" for the cause of death was shock and haemorrhage resulting from these injuries.

The case is currently being investigated by the International Crimes Tribunal (ICT). Investigators say the doctor has named four people closely linked with the deposed Awami League regime who forced his hand. They include two former deputy commissioners of Rangpur Metropolitan Police, a senior official of Rangpur Medical College, and a leader of the pro-Awami League doctors' platform Swadhinata Chikitsa Parishad (Swachip). Investigators say that the four people involved in manipulating the post-mortem report

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consensus commission, said at the meeting held at the Foreign Service Academy.

He urged some 100 leaders from 26 political parties to seize this opportunity to build a new Bangladesh so that future generations remember their contributions.

The sacrifices made by the students and masses should not go in vain, he said.

The consensus commission was formed to review and adopt the recommendations made by six key reform commissions.

The beginning of the talks marks the conclusion of the first phase of the interim government, the chief adviser said in his opening remarks.

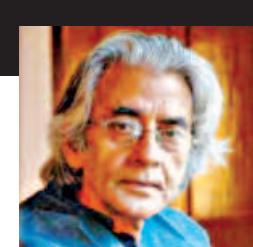
"Reform commissions have made their suggestions. Now it is our duty to decide how many of these we accept, how quickly we adopt them, and how we proceed."

The discussions on reforms are not academic, he said, addressing the political parties. "It is your responsibility. You represent the people and you must decide how to fix the structure of the society."

Yunus said the interim government took power amid disorder. But support from people and political parties enabled it to face challenges.

"There could be some fresh turmoil. Those who had been rejected and ousted by the people are desperate to return. We need to stay united, strong, and focused."

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Pratul Mukhopadhyay (1942-2025)

Legendary voice of 'Ami Banglay Gaan Gai' no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The music world mourns the loss of a truly remarkable figure, Pratul Mukhopadhyay, the legendary singer-songwriter who passed away on Saturday at the age of 83 after a prolonged illness. Forever etched in the hearts of Bengalis, he is immortalized by his iconic songs "Ami Banglay Gaan Gai" and "Dinga Bhashao Sagore," which continue to stir deep emotions. His music, intricately connected to

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The Jurain level crossing area has become a major traffic bottleneck, with commuters regularly trapped in gridlock caused by the overwhelming numbers of street vendors and CNG-run autorickshaws.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

DCs may push for greater control over police

BAHARAM KHAN

At least two DCs have sent proposals to the cabinet division ahead of the Deputy Commissioners' Conference today seeking full control over superintendents of police and officers-in-charge.

Currently, DCs and upazila nirkhi officers (UNO) head the law-and-order committees at the district and upazila levels, but they do not have authority over the annual confidential reports (ACR) of SPs and OCs.

Until 1977, this power was vested in the DCs. Despite multiple attempts to reclaim this authority over the years, no government has reinstated it.

"This is the right time to establish DCs' control over SPs and OCs in field administration," said a top administrative official on the condition of anonymity.

Political governments tend to divide power strategically to keep both DCs and SPs under their influence. However, an interim government can implement such decisions more easily, he said.

While DCs at the district level and UNOs at the upazila level are responsible for law and order, they lack official control over law enforcement agencies, said the Sathkhira DC in his proposal. This often makes it difficult to implement decisions effectively.

"To address this issue, the ACRs of law enforcement officials should be placed under the control of the DCs and UNOs," he said.

Similarly, the Gaibandha DC emphasised the need for police performance evaluation by the district magistrate.

"As the district magistrate, the DC is the head of the District Law-and-Order Committee and is accountable for maintaining law and order. Therefore, an assessment of police activities by the district magistrate is necessary."

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