

Pledge made to build a 'second republic'

Uprising leaders launch National Citizen Party; 171-member committee formed

MASHFIQ MIZAN and ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

The young leaders behind the successful mass uprising against Sheikh Hasina officially launched the National Citizen Party (NCP) yesterday, declaring their vision for a "second republic".

The thousands in attendance cheered as Nahid Islam, the convener of the newly formed party, vowed to reshape Bangladesh's political landscape at a rally to mark the launch on Manik Mia Avenue in Dhaka.

He said that in this envisioned political order, the common people—and only the common people—will be the supreme source of power. He emphasised that the NCP's core mission is to dismantle constitutional autocracy and establish a robust democratic framework.

To achieve this, the party, styled Jatiya Nagorik Party in Bangla, demanded that the next national election be held for a constituent assembly to draft a new constitution.

Pledging sweeping reforms, the NCP vowed to rebuild political and economic institutions, combat corruption and nepotism, and prioritise inclusion, equity, and national sovereignty. In a rallying call to the people, the party urged citizens to unite in the struggle for democracy and

justice, promising a future where power truly belongs to the people.

This is the first time in Bangladesh's history that a political party has emerged directly from the heart of a mass uprising—led by the very youth who spearheaded it. Never before has a youth-driven party been founded with such momentum and public enthusiasm.

Nahid affirmed that the NCP will be a truly democratic, egalitarian, and people-centered political force.

Rejecting the influence of external political alignments, he said Bangladesh would never be divided again.

"There will be no room for pro-India or pro-Pakistan politics in Bangladesh. We will build our politics and our state together, with the sole focus on Bangladesh and the interests of its people," he said.

Reflecting on the unity forged during the July-August mass uprising last year, Nahid emphasised that the people had successfully resisted attempts to weaken Bangladesh through divisive politics.

"From this stage today, we vow that Bangladesh will never be divided again."

With a shared belief that the day would mark the beginning of something new, students, activists, young professionals,

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A drone shot of the crowd at the rally marking the official launch of National Citizen Party on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital yesterday. The party is led by individuals who played key roles in protests that ended the Sheikh Hasina regime.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

What does a second republic mean?

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

In its first statement to the people, the National Citizen Party clearly declared a vision for a second republic in Bangladesh. Speaking at the party's inauguration, Nahid Islam, the top leader of the party read out the declaration which outlines the ideals and principles of his centrist party. But what is this second republic?

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New constitution for new Bangladesh

Says NCP in its declaration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nahid Islam delivered a speech after the formal announcement launching of National Citizen Party and the leaders of the party said the convener's speech is NCP's "declaration".

The following is an English translation of Nahid's speech.

In the context of the July 2024 uprising and under the leadership of the Students Against Discrimination and initiative of the Jatiya Nagorik Committee, the students and masses of Bangladesh, hereby declare: We, the people of the Bengal delta, bear a rich and distinct culture shaped over a thousand years of historical evolution. After nearly 200 years of British colonial rule, the state of Pakistan was established in 1947 following a long struggle.

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Explain how Hasina, others managed to flee

BNP decides to demand from govt

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP has decided to demand an explanation from the interim government regarding how Sheikh Hasina and her associates managed to flee Bangladesh after the fall of the Awami League government on August 5.

Party leaders criticised the delay in prosecuting and punishing identified

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