

## July Charter

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"We hope that by continuing this dialogue, we will be able to prepare a National Charter. The commission's tenure ends on July 14, and we aim to complete our work by then. One of our main goals is the July Charter, which will outline a roadmap for the future of Bangladesh. Holding the next election is a part of this process."

Prof Riaz also said the July Charter would play an important role in ensuring free and fair elections.

The NCC met with Nagarik Oikya after 3:00pm yesterday. A 10-member delegation from Nagarik Oikya, led by its presidium member Zillur Chowdhury Dipu, took part in the meeting.

During the discussion, Dipu said, "Since independence, the people's aspirations for freedom and democracy have remained largely unfulfilled. After 54 years, the current government's initiative to establish democracy is a groundbreaking step."

"We believe that through this process, people will achieve the democracy, justice, and good governance they desire -- in short, a complete democracy," he added.

Referring to the commission's spreadsheet seeking feedback, Dipu said, "Out of 166 proposals, we agreed with 114, partially agreed with 11, and disagreed with the rest. We hope to learn the reasoning behind each proposal during this discussion."

## Maternal health at risk

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attributed the country's maternal mortality reduction to government efforts in improving women's economic and educational status, enhancing emergency care, increasing skilled birth attendance, expanding family planning, and strengthening the community health worker network.

"However, echoing global concerns in the UN report, Bangladesh's progress is now at risk," the press release emphasised. Ahmed Jamsheed Mohamed, WHO Representative to Bangladesh, said, "We've made significant strides in expanding maternal health services, but inequities persist -- especially among women in remote, rural, and low-income communities."

"We must act swiftly to ensure every woman, regardless of where she lives, has access to the life-saving care she needs during pregnancy and childbirth," he said.

The WHO remains committed to supporting Bangladesh in strengthening its health system, investing in the healthcare workforce, and ensuring continued progress toward ending preventable maternal deaths, it added.

"Eliminating preventable maternal deaths demands solidarity, investment, and sustained action," he said.

The leading causes of maternal death in Bangladesh include obstetric haemorrhage, hypertensive disorders, unsafe abortions, and other indirect complications.

Compounding these risks, Bangladesh has one of the highest rates of out-of-pocket health spending globally -- accounting for 74 percent of total health expenditure.

This burden pushes around five million people into poverty each year, leaving many expectant mothers without the resources to meet their health needs.

To address this, UNICEF and WHO stress the importance of strong health systems, including well-equipped facilities, a skilled healthcare workforce, and reliable access to life-saving medicines, diagnostic tools, and supplies.

"As Bangladesh celebrates its progress in maternal health, the looming threat of funding cuts highlights the fragility of these gains," the release said.

Sustained commitment from national and international development partners is essential to protect the lives of pregnant women and ensure continued progress toward ending preventable maternal deaths, it added.

extremely remote and lacks mobile network coverage, news of the abduction only came to light yesterday morning. The incident was then reported to Lama Police Station, the locals added.

Lama Police Station Officer-in-charge Tofazzal Hossain said that a joint rescue operation by the army and police has been ongoing since the abduction.

On February 1, a similar incident occurred in the same area, where seven woodcutters were abducted during the night. They were later released after a ransom of Tk 8 lakh was paid.

and the Arakan Army are involved in repatriation talks. Rohingya verification is ongoing under the bilateral agreement signed by Bangladesh and Myanmar in 2018, which remains in effect.

While acknowledging that Myanmar is a sovereign state, he said discussions have also been held with the Arakan Army, which has declared its support for the return of Rohingyas.

"They reaffirmed this position during our talks last September," he said.

"We believe arrangements can be made to repatriate 1,80,000 Rohingyas who have been verified," he added.

To facilitate dialogue with the Arakan Army, Khalilur said the UN is acting as an intermediary. "Being non-state actors, the Arakan Army is not bound by the norms of governing states. Ensuring accountability is therefore crucial."

He said UN involvement lends credibility and neutrality to the peace process and envisioned humanitarian aid.

Myanmar have so far verified 1,80,000 Rohingyas for repatriation from a list of 8,00,000 provided by Bangladesh in six phases between 2018 and 2020. Verification of an additional 70,000 is ongoing, while the remaining 5,50,000 are expected to be processed soon, he added.

The humanitarian crisis in Rakhine affects both Rohingyas and the Rakhine community. Many are starving and without medical care. The international community has a responsibility to support both sides."

"Bangladesh remains the only viable conduit for delivering aid, given that Rakhine's coast remains under Tatmadaw control."

Regarding Bangladesh's role in promoting peace in Arakan, Khalilur said Bangladesh is working with international organisations and various nations to address the humanitarian crisis and restore stability in the region.

"For any meaningful progress, a ceasefire between the warring parties is crucial," he added.

Khalilur confirmed that

## 3 lemurs stolen

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requesting police to register the case. This matter has been reported to the Superintendent of Police in Gazipur through the Divisional Forest Officer," said Md Rafiqul Islam, in charge of Gazipur Safari Park.

"Also, after April 5, two birds were stolen. Both were later recovered, but one was found dead. There are more than 1,300 animals of different species in the park. However, the boundary wall is low, making it easy to steal animals by entering the park and cutting the net at night. We do not have any security guard. The CCTV cameras were also found broken after April 5. Security has been beefed up at night. New CCTV cameras will be installed," he also said.

JCD activists also observed similar protest programmes in different other districts in Chuadanga and Nilphamari, among others.

Bangladesh Judicial Service Association yesterday condemned Israeli operations in Gaza.

In Sunamganj, several cultural organisations also

## Nation continues

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Rafah, and other regions of Palestine, and urged international community to play an effective role to protect Palestinians.

"Israel and its allies continue this genocide, trampling upon all principles of international law, human rights, and the laws of war, while the global community remains a silent spectator...," read a BJS statement, undersigned by its president Md Amirul Islam and secretary general Muhammad Mazharul Islam.

In Chandpur, lawyers under the banner of Bangladesh Lawyers' Council also held a protest rally in the morning in front of the district court.

In Sunamganj, several cultural organisations also

## 1.4m lack

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(DSK), WaterAid, Global Center on Adaptation, CWasa, and Chattogram City Corporation.

Presenting the keynote, Mamun Chowdhury, a researcher at DSK, said Chattogram is facing growing water scarcity due to rising salinity levels.

He noted that CCC wards 19, 20, 29, 30, and 35 are the most vulnerable.

Babul Bala of WaterAid said the impact of climate change is intensifying in Bangladesh and stressed that public awareness is essential to tackle the challenge.

Sharmin Jahan, additional commissioner of Chattogram Division, and Nurul Karim, chairman of Chatogram Wasa, also spoke at the event, which was chaired by Abdul Hakim of DSK.

## INVITATION FOR TENDER

**Pubali Bank PLC**, the largest private commercial Bank in Bangladesh is hereby inviting sealed Tenders from the eligible Tenderers, who can participate in any of the following tenders, but in separate envelope as defined in the tender documents of the under mentioned works as per terms & conditions stated below:

1. Civil, Electrical & Networking works at proposed premises (Ground & 1st floor) of our **Kalaiya Bandar Branch, Patuakhali**.
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3. Selling of Bank's 04 (four) old vehicles as mentioned below:

SI No.	Registration No.	Brand, CC & Year
01	Dhaka Metro Cha-53-3305	Toyota Liteace Microbus (KR42), CC-1800 Year-2006
02	Dhaka Metro Cha-54-1259	Toyota Townace Microbus (KR42), CC-1800 Year-2003
03	Dhaka Metro GA-23-8214	Toyota Corolla G Car, CC-1500, Year-2004
04	Dhaka Metro GA-37-3084	Toyota AXIO G Car, CC-1500, Year-2009

Please visit our web site, <https://www.publibangla.com/tender.asp> for details. Interested parties may purchase their Tender document by **17 April, 2025** duly filled up all requirements at office hour and submit their offer in the Tender Box by **20 April, 2025** (before 11.00 A.M). Tender will be opened on **20 April, 2025** at 11:30 A.M.

**Md. Kamruzzaman**  
General Manager & Division Head

**Establishment & General Services Division**  
Head office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka.



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