



Now, if for some reason one of the two parties makes it very difficult, we're just going to say, 'you're foolish, you're fools, you're horrible people, and we're going to just take a pass'.
Donald Trump on Ukraine talks

The Daily Star

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SECOND EDITION



DHAKA SUNDAY APRIL 20, 2025

REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 92

BAISHAKH 7, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SHAWWAL 21, 1446 HJURI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



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Eliminate gender disparities in laws

Women's Affairs Reform Commission pitches a slew of changes

NILIMA JAHAN

The Women's Affairs Reforms Commission has proposed a series of comprehensive reforms to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women embedded in the country's laws, constitution, policies, and institutions.

The 10-member commission yesterday submitted a report containing 433 recommendations, grouped under 15 thematic areas and categorised into three groups, to Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus.

"There are those [recommendations] that can be implemented by the current government, those for the next elected government, and a separate section outlining the hopes," Shireen Huq, the commission's chief, said at a press conference at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital.

Among the commission's most notable proposals are the elimination of all discriminatory and contradictory constitutional provisions and laws, and the adoption of a uniform family code to ensure equal rights in marriage, divorce, inheritance, and maintenance for women across all religions.

The commission also urged the effective implementation and strengthening of the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act-2010, including increasing penalties and ensuring the resolution of divorce



Toxic industrial waste has devastated Tangail's Louhajang River, wiping out all aquatic life since mills and factories were established along its banks nearly three decades ago. Once a source of life, the river is now a burden for locals, who continue to seek action from authorities in vain. The photo was taken from Sadar upazila's Khudirampur area recently. PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL

Will hold 'best election' in nation's history

Reiterates Yunus before ANFREL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday expressed his commitment to ensuring that the upcoming national election will be the best in Bangladesh's history.

According to a statement from the chief adviser's press wing, Yunus assured the Asian Network for Free Elections (ANFREL) that Bangladesh would hold a free and fair election between December 2025 and June 2026.

"We want to make sure the election will be the best in Bangladesh's history and a milestone for the country's democratic journey," he said during a meeting with an ANFREL delegation at the State

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Star INTERVIEW

'BNP's 31-point charter embodies public will'

Mahdi Amin, a former academic at the University of Cambridge, is in demand these days. As the adviser to BNP acting chairperson Tarique Rahman, people want to sit him down to learn of the latter's plans, policies and thoughts. Earlier this month, he met with The Daily Star's Zina Tasreen for an interview.

Before talks of reforms became the de rigueur, the BNP and its acting chairman Tarique Rahman have been talking about it. So the question on everyone's mind is why the party opposed some of the proposals by the six reform commissions.

"Many of the proposals that we vetoed seem experimental -- there are hardly any examples of those occurring anywhere in the world. We believe changes have to be sustainable and practical and in keeping with the culture and nature of the people of the land," Amin said.

For instance, the constitution reform commission proposed to establish a National Constitutional Council (NCC) with a majority of opposition representatives, alongside assigning opposition parliamentarians to lead all parliamentary committees.

"Allocating more seats to opposition parties than the ruling party within the NCC contradicts the electoral principle that the majority party should hold greater influence."

This structure could grant disproportionate leverage to opposition parties, potentially enabling them to obstruct government policies or destabilise governance if they do not act responsibly.



If the BNP forms the government at this moment, Tarique Rahman has a concrete plan for what would be done in the first 100 days, 180 days and 360 days.

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BANGLADESH CONSTITUTION

Do we need any fundamental principles at all?

Says NCP during talks with consensus commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Stating that political parties have embedded their own ideologies as fundamental principles in the Constitution of Bangladesh, the National Citizen Party has questioned whether there should be any fundamental principles in the charter at all.

"In 1972, the Awami League included its own ideologies as fundamental principles in the Constitution. Later, several parties added their own ideologies through amendments," NCP Convener Nahid Islam told reporters after he and several other leaders of the party met the members of National Consensus Commission at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban.

"We questioned whether we need fundamental principles in the constitution, and whether we can think of another framework. Our constitution already declares Bangladesh a people's republic and a democratic state, and it also mentions the fundamental rights. Is there any need for additional fundamental principles?"

NCP Joint Convener Sarwar Tusher said lawmakers should be allowed to vote against party lines through amending Article 70 of the constitution.

The right to cross the floor is one of the conditions of an effective parliament, he said, adding that the only

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- ➔ Expand parliament to 600 seats with 300 seats for directly elected women
- ➔ Introduce a uniform family code ensuring equal rights for men and women regardless of religion or ethnicity
- ➔ Establish help desks for women, children, elderly, and persons with special needs in courts and police stations
- ➔ Provide 6 month paid maternity leave and daycare centres in workplaces
- ➔ Recognise domestic and sex workers as workers under labour laws

cases within three years.

To guarantee equal rights for mothers in matters of guardianship and custody, it called for amendments to the Guardians and Wards Act-1890.

The commission proposed that the government withdraw its reservations to articles 2 and 16.1(g) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which ensure legal equality in marriage and divorce. Additionally, it called for the ratification and implementation of the International Labour Organization's Conventions C189 and C190 on domestic workers' rights and protection from workplace violence and harassment.

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Interpol red notice sought for Hasina, 11 others



UNB, Dhaka

The National Central Bureau (NCB) of Bangladesh Police has submitted a request to Interpol seeking a "red notice" against 12 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Confirming the development, Enamul Haque Sagor, assistant inspector general (media) at the Police Headquarters (PHQ), said the NCB branch makes such requests to Interpol based on appeals received from courts, public prosecutors, or investigating agencies.

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A traffic control volunteer rushes across the Gulshan-1 intersection to stop a battery-run rickshaw from entering. Battery-run rickshaws were banned from all roads in Gulshan-1 and Gulshan-2 from yesterday morning, with only registered pedal rickshaws now permitted.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

JULY UPRISING A martyr without a country

The state won't recognise 17-yr-old Nur Mostofa as he was a Rohingya

MASHFIQ MIZAN

Last year, 17-year-old Nur Mostofa, like many of his peers, took to the streets, standing shoulder to shoulder with the masses to protest the killings of hundreds at the hands of law enforcers during the July uprising and to demand the resignation of then-prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

On August 5, when he joined the protest ignoring his father's warnings, Mostofa was shot in front of Eidgaon Police Station in Cox's Bazar. He died in a hospital a day later.

However, the local authorities refused Mostofa the martyr status reserved for the fallen heroes of the movement.

What was his fault? Why couldn't he get the recognition for the ultimate sacrifice?

Mostofa was a Rohingya and not legally a citizen of the country, despite being born and raised here.

His father, Shafiqul Alam, fled persecution in Myanmar and settled in Eidgaon upazila of Cox's Bazar in 1992. It was there his wife, Nur Begum, gave birth to Mostofa in 2007.

His birth certificate was issued by the Islamabad Union Parishad in 2008. However, he was not granted citizenship because Bangladesh does not grant citizenship to children born of non-citizen parents.



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