



Parties split over ‘pluralism’, nat’l constitutional council

Consensus Commission has so far held talks with 23 political parties and platforms

MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission’s talks with major political parties have yielded a broad consensus on key issues such as caretaker government system and a bicameral parliament, but the parties remain divided on some sensitive questions.

Through a 166-point questionnaire, the commission seeks input on changes to the constitution, electoral and anti-corruption systems, judiciary and public administration. These will

lay the groundwork for a reform charter based on the spirit of the July uprising of 2024, aiming to ensure democratic stability and transparency.

The commission has sat with 23 political parties and platforms so far, with the three major players – the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the newly formed National Citizen Party (NCP) – responding in detail to some of the most crucial proposals.

The parties hold differing views on issues like “pluralism” in the constitution’s preamble and the separation of

prime minister and the Leader of the House.

The BNP has rejected the idea of “pluralism” in the preamble. Instead, it advocates the restoration of the phrase “absolute faith in Almighty Allah”, aligning with the pre-2011 version of the constitution.

The Jamaat also wants the phrase “absolute faith in Almighty Allah” in the preamble. Besides, the party partially agreed with the commission on “pluralism”, saying it prefers the inclusion of “multiculturalism” instead of “pluralism” to better

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Thousands of leaders and activists joined Hefazat-e-Islam’s grand rally at the capital’s Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday morning to press home their demands, including the withdrawal of cases against its leaders, the dissolution of the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission, and a ban on the Awami League.

PHOTO: STAR

REFORM PROPOSAL	BNP	JAMAAT	NCP
“Pluralism” in preamble to constitution	Opposed; prefers “absolute faith in Almighty Allah”	Prefers “multi-culturalism”; “absolute faith in Almighty Allah”	Agreed, but seeks different Bangla translation
Two-term cap on PM	Agreed on two terms in a row and a third after a pause	Agreed	Agreed
Separation of PM, Leader of the House	Opposed	Not finalised	Agreed
Formation of constitutional council	Opposed; says it curtails PM’s power	Agreed	Agreed; wants defence chief’s appointment by the council
Bicameral parliament	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed
Restoration of caretaker govt	Agreed	Agreed	Agreed
The chief justice will be the senior-most judge at SC	From 3 senior-most Appellate Division judges	Agreed	Agreed

Pakistan tests missile system

India bans imports, parcel services from Pakistan

AGENCIES

Pakistan’s military said it carried out a “training launch” of a surface-to-surface missile weapons system yesterday, further heightening tensions with India after last month’s deadly attack in disputed Kashmir.

New Delhi has blamed Islamabad for backing an attack on tourists last month in Indian-administered Kashmir, sparking a fresh stand-off between the nuclear-armed neighbours.

Pakistan’s military yesterday said it conducted a “successful training launch of the Abdali Weapon System”, a surface-to-surface missile with a range of 450 kilometres (279 miles).

“The launch was aimed at ensuring the operational readiness of

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Disband women’s reform commission

Demands Hefazat, unveils 12-point declaration, fresh programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hefazat-e-Islam yesterday announced a 12-point declaration, demanding the dissolution of the Women’s Affairs Reform Commission and cancellation of its report, which the platform says is “anti-Quran”.

It called for the formation of a new commission comprising Islamic scholars and representatives from “devout segments of the female population”.

Hefazat Naye-e-Ameer Mahfuzul Haque read out the declaration at a

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