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# Form task force to draft ‘Health Commission Act’

## Experts urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should fast-track the implementation process of the Health Reform Commission's recommendations, with priority on recognising primary healthcare as a fundamental right, overhauling the essential medicines list, and ensuring fair drug pricing, public health experts urged yesterday.

The call came at a discussion organised by the Institute of Health Economics of Dhaka University at Nabab Nawab Ali Chowdhury Senate Bhaban.

The speakers also urged the formation of a task force to draft a proposed “Bangladesh Health Commission Act”.

The Health Reform Commission, formed by the interim government on November 17 last year, submitted its final report on May 5.

The 322 page document outlines 32 major recommendations to reform the country's health system, focusing particularly on strengthening primary care, improving drug affordability, and enhancing governance.

Experts stressed the need for consensus between interim and political governments to ensure effective implementation. While acknowledging flaws in the report – including issues with language and coordination – speakers emphasised the urgency of progressing with actionable items.

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman, executive chairman of the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), who

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Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal staged a protest at the Shahbagh intersection in the capital yesterday, demanding justice for the murder of Dhaka University student and JCD leader Shahriar Alam Shammo.

PHOTO: STAR

### SHAMMO MURDER

## JCD again blocks Shahbagh

### Demands justice, resignation of VC

DU CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday staged a protest amid rain at the Shahbagh intersection in the capital, demanding justice for the murder of Dhaka University student and Chhatra Dal leader Shahriar Alam Shammo.

Following their previously announced schedule, Chhatra Dal leaders and activists began the blockade around 3:30pm. As a result, vehicular movement through the intersection came to a complete halt. The protest ended around 5:15pm.

Their demands included justice for Shammo's murder, the resignation of the vice-chancellor and proctor, and ensuring a safe campus.

JCD Central President Rakibul Islam Rakib, General Secretary Nasir Uddin Nasir, and leaders

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## Political parties yet to find common ground on key proposals

MD ABBAS

The first round of talks between the National Consensus Commission and 33 political parties concluded on Monday, with broad agreement on several reform principles – including the reintroduction of a non-partisan caretaker government, the formation of a bicameral parliament, independence of the judiciary, and a stronger Anti-Corruption Commission.

However, sharp disagreements remain on key constitutional reforms aimed at decentralising executive power and reshaping top leadership structures.

At the heart of the deadlock is the proposal to limit the prime minister's authority and bar any individual from holding the posts of prime minister, party chief, and leader of the house simultaneously.

The commission also proposed capping a person's premiership to two terms, which BNP rejected. The party instead suggested that a person could

KEY REFORM PROPOSALS: PARTY POSITIONS SUMMARY			
	BNP	JAMAAT	NCP
Reintroduction of non-partisan caretaker government	✔ Agree	✔ Agree	✔ Agree
Formation of bicameral parliament	✔ Agree (method unclear)	✔ Agree	✔ Agree
Term limit: Max two terms as Prime Minister	✘ Disagree (return after break)	✔ 10-year lifetime cap	✔ Agree
One person can't be PM, party chief & leader of House	✘ Disagree	✔ Agree	✔ Agree
Formation of National Constitutional Council (NCC)	✘ Strongly Oppose	✔ Agree (exclude president, CJ)	✔ Agree
Shift appointment power from PM to NCC	✘ Oppose	✔ Agree	✔ Agree
Separating Judicial secretariat from executive	✔ Agree (method unclear)	✔ Agree	✔ Agree
Strengthening Anti-Corruption Commission	✔ Agree	✔ Agree	✔ Agree

serve two consecutive terms, step aside, and later return.

It also opposed barring one person from holding multiple leadership roles, saying such decisions should be left to internal party mechanisms.

Jamaat-e-Islami proposed a lifetime limit of 10 years for anyone serving as prime minister and backed separating

the roles of PM and party chief. The National Citizens Party supported both the two-term cap and leadership separation.

**DISAGREEMENTS OVER NATIONAL CONSTITUTIONAL COUNCIL**

Another flashpoint was the commission's proposal to create a National Constitutional Council (NCC), comprising representatives

from the executive, legislature, and judiciary, to recommend appointments to constitutional positions, including heads of the armed forces.

Currently, the president is constitutionally bound to act on the prime minister's advice in such appointments.

The council would dilute this authority, shifting more

influence to a collective body – a change the BNP strongly opposed, arguing it would weaken elected governments.

Conversely, Jamaat and the NCP welcomed the idea.

However, Jamaat proposed that the president and chief justice be excluded from the council's composition.

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## HACKING ON CENTRAL ROAD

### Attempted murder case filed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A case has been filed with New Market Police Station after a youth was brutally attacked in public in the capital's Central Road area – an incident caught on CCTV and widely shared on social media.

The victim, Saif Hossain Munna, 35, a BNP activist and local resident, was hacked around 11:30pm on Sunday in the Bhuter Goli area.

He is now undergoing treatment at the National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation (Pangu Hospital).

Munna's sister, Jamila Kabir Laboni, filed an attempted murder case against five named individuals – MC Shuvo, Mamun, Rana, Shamim, and Mobarak – and several unidentified others, all from the same locality.

According to the case statement, the attack was premeditated. Mamun reportedly lured Munna to the front of Sumiya Hotel, where an assailant on a motorcycle pushed him to the ground.

Moments later, Shuvo and Rana arrived on another motorcycle and began hacking him with an axe.

CCTV footage shows Munna being tackled and attacked, while bystanders looked on without intervening. The attackers fled within two minutes.

Assistant Commissioner Tariq Latif confirmed ongoing efforts to arrest the suspects.

A police official said the attack stemmed from a power struggle, with all accused linked to Jubo Dal and possibly connected to a local criminal gang.

Garment workers blocked the road in front of Kakrail Mosque yesterday afternoon, after police barred them from marching towards the chief adviser's residence at the state guesthouse Jamuna. The workers were demanding their unpaid wages and benefits.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

## Bird strikes on the rise at Dhaka airport

### Open garbage spots surrounding airport to blame

RASHIDUL HASAN

Authorities at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport are struggling to deter birds from the runway due to hundreds of open garbage spots and food-water sources in the areas surrounding the airport.

There are many dense bushes around the airport area, which provide a good habitat for grasshoppers and butterflies that attract various birds to HSIA.

Bird or wildlife strikes often lead to flight cancellations and sometimes even damage aircraft engines. In the worst-case scenario, it can even lead to crash landings.

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Chairman Air Vice Marshal Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan said, “We are taking every possible measure, but it's a big challenge to deter birds due to uncontrolled waste and garbage being dumped in the areas surrounding the airport.”

Annually, airlines around the world bear around \$1.2 billion in costs due to bird strikes, according to aviation websites.

Due to a bird strike on its second engine,

a Turkish Airlines flight had to make an emergency landing at HSIA yesterday.

The flight, carrying 11 crew and 280 passengers, was going to Istanbul. All the passengers, crew, and the aircraft are safe, said Turkish Airlines.

**“We have asked Dhaka North City Corporation authorities to close down all open sources of food and water surrounding the airport.”**

**Air Vice Marshal Monjur Kabir Bhuiyan,**  
Chairman of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

The aircraft, TK713, had to return shortly after a successful take-off due to a bird strike on its engine 2.

According to the Dhaka Airport Traffic Control, immediately after take-off, its engine 2 caught fire.

The plane was grounded due to an

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