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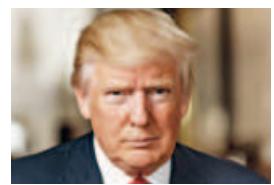
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16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE : Tk 15.00



Dengue cases rising nationwide

P3



US senator moves to limit Trump's war powers on Iran

P5



Why we need to hear the women of the hills

P7



Tigers take on SL in 1st Test today

P11



A drone photo shows the damage over residential homes at the impact site following missile attacks from Iran on Israel, in Tel Aviv, Israel June 16, 2025.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BNP switches to election mode

Launches survey in many constituencies

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

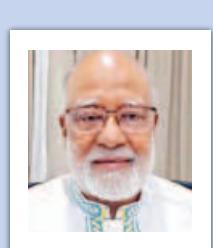
As the interim government eyes February for the national election, the BNP has shifted its focus to finalising its candidate selection process and completing local-level groundwork.

Party insiders said that while they earlier demanded polls by December, Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus's recent indication of bringing the timeline forward from April has boosted morale in their grassroots.



Along with popularity, we'll also consider who remained loyal and faced state repression over the past 14-15 years while nominating candidates.

BNP leader Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain



BNP leaders said they aim to complete most preparations before the official election schedule is announced. Meanwhile, local-level surveys and assessments are already underway to gauge the popularity and acceptability of potential candidates.

However, political analysts warned that internal rifts during the finalisation of nominations could hurt the party's image. They advised the BNP to give importance to candidate lists prepared at the

EC MOVES FORWARD WITH POLLS PREPARATIONS — P3

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NCP almost ready to seek registration with EC

ASHIK ABDULLAH APU

With just six days left before the Election Commission's registration deadline, the National Citizen Party has nearly completed its preparations for application submission.

To stake its claim at the next general election, the NCP has met key requirements, including district and upazila committees, a central office, a charter, and voter endorsement.

Discussions are now centred on its electoral symbol, another requirement for the registration.

Three senior leaders told this newspaper that the NCP prepared a list of potential symbols, including book, pen, clenched fist, and Shapla (water lily). They said the clenched fist is most likely

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Yunus orders probe into last 3 elections

Expects reforms charter by July

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has ordered an investigation into the roles played by former election commissions in the irregularities surrounding the past three parliamentary elections.

At a meeting of the National Consensus Commission held last night at his official residence, Jamuna, he instructed the relevant authorities to immediately form a committee to conduct the probe.

The committee will investigate the role of former chief election commissioners, election commissioners and secretaries of the EC Secretariat involved in organising the polls.

It was the Electoral Reform Commission, in its report submitted to Yunus in January, that called for the investigation and action against those found complicit.

Badiul Alam Majumdar, who was the chief of the Electoral Reform Commission, attended yesterday's meeting as a member of the consensus commission.

He said the political parties have agreed that it is necessary to probe the role of all officials involved in the past

three controversial elections and hold them accountable.

Consensus commission Vice-Chairman Prof Ali Riaz, and members Iftekharuzzaman, Safar Raj Hossain, and Mohammad Ayub Miah also attended the meeting.

Chief Adviser's Principal Secretary Siraz Uddin Mia and CA's Special

A committee will be formed to probe the role of former CECs, election commissioners and EC secretaries in organising the polls.

Assistant Monir Haider, among others, were also present.

At the meeting, the commission members informed the chief adviser about the progress on the July Charter.

"Consensus has been reached on several issues. It will be possible to finalise the charter very soon based on

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Ishraque crowns himself Dhaka South mayor

Accuses govt of being 'politically motivated' for delaying his oath taking

DIPAN NANDY

BNP leader Ishraque Hossain has begun discharging duties as the "self-declared" mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), despite not having taken an oath of office.

Ishraque yesterday held meetings with DSCC officials and employees under a banner referring to him as the "Honourable Mayor".

On June 3, Ishraque had declared at a rally at Nagar Bhaban that if the government failed to swear him in, he would take the mayoral oath on his own at the Central Shaheed Minar with the support of Dhaka residents, voters, and the general public, and assume the mayor's office accordingly.

Though he has yet to take the oath, he began operating in a "parallel" capacity yesterday, assuming responsibilities typically held by the DSCC mayor.

He has already established a "Mayor's Cell", under which ward-level monitoring committees are being formed and connected to a central control room.

As part of his previously announced programme, Ishraque was scheduled to address a press conference yesterday afternoon. Before that, at around 10:00am,

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BNP leader Ishraque Hossain speaks at a meeting organised by employees and officials from the Waste Management Department of the Dhaka South City Corporation at the Nagar Bhaban yesterday. The screen at the back describes him as the 'mayor'. Ishraque has, however, not been able to take the oath of office.

PHOTO: STAR

Türk criticises legal changes to 'ban entity, activities'

Stresses fair, inclusive polls

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk has expressed concern over recent legal amendments that allow "banning political parties, organisations and their activities" in Bangladesh.

"This unduly restricts the freedoms of association, expression, and assembly," he said in his address at the 59th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Türk also noted that dialogue between Bangladesh's interim government and political parties was encouraging. "I urge meaningful advances on reforms, to create the environment for free and inclusive elections."

On May 12, the interim government -- formed after the ouster of the Awami League-led regime on August 5 -- banned all activities of the AL, including its digital operations, under the Anti-Terrorism Act. The ban will remain in



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