



Parties row over constitutional council

BNP disagrees with Jamaat, NCP on who should appoint heads of key bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP and like-minded parties are at odds with other political parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, and Islami Andolon Bangladesh, over the proposal for forming a National Constitutional Council (NCC).

According to reform proposals, the constitutional council would be an independent authority that will appoint key constitutional officeholders, including the chief election commissioner, Anti-Corruption Commission chairman, and members of the Public Service Commission. The goal is to reduce the executive's unchecked authority and introduce institutional checks and balances.

The issue dominated yesterday's session of the second phase of the National Consensus Commission's talks at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka.

Although three items were on the agenda, the discussions focused mainly on the constitutional council and the powers of the president.

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A policeman hauls away five unauthorised battery-powered rickshaws near Shyamoli on Mirpur Road in the capital. Although banned on city streets over safety concerns, these three-wheelers are a source of livelihood for the drivers and an affordable mode of transport for many commuters.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Chikungunya resurfaces, adds to health woes

IEDCR detects 337 suspected cases in January-May

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY and HELEMUL ALAM

As the country grapples with rising cases of coronavirus and mosquito-borne dengue, there has been a resurgence of another mosquito-borne disease, Chikungunya, in Dhaka.

From January 1 to May 28, at least 337 suspected Chikungunya cases were reported. Of these, 153 cases were confirmed by RT-PCR tests, says a recent report of the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR).

The viral disease, transmitted by virus-bearing Aedes mosquitoes, causes sudden fever, severe joint pain, intense headache, muscle pain, and rash.

Since the numbers of dengue and Covid-19 cases have been rising for weeks, more Chikungunya cases could place a significant burden on the healthcare system, public health experts warn.

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ENFORCED DISAPPEARANCES

There can be no justice if culprits hold power: UN

"I'm not surprised that families are afraid to file police cases if the person responsible for the disappearance is still in the same building."

Dr Grażyna Baranowska, vice chairperson of WGEID



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

If perpetrators remain in positions of authority, there can be no victim-centred prosecution, said the United Nations Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID) at a briefing in the capital yesterday.

The event, organised by the UN Resident Coordinator's Office at Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, was part of the working group's final day of a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

Speaking at the briefing, WGEID Vice Chairperson Dr Grażyna Baranowska, said, "We have heard many times here that perpetrators are in positions of authority, and this is the core issue that needs to be addressed."

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Iran will not accept 'imposed war or peace'

Says Khamenei, vows 'irreparable damage' to US if it intervenes; Trump says 'patience has run out' with Iran, weighs options

AGENCIES

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei yesterday said the nation would never surrender as demanded by President Donald Trump and warned the United States it would face "irreparable damage" if it intervenes in support of its ally.

The speech came six days into the conflict, with Trump demanding Iran's "unconditional surrender" while boasting the United States could kill Khamenei and fuelling speculation about a possible intervention.

Yesterday, Trump said he was considering whether the United States would join Israeli strikes on Iran and said that Tehran had reached out to seek negotiations on ending the conflict.

Trump added that his patience "had already run out" with Iran and repeated his call for the Islamic republic's "unconditional surrender."

Amid the escalating war, with attacks being carried out daily on Iran's nuclear and defence sites, Russia's foreign ministry yesterday warned that



the world was "millimetres away from catastrophe".

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov has warned that direct US military assistance to Israel could radically destabilise the situation in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, Chinese foreign minister Wang Yi said Beijing was "deeply concerned" that the conflict "may get out of control".

"Israel's acts of disregarding

- Trump tells Putin to end Ukraine war before mediating ME conflict
- China fears conflict may get 'out of control'
- Israel hits 40 defence, missile sites Iran fires hypersonic missiles, drones
- Russia warns world 'millimetres away from catastrophe'

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Bangladesh's Mushfiqur Rahim thanks heavens after reaching 150 during the second day of the first Test against hosts Sri Lanka in Galle yesterday. The Bangladesh veteran, however, could not get a fourth double century as he was dismissed for 163, triggering a collapse which saw the visitors lose five wickets for 26 runs to end the day at 484 for nine.

PHOTO: AFP

The Tigers dominate before late collapse

AFP, Galle

Bangladesh continued their dominance over Sri Lanka on the second day of the first Test Wednesday, finishing at a commanding 484 for nine – despite a few late breakthroughs by the hosts.

The Tigers resumed on 292 for three overnight and turned the screws on a batting-friendly wicket, with Mushfiqur Rahim and Najmul Hossain Shanto extending their record-breaking partnership.

The 264-run partnership finally ended when Shanto fell for 148, deceived in the air as he attempted to drive one.

Mushfiqur kept going with wicketkeeper Litton Das before finally falling for 163, a marathon knock that spanned nearly nine hours and 350 balls.

Das bailed on further misery for Sri Lanka with a brisk 90 off 123 deliveries, cashing in on tired bowlers and some loose fielding.

He was particularly severe on the spinners, using his feet to good effect to lift the ball cleanly over the in-field.

Litton eventually perished attempting a

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Duckling supply crunch frustrates farmers

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Modi says Trump did not mediate Pakistan ceasefire

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'Esha Murder' a perfect detox from Eid blockbusters

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Protest against ICMAB's misleading information regarding Audit Profession

The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB) condemns and unequivocally refutes several misinformation made by the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMAB) in their press conference held on 17 June 2025, regarding audit rights and professional standing of Chartered Accountants.

In compliance with the International Standards of Auditing (ISA), the practicing members of ICAB, have been conducting audit of the financial statements prepared by the business entities maintaining with highest standards. Our members are uniquely qualified and play an indispensable role in ensuring transparency, accountability, and sustainable economic growth for the nation.

In order to dispel the confusion created by ICMAB's misleading information about the auditing profession, the following issues are highlighted with accurate information and data:

- At present, there are 613 practicing CAs, supported by another 145 CAs, 12,000 plus competent professional staff are working under 259 CA firms. ICMAB has mentioned that the number of registered entities is more than 300,000, whereas the active entities are much lower, which is also acknowledged by ICMAB. In reality, total DVC generated for audited entities in 2024 were 57,993 which also corresponded to the number of income tax returns filed. Hence, ICMAB's statement about the shortage of auditors in Bangladesh is not correct.
- Blaming auditors for facilitating to siphon off of USD 17 billion is absolutely baseless. Therefore, alleged money laundering, nonperforming loan, share market debacle, lower foreign investment and other issues mentioned by ICMAB blaming auditors clearly indicates mala fide intention to defame the audit profession.
- ICMAB's claim as founding member of IFAC is not true. From Bangladesh, only ICAB is the founding member of IFAC. ICMAB has also misrepresented the experience requirement as stated in International Education Standards (IES) of IFAC while ICAB rigorously follows IES requirement through its articleship program.
- Sec 2(13), 2(18) and 2(19) of FRA 2015 as referred by ICMAB does not confer the rights to conduct audit of financial statements to any member of ICMAB.
- CMAs are not allowed to conduct audit of financial statements in almost all countries. For example, Chartered Accountants or CPAs are only eligible to conduct audits in UK, Australia, USA, India, Sri Lanka etc.

ICAB once again reiterates its commitment to ensure the integrity of the audit profession and continue to foster a collaborative professional environment that ultimately benefits all stakeholders for national interest.



The Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB)