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24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS: TK 15.00



NBR officials
to continue
their protests

B1



Trump
reassures allies
as Nato agrees
spending hike

P5



Students protest
waterlogging,
poor facilities in
Barishal

P8



25 years of
Test cricket for
Bangladesh

P11

CONSENSUS TALKS

Commission recasts the NCC proposal, drops pluralism

MOHUDDIN ALAMGIR and MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission yesterday revised the structure and functions of the proposed National Constitutional Council.

It dropped "pluralism" from the proposed basic principles of the constitution as the BNP, Jamaat, and several other Islamic parties were against it.

The commission placed the revised proposals at yesterday's meeting with political parties at the Foreign Service Academy in the capital. It was the 6th day of the 2nd phase of the commission's dialogue with parties.

The proposed National Constitutional Council (NCC) has now been renamed the Committee for Appointments to Constitutional and Statutory Bodies, and it will not include the president and chief justice as members, said a member of the commission, requesting anonymity.

The changes had to be made because the BNP and like-minded parties were against giving the proposed NCC the power to appoint the chief adviser of caretaker governments, added the member.

Members of the committee will be the prime minister, speakers of both the lower and upper houses, the opposition leader, one representative from parties other than the main opposition, a president's representative whose qualifications will be determined by the law, and an Appellate Division judge nominated by the chief justice.

The speaker of the lower house will chair the committee meetings.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

BNP agrees to 10yr PM cap, objects to NCC

Standing Committee meeting supports the change in stance

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

In a major shift in its stance, the BNP has agreed to a proposal to cap an individual's tenure as prime minister to a maximum of 10 years in a lifetime.

Party leaders said the decision was made to improve the BNP's image ahead of the next general election, as sticking to the previous stance was drawing criticisms.

"It is our national responsibility to stop the path to creating fascists, both constitutionally and in parliamentary practice. From that responsibility, we embrace this expectation of the nation."

Salahuddin Ahmed
BNP standing committee member



However, the BNP remains firmly opposed to another key proposal -- forming a National Constitutional Council to oversee appointments to constitutional bodies such as the Election Commission and Anti-Corruption Commission.

The proposal aims to curb unilateral executive authority and ensure institutional checks and balances. But BNP leaders fear such a council would strip the prime minister of crucial powers.

The party's Standing Committee discussed the matters at a meeting on Tuesday night at the BNP chairperson's Gulshan office, with acting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Mob justice
a threat to
humanity
Says Tarique



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman has warned that "mob justice" has become a threat to humanity and now poses a grave threat to the environment needed for developing a democratic culture.

In a statement to mark the United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture -- which is observed globally on June 26 -- Tarique said the significance of this day is profound as it serves to honour and express solidarity with all those who have suffered

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



Agitated students and locals block the entrance to the Khulna Metropolitan Police headquarters yesterday and set tyres ablaze during a protest against the release of Sub-Inspector Sukanta Das from custody. A day earlier, locals had handed Sukanta over to police alleging that he assaulted students and civilians during the July uprising in Khulna. The demonstrators ended their programme around 8:30pm but said they would be back at 3:00pm today. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN



Despite multiple initiatives, including canal digging, eviction drives, and raids on dyeing factories, the Karnaphuli river, which is considered the lifeline of Chattogram, continues to be polluted by toxic waste. The photo, taken from Mariners Road in Chattogram's Firingi Bazar yesterday, shows contaminated water seeping into the Karnaphuli river.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Success of US strikes on Iran faces scrutiny

Trump again says Iran nuclear programme set back 'decades'; leaked US intel claims strikes failed to destroy sites in Iran

AGENCIES

President Donald Trump yesterday insisted that US strikes led to the "total obliteration" of Iran's nuclear capabilities, contrary to a leaked US intelligence report that assessed those did not destroy the core components of the programme and likely only set it back by months.

Trump, who is in the Netherlands to attend a Nato summit, said the strikes set Iran's atomic programme back "decades", while Israel said it was still early to fully assess the damage.

However, foreign ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei yesterday said the facilities were "badly damaged" in US and Israeli strikes.

"Our nuclear installations have been badly damaged, that's for sure, because it has come under repeated attacks by Israeli and American aggressors," Baqaei told al Jazeera.

However, on the ground, the Trump-announced ceasefire was holding yesterday as both sides reported no violations.

Analysts say the US strikes paved the way for Trump to end the 12-day

Trump hints at talks with Iran next week

Iran says nuclear sites 'badly damaged'

Israel says too early to assess damage

Report says Iran's centrifuges are largely 'intact'

Trump raises hope for Gaza ceasefire

Ex-CEC Kazi
Habibul Awal
arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former chief election commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal, who oversaw last year's national election, was arrested yesterday on charges of poll irregularities and constitutional violations.

The Detective Branch of police arrested Awal at a flat in the capital's Moghbazar, said Talebir Rahman, deputy commissioner (media) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Awal, two other former chief election commissioners (CECs), and 22 others have been accused in a case filed by BNP Executive Committee member Salahuddin Khan with Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Police Station on Sunday.

DMP Joint Commissioner Nasirul Islam told reporters that Awal went into hiding after the case was filed.

Earlier this week, KM Nurul Huda, who oversaw the 2018 national polls as the CEC, was arrested in the city's Uttara. Huda was assaulted by a mob before police took him into custody.



SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

BDR MASSACRE Result of 'long-term conspiracy'

Says probe commission, also blames intelligence failures and political involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 2009 BDR (now Border Guard Bangladesh) massacre was the result of a "long term conspiracy" facilitated by gross negligence, failures of intelligence agencies and the involvement of some political figures, said the National Independent Investigation Commission.

The commission, which was formed to re-investigate the carnage, shared its findings at a press conference yesterday at the Bangladesh Reference Institute for Chemical Measurements (BRICM) in the capital's Science Lab area. This marked the commission's third media briefing since it began work 114 working days ago.

"Unnecessary delays in the name of political negotiation and inaction by the armed forces and law enforcement agencies allowed the mutineers to carry out killings and other crimes with impunity," said Commission Chairman ALM Fazlur Rahman in a written statement.

Officers and their families trapped inside the Pilkhana headquarters repeatedly called for help from the morning of February 25, 2009, but no rescue operation was launched, he said.

The commission outlined the nature of the crimes committed inside Pilkhana.

Testimonies from surviving officers and their families revealed a harrowing account of the events. Alongside

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5