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## July Charter runs into a snag

Jamaat, NCP, IAB have reservations; BNP somewhat agrees

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and SAJJAD HOSSAIN

Jamaat-e-Islami, the National Citizen Party, and Islami Andolon Bangladesh have voiced reservations about the draft July Charter prepared by the National Consensus Commission, while the BNP has expressed partial agreement with the proposed reforms.

The BNP, however, has strongly objected to the proposal to enshrine the historical significance of the July uprising in the constitution, fearing it could pave the way for certain groups to promote the idea of a "Second Republic".

Jamaat termed the draft charter incomplete and dangerous, calling for it to be backed by an ordinance ratified by parliament or through a public referendum to ensure legal legitimacy.

The NCP said all consensus points must be codified into law before the election and insisted the upcoming polls be held under that legal framework.

While reviewing the draft, BNP leaders found it "hastily written" and flagged issues with wording.

Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed told reporters yesterday that the party had "no fundamental objection" to the draft but wanted revisions to some phrases.

"We agree with the commitment sought in the draft to implement the pledges within two years," he added.

BNP leaders discussed the issue at a Standing Committee meeting at their Gulshan office on Monday night, chaired virtually by acting

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With not enough high-ground shelters available in Charpatta union in Bhola's Daulatkhan upazila, these buffaloes are forced to stand in rising Meghna waters during low pressure and high tide, sometimes even being swept away. Buffalo farmers say most elevated areas are already occupied, leaving their herds vulnerable. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

## Consensus talks caught up in deepening rifts

Deadline looms yet parties can't agree on CA selection method

MD ABBAS

Political parties have remained sharply divided over selection of chief advisers to caretaker governments and women's representation in parliament two days before the end of deadline for consensus.

Although political parties have largely agreed on the need for a non-partisan election-time caretaker government, division over the key issues resurfaced during the 21st day of the second phase of talks at the Foreign Service Academy yesterday.

While briefing reporters after the discussions, National Consensus Commission Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz said that two-thirds of the political parties have agreed with the commission's proposals regarding the selection of the chief adviser.

"As disagreements remain over the selection of the chief adviser, we are now giving them [parties] time until tomorrow to reconsider, and then the commission will finalise its decision regarding the matter. Even after the final decision, if any party wants to give a note of dissent, they can," he said.

At the opening session, he reminded all that they had only three days left, including yesterday, before issuing a July National Charter. "The charter must be finalised by July 31, incorporating all the points where consensus has been established."

PICKING CA

On the chief adviser issue, the commission yesterday reiterated its

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### JULY TRIALS

## Retributive justice must be avoided

Says Volker Türk

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Human Rights Commissioner Volker Türk has said that those responsible for the human rights violations and crimes committed during the July uprising should be held accountable and emphasised that this accountability should adhere to international human rights law.

He made the call in a video message at an event organised by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), marking the first anniversary of the July uprising at the InterContinental Dhaka yesterday.

The OHCHR's Fact-Finding Mission, in its investigation, had found more than 1,400 people were killed and thousands were injured, the vast majority of whom were shot by security forces under the



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## Political system will be renewed for inclusive polls

Says Yunus; Fakhrul, Shafiqur reiterate calls for quick trial of July atrocities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said the government is working to build a broad national consensus around a renewed political system that will deliver inclusive, participatory, and credible elections.

"The goal is clear: to establish a society where all Bangladeshis can live in peace, with pride, with freedom, and with dignity," he said at the "July Commemoration Event: Implementation of UN Fact-Finding Mission's Report Recommendation" at the InterContinental Hotel in the capital.

The event was organised by the United Nations Human Rights Mission, marking one year since the July uprising.

"Our work is far from finished.



Alongside our reform agenda, we are pursuing legal accountability for those responsible for gross violations.

"But justice is not only about punishment," he added. "Justice is also about ensuring that state power can never again be used to suppress, silence, or destroy its own people."

Yunus said reforms are not just about surface-level changes, but about deep, transformative shifts.

"Without such changes, chances remain for tyranny to return. Maybe in a different form, but it will return. No matter how many laws we enforce or how many reforms we attempt, the change we need must go far deeper."

About the UN Fact-Finding Mission's recommendations, the chief adviser said, "We have taken these

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## Rejoinder, our reply

We thank the office of Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, a special assistant to the chief adviser, for a formal response to our report, headlined "Govt aide pushes 5G project amid graft probe", published on July 27, 2025. The rejoinder objects to "the misleading and speculative nature of the report", alleging it "contains several factual inaccuracies, omits key context, and unfairly casts aspersions on the motives and actions of Mr Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb".

In the spirit of fairness, we are publishing the rejoinder point by point. However, The Daily Star stands firmly by its reporting, which was based on documented evidence, interviews, and the principles of journalistic inquiry into a matter of significant public interest. The rejoinder does not invalidate any aspect of our report.

Below are the seven points raised in the

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BRAC University students flooded the streets in the capital's Rampura on July 18, 2024, to join the ongoing protests. Despite police resistance, they, along with students from other private universities, became a vital force in the movement.

PHOTO: FILE/PRABIR DAS

## JULY UPRISING A movement that united campuses and classrooms

For the first time, a protest brought together students from schools, colleges, madrasas and univs

ARAFAT RAHAMAN

Bangladesh's student movements have long been rooted in the dormitories of public universities – Dhaka University, Rajshahi University, Jahangirnagar University, and Chittagong University – where slogans, marches, and political pressure have often driven change.

However, the uprising in July 2024 marked a pivotal shift as protests spread beyond the usual public campuses.

A new wave surged from private universities, colleges, madrasas, and even high schools – reshaping the political landscape and rewriting the story of student-led resistance.

Once seen as "disengaged" or "apolitical", these students emerged as a powerful force in protests that began over job quotas and evolved into a wider demand for justice, accountability, and reform.

HOW IT TURNED INTO A NATIONAL RECKONING

The ignition came on July 14.

At a press conference that day, then prime minister Sheikh Hasina, while defending the 30 percent quota for descendants

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**THE JULY THAT ROCKED BANGLADESH**

**JULY 30, 2024**

## The red wave of defiance

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

Amid continued mourning and mounting outrage, July 30 marked a powerful day of nationwide protests and symbolic resistance, as students, teachers, guardians, and citizens rallied across Bangladesh demanding justice for the lives lost during the quota reform movement. From campus demonstrations to courtroom

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