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Policemen impound battery-run autorickshaws and fine their drivers for violating traffic rules by entering the thoroughfare near the capital's Science Lab area yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Bangladesh to expand access to US goods under tariff deal

REFAYET ULLAH MIRDHA

Bangladesh is preparing to open its market to a wide array of American goods and services, including dairy, meat, liquefied petroleum gas, and aircraft, under a pending trade agreement with the United States, according to officials familiar with bilateral negotiations.

The agreement, which is expected to be signed shortly, forms part of a broader effort by the two countries to deepen economic ties and expand US access to the Bangladeshi market. Bangladesh is set to undertake significant policy and regulatory reforms, including removing foreign ownership restrictions, streamlining investment approvals, and improving transparency for American investors.

The Trump administration

“
We will sign an agreement with the US when the US sends us the final document.”

Commerce Secretary
MAHBUBUR RAHMAN

reduced tariffs on Bangladeshi exports from 35 percent to 20 percent, a shift that helped ease trade tensions and signalled Washington's interest in strengthening commercial ties with Dhaka.

The pending agreement is expected to broaden this engagement beyond apparel, into sectors such as agriculture, energy,

aviation, and infrastructure.

“We will sign an agreement with the US when the US sends us the final document,” Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday. He declined to share details of the potential agreement.

Under the proposed framework, Bangladesh will remove barriers to US investments in key sectors, including oil and gas, insurance and telecoms. It will also facilitate the issuance of no objection certificates where required, and establish clear guidelines on capital transfers in freely usable currencies at prevailing exchange rates.

As part of the deal, Dhaka has agreed to increase its purchases of US soybean oil for the government and to partner with American

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Trump to raise tariff on India over Russia oil

AFP, Washington

President Donald Trump yesterday threatened to “substantially” hike US tariffs on goods from India over its purchases of Russian oil – a key source of revenue for Moscow’s war on Ukraine.

Trump’s heightened pressure on India comes after he signalled fresh sanctions on Moscow if it did not make progress by Friday towards a peace deal with Kyiv, more than three years since Russia’s invasion.

Moscow is anticipating talks with the US leader’s special envoy Steve Witkoff, who is expected to meet President Vladimir Putin this week.

Yesterday, Trump said in a post to his Truth Social platform that India was

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‘Don’t waste the opportunity the July uprising gave’

Says Dr Kamal Hossain

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Kamal Hossain, founder and emeritus president of Gono Forum, yesterday said the interim government must uphold the constitutional process through a free, fair, and inclusive election.

“The opportunity created by the July Uprising to build a humane, discrimination-free Bangladesh must not be wasted under any circumstances,” he wrote in a statement yesterday.

Gono Forum General Secretary Mizanur Rahman read out Kamal’s written statement at a discussion titled “July Uprising: Conviction and Expectations”, organised by Gono Forum at the Jatiya Press Club.

Kamal Hossain, a noted jurist who led the committee that drafted



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CONSENSUS TALKS
Third phase
begins to finalise
implementation
of July Charter

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission has begun its third phase of work, aiming to determine how the July Charter will be implemented.

In this phase, the commission will hold discussions with legal experts, constitutional specialists, and political parties. After that, signatures will be collected from political parties to finalise the charter.

This decision was made at the commission meeting on Sunday. The

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Promises won’t work, people want results

Says Tarique

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People are no longer satisfied with just promises and dreams; they want those promises fulfilled, said BNP’s acting chairman Tarique Rahman yesterday.

“The people of Bangladesh don’t want politics driven by rhetoric anymore. People now want proper planning and the fulfilment of promises,” Tarique said at a discussion titled “Anti-Fascist Movement and My Untold Words.”

The event was organised by Jubo Dal at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in the city’s Ramna area, marking the anniversary of the July-August mass uprising.

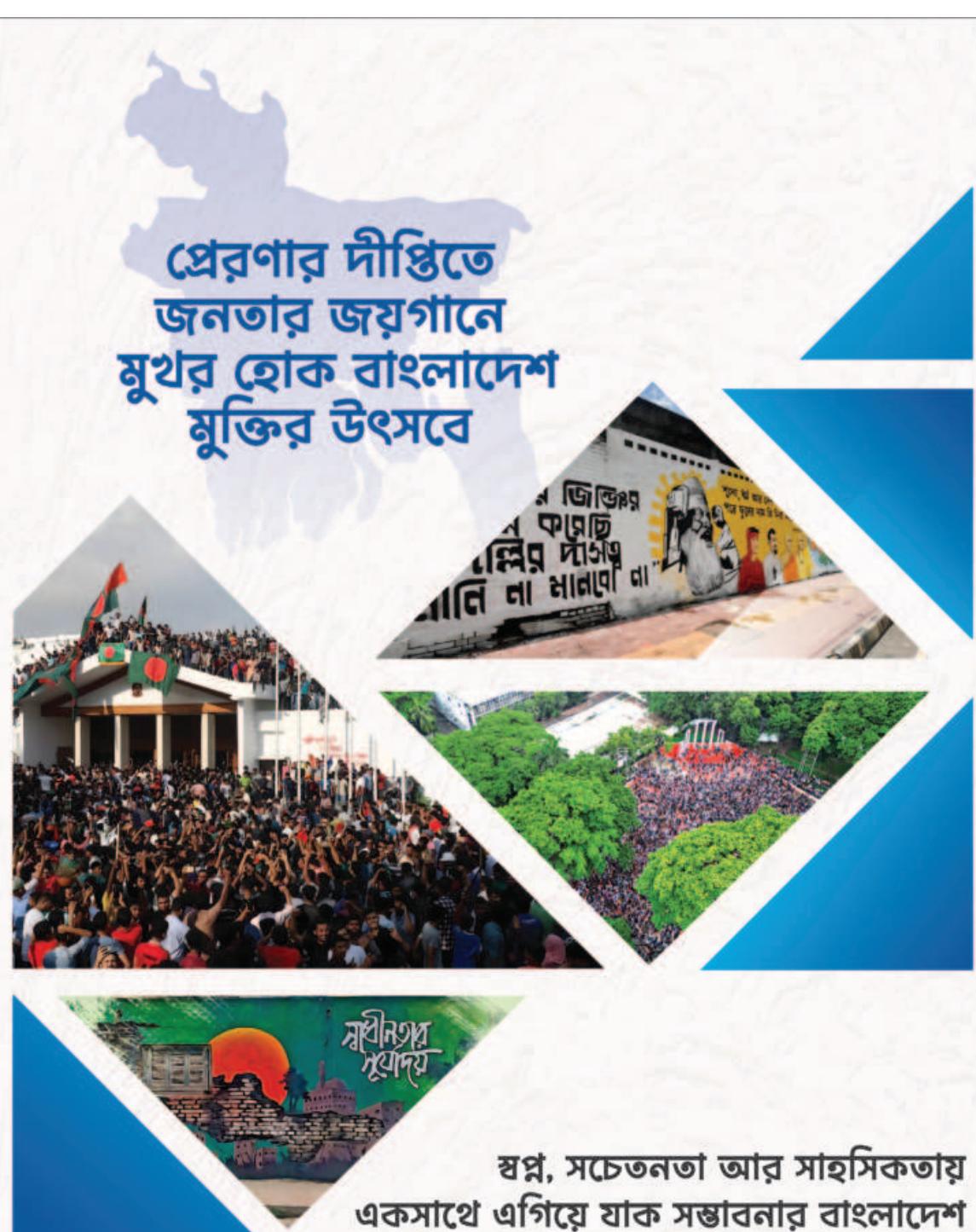
Speaking virtually from London, Tarique said the BNP is developing its future programmes based on the desires and demands of the people.

“Our future policy is about improving people’s lives,” said the BNP



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