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Consensus commission's term extended till Sept 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has extended the term of the National Consensus Commission till September 15.

The commission's six-month tenure was set to expire on August 15.

A notification in this regard, signed by Cabinet Division Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid, was issued on Monday night.

On February 12, the seven-member consensus commission was formed under the leadership of Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The commission was tasked with reviewing and adopting recommendations from six national reform commissions. As part of this responsibility, it has been engaging in discussions with political parties to reach agreements on reforms.

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A car and a motorcycle illegally parked on the footpath under Kawran Bazar Metro Rail Station leave little space for pedestrians and metro users. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Expedite probe into Muradnagar rape: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed police to expedite the investigation, charge sheet submission, and DNA test report in a case over the rape of a woman in Muradnagar, Cumilla, so the trial can be completed on time.

It also ordered Cumilla Superintendent of Police Mohammad Nazer Ahmed Khan to submit a progress report by October 22.

According to the case, the mother of two was raped at knife-point in Ramchandrapur Panchkitta village while visiting her father's house in mid-June.

The HC bench of Justice Fahmida Quader and Justice Sayed Jahed

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Reserve 150 seats for women in parliament

Demand 67 rights orgs, call for direct polls to those seats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the consensus commission's decision to keep 50 reserved seats for women in the parliament through nomination until 2043, the Committee for Social Resistance has called for major reforms to the system.

In a press statement, the committee -- a platform of 67 women's, human rights, and development organisations -- demanded that the parliament should have 450 seats in total, with 300 general seats and 150 reserved seats for women.

It called for ending the nomination system for reserved seats and instead filling these seats through direct elections from specific constituencies.

The committee said this arrangement should remain in place for two to three parliamentary terms. On top of the 150 reserved seats, women should also be allowed to contest the general seats normally, it added.

The platform expressed astonishment that all political parties had agreed to what it called a regressive decision, ignoring the long standing movement and demands of women for political

Women in Bangladesh are now ready to be directly elected to reserved seats by the people's vote, thereby participating in the parliament with equal rights, equal dignity, and responsibility, and playing an effective and meaningful role.

empowerment aimed at building a democratic and equality-based society.

"Women in Bangladesh are now ready to be directly elected to reserved seats by the people's vote, thereby participating in the parliament with equal rights, equal dignity, and responsibility, and playing an effective and meaningful role," the statement said.

"They are also capable of influencing government decisions on women's issues in ways that deliver visible benefits for women. If women are directly elected to

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ICT-1 rejects ZI Khan Panna's request to defend Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday dismissed an appeal from senior Supreme Court lawyer ZI Khan Panna, who sought permission to represent the ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina, currently a fugitive, faces charges of crimes against humanity linked to the July uprising.

The three-member tribunal, led by Justice Md Golam Mortuza Mozumder, rejected the appeal after lawyer Nazneen Nahar informed the court that Panna could not attend

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'Compensation, justice, school relocation'

Guardians of Milestone jet crash victims raise demands



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Parents of students killed or injured in the July 21 jet crash have demanded justice, compensation, and relocation of Milestone School and College to prevent future tragedies.

They also called for a proper investigation and an end to coaching in educational institutions, saying many victims were in classrooms for coaching when the crash occurred.

The demands were made during a human chain near the school, where eight key points were presented. Some parents alleged the school pressured them to stay silent to avoid government action, while others claimed they were threatened to stop seeking justice.

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SAGAR-RUNI MURDER

Court summons IO to submit progress report

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked the investigation officer to appear in person before it on September 14 and submit the progress report on investigation in the case filed over the murders of journalist couple Sagar Sarwar and Meherun Runi in 2012.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Md Minhazur Rahman passed the order after Investigation Officer Md Azizul Haque, also an additional superintendent of police at the PBI, failed to submit any probe report by yesterday, said a sub-inspector working at the court.

The court also cancelled the bail of Palash Rudra Paul, now on a High Court bail, and issued an arrest warrant against him as he was absent from the court without taking any step for his non-appearance.

Meanwhile, the court extended the time for submission of the probe report. This marks the 121st extension of the deadline, according to case records.



'We will sleep in the car'

Final words of 2 men before being found dead in hospital basement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two men found dead inside a car parked in the basement of a private hospital in Dhaka on Monday had earlier told the car owner that they would sleep in the vehicle.

The owner Zubair Al Mahmud Sourav said he and his driver Zakir Hossain, 40, travelled from Noakhali to Dhaka to see off his brother-in-law at the airport. Zakir's cousin Mizan tagged along as well.

"Mizan was supposed to pick up some relatives from Sirajul Islam hospital on Sunday [August 10], as they had booked the car," Zubair told The Daily Star.

"As I was leaving the hospital, Zakir told me that the patient would be released around 11:00am and he would sleep inside the car," he added.

Police on Monday found Zakir and Mizan dead inside the car.

"As there would be four people with the patient, including Mizan, I took a bus back to Noakhali. Around 5:30pm on Sunday, I called Zakir but he did not respond. Using the GPS tracker, I saw that the car was still in the hospital basement," Zubair told this newspaper.

"I attempted to contact him several times but he did not receive my calls. As I was tired from the

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Revised stent prices to take effect from October 1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA) yesterday announced that the revised prices for coronary stents will take effect on October 1.

Speaking at a press conference, DGDA Director Akter Hossain said the decision followed requests from companies that had already stocked products at previous prices.

On August 3, the health ministry lowered the prices of coronary stents from three major US companies -- Abbott, Boston Scientific, and Medtronic -- by Tk 3,000 to Tk 88,000 per stent.

Prices of 10 types of stents from these companies were revised following recommendations from an expert advisory committee.

Akter said the price reduction will significantly cut medical costs, but some importing companies still have stock at previous prices, so the ministry

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GOVT AYURVEDIC COLLEGE Academic activities stalled for over a month amid protests

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

Academic activities at the Government Unani and Ayurvedic Medical College in Mirpur have remained halted for the past one and a half months due to an ongoing student protest demanding a separate law and the formation of an independent council to oversee their affairs.

Student admissions to its two undergraduate courses -- Bachelor of Unani Medicine and Surgery (BUMS) and Bachelor of Ayurvedic Medicine and Surgery (BAMS) -- have also been on hold for a month, putting the academic future of 50 students in uncertainty.

Each year, the college admits 25 students to each programme.

To resolve the crisis, the health ministry has drafted the Bangladesh Unani and Ayurvedic Medical Education Act-2025, which proposes forming an independent council.

However, students say the draft contains controversial provisions and lacks clarity.

On Monday night, students brought out a procession after the Medical Education and Family Welfare Division uploaded the draft to its website earlier in the day. The division has called a meeting on the draft for Thursday.

"All academic and administrative activities have remained suspended amid the protest," acting

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