

"It will be equipped with modern technology and capable of striking the enemy from all directions."

Pakistan PM Shehbaz Sharif on formation of the Rocket Force Command

YOUR RIGHT TO KNOW

Star

SECOND EDITION

THE DAILY

ON FRIDAY

DHAKA FRIDAY AUGUST 15, 2025



REGD. No. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 202

SRABAN 31, 1428 BS

www.thedailystar.net

SAFAR 20, 1447 HJURI

16 PAGES: Tk 15.00



Over one lakh stranded in the north as rivers swell

P3



Putin hails US efforts to end Ukraine conflict

P5



Is Bangladesh ready for the post-LDC era?

P6



Sheikh Mujib's killing deserves a nuanced reading

P7

JULY CHARTER

Commission to press parties for binding deal

MD ABBAS

Following demands from several parties, including Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, and Islami Andolan Bangladesh, the National Consensus Commission is considering a proposal to make the July National Charter a legally binding document.

The commission is likely to urge political parties to pledge to enact an ordinance with special constitutional provisions, giving the charter the highest legal authority with precedence over all other laws and court rulings.

According to pledges for the parties in the latest draft of the July National Charter 2025, parties are likely to be asked to commit to ensuring full legal and constitutional protection at every stage of implementing it. If any word, sentence, or policy of the charter conflicts with the constitution or other laws, the charter would prevail.

The commission will also seek a pledge from the parties to give constitutional and state recognition to the uninterrupted struggle for democracy, human rights, and justice, and to the historical significance of the 2024 anti-discrimination democratic movement and mass uprising.



Workers even out recovered stones on the Dhalai river at Sada Pathor in Sylhet's Bholaganj yesterday. Law enforcers and security forces intercepted trucks and boats loaded with stones stolen from Sada Pathor and forced the thieves to bring those back to the river. Boatloads of stones were dumped in the river yesterday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

- ➔ July Charter might take precedence over all laws, court decisions
- ➔ Appellate Division likely to hold sole authority over charter interpretation
- ➔ Some recommendations to be implemented before the election
- ➔ Nine-point pledge for parties prepared after talks with legal, constitutional experts
- ➔ Proposed pledges include justice for killings and honours for 2024 martyrs

Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, told The Daily Star yesterday that they hope to send the draft to the political parties today or tomorrow. "Our work on the draft is at the final stage," he said.

Asked whether the document will be legally binding, he said the commission was holding discussions with legal experts on the matter.

Prof Riaz yesterday briefed Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on the overall progress of the July Charter. Asked when the commission would hold its third-phase meetings with political parties on the implementation and legal basis of the charter, he said no decision has yet been made.

The pledges to be sought from the parties also include ensuring constitutional recognition of the July uprising, justice for those killed during the uprising, granting state honours to the martyrs, and arranging treatment and rehabilitation for the injured.

"Any recommendations in this charter deemed immediately implementable will be carried out by the government and relevant authorities without delay and with effective measures before the next national parliamentary election," one of the pledges in the draft states.

On Sunday and Tuesday, the commission held talks with constitutional and legal experts and, according to sources, prepared a nine-point pledge for implementing the charter.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



Reforms before polls needed to stop return of fascism: Yunus

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus stressed the need for carrying out necessary reforms and trials before upcoming national election, saying that without them, people's hopes of preventing the return of fascism would remain unmet.

In an interview with Singapore-based news outlet Channel NewsAsia, he said his government's commitment to the people after the uprising was to carry out three basic tasks: reforms, trials of the crimes

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

LDC graduation now will be 'suicidal'

Business leaders tell govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Business leaders yesterday urged the government to take initiatives to extend the transition period for Bangladesh's graduation from the least-developed country bracket for six more years.

"LDC graduation at this moment will be a suicidal decision for the private sector -- it will be throwing away the advantage to others," said Syed Nasim Manzur, president of Leathergoods and Footwear Manufacturers & Exporters Association of Bangladesh.

The interim government has announced that the country will graduate from the bracket as per schedule on November 2026.

The economy has suffered both local and international shocks over the last few years, so Bangladesh needs six more years to graduate, he said.

Manzur's comments came at a seminar titled "LDC Graduation: Some Options for Bangladesh", organised by the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh (ICC B) in collaboration with the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and the Bangladesh Association of Pharmaceuticals Industries (BAPI).

"Today's question is not whether we graduate -- that is settled. The challenge is how we graduate successfully," said ICC-B President Mahbubur Rahman while moderating the seminar.

He suggested signing free trade agreements, defending market access, building competitiveness, acting with urgency, and not just planning.

The local businesses could not do many things because of the

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2

50 years since Bangabandhu's assassination

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

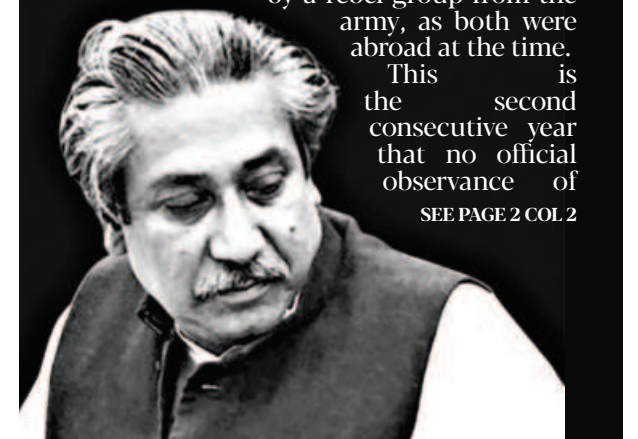
Today marks 50 years since the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

On this day in 1975, in one of the darkest chapters of the nation's history, Mujib was shot dead along with most of his family at his Dhanmondi 32 residence.

His daughters, Sheikh Hasina, who later became prime minister for several terms but was ousted from power on August 5 last year following a mass uprising, and Sheikh Rehana, survived the carnage carried out by a rebel group from the army, as both were abroad at the time.

This is the second consecutive year that no official observance of

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



SURVEILLANCE Govt forms body to probe AL regime's violations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has formed a committee to investigate how the state's surveillance infrastructure had been used to violate the rights of citizens during the Awami League regime.

The cabinet made the decision following an investigative report published by The Daily Star into Tk 1,382 crore worth of surveillance equipment that was purchased by Rab, police and the National Telecommunications Monitoring Centre (NTMC), and a report published by Tech Global Institute simultaneously on the same issue.

Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, chief adviser's special assistant for the Ministry of Posts, Telecommunications and Information Technology, has been made the head of the committee.

Chief Adviser's Press
SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

With the pavements on Asad Avenue under renovation for a week, schoolchildren, their parents, and teachers are forced to share road space with cars and other vehicles. Workers there could not say for certain when the work would be done. The photo was taken yesterday.

246 more reform proposals 'ready for implementation'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The interim government has identified 246 more reform proposals as "ready for immediate implementation", Shafiqul Alam, press secretary to the chief adviser, told reporters yesterday.

Earlier, 121 proposals were designated for urgent implementation. An additional 246 have now been added to that list, bringing the total to 367.

"Thirty-seven of those have already been implemented," Shafiqul said after the 38th meeting of the advisory council, chaired by Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, at the Foreign Service Academy in Dhaka yesterday.

Of those implemented were the amendment of the International Crimes Tribunal Act and the issuance of guidelines on election observation and media policy, as per the Election Reform Commission's proposals; the appointment of Supreme Court judges and the establishment of 'information desks' in courts, according to the Judiciary Reform Commission's recommendations; the creation of a legal framework to ensure witness protection and protection for crime victims, and the organisation of gender-sensitive training for all relevant service providers, as per the Women's Affairs Reform Commission's suggestions, among others.

The proposals were given by the 10 reform commissions formed by the interim government, excluding the Constitution Reform Commission.

Of the 246 newly prioritised proposals, 82 were from the Labour Reform Commission; 71 from the Women's Affairs Reform Commission; 37 from the Local Government

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1