



Talks without
Russia ‘a road
to nowhere’

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When climate
change becomes
your doctor’s
problem too

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Bangladesh
off to winning
start

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Revenue
collection rises
24% in July

B1

July frontliners dominate the Ducsu race

Nominations close with
509 submissions

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR and MAHATHIR MOHAMMED

Many frontliners of the July uprising, which brought down the Sheikh Hasina regime, are now in the spotlight as leading candidates in the Ducsu election.

So far, nine panels have been announced for the 28 Ducsu posts. Most of the student groups nominated July protesters for either of the top three positions – vice-president, general secretary or assistant general secretary.

According to students, many candidates for other posts also participated in last year’s uprising.

“The leaders who were at the forefront of the mass uprising and inspired others with their courage have earned respect from the students. Many of them are now leading the panels for the Ducsu election. I believe voting students will have a soft corner for them,” said Abu Baker Mojumder, GS candidate from Bangladesh Gonotantrik Chhatra Sangsad.

Chhatra Union leader Meghmallar Bosu, contesting for GS from Gonotantrik Chhatra Jote, said, “The spirit



A battery-powered rickshaw whizzes down a street in Dhanmondi yesterday with a child seated next to the driver and three women on the passenger seat meant for two. While their inadequate braking system, overloading, and speed put lives at risk, the livelihoods of thousands of families depend on these unauthorised vehicles.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

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JULY CHARTER IMPLEMENTATION

What notes of dissent could mean

Objections recorded during consensus talks may
shape future of politics, governance

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The July National Charter, finalised after weeks of consensus talks, faces a delicate challenge over notes of dissent, most of them from the BNP and its allies.

Eleven such objections, nine from the BNP bloc alone, now raise questions about whether key provisions, ranging from caretaker government appointments to curbs on prime ministerial powers, will be implemented if the party comes to power.

The BNP and allies have agreed to implement dozens of reform proposals if they come to power, while positioning themselves in favour of preserving parliamentary supremacy and executive discretion.

They stood apart from most other parties on a series of key proposals that would reshape the balance of power between the executive, parliament, and oversight institutions.

Politicians and members of the National Consensus Commission, headed by Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, say that a note of dissent is an expression of disagreement – a formal record of opposition, typically written in a structured manner.

The commission, which steered the dialogue,

BNP leaders argue that the dissent does not amount to rejection, but rather serves as a safeguard should they return to office and wish to legislate along their own lines.

has sought to allay fears that the dissent will derail the charter’s implementation, emphasising that the dissent should be seen as part of democratic bargaining rather than a threat to national agreement.

“A note of dissent signifies participation in the process while expressing disagreement,” said Badiul Alam Majumdar, a member of the National Consensus Commission.

The commission’s Vice-President Prof Ali Riaz is also optimistic about the implementation of the July Charter despite the notes of dissent.

“Politics always involves diverse views and paths, and working together despite differences is essential,” he said.

Rival parties, however, voiced unease at what

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SADA PATHOR LOOTING

Admin officials, law enforcers involved

Finds probe body; ACC preliminary
report names 42 including politicians

DWOHA CHOWDHURY

Some government officials including members of law enforcement agencies were involved in the rampant looting of stones from Bholaganj’s Sada Pathor area, found a probe committee of the Sylhet district administration.

The seven-page report also made 10 recommendations, including departmental investigations and punishment of the officials found guilty, said Padmasan Singha, additional deputy commissioner of Sylhet and head of the probe body.

He said the report was submitted to outgoing Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Sher Mahub Murad yesterday afternoon.

However, he declined to share further details without the approval of senior officials.

On August 12, the district administration formed the probe body after an outcry over the looting.

The probe committee was asked to submit its findings within three working days. On Sunday, the deadline was extended by another three days.

Meanwhile, the Anti-Corruption Commission prepared a preliminary

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AUGUST 21 GRENADE ATTACK

Wait for justice: 21 years and counting

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Twenty-one years have passed since the gruesome grenade attack was carried out on an Awami League rally on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka, leaving at least 24 people killed and 300 injured.



Then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, who later ran the country for 15 years as prime minister and was forced to resign and flee on August 5 last year amid a mass uprising, narrowly escaped the attack on this day in 2004.

Two cases – one for murder and another under the Explosive Substances Act – were lodged after the incident, considered to be one of the most sensational crimes in the country’s history.

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