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ATTACK ON NUR Launch judicial probe within 48hrs 22 parties, including BNP, tell govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of 22 political parties, including BNP, yesterday demanded that the government form a judicial inquiry committee within 48 hours to investigate the recent attack on Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque Nur and his party activists.

In a joint statement, the parties called for unity among anti-fascist forces and demanded the trial of the "fascist" Awami League, Jatiya Party, and their 14-party alliance. They also announced an "anti-fascist solidarity rally" at the Central Shaheed Minar to protest the attack on Nur and his colleagues.

The date of the rally will be announced soon.

While unveiling the

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Speakers at a roundtable, titled "Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Road to COP30", jointly organised by UN Women and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

July Charter likely to be finalised this week

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission is expected to finalise the July Charter within this week. Alongside this, the commission will provide the government with recommendations on how to implement the charter, based on opinions from political parties and experts.

At a meeting with 17 political parties yesterday afternoon, the commission informed them of the process and sought their views on how they wanted the charter to be implemented, Professor Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, told The Daily Star.

"It could be sent to political parties by the end of this week. Written opinions from the parties on the implementation process have been requested. These, along with expert advice, will be used to prepare recommendations for the government. The recommendations will later be formally presented to the interim government," he said.

Last Sunday, the commission held an informal meeting with eight political parties, where proposals for implementing the charter included a public assembly, referendum, constitutional reform sessions, presidential decree, or ordinances.

Yesterday, parties expressed varied opinions. Some

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JULY UPRISING

Police open fired on
journos in Sylhet,
killing Abu Torab

His peer tells ICT-1

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Sylhet-based photojournalist yesterday told the International Crimes Tribunal-1 that police opened fire on journalists during the July uprising, despite his pleas not to shoot, leaving Abu Torab wounded.

Torab later died from his injuries.

Md Mohid Hossain said the incident took place on July 19, 2024, when journalists were covering a procession in Sylhet. The procession was part of a BNP nationwide programme protesting the killing of students and people at Madhuban Point.

Both he and Torab, who was Sylhet correspondent of the Daily Naya Diganta, were present there.

"Without any provocation, police opened fire from behind the procession. They also began firing at us," said Mohid, who works for a local daily.

He was testifying as a prosecution witness in a crimes against humanity case against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina and two of her top aides.

"I raised my hands and shouted at ADC Dastogir, saying, 'Brother, we are journalists, please do not fire at us.' But police continued firing. Suddenly, Abu

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Women's voices must shape COP30 policies

Speakers tell UN Women, Star discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday urged the government to prioritise women's full participation in climate decision-making and address gaps in climate finance.

They also emphasised the importance of intersectionality, ensuring that policies consider the diverse experiences of women, including those from indigenous communities and women with disabilities.

The event, titled "Advancing Gender-Responsive Climate Action: Road to COP30", was jointly organised by UN Women and The Daily Star at the capital's The Daily Star Centre.

UN Women Deputy Representative Navanita Sinha, in her welcome speech, said this is a significant year for gender equality and women's rights.

"We are marking the 30th anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action, the most comprehensive framework for advancing women's rights. Over these three decades, there have been important gains in some areas, but overall progress has not been as fast or comprehensive as we had hoped," she said.

Sinha said the current year is also pivotal for climate action, as preparations



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ensure women's participation in climate decisions
- Close gaps in climate finance for women
- Apply intersectionality in policies
- Strengthen Gender Action Plan implementation
- Promote cross-sector collaboration on gender, climate

for COP30 advance. COP29 delivered several milestones, including the endorsement of the enhanced Lima Work Programme on Gender and the extension of its ten-year commitment to

a Gender Action Plan.

However, significant gaps remain, particularly in climate finance, access to technology, and gender responsive adaptation and mitigation strategies, Sinha said.

"Recognising this, the work towards COP30 becomes especially important. That is why we organised today's discussion -- to advocate for stronger gender commitments and ensure our collective voice contributes meaningfully to the process," she said.

UN Women Programme Specialist Dilruba Haider highlighted the UNFCCC Gender Action Plan (GAP), developed under the Lima Work Programme.

The plan advances gender-responsive climate action through five priority areas: capacity building and knowledge management, women's leadership and participation, coherence across international frameworks, gender-responsive means of implementation, and monitoring and reporting.

Haider identified key challenges, including insufficient focus on climate finance, weak institutionalisation of transformative ambitions, and political debates around gender.

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US does not support any party or person

Says Chargé d'Affaires,
calls on CEC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Tracey Ann Jacobson, US Chargé d'Affaires to Bangladesh, yesterday reaffirmed Washington's support for the interim government and the Election Commission in holding a free and fair national election early next year.

Speaking with reporters after a meeting with Chief Election Commissioner AMM Nasir Uddin at the EC's headquarters in the capital, she said the purpose of her visit was "to listen, to learn, and to understand".

"We support the interim government and the Election Commission in charting a pathway to free and fair elections. We hope those elections will happen in an atmosphere of peace and security and will lead to a successful democratic government that will represent the aspirations and dreams of the Bangladeshi people," she said.

The one-hour meeting, attended by David Moo, political chief at the US embassy, and Political Specialist Firoze Ahmed, started at 2:30pm yesterday.

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Tracey Ann Jacobson

AMM Nasir Uddin

Physiotherapy overlooked in health system

Speakers tell discussion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although physiotherapy is a vital part of health services worldwide, it has not been given due importance in Bangladesh's health system, depriving many patients, said experts and professionals yesterday.

Speakers said the number of physiotherapists is very low compared to the country's population and urged the government to take steps to produce an adequate number of such professionals.

They made the remarks at a discussion titled "Why Incorporating Physiotherapists is Important for the Development of Health Services", organised by the Alliance for Health Reform Bangladesh at Bishwo Shahitto Kendro in the capital.

Ahamadullah Hil Galeb, a clinical physiotherapist at BRB Hospital, said physiotherapists play an important role in comprehensive health services.

However, in Bangladesh, physiotherapy is often provided by medical technologists with only a diploma in this sector, depriving patients of proper care, he said.

There are only about 6,000 physiotherapists with a five-year university approved degree, with around 780 graduates entering the field each year, he also said, adding, "It is not possible to provide proper service with such few numbers."

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As the sun dips below the horizon, two fishermen set out on their boat across the tranquil waters of Itna Haor in Kishoreganj. The evening casts a golden glow over the haor, where many locals rely on fishing for their livelihood, working from dusk into the night.

PHOTO: TAFSILUL AZIZ

Army to remain on mobile duty

Says home adviser;
navy and air force to
assist in polls securityOUR CORRESPONDENT,
Sylhet

Home Adviser Lt Gen (ret'd) Md Jahangir Alam Chowdhury



yesterday said the army, navy, and air force will be deployed to assist in ensuring security during the upcoming national election.

Speaking to reporters in Sylhet after a meeting with administration officials and law enforcement agencies, the adviser said 4,000 police personnel have already completed training, while another batch is undergoing training and a third will begin training soon.

He emphasised the role of Ansar in

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