



IMPLEMENTING JULY CHARTER Commission readies multiple options for govt

MD ABBAS

The National Consensus Commission is considering recommending multiple pathways to the government for implementing the constitutional matters in the July Charter.

One package under discussion would outline three possible routes. The first is issuance of a Constitutional Order followed by a referendum on the order.

The second is to seek an advisory opinion from the Supreme Court under article 106 of the constitution. The article states that if the president deems a legal question important to the public, he or she may seek the Supreme Court's opinion. The Appellate Division then may report its opinion to the president.

The third option is to hold a referendum and secure public endorsement of the constitutional matters of the July Charter through a yes-or-no vote.

Another package could involve the formation of a Constituent Assembly, or a Constitutional Reform Assembly.

These options were discussed at a virtual meeting between the commission and legal experts on Friday night, according to sources present at the meeting.

Contacted, Monir Haider, special assistant to the chief adviser involved in building national consensus, said the legal experts emphasised the importance of verifying the will of the people in the process. "But there is no concrete decision yet," he added.

A press statement from the commission yesterday confirmed that it decided to present multiple recommendations to the government on the July Charter's implementation.

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POSSIBLE PATHWAYS

- Issuing a Constitutional Order
- Seeking Supreme Court's opinion
- Holding a referendum
- Forming a Constituent Assembly



A schoolboy stands at the helm, not with oars but by gripping a rope tied to the riverbank, as he ferries his friends across the Shib river to Naogaon Govt Primary School in Rajshahi's Mohonpur upazila. A bamboo bridge built by locals collapsed years ago, and despite repeated promises, the authorities have yet to construct a permanent one. Due to the risky journey, attendance has sharply fallen as parents have stopped sending their children to the school. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

A peek into London lives of ousted AL leaders

BULBUL HASAN from London

Within days of the Awami League regime's collapse on August 5 last year, a steady stream of former ministers, MPs, and high-profile loyalists slipped out of the country, seeking safety in foreign shores.

Now, more than a year later, many of them have resurfaced in London, no longer hiding in silence but circling back into public view, trying to signal relevance even as their reputations remain under a cloud.

In the first few months of exile, they were in hushed conversations among the diaspora. They stayed indoors, tucked away in houses mostly in

East London and in anonymous outer boroughs.

But gradually, they have become visible, appearing at political gatherings of party activists, attending social events, even showing up at demonstrations. The Bangladeshi community in London has begun to see the outlines of a once-powerful machine struggling to reassemble itself abroad.

Several former leaders have re-emerged through the UK Awami League (UK AL). Among them are Shofiqur Rahman Choudhury, former state minister for expatriates' welfare, Anwaruzzaman Chowdhury, former mayor of Sylhet City Corporation and currently a joint

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Revive, reform NHRC to protect human rights

Speakers tell dialogue; Iftekharuzzaman names agencies behind 'surveillance society'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Until the National Human Rights Commission, the country's top rights watchdog that has been inactive for nearly a year, is revived and reformed, rights violations will continue unchecked, said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh.

He said the government must explain why the NHRC has remained dormant, with no chairperson or members, describing the situation as "embarrassing" for the authorities.

The remarks came as speakers discussed a draft ordinance for the NHRC, at a citizens' dialogue organised by Citizen's Platform for SDGs, Bangladesh, under the initiative of Bangladesh Reform Watch, held at a city hotel.

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Protesters hold placards and Palestinian flags as they march through the city centre during a civil society and faith-based organisations' mass rally for Gaza in Cape Town, South Africa, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

91 more killed in Gaza

Trump says talks to continue 'as long as needed' for a ceasefire deal

AGENCIES

Israeli assault on Gaza killed at least 91 Palestinians yesterday, a day after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu vowed to "finish the job" against Hamas during a speech at the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

The killings came as US President Donald Trump said he is hopeful about a Gaza ceasefire plan after talking with Muslim and Arab leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

The developments came after Israeli newspaper Haaretz cited sources saying Hamas had agreed in principle to release all the Israeli hostages it holds in return for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and the gradual withdrawal of Israeli troops under Trump's plan.

Also included in the proposal were the end of Hamas rule in Gaza, and Israel agreeing not to annex the territory and drive out Palestinians living there, Haaretz reported.

"Hamas has not been presented with any plan," a Hamas official who asked not to be named told Reuters.

In his comments to reporters on

- Gaza's health system on the verge of collapse
- Trump to host Netanyahu tomorrow
- Pro-Palestinian rallies held in many countries

Friday in which he said "it's looking like we have a deal on Gaza", Trump offered no details of its contents and gave no timetable. Israel has not yet made any public response to Trump's comments.

Trump is due tomorrow to meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who heads a hard-right governing coalition opposed to ending the Gaza war until Hamas is destroyed.

Trump also said on Friday talks on Gaza with Middle Eastern nations were intense and would continue as long as required.

His special envoy Steve Witkoff said the US president had presented proposals to the leaders of multiple Muslim-majority countries this week that included a 21-point Middle East peace plan.

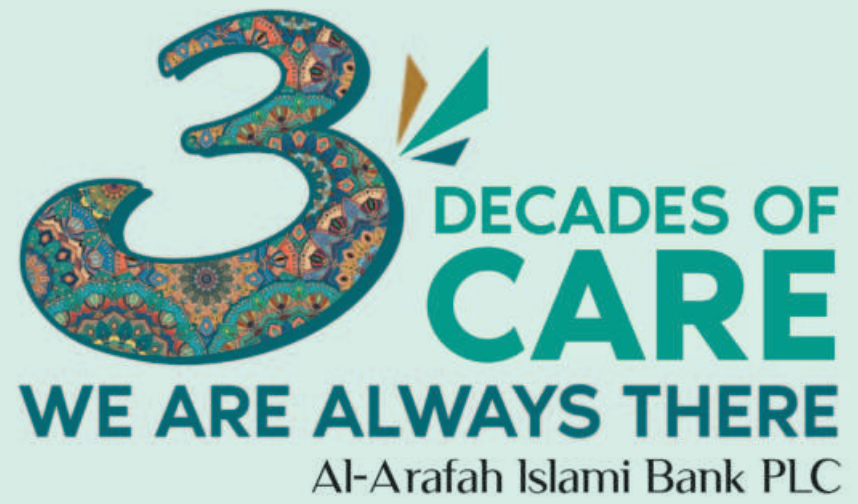
In Gaza meanwhile, the assault continued.

The Israeli military said its aircraft struck 120 targets across the strip over the past day as troops pressed deeper into Gaza City. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 74 people were killed in Gaza in the last 24 hours.

Later, quoting health officials, Al Jazeera reported that more than 91 Palestinians were killed in relentless Israeli attacks throughout the Gaza Strip, including at least 46 in Gaza City.

In a post on social media platform X, the military's Arabic spokesman repeated calls for Gaza City residents to evacuate.

The UN World Food Programme estimates that some 350,000-400,000 Palestinians have left since Israel began its expanded ground offensive in Gaza City a couple of weeks ago, but hundreds of thousands remain.



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