

Jamaat backing

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"We must not allow Bangladesh to fall into such an unstable and uncertain situation by adopting this arrangement."

Under a PR system, independent candidates would lose their rights as they would not be able to contest elections because people would vote for parties and symbols, not individuals.

"Voters would not even know who they are voting for. Do we want a system that does not protect the democratic rights of the people of Bangladesh, or one that people cannot understand? Of course not. So, no party should try to mislead the nation by talking about the PR system."

About the proposed July Charter, Salauddin said people could express their opinion through a referendum held on the same day as the national election.

"If people say yes, then the newly elected parliament will have the mandate to implement that charter."

He criticised any move to impose constitutional changes immediately through unconstitutional means.

"If we do so, it will create a bad precedent and lead to repeated demands for such changes in the future. The state is not a child's game. We cannot play with the fate of 180 million people. The country must be run in a lawful and systematic way."

He expressed hope that discussions on the proposed national charter, set for October 5, would result in a fair, lawful and widely accepted process of constitutional reform.

Finding good

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governance in the sector. Banks often give loans without understanding the risks, he said.

He also said that the size of the country's financial sector is only 52 to 53 percent of the GDP, while in China, the ratio is more than 200 percent, and in India, it is about 100 percent. "Bangladesh's situation is unacceptable", he said.

Finance Adviser Ahmed emphasised moral training along with skill development training. Trained but dishonest people can do more harm than untrained people, he said.

He said the interim government has at least tried to leave an effective footprint for the next government.

"If the next government does not follow good practice, people will bring them down to the streets. History may repeat itself again, because the people are very aware," he said.

"We admit that there are some shortcomings in the regulatory bodies and policymaking. But it is difficult to correct all the mistakes of the past in just 14 months," he said, urging people to have patience.

"We are trying to implement some fundamental reforms in the next few months."

Financial Excellence Ltd Chairman Mamun Rashid said they have organised more than 250 customised training courses on various subjects, including AI-based solutions, project management, negotiation techniques and relationship management in the banking sector, along with many senior recruitment initiatives and financial consulting for corporates.

Hazera Begum's home of hope

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or have reunited with their mothers. "No matter where they are, they continue to support the shelter, keeping their bond with the home alive."

Sadia (not her real name) was once brought to Hazera by her mother, who feared she would otherwise be recruited into the same brothel. "Now she is studying, with dreams of building a life where no one can force her into anything."

Hazera's own life gives the school its soul. Born in 1971, she spent parts of her childhood on Dhaka's streets after family breakdown and bereavement. As a teenager, she was sold into brothels in Sadarghat and Narayanganj, where she spent six years before escaping.

At 18, while still homeless, she gained literacy through an adult education programme. By 1997 she had found work at Care Bangladesh and began writing poems and short stories drawn from lived realities.

Her years of hunger, insecurity and stigma convinced her that education and a safe space could break cycles of marginalisation. The shelter's mission remains simple: to keep children long pushed aside firmly within education. Caretakers and volunteers focus on the basics — learning, confidence building, and daily routine — the small habits that keep a child safe.

Hazera says her dream is that these children be known



PHOTO: TANGILA TASnim

Hazera Begum speaks as children from Shishuder Jonno Amra gather around her.

not by the stigma of their parents' work or the streets they grew up on, but by their own achievements — as doctors, engineers, teachers or civil servants.

Yet stigma lingers. "When I go anywhere with the children, or take them for school admissions, the authorities always view them as a burden to society," Hazera said.

Alongside managing the shelter, she tries to instil values in the children while also celebrating their achievements. "Whenever they get good results, or during festivals, I try to cook special food for them like khichudi and other dishes, just to make them happy."

Ninth grader Md Suman said, "I came to this shelter when I was three. Now I

can study properly. If I can continue my studies, I want to become an army officer. I also discovered I really love drawing. This place has changed my life. But outside these walls, society isn't easy for us. Sometimes schools won't admit us because of our family backgrounds. Despite the hurdles, we keep going."

Md Nayem, 11, a fourth grader, added, "I don't have memories of my parents anymore. I don't even remember the last time I saw my mother. But our Hazera Ma takes care of us here and I can study without any problems. I aspire to become a CID officer!"

Farzana Akhter Jharna, once a resident and now a volunteer, said, "I want to spend the rest of my life with these kids, helping them

grow and make all their dreams come true. I arrived here at six. I didn't know how to speak to outsiders and was often ignored. Now, I want to make sure no child feels that way. After I finish my higher studies, I'll teach here full time."

Hazera's struggle remains unfinished. "Many people have visited and spoken about our shelter home, but in the last 15 years no one has helped us secure a permanent piece of land. If I had that, I could build a proper building with more capacity and save many more children."

"Right now, I am struggling with so many shortcomings. Even if someone wants to help me with just a single pair of shoes, I will gratefully accept it."

to the plan may be based on a calculation that he can keep on the right side of Trump and the United States, Israel's vital ally, while also conceding as little as possible to avoid alienating his religious nationalist coalition partners, who have been staunch opponents of any deal with the Palestinians and have long pushed to continue the war.

Much will now come down to how far Trump is willing to twist Netanyahu's arm and force him to agree to a deal.

Oren Setter, senior fellow at Harvard's Belfer Center and former head of the Israel Defence Forces' strategic planning division, said it was a significant achievement by Trump to get all the sides to engage with the plan, adding: "But it's the beginning of the process. It's not the end of the process."

same courage, resolve and unwavering spirit he showed when he endured 107 days in prison in 2018 for speaking out against injustice under the Hasina government," it said.

He stands today as a shining embodiment of the unyielding spirit of Bangladesh, read the statement.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman also praised the renowned photographer and rights activist for joining the Gaza flotilla, calling his move a symbol of Bangladesh's stand against oppression and injustice.

"By carrying Bangladesh's flag, he reminds the world of what the people of Bangladesh stand for — never bowing down to oppression and injustice," Tarique wrote in a post on Facebook early yesterday.

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