

JULY CHARTER Next JS may get 90-120 days for implementation

Consensus commission mulls proposing
Constitution Reform Assembly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission is considering a proposal to allow the next parliament to function as a Constitution Reform Assembly for three to four months to implement the July Charter.

At an unofficial meeting yesterday, the commission discussed possible recommendations for the interim government on implementing the charter, including holding a referendum.

It also considered recommending a "July Sanad Bastobayan Bishesh Adesh" (Special July Charter Implementation Order) to be issued by the president and that the referendum will be held under that order.

However, the commission will not propose any specific date for the referendum.

It has not yet finalised the exact wording of the question to be asked in the referendum, said Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the consensus commission.

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ISSUES BEING DISCUSSED

Under which process,
law, order, or ordinance
the referendum will be
held

What questions will be
included in it

When it will take place



FOUR YEARS IN FILTH

A man in a wheelchair makes his way through ankle-deep, pitch black water on the Pipe Rasta of North Jurain in Dhaka yesterday. Residents say the area's drainage system collapsed four years ago, but Dhaka South City Corporation has yet to act. They suffer all the time, especially during rain.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Ctg port tariff hike sparks outrage

Business leaders fear blow to competitiveness,
allege move to benefit operators

 In my 29 years of experience,
I've never seen the port incur
losses. Then why increase
tariffs by 41 percent?

Salim Rahman, first vice-president of BGMEA



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong-based business leaders yesterday warned that the 41 percent hike in service charges at Chittagong Port would seriously erode Bangladesh's competitiveness in the global market.

The decision came at a time when exports are already under strain due to additional US tariffs, and it would make Chittagong "the costliest port in the region", they said.

At a coordination meeting held at Radisson Blu Chittagong Bay View, they demanded immediate suspension of the new tariff schedule until discussions are held with all stakeholders.

The meeting was organised under the banner of "Chittagong Sorbostorer

Byabsayeebrindo" and chaired by Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

Several speakers questioned the interim government's haste in enforcing the tariff hike and alleged that it was done to pave the way for foreign port operators.

"The interim government does not have such responsibility and accountability that it should rush for increasing port charges," said former CCCI president Amir Humayun. "It is alleged that some foreign port operators like DP World, who intend to operate port terminals, want such tariff hikes so they can easily make profit."

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3 terminals
to get foreign
operators by
December

Says shipping secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government plans to hand over the operations of at least three terminals, including Laldia and New Mooring Container Terminal, to foreign operators by December, said Shipping Secretary Mohammed Yousuf.

"There are still issues under negotiation, but by December, we hope to move forward with these three key projects," he said at a seminar on the potential of investment in the ocean-going shipping industry.

The ports' low efficiency is one reason behind Bangladesh's low foreign direct investment inflows compared to its regional peers, he said at the seminar organised by the Economic Reporters Forum at its office yesterday.

"We often say FDI isn't coming, but look — Bangladesh received only

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Awami League ran a 'monstrous regime'

Prosecution tells ICT in closing
argument of a case against Hasina

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Aided by the administration and the judiciary, the Awami League established a "monstrous regime" during its 15-year rule, Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam told the International Crimes Tribunal-I during the closing argument of a case filed against deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

This is the first closing argument in any case filed with the ICT relating to crimes against humanity, enforced disappearances, and extrajudicial killings committed during the 15 years. Hasina and her two top aides are accused in this case.

Comparing the AL's post-independence years to its 2009-2024 rule, Tajul said both periods were marked by unlawful detentions, torture, and election rigging.

MPO teachers call strike after police 'excess'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers from non-government MPO-listed institutions across the country declared an indefinite work abstention from today, protesting police action during their sit-in in the capital yesterday.

The announcement came from a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar around 4:30pm, hours after police dispersed the demonstrators in front of the Jatiya Press Club using water cannons, baton charges, and sound grenades.

Delwar Hossain Azizi, member secretary of the Alliance for Nationalisation of MPO Institutions, announced the decision, saying, "Teachers were brutally attacked in front of the Press Club. In protest, we will observe a full day work abstention at all MPO-listed institutions across the country from tomorrow [today]."

He said the protest would continue until the government meets their demands and releases the detained teachers unconditionally.

The day began with thousands of teachers from schools, colleges, and madrasas gathering in front of the Jatiya Press Club around 10:00am. Many had arrived in Dhaka since Saturday to join the sit-in, demanding implementation of their three-point charter.

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A protester falls to the ground as several police officers move in on him during a demonstration by teachers of MPO-enlisted educational institutions in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. Police used water cannons and sound grenades to disperse the protesters, who were demanding that their house rent allowance be increased to 20 percent of their salaries.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



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Israel declares victory over Hamas in Gaza

Rivals to swap hostages, prisoners as
Trump to host peace summit in Egypt

AGENCIES

Israel declared victory yesterday in its war with Hamas as the Palestinian group prepared to release its surviving hostages, a key step in Donald Trump's Gaza plan hours before he hosts a peace summit in Egypt.

Under the US president's proposed roadmap, once the Palestinian militants have handed over the hostages, Israel will begin releasing around 2,000 detainees in exchange.

But negotiators were still wrangling late yesterday over the final arrangements, with two Hamas sources telling AFP the group was insisting that Israel include seven senior Palestinian leaders on the list of those to be released.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was nevertheless confident.

"This is an emotional evening, an evening of tears, an evening of joy, because tomorrow our children will return to our borders," Netanyahu said, quoting a biblical verse.

"Together we achieved tremendous victories, victories that amazed the whole world ... But at the same time I must tell you, the fight is not over," he said.

Israel's army chief, Lieutenant General Eyal Zamir, also claimed victory.

"The military pressure we applied over the past two years, together with complementary diplomatic measures, constitute a victory over Hamas," Zamir said.

Shosh Bedrosian, a spokeswoman for Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu's office, said the hostage release "will begin early Monday morning", with Israel "expecting

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