



"The United States is our adversary, and their talkative 'peacemaker' has now fully embarked on the warpath with Russia."

Says former Russian president Dmitry Medvedev referring to Trump

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RPO AMENDMENT Alliance candidates must use own party symbols

Fugitives cannot run; 'no vote'
returns in case of single candidate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory council yesterday approved major amendments to the Representation of the People Order, 1972, making it mandatory for candidates contesting polls under an alliance to use the symbol of their own party, not that of the coalition leader.

The amendments also bar anyone declared a fugitive by a court from contesting elections, reintroduce the "no vote" option for single-candidate constituencies, and recognise the armed forces as law enforcement agencies during elections.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus chaired the meeting at his Tejgaon office.

Briefing reporters afterwards, Law Adviser Prof Asif Nazrul explained the change in rules for symbols of alliances. The move aims to give voters a clear idea of each candidate's party identity, he said.

- ④ Armed forces may be deployed directly by the EC
- ④ EC can now cancel polling across entire constituencies
- ④ False affidavits will lead to probe, legal action, loss of seat
- ④ All provisions related to EVMs scrapped
- ④ Nomination papers must be submitted in person
- ④ Creating, spreading false, AI-generated content have been criminalised

In the past, smaller partners in alliances led by major parties like the Awami League and BNP were able to run under the larger party's symbol.

Contacted for comments over this amendment, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said his party opposed the change.

"From our side, we gave a proposal that this should not be changed. We think it should remain the same as before. If the small parties in an alliance cannot use the symbol of the big party, then there will be no meaning in being part of the alliance."

Asked about the amendments, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar said the changes would create problems for some parties.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Sackfuls of radish, cauliflower, pointed gourd, and other winter vegetables from early harvests await transport at Naohata market in Rajshahi's Poba upazila yesterday, signalling winter is not far away. Customers there complained that retail prices remain much higher compared to wholesale despite improved supply.

ACC may get power to probe Bangladeshis abroad Cabinet okays draft law aimed at boosting anti-graft body's authority

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission is set to gain authority to investigate corruption involving Bangladeshi citizens both at home and abroad, as well as foreign nationals residing in the country.

It will be handed this power under the draft Anti-Corruption Commission Ordinance 2025, which received in-principle approval at an Advisory Council meeting chaired by Chief

Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday.

Briefing reporters at the Foreign Service Academy afterwards, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul said the ACC will now be able to pursue allegations against anyone living in Bangladesh, regardless of nationality, and will also have the authority to probe Bangladeshi citizens abroad if evidence of graft is found.

He, however, noted that the mechanisms for conducting investigations overseas are yet

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Govt to ease labour union requirement

Draft ordinance prohibits blacklisting of workers, recognises house helps as workers
ASIFUR RAHMAN and SUKANTA HALDER

The government is planning to relax key labour law requirements, significantly lowering the entry barrier for a trade union.

The advisory council yesterday approved a draft ordinance to allow groups of as few as 20 workers to apply to form a trade union, a major regulatory shift in worker representation, particularly in smaller industrial units.

It came after the government recently ratified three ILO Conventions that would guarantee workers' rights, safety and freedom from violence and harassment in the workplace.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



The victorious Bangladesh team celebrates with the trophy after winning the series-deciding third ODI against the West Indies by 179 runs to clinch the series 2-1, and end a four-series losing streak in the format at the Sher-e-Bangla National Cricket Stadium in Mirpur yesterday.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

We'll ensure
Dhaka-Delhi ties
based on respect
Says Shafiqur, apologises
for any mistakes since 1947

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Shafiqur Rahman yesterday said if elected to office, his party would ensure Dhaka's relationship with Delhi is based on mutual respect.



State runs on laws, not emotions

Says BNP, criticises some parties'
stance on July charter, reiterates
plot afoot to delay polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday warned against any move that goes beyond the law regarding the July National Charter and accused certain political parties of trying to delay the upcoming national election.

The party also said the state is not run on emotions, but rather on the rule of law.

While speaking at a book launching ceremony at the Institution of Diploma Engineers in Dhaka in the afternoon, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir said efforts are being made to delay the national election in February.

"Some people are saying that the chief adviser can now promulgate a law, or issue an order in line with the people's wishes expressed during the July uprising. That is a revolutionary and emotional statement..."

Salahuddin Ahmed, BNP standing committee member



"I don't want to blame any party or any person. But with frustration, I notice that some political parties are trying to delay the election, trying to make sure it is not held on time. This is not right," Fakhrul said.

The BNP leader alleged that some people, including social media influencers, are trying to portray BNP as a "villain to the nation by spreading false information".

He, however, praised the National Consensus Commission, saying it has completed some important reform tasks within a short time.

At another event at the Jatiya Press Club, BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed rejected a proposal to give the July National Charter constitutional recognition through an executive order.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

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SPEAKERS



Ruhul Quddus Khan
CEO and Managing Director, Unilever Bangladesh



Ewa Wasiluk
Head of Supply Chain Operations, AMEA Syngenta



Ejazur Rahman
Regional CEO, ISCEA (Asia)



Syeda Tahya Hossain
Chief Human Resources Officer, Grameenphone



Farah Zabeen
Global Operational Excellence Director, Coats



Md. Shakhsawat Hossain
CEO, Neural Semiconductor



Mahmud Hassan Khan
Chief Supply Chain Officer, Shanta Holdings



Syed Shakil Ahmed
Head of AI Strategy & Development, Grameenphone

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