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Parties far apart on crucial issues

Major political parties have taken firm and opposing stances after the National Consensus Commission submitted its recommendations on implementing the July National Charter 2025 yesterday. The parties remain deeply divided over when the referendum should be held, whether a constitutional order is required, and how the upper house of parliament should be formed. BNP wants the referendum to be held on the day of the national election while Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizen Party (NCP) insist it should take place before the polls. The divide widens further over the constitutional order: BNP has outright rejected the proposal, whereas Jamaat and NCP support it as essential legal backing for the charter. On the formation of the upper house, BNP proposes it be based on the number of seats a party wins in the lower house while Jamaat and NCP want it on the basis of percentage of votes cast for each party in the lower house.

Commission creating further disunity among parties Says BNP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Standing Committee member Salahuddin Ahmed has alleged that instead of forging unity, the National Consensus Commission is creating further division.

He made the remark while speaking to reporters after meeting the law adviser at the Secretariat yesterday afternoon, just after the Consensus Commission submitted recommendations for the charter's implementation to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

Criticising the commission for inserting new proposals beyond what was in the July charter, he said, "I think everything that has been proposed...



includes many points outside the signed charter and beyond the agreed recommendations."

Expressing concern over the transparency of the process, the BNP leader added that there is no mention of the notes of dissent provided by political parties in the proposed July charter implementation order. "Surprisingly, the attachments provided today with the list of proposals do not include the notes of dissent provided by political parties."

Salahuddin also alleged that a new proposal -- the formation of a

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Referendum on election day a plot to please one party Says Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami has reiterated the demand for a referendum before the national election and a presidential order to implement the July charter.

"Those who want to hold the referendum on the same day [as the election] actually intend to render the July charter ineffective," said Jamaat Secretary General Mia Golam Parwar at a rally held at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque in Dhaka yesterday.

Jamaat's Dhaka South unit organised the rally and procession demanding justice and punishment for those involved in the "logi-boitha (poles and sticks) violence of October 28, 2006",



which the party said resulted in killings. "We are hearing that some individuals within the government are plotting to stage a farce by holding the national election and the referendum on the same day just to please a particular party," Parwar said.

The July Charter, achieved through a sea of blood and a historic transformation of the state structure, is being "targeted".

Calling on the government to "abandon this short-sighted plan", Parwar demanded that the referendum be held in November in line with the

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Will sign charter if implementation order issued at Shaheed Minar Says NCP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Citizen Party will sign the July charter if Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus issues the implementation order at the Central Shaheed Minar, the party's Chief Coordinator Nasiruddin Patwary said yesterday.

"If Chief Adviser Yunus and other advisers come to Shaheed Minar, and if everything goes according to our consent, then we'll also go to Shaheed Minar and sign it," Patwary said at a roundtable titled "Implementation Roadmap of the July charter" at the Jatiya Press Club.

He said the chief adviser should not



issue the implementation order from Jamuna or the Secretariat, but rather in front of the people.

"We've been patient enough. He [Yunus] was hiding from everyone for long, but now he has no chance to do that as the people have brought him to power."

The party also demanded that Yunus invite the families of those injured and martyred in the July uprising to the event at Shaheed Minar.

"If the authorities make a U-turn on the implementation of the July charter, the people will respond accordingly in

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Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus receives the recommendations for implementing the July National Charter 2025 from Prof Ali Riaz, vice president of the National Consensus Commission, at a ceremony held yesterday afternoon at the State Guest House Jamuna. The event was attended by commission members and advisers to the interim government.

PHOTO: CA PRESS WING

Govt has to decide on referendum time

Consensus commission submits to govt its recommendations on July charter implementation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Consensus Commission yesterday submitted its long-awaited recommendations to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, leaving it to the government to decide if the proposed referendum on the July charter will be held on the same day as the general election in February, or earlier.

It has also asked the government to decide whether the July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order would be issued by the president or the chief adviser.

"We have provided two alternative proposals on implementing the charter," Prof Ali Riaz, vice-president of the commission, said at a press conference later at the Foreign Service Academy after the proposals in detail were handed over to Yunus at the state guest house Jamuna around noon.

"We requested the government to initiate the implementation process as quickly as possible. We hope they will do so," he said.

After receiving the recommendations, Yunus said, "Proper implementation of the July charter will free the nation from the burdens of its past and guide it forward."

The commission recommended that the government first issue the implementation order to formally begin the process, followed by a referendum seeking public approval.

Under the proposed framework, the next parliament would have a dual role for its first 270 days -- a legislature and a constitution reform council.

Any notes of dissent attached by political parties will not be part of the referendum question.

Asked if parties would be able to change reform proposals on which they had issued notes of dissent, Prof Riaz said, "If the public gives its verdict, political parties will then determine their role accordingly. The commission believes that no political party should view

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Govt has to issue July charter implementation order

Constitutional reforms will be listed in the order

A referendum will be held on the order

Next JS to also act as reform council for 270 days

A bill, on constitutional reforms, automatically takes effect if council fails to implement within 270 days

Upper house to be formed during 13th parliament's tenure

Mohebbullah's abduction allegation false Say police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Mufti Mohammad Mohebbullah Miyaji, who claimed to have been abducted, had actually travelled to Panchagarh on his own and was not kidnapped, said Gazipur Metropolitan Police yesterday.

At a press briefing, Taherul Huq Chauhan, additional police commissioner of GMP, shared details of the probe into the reported abduction of the khatib of the T&T Bazar Mosque in Tongi.

According to the case filed on October 24, Mohebbullah claimed that around 7:00am on October 22, four to five unidentified individuals stopped an ambulance in front of a filling station and forced him inside. He said they blindfolded him, tortured him inside the vehicle, cut his beard, and later left him stripped by the roadside.

Two mobile phone SIM cards and a smartphone

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A freight train derailed at the Sagorika level crossing in Chattogram city after a truck crashed into it around 4:00am yesterday, causing the locomotive and two wagons to veer off the tracks. The collision claimed the life of a night guard and disrupted freight train operations at least until 10:00pm.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

JOURNO PROTECTION ORDINANCE Independent media commission dropped from ministry draft

ZYMA ISLAM

A draft ordinance prepared by the information ministry has omitted any reference to an independent media commission as proposed by the body tasked with media reforms.

The Media Reform Commission had drafted two laws -- the Bangladesh Media Commission Ordinance, 2025 and the Journalism Rights Protection Ordinance, 2025 -- outlining the creation, roles, and responsibilities of the independent media commission.

In its final report submitted to the chief adviser, the reform commission said, "All forms of media should be brought under a unified, independent supervisory body. The existing Press Council for print and news agencies and the proposed Broadcast Commission for electronic and online media can be merged into a new Bangladesh Media Commission.

"This institution should be free from government control and ensure accountability in line with global best practices through self-regulation. It should be financially autonomous, funded by a small portion of media revenues, similar to the model used in India."

It added that only unconditional government grants may be accepted.

According to the proposal, the independent media commission will be tasked with barring convicted criminals and loan defaulters from owning or managing media outlets. It will also oversee the formulation and enforcement of ethical guidelines for journalists, determine minimum educational criteria for entry into the profession, maintain a national database of active

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