



“It’s an important part of American national security to make sure that this nuclear arsenal we have actually functions properly.”

US VP JD Vance on testing US nuclear arsenal

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সেকেন্ড থেকে শিথরে

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 1, 2025

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XXXV No. 279

KARTIK 16, 1432 BS

www.thedailystar.net

JAMADIUL AWWAL 9, 1443 HJRI

16 PAGES: TK 15.00



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BB seeks legal overhaul for full autonomy

Proposes search panel, court of inquiry to shield top posts from politics

REJAU KARIM BYRON and WASIM BIN HABIB

Bangladesh Bank has sent a set of sweeping reform proposals to the government, seeking to align its autonomy with global standards and shield the institution from political influence.

Governor Ahsan H. Mansur outlined the draft amendments to the Bangladesh Bank Order 1972 in a Demi-Official letter dated October 9 to Finance Adviser Salehuddin Ahmed, with copies to the finance secretary and the financial institutions secretary.

The proposals, backed by detailed justifications, aim to elevate the status of the central bank's leadership, restructure its board, and overhaul the appointment and removal process for top officials.

Finance ministry officials said the central bank had placed the draft amendments before its board on September 16, where it was agreed in principle to forward them to the finance ministry to promulgate it as an ordinance.

Through these amendments, a strong legal foundation will be established to prevent the recurrence of past mistakes and irregularities in the financial sector.

Ahsan H. Mansur, BB governor

- 1 Number of govt-nominated director in BB board will be 1 instead of 3
- 2 Number of independent experts will be 4 to 6 instead of existing 3
- 3 BB governor will enjoy the status of a full minister

“Through these amendments, a strong legal foundation will be established to prevent the recurrence of past mistakes and irregularities in the financial sector,” the governor wrote.

Past reform attempts, he noted, faltered “due to lack of political and administrative will”, adding that the current moment is “the most appropriate time” and would stand as a significant contribution by the government.

The nine proposed amendments draw on practices from advanced and regional economies. The letter argues that passing the Bangladesh Bank (Amendment) Ordinance 2025, in step with broader interim government reforms, would empower the central bank to act with greater independence and modern oversight.

The IMF, which has pushed for enhanced central bank autonomy under its \$5.5 billion loan programme and provided technical assistance in drafting the amendments, had set a September deadline for securing the advisory council’s approval, a deadline already missed.

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Tenure ends, full consensus still elusive

MD ABBAS

The tenure of the National Consensus Commission expired yesterday, with the National Citizen Party and four leftist parties yet to sign the July charter of reforms.

Meanwhile, three major parties -- the BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and NCP -- remain divided over how to implement the constitutional reforms in the charter.

The commission submitted its recommendations on implementing the July National Charter 2025 to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus on October 28.

It proposed that the government issue a July Charter Implementation (Constitutional Reform) Order and hold a referendum to secure public endorsement under that order.

It also recommended giving the next parliament a dual mandate for 270 days to oversee the constitutional reforms while performing legislative duties. If it fails to complete the reforms within the timeframe, the proposals would automatically be incorporated into the constitution.

However, five parties -- the NCP, the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Basod),

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A battery-run rickshaw driving across the Malibagh flyover near Mouchak in Dhaka yesterday. Although such slow-moving vehicles are not allowed on flyovers or highways, these rickshaws are often seen flouting the rules, putting commuters' lives at risk.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

The Dhaka North City Corporation, entrusted with protecting public roads from encroachment, has itself occupied a portion of one of the capital's busiest thoroughfares to build a ward office. This brazen irony is all the proof city dwellers need to understand why the city's long-standing street occupation crisis never gets resolved. The photo was taken yesterday on Pragati Sarani in Baridhara.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

NATIONAL CONSENSUS COMMISSION Proposal unconstitutional'

Legal experts oppose automatic incorporation of July charter reforms into the constitution

ASHUTOSH SARKAR and MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Some legal experts have strongly opposed the National Consensus Commission's recommendation that constitutional reforms in the July charter be automatically incorporated into the constitution if these are not implemented within a 270-day timeframe.

Calling the proposal “illegal and unconstitutional”, they said there is no such precedent, and it might be challenged in court.

In the recommendations, submitted to the government on October 28, the consensus commission left it to the government to decide whether a proposed referendum on the July charter will be held on the same day as the general election in February or earlier.

It proposed two alternatives with a common thread -- the government will issue a July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order; a new

parliament will be formed through the general election; the parliament will also act as a constitution reform council with the authority to exercise “constituent power” on constitutional matters.

constitution.

It also left the tough question of who would issue the implementation order -- the president or the chief adviser.

When asked whether the order is

“In the history of law, there have been many new inventions. But this is something unheard of in legal history.”

Constitution expert and lawyer Shahdeen Malik



The first alternative suggests that the referendum question will include the reforms in a schedule of the order, while the second proposes a constitutional reform draft bill based on the charter's proposals, and put the bill in the order's schedule.

If the constitution reform council fails to complete its work within 270 days of its first sitting, the reforms will automatically take effect and be incorporated into the

a constitutional one, constitution expert and lawyer Shahdeen Malik said there is no such precedent in legal history.

He noted that during the Pakistan era, military dictators used to issue similar orders when the constitution remained abrogated.

Regarding the provision of automatic inclusion, he said, “In the history of law, there have been many new inventions. But this is

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BNP caught in reform dilemma ahead of polls

SAJJAD HOSSAIN

The BNP is in a conundrum over how to respond to the National Consensus Commission's recommendations on implementing reforms.

Party leaders said the situation has become uncomfortable for the BNP, which had not anticipated such a development while focusing on its election preparations.

It is now closely monitoring the government's actions and has reiterated that it will not compromise on holding the national polls in February. Instead, it plans to proceed with greater caution in the coming days.

Senior party leaders said the interim government and the consensus commission have recently drawn greater criticism than the BNP over the July charter issue, after losing the trust of political parties by failing to uphold their commitments.

According to political analysts, BNP's most practical option is to pursue a solution through talks. In this way, the party may put strategic pressure on the government to achieve its goals.

The BNP is in a dilemma now. If it rejects the charter,

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Islamic government needed for welfare of Hindus: Porwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Mia Golam Porwar yesterday said all governments since independence have used the Hindu community merely for their own benefit.

“For the betterment of the Hindu community and infrastructural development in Dumuria, Phultala and across the country, an Islamic government is now essential. If anyone obstructs them [Hindus], the people will build resistance,” he said at a meeting in Khulna's Dumuria upazila.

In the event organised by the Hindu committee of the upazila unit of Jamaat-e-Islami, Porwar pledged that if Jamaat gets the chance to govern, it will eliminate terrorism, extortion and land grabbing from the country.

“For 54 years, those who ruled the country have exploited the Hindu community,” he said.

“The people want change, and we want to bring that change. We have seen the rule of the plough, the sheaf of paddy and the boat. Only one symbol remains -- the scale of Jamaat-e-Islami,” he said, referring to electoral symbols of Jatiya Party, BNP, and Awami League.

Reiterating his demand for holding a referendum in November to implement the July charter and then holding the national election in February, Porwar said, “Students from all universities have delivered the message of change, and the people will echo that message in the coming days.”

Babu Krishna Nandi, president of the upazila Hindu committee of Jamaat, urged everyone to vote for the scale to ensure the party's victory.

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