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ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং সেবা প্রদানে 'ইসলামী ব্যাংকিং কর্ণার' পূবালী ব্যাংকের প্রায় সকল শাখা এবং উপশাখায়

NCP, 2 other parties get EC registration

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission is set to grant registration to three new political parties, including the National Citizen Party, formed by leaders of the July uprising.

The two other parties are Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) and Bangladesh Aam Janagan Party.

After months of debate over the NCP's symbol, the EC has allocated "water lily bud" (shapla koli) to the party. Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Marxist) will get the "scissors" symbol, while Bangladesh Aam Janagan Party will get the "handshake" symbol.

In three circulars issued yesterday, the EC said anyone with objections must submit a written application, along with necessary documents, to the EC secretary by November 12.

The NCP applied for registration on June 22, proposing three symbols

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Workers repair a damaged section of the footpath along Moghbazar Road under the supervision of Dhaka South City Corporation, as pedestrians, including students, carefully navigate the uneven path littered with debris. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Be rational, ensure nat'l stability

Speakers urge political parties on reaching consensus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Political leaders, academics and civil society members yesterday said the next seven days will be crucial in determining the future of constitutional reform, depending on whether political parties can reach a consensus.

Speaking at a roundtable in the capital, they expressed hope that parties would adopt rational positions to ensure national stability and democratic continuity.

The discussion, titled "Proposed July National Charter (Constitutional Reform) Implementation Order 2025: Citizens' Expectations and the Need for National Unity", was organised by Nagorik Coalition in association with Voice for Reform and the Bangladesh Research Analysis and Information Network (BRAIN).

A paper comparing two draft implementation orders in the July charter was presented at the event.

BNP Organising Secretary Shama Obaid said the political situation remains uncertain despite months of discussions.

Referring to the chief adviser's recent call for consensus within a week, she said the responsibility now lies with the parties, while citizens wait for clarity.

"Nine months of meetings have failed to explain what a 'yes' or 'no' vote means. You cannot rush a referendum without preparing the voters," she said.

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PROPOSED VISIT OF ZAKIR NAIK Government to proceed with caution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will exercise caution regarding the proposed visit of Indian Islamic preacher Dr Zakir Naik.

The issue was discussed at a meeting of the Core Committee on Law and Order, held at the Secretariat yesterday, with Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury in the chair.

About Naik's visit, the meeting instructed the authorities concerned to engage with the organisers to understand their intentions, said sources at the Chief Adviser's Office and the home ministry.

The meeting also observed that hosting such a figure before the polls should be reconsidered.

Spark Events, an event

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Halt DAP amendment, ensure Dhaka's liveability

Speakers urge govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Green activists, city planners and professionals yesterday urged the government to halt its move to amend the Detailed Area Plan (DAP), calling it faulty and harmful to Dhaka's liveability.

At a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity, speakers said the government was pushing ahead with the amendment while ignoring the opinions of planners, environmentalists, professionals and civic organisations.

"If the amendment goes through, the number of high-rise buildings will increase, putting unbearable pressure on Dhaka's already strained transportation and utility systems. The city cannot handle such a burden. This move will push Dhaka's liveability to the brink of collapse," said Adil Mohammed Khan, president of the Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP).

Adil said Rajuk officially gazetted the DAP on August 24, 2022, with goals such

as area-based population distribution, urban lifeline design, transit-oriented development, block-based planning and transfer of development rights.

But within a year, in September 2023, the plan was amended to serve business interests without consulting professionals, violating its five-year update cycle, he said, adding, "Such repeated revisions are self-destructive for the city and undermine sound urban planning practices."

He said the proposed amendments would increase building heights and development intensity in most areas, doubling the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) in many cases.

"Allowing 10-11-storey buildings where only five were permitted will worsen congestion and overburden civic services," he said.

Adil said raising population density from 250 to 300 per acre was reckless. "No global city maintains a density above 200. Such changes will turn

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ADIL MOHAMMED KHAN
President of BIP

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Real estate developers were acting as policymakers and harming the city by occupying natural drainage channels in the name of development.

JYOTIRMOY BARUA
Supreme Court lawyer

European envoys push for Airbus in Biman fleet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Envoys from France, Germany, the UK and the EU in Dhaka yesterday said adding Airbus aircraft to Biman's fleet, alongside its existing models, would help make the national carrier more flexible, resilient and competitive.

They expressed the view at a programme titled "European Dialogue on Bangladesh Aviation Growth" held at the France-German Embassy in Dhaka.

Jean-Marc Séré-Charlet, who joined Bangladesh as the new French ambassador in late September, said Bangladesh's rapid growth and strategic position between South Asia and Southeast Asia offered tremendous opportunities for collaboration with France and Europe.

"It is precisely within this context of shared ambition and partnership that Airbus stands out, and that France and Europe fully support its engagement in the country," he said.

EU Ambassador Michael Miller said, "We are requesting Bangladesh to ensure that our economic operators are allowed to compete on the basis of commercial merit. We anticipate a level playing field, meaning we need Bangladesh to ensure that EU operators are not treated less favourably than any other trading partners."

"And in this respect, the European aviation sector is a strategic priority for the European Union in Bangladesh. And as I underline this point, I look at the position of Airbus in this market. And what I want to do very clearly is to call for its inclusion in plans for the fleet renewal of Biman in line with Bangladesh's long-standing assurances of transparency and nondiscrimination."

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Distinguished guests and Prothom Alo employees gather to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Bangla daily at Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium in the capital yesterday.

PHOTO: PROTHOM ALO

Prothom Alo celebrates 27th anniv

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangla daily Prothom Alo celebrated its 27th anniversary with much enthusiasm and fanfare yesterday.

As part of the event, a celebratory programme was held at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh auditorium in Dhaka's Farmgate area, where employees of the daily from across the country took part.

Distinguished guests at the event included writer and businessman Alamgir Kabir, architect Marina Tabassum, actor Afzal Hossain, and lawyer and rights activist Manjur Al Matin.

The event was hosted by Prothom Alo Associate Editor Sumona Sharmin, while Executive Editor Sajjad Sharif delivered the welcome remarks.

"Over the past 27 years, the newspaper has proven its commitment to Bangladesh's democratic

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