



“My staff are gathering evidence of violations... (and) the Int'l Criminal Court has indicated that it is following the situation closely.”

UN rights chief Volker Turk on violence in Sudan's El-Fasher

The Daily Star

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JULY CHARTER, REFERENDUM BNP softens stance, Jamaat still rigid

NCP concerned over implementation uncertainty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Although the BNP is not fully satisfied with the government's decisions on key issues regarding the July charter's implementation, it has chosen a softer stance over the matter, ruling out any stern move for now.

On the other hand, the Jamaat-e-Islami has stuck to its demand for holding a referendum on constitutional reforms in the charter before the national election, warning of indefinite sit-ins if its call was ignored.

Meanwhile, the National Citizen Party expressed frustration over the announcement, saying that there is still uncertainty over full implementation of

the July charter.

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus unveiled the decisions in a televised address on Thursday after the parties missed a one week deadline set by the government to reach a consensus on the unresolved July charter issues.

As per the announcement, the national election and the July charter referendum will be held on the same day, a decision that matched the BNP's demand.

The government also decided that an upper house of parliament will be formed through a proportional representation system on the basis of

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AL cannot take part in national polls

Yunus tells UK
minister

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus has said the Awami League would not be able to take part in the upcoming national election as its activities have been suspended under the country's anti-terrorism laws.

He said the Election Commission has subsequently removed the party from the official list of registered political parties.

Prof Yunus made the remarks on Thursday evening during a meeting with visiting British Minister for International Development Baroness Jenny Chapman at the State Guest House Jamuna.

During the meeting, he reaffirmed his government's commitment to ensuring that the upcoming general election will be free, fair and inclusive.

The two discussed a wide range of issues, including the February general election, tackling illegal migration, boosting

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Govt debt tops Tk 21 trillion

REJAUL KARIM BYRON and
WASIM BIN HABIB

For the first time, Bangladesh's outstanding government debt has surged past the Tk 21 trillion mark, pushed upward by chronically weak revenue collection and years of ambitious development spending.

The amount reached Tk 21.44 trillion at the end of June, nearly 14 percent higher than Tk 18.89 trillion a year earlier, according to the Finance Division's debt bulletin released on Thursday.

Foreign borrowing stood at Tk 9.49 trillion, or 44.27 percent of the total, continuing a steady

rise over the past five years. In 2021, foreign debt was Tk 4.20 trillion, roughly 37 percent of total liabilities.

Domestic borrowing also grew, rising around 11 percent to Tk 11.95 trillion from Tk 10.76 trillion last fiscal year. In 2021, the figure was Tk 7.22 trillion.

The trend shows that foreign borrowing has expanded at more than twice the pace of domestic debt.

Finance ministry officials attributed the surge to post-pandemic budgetary support from development partners and heavy disbursements for mega

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GOVT DEBT SITUATION

DOMESTIC DEBT EXTERNAL DEBT

*AS OF JUNE 30 IN TRILLION TAKA

| Year | Domestic Debt | External Debt |
|-------|---------------|---------------|
| 2022* | 8.49 | 4.96 |
| 2023* | 9.62 | 6.73 |
| 2024* | 10.77 | 8.12 |
| 2025* | 11.95 | 9.49 |

REFERENDUM QUESTION 'Too complicated for voters'

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

Despite deep disagreements over the timing of the referendum and other issues, major political parties agreed on one point yesterday -- the proposed four-part referendum question is too difficult for voters to understand.

All parties that participated in drafting the July charter -- BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, National Citizen Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal,

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish, Ganosamhati Andolon, and the Revolutionary Workers Party -- said the set of questions for a "Yes/No" vote is illogical and likely to confuse voters.

In the July National Charter (Constitution Reform) Implementation Order, 2025, issued on Thursday, the referendum question contains four parts covering major constitutional reforms.

The question reads: "Do you

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In Everlasting Memory of

MD. MUJIBUR RAHMAN

Founder Chairman of Blessing Group
Managing Director of Roxy Paints Ltd.
Former President of Bangladesh Paints Dyes & Chemicals Merchants Association

On his 5th Death Anniversary

The void he left, no one can heal. The memories that we cherish no one can steal. His values will continue to inspire us to take his noble works forward. He will live on with us always in our thoughts and forever in our hearts.

Deeply missed and remembered by.....

(15 November, 2020)

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