

NCC reaches decisions on 19 key issues amid dissent

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Online Desk : The National Consensus Commission, in its second phase of dialogue with political parties, reached decisions on 19 key issues, some of which include notes of dissent from participating parties. Vice-Chairman Professor Ali Riaz shared the updates during a press briefing held at the Foreign Service Academy following the 23rd and final day of talks. According to Riaz, all decisions—whether unanimous or marked with dissent—will be incorporated into the upcoming July National Charter. The issues include proposed amendments to Article 70 of the Constitution, increased women’s representation, decentralization of the judiciary and Supreme Court, the prime minister holding multiple positions, and constitutional provisions for appointing key institutions like the Public Service Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Comptroller and Auditor General, and the Ombudsman.

Other topics covered were the formation of an Upper House, methods for presidential elections, defining the president’s powers and responsibilities, the caretaker government system, and the fundamental principles of state policy. Professor Riaz noted that the issue drawing the most dissent was the proposal to increase women’s parliamentary seats. Parties such as Bangladesh JSD, BSD-Marxist, and the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) boycotted the meeting, while a Gono Forum representative expressed dissent without walking out.

The commission has encouraged political parties to continue internal discussions on how to implement the agreed issues. It will act as a facilitator and convene future sessions when appropriate. Representatives from 30 political parties took part in this dialogue phase, including BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Nagorik Party (NCP), Gano Odhikar Parishad, Gana Sanghati Andolon, CPB, Biplobi Workers Party, and Amar Bangladesh (AB) Party. The second phase of talks was officially launched on June 2 by Chief Adviser Professor Dr Muhammad Yunus. Between June 3 and July 31, 23 discussion sessions were held with these parties and alliances.