

INDIA'S ELECTION COMMISSION

SC overhauls
commissioner
appointment

REUTERS, New Delhi

India's top court yesterday ordered the setting up of a bipartisan panel that will include the prime minister and the chief justice to select the country's election commissioners, ending a practice of the government effectively choosing them.

The Election Commission of India is an autonomous constitutional authority but opposition parties have regularly accused it of caving into the demands of the ruling party, a charge it has denied.

The new panel will also include the leader of the opposition in the lower house of parliament or the opposition party with the highest number of members in the house. "This norm will continue to hold good till a law is made by parliament," said Justice K.M. Joseph, delivering the order of a constitution bench that heard several petitions calling for an independent committee to appoint election commissioners.

Prashant Bhushan, a lawyer representing the petitioners, termed the judgment "historic".



(From left to right) Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu, British Foreign Secretary James Cleverly and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken stand for a moment of silence for those who lost their lives in the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria during the G20 foreign ministers' meeting in New Delhi, India yesterday.

US, allies spar

FROM PAGE 1
reach a joint final declaration after objections from Moscow and Beijing.

Discussions over the joint statement faltered on several issues including Russia's insistence on an investigation into the sabotage of the Nord Stream pipeline last year, Lavrov told reporters after the meeting through an interpreter.

Russia and Western countries have traded accusations of responsibility for the September explosions.

The United States and its European allies urged the Group of 20 (G20) nations to keep up pressure on Moscow to end the conflict, now in its second year.

Russia hit back, accusing the West of turning work on the G20 agenda into a "farce" and said Western delegations wanted to shift responsibility for their economic failures onto Moscow.

"We must continue to call on Russia to end its war of aggression and withdraw from Ukraine for the sake of international peace and economic stability," Blinken said in remarks released after his address at the closed-door meeting.

"Unfortunately, this meeting has again been marred by Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine," Blinken said.

He was backed by his counterparts from Germany, France and the Netherlands.

"Unfortunately, one G20 member prevents all the other 19 from focusing all their efforts on these issues the G20 was created for," German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock told the meeting, according to the

German delegation. Dutch Foreign Minister Wopke Hoekstra told CNBC that Russia was solely responsible for the war and must continue to be sanctioned.

Russia's Lavrov, however, blamed the West for the global political and economic crises.

Lavrov told the assembled foreign ministers that Western representatives had derailed the meeting in an effort to scapegoat Russia for their own failings, disrespecting efforts by the Indian hosts to reach agreement on other issues.

"I want to apologise to the Indian presidency and to our colleagues from countries of the global South for the obscene behaviour of some Western delegations, which have turned the G20's agenda into a farce," Lavrov said, according to Russian news agency TASS.

Lavrov also accused the West of "shamelessly burying" the Black Sea grain initiative that facilitates the export of Ukraine's agricultural products from its southern ports.

India has declined to blame Russia for the war and has sought a diplomatic solution while boosting its purchases of Russian oil.

Earlier, the foreign ministers of India and China discussed bilateral "challenges" on the sidelines of a G20 meeting in New Delhi, India said.

"Our discussions were focused on addressing current challenges to the bilateral relationship, especially peace and tranquillity in the border areas," Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar said on Twitter after meeting his Chinese counterpart.

GREEK TRAIN CRASH

Outrage grows as
govt admits 'failures'

AFP, Larissa

The Greek government yesterday acknowledged failures in state management of its rail system, following a train collision that killed 48 and has triggered angry protests.

As crews continued to work in the charred wreckage at the crash site, the local station master admitted negligence in Greece's worst-ever rail disaster and the government has apologised.

An investigation would examine the "chronic delays in implementing railway works, delays caused by chronic public sector malaise and decades of failure," said a government spokesman. The crash happened late Tuesday when a freight and passenger train were allowed to speed towards each other for several kilometres before colliding near a tunnel outside Larissa in central Greece.

ASSEMBLY POLLS RESULTS

BJP retains Tripura, Nagaland

Meghalaya appears set for hung parliament

AGENCIES

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies -- IPFT and NDDP -- retain power in Tripura and Nagaland, as per the latest trends post the initial rounds of counting in these two northeast states in India.

Meanwhile, Meghalaya appears to be headed towards a hung assembly with the Conrad Sangma-led NPP emerging as the single-largest party.

The elections for Tripura assembly were held on February

16, where 89.95 percent of the 28.14 lakh voters exercised their franchise. The elections for Meghalaya and Nagaland assemblies were conducted on February 27.

BJP and IPFT allies won 31 seats in the 60-member Tripura assembly, securing its return to power in the northeastern state for the second time in a row, reports TNN.

According to the Election Commission website, the BJP bagged 30 seats while the Indigenous People's Front of

Tripura (IPFT) got one.

The saffron party is leading in two more seats, according to the latest release of the results.

"The BJP's victory was expected... We were eagerly waiting for it. Our responsibility has been increased with the decisive mandate," outgoing Chief Minister Manik Saha.

The party's poll machine remains in fine fettle. A comfortable win in Tripura proves that its performance in 2018 was no fluke and it is now the party to beat in the state.



"Without clean energy, the growth in CO2 emissions would have been nearly three times as high."

International Energy Agency (IEA) Executive Director **Fatih Birol**



Dhaka Bus Rapid Transit Company Limited

Road Transport & Highways Division
House-04, Road-21, Sector-04, Uttara, Dhaka-1230.
www.dhakabrtr.gov.bd

Corrigendum-3

Due to unavoidable circumstances the tender notice for 'Procurement of 137 nos. Air-Conditioned Diesel Fueled Standard (12 meter long) Buses for BRT Operation under Greater Dhaka Sustainable Urban Transport Project (BRT, Gazipur-Airport)' having the tender No. MD/GDSUTP (BRT, Gazipur-Airport)/DBRT/ICB/AFD-05/DGD-01, vide Memo No. 35.06.0000.000.17.001.22-881, dated: 14.01.2023 is hereby revised as follows:

Section-2	Tender selling date, closing & opening date and time	Last selling date	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
ITB 24.1 & 27.1		March 15, 2023	March 15, 2023 16:00 hr BST	March 15, 2023 16:00 hr BST

All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

Memo No. 35.06.0000.000.07.006.22-964

Date: March 02, 2023

SD/-
Safiqul Islam
Managing Director
E-mail: md.dbrtc@gmail.com

GD-398

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Western Economic Corridor & Regional Enhancement Program
(WeCARE) Phase-I: (RCMLIIP)
LGED-RDEC Bhaban, Level-03,
Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No: 46.02.0000.981.14.014.21-253 Date: 01 March 2023

e-Tender Notice No. 05/2022-23

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following:

Tender ID No.	Package No.	Description of Works	On-line Tender Publication Date	On-line Tender Closing Date
785090	WeCARE/LGED/CW-06	Improvement of Two Growth Center Markets and 23.75 km Adjacent Roads at Langolbandh and Khamarpara of Sreccpur Upazila under Magura District (World Bank Funded WeCARE Phase-I: LGED)	02-March-2023 10:00 AM	18-April-2023 2:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is mandatory.

The fees for the e-Tender Document Price have to be deposited online through any registered Bank's Branches up to 5:00 PM of one day before the Closing Date.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

(**Momin Mozammel Haque Shamaji**)
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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Education Engineering Department
Netrokona

Memo No. 37.07.7200.008.07.002(40).22-221 Date: 02/03/2023

e-Tender Notice No. 2022-2023/40

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under EED Netrokona as mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Package No.	Name of works	Tendering method	Tender ID	Last date and time of selling documents	Tender closing date/time	Tender opening date/time
1	RW-8/Shed/5974	Construction of Semi Pacca Building at Suraya Abbas D.M.C High School under Sadar Upazila Netrokona District.	OTM	796792	16/03/2023 15:00	19/03/2023 13:00	19/03/2023 13:00
2	RW-17/Shed/5974	Construction of Boundary Wall at Fotepur S.A.C High School under Madan Upazila Netrokona District.	OTM	796793	09/03/2023 15:00	12/03/2023 13:00	12/03/2023 13:00
3	RW-14/Shed/5974	Construction of Cycle Garage & Semi Pacca Mosque at Atpara Degree College under Atpara Upazila Netrokona District.	OTM	796794	09/03/2023 15:00	12/03/2023 13:00	12/03/2023 13:00
4	RW-07/2020-21/5974	Construction of Main Gate at Hena Islam College under Sadar Upazila Netrokona District.	OTM	796795	16/03/2023 15:00	19/03/2023 13:00	19/03/2023 13:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP System Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP helpdesk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd). The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tender(s) without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Monzurul Alam Sharif
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GD-401

GD-400