

EMF calls for participatory election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The upcoming parliamentary election should be participatory, said the Election Monitoring Forum (EMF) yesterday. It is a polls watchdog consisting of incumbent and former EC from neighbouring countries.

EMF Director Prof Abdul Jabbar Khan called on the government to initiate a dialogue with political parties after an EMF delegation met the election commissioners of Bangladesh at the EC office.

India's former CEC SY Quraishi, Chairman of the Maldives Election Commission Fuwad Thowleek, Chairman of the EC of Sri Lanka RMAL Rathnayake, Nepal EC Sagun Shamsheer JB Rana, and former commissioner Ila Sharma, among others, were part of the delegation.

SY Quraishi pointed out the EC in Bangladesh possesses similar powers (like India) to conduct elections freely.

"In India, when an election is announced, the Indian EC becomes all-powerful. There is no PM, no CM, and no one can make decisions without EC approval. So, in essence, the EC becomes the interim government," he explained.



PATUAKHALI MUNICIPALITY Damaged dam adds to water-logging woes

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Over a decade ago, a protection dam was constructed around Patuakhali municipality to protect it from natural calamities such as floods.

However, years of negligence and a lack of renovation and maintenance initiatives have led to leakages on the dam, allowing water to enter from the Laukathi and Lohalia rivers and inundate the town, especially when the waterbodies swell during monsoons.

The Water Development Board in Patuakhali started the construction of this dam in 2007 under a Tk 24.52 crore project. Under it, six sluice gates, nine culverts, and 950 metres of embankments were constructed.

However, the sufferings of locals did not end with completion of its physical works in 2011-12 fiscal year.

Currently, most of the sluice gates are dysfunctional, and water is entering through them, flooding the commercial areas of the town, including Patuakhali Medical College Hospital, New Market, Launchghat, Kathpatti; and SDO, Mahila College, and Old Gospital roads.

Narrowed canals and clogged drains around the city further added to the menace, said Sumon Saha, a cloth trader in New Market.

Faisal Hossain, owner of a hotel located in the same market, said, "The road in front of the hotel is under knee-deep water during monsoon. It takes hours for the water to drain off, and that affects our sales."

Around 36 structures were constructed under the 2007 project, but only three of them are functional at the moment, said Arif Hossain, executive engineer of WDB in Patuakhali.

"In September last year, a technical committee under the direction of the deputy commissioner requested municipal authorities to maintain the dam. It is under their jurisdiction now, and hopefully they will start working soon," he added.

Jasim Uddin Arju, executive engineer of the municipality, said a new project is being undertaken next year to solve the aforementioned issues.



Defying the three-week ban, fishers in Pabna's Sujanager upazila are fishing hilsa and selling them off from boats, evading the eyes of law enforcers. Meanwhile, drives are underway to stop this menace with fisheries officers regularly penalising the perpetrators.

PHOTO: STAR

THREE-WEEK BAN ON FISHING

Drives on, so is hilsa netting

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Fishermen are rampant in catching hilsa illegally in the Padma in Sujanager upazila of Pabna amid a 3-week ban on fishing to protect the mother hilsa during spawning season.

Local administration has conducted a series of drives to stop the fishermen but the activity still continues evading their eyes, sources said.

According to Sujanager upazila fisheries office, 75 drives have so far been conducted in the Padma since the ban became effective from October 12.

However, only six fishermen could be apprehended and subsequently punished while in most cases they managed to flee before the officials could reach the spot.

"Fishermen have speedboats so they can easily flee. Whenever we conduct drives in the river, somehow, they get the information beforehand," said Nur Kajmeri Jaman Khan, Sujanager upazila fisheries officer.

"During drives we have seized 2 to 2.5 lakh metres of fishing net from the river, fined six fishermen Tk 26,000 and also seized 50-60kg fish in the last 16 days of

the ban," he said.

The seized fish have been donated to madrasas and orphanages while the nets were destroyed, Nur added.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found hundreds of fishing boats moving in the river for catching hilsa in Char



Bhabanipur, Nischintapur, Satbaria, Bhatpara, Raipur, Malfia, Udoypur, Goyaria, Indrajitpur, Kamarhaat, Najirganj and few other points.

Fishermen requesting anonymity said in normal time they often do not get enough hilsa fish when fishing continues everywhere in the Padma, Meghna and other rivers but they can catch enough

fish during the ban.

As catching fish is halted in other points, the fish swim downstream of the Padma.

"Fishing is our lone earning source, and we don't get financial support during the ban, so we are forced to continue fishing for the sake of our livelihood," a fisherman said.

Nur Kajmeri Jaman said there are around 4,500 fishermen in Sujanager upazila, of them 2,000 to 2,500 catch hilsa.

"We have already started giving food support to the fishermen. A total of 1,200 fishermen were given 25kg rice each during the ongoing ban," he said, adding, they are trying to bring more fishermen under food support programmes during the ban.

Since open market sale of hilsa is also prohibited during the ban, the fishermen are selling their catch from their homes secretly.

"Police are actively monitoring the river banks and markets to prevent catching and selling of hilsa. Besides, river police are conducting raids in the river regularly," said Md Jalal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Sujanager Police Station.

BANGABANDHU TUNNEL Tk 4.41 lakh tolls collected in 12 hours

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel opened to traffic yesterday morning.

In the first 12 hours from 6:00am, a total of 2,064 vehicles from both sides crossed the tunnel and the authorities collected Tk 4,41,600 toll, said deputy project director Abul Kalam Azad.

"There was less traffic till afternoon but after that the traffic started increasing, he added.

Md Harunur Rashid Chowdhury, project director, told The Daily Star, "The number of vehicles was less due to the strike. It will increase from tomorrow."

According to a survey report, an average of 27,000 vehicles will use the tunnel every day.



Prof Zinatun Nesa passes away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukder, a prominent politician from Rajshahi, passed away in Dhaka yesterday at the age of 76.

She took her last breath at 6:00am at Evercare Hospital in the capital, said her son Mahmud Hasan Faisal.

Due to various age-related complications, she had been on life support since her admission to the hospital on Tuesday.

Born on July 9, 1947, Prof Zinatun became involved in politics during her college days when she joined the 1969 mass upsurge.

In 1971, she received training at the Indian Gobra camp and took part in the Liberation War at sub-sector 4 of sector 7.

She became a professor in 1977 and was appointed as a deputy minister for primary and mass education in 1996. In 1998, she was made the state minister for the same ministry.

Power div ranks first in APA execution

UNB, Dhaka

The Power Division has secured the top position, while the Energy and Mineral Resources Division has become third in the implementation of the Annual Performance Agreement (APA) with the government for the financial year 2022-2023.

State Minister for Power Nasrul Hamid emphasised the need to further enhance the quality of their services.

PM to open 50 more model mosques today

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to inaugurate 50 more model mosques and Islamic cultural centres today.

She will inaugurate the establishments at Bangabandhu Bangladesh China Friendship Exhibition Centre in Narayanganj's Rugganj.

"The prime minister will open 50 more model mosques and Islamic cultural centres in the sixth phase and join the national imam council and prize-giving ceremony tomorrow [today]," a religious affairs ministry official said yesterday.

Aimed at delivering the true message of Islam to people and following the footsteps of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina has come up with the idea of constructing 564 model mosques across the country.

The PM has so far inaugurated 250 mosques and centres in five phases.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

ADB gives \$106m to improve water management

UNB, Dhaka

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the government yesterday signed a loan agreement for \$106 million to improve water resources management and agricultural productivity in rural Bangladesh.

An agreement for a grant of \$17.80 million from the Government of the Netherlands was also signed. ADB will administer the grant, which will finance innovative pilot works and consulting services focusing on innovation.

Sharifa Khan, secretary of Economic Relations Division, and Edimon Ginting, ADB country director for Bangladesh, signed the agreements on behalf of Bangladesh and ADB, respectively.

Jamuna Oil Company Limited
(A subsidiary of Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation)
Jamuna Bhaban, Agrabad, Chattogram

e-Tender Notice No. 06/2023-24

Memo No. GM(HR)/01/2023 Date: 29/10/2023

This is notify to all concerned that following tender has been published through e-GP Portal.

Tender ID, Reference No. & date of publishing	Name of goods	Last selling, closing and opening date & time
Tender ID: 892480 Reference No: 28.24.0000.350.02.05.23 Publishing date: 29.10.2023	Printing and supply of Wall Calender 20,000 Nos. along with Calender Design and Envelope	12.11.2023 12:00 12.11.2023 15:00 12.11.2023 15:00

This interested bidders may visit the website www.eprocure.gov.bd for further details.

Md. Masudul Islam
 General Manager (HR)

GD-1672

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Office of the Upazila Engineer
Pirojpur Sadar, Pirojpur
www.lged.gov.bd

"সেবা হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No. 46.02.7980.000.14.001.23-705 Date: 29/10/2023

e-Tender Notice-04/2023-24

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement as below: Procurement Method: **Open Tendering Method (OTM)**.

Sl. No.	Tender ID & method	Package No.	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time
01	886561 (NOTM)	e-Tender/PEDP4/PER/SAD/2023-2024/W2-06018	Construction of Additional Class Room Uttarpara GPS Pirojpur Sadar, District: Pirojpur.	20/11/2023 17:00pm	21/11/2023 13:00pm
02	885302 (OTM)	e-Tender/NBIDGPS/PER/SAD/2023-2024/W1-07948	Construction of Additional Class Room Khumuria GPS Pirojpur Sadar, District: Pirojpur.	20/11/2023 17:00pm	21/11/2023 13:00pm

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender 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 required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited through online at any branches of registered banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1670

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"সেবা হাসিনার মূলনীতি
গ্রাম শহরের উন্নতি"

Memo No. 46.02.8100.000.07.183.23.4679 Dated: 29/10/2023

e-Tender Notice No. 26/2023-24

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

Sl No	Tender Package No. & Tender ID No.	Description of works	Tender documents last selling date & time	Tender closing & opening date & time	Tender method
1	SupRB/Raj/Replac e/23-24/W-518 Tender ID No: 895275	Construction of 15m RCC Girder Bridge on Keshorhat - Machmolhat Road at Ch. 3817m (New Ch. 3850m) under Replacement Category, Road ID No. 181532009 under Mohanpur Upazila, District: Rajshahi.	19-11-2023 Time: 16:00	20-11-2023 Time: 12:00	OTM

This is an online tender, where only e-Tender 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 required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

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GD-1671