

## 'No one can rig votes in EVM'

### Says EC Anisur ahead of Cumilla by-polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

Election Commissioner Anisur Rahman yesterday said there is no scope for vote rigging in the EVM (electronic voting machine) system and urged candidates to accept the result of the polls.

He said this during a discussion with the candidates of Cumilla City Corporation by-election at the Cumilla Circuit House.

EC Anisur also exchanged views with officials and employees involved in the by-polls.

"This election is being monitored by local and foreign organisations. This is also as important as the national election," he told the candidates at the discussion.

He also denied that there was a controversy over the results of five polling stations and that a phone call delayed the announcement of the results of the last city elections.

The CCC by-polls will be held on March 9.



Once boats used to ply the mighty Ichamati, while fishers could also make a living out of it. But gone are the days, thanks to pollution, encroachment and sand extraction. Ichamati, one of the main freshwater rivers in the country, is now on the verge of extinction.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## MAR 9 PATUAKHALI POLLS

### Electioneering in full swing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Candidates for mayoral and councillor posts are campaigning at full throttle ahead of the Patuakhali municipality polls slated for March 9.

The election campaigns began following distribution of symbols on February 23.

The 132-year-old Patuakhali municipality was established on April 1, 1892, across 30 square kilometres area, and was upgraded to first class on August 5, 1989. It has a total population of around 2.5 million at present.

Khan Abi Shahanur Khan, district election officer and also returning officer, said there are a total of 50,699 voters in the municipality -- 26,750 female, 23,947 male, and two voters from third gender.

A total of 61 candidates are contesting the polls -- five for mayoral post, 41 for councillor post, and 15 for reserved seats for councillors -- in nine wards. The voting will be conducted in a total of 24 centres using electronic voting machines, he added.

The five mayoral candidates are incumbent mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed; his elder brother Abul Kalam Azad; former mayor and also organising secretary of district Awami League unit Dr Md Shafiqul Islam; and vice presidents of AL's municipal unit Md Enayet Hossain and Nasir Uddin Khan.

Among the mayoral candidates, incumbent mayor Mohiuddin Ahmed and former mayor Shafiqul Islam are ahead in their campaigns, while two other candidates Mohammad Enayet Hossain and Nasir Uddin Khan are also trying to draw voters' support. Only Abul Kalam Azad has yet to begin electioneering.

"I have tried to beautify Patuakhali town during my tenure in the last five years, alongside much development works. However, projects worth Tk 3,000-4,000 crore are still incomplete. I promise to complete those works if I am elected again," said Mohiuddin.

"After being elected in 2011, I served for eight years and carried out significant development works during my tenure. I have a master plan to transform Patuakhali into a developed and smart municipality," said Shafiqul.

## Tk 1,554cr project to revive dying Ichamati

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Ichamati, once a mighty river and a major lifeline for Pabna residents, has long been struggling to survive due to pollution and encroachment.

Originating from the Padma, the 82-kilometre-long river flows through the Pabna district headquarters, eventually reaching the Hurasagar area in Bera upazila.

It has long been a cherished dream of Pabna residents to see the river revived to its former glory.

That dream may soon come true. The government has taken a Tk 1,554.90 crore mega project aimed at "Rejuvenating River Ichamati". They have handed it over to the Engineering Division of Bangladesh

Army to conduct the project work. Bangladesh Water Development Board is the implementing authority of the project.

As part of the project, extensive dredging work will be conducted across a 33.77km stretch of the river, 44.07km long canals connecting it, 20km of Sutikhali river, and 12.37km of Bharara canal.

Also, numerous construction works will also be carried out, which include 10km retaining wall, 10km drainage, 23 new bridges, 56 ghats, and a 10km walkway on the riverbank.

A total of 42,310 trees will also be planted along this walkway.

"After the project is complete, Ichamati river will return to its former glory and will transform into

a tourist spot, while also restoring river communication with Pabna," said Md Alsar Uddin, executive engineer of BWDB in Pabna.

SM Mahabub Alom, founder of a citizens' platform, said the connection between the Padma and Ichamati snapped over the decades, which reduced the river's flow. Taking advantage of it, encroachers occupied Ichamati's land on both sides over the years.

Additionally, rampant pollution has turned the river into a garbage dump, he added.

Facing demands from locals, BWDB earlier initiated a Tk 8.13 crore project to evict encroachers and dredge the river in 2021.

However, it was stopped

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## 'RECRUITMENT ANOMALIES' PSTU VC, UGC chairman sued

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A case has been filed against four people, including the vice chancellor of Patuakhali Science and Technology University (PSTU) and the chairman of University Grants Commission of Bangladesh, on charges of irregularities in recruitment.

The accused are PSTU VC Prof Swadesh Chandra Samanta, Additional Registrar (Acting) Prof Santosh Kumar Basu, Treasurer Prof Muhammad Ali, and the UGC chairman.

Israt Jahan, an applicant for the post of section officer, filed the case with Patuakhali Senior Assistant Judge's Court on Tuesday.

Humaun Kabir Badsha, lawyer for the complainant, confirmed the matter. "My client filed a case with the court on February 27, and the court issued summons to the accused."

Contacted, PSTU Registrar (Acting) Prof Santosh Kumar stated, "I can't comment on whether the case has been filed or not as no official documents have been received yet."

"If a case is filed, we will respond officially," said PSTU VC Prof Swadesh Chandra.

According to the case details, recruitment

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## Govt to ensure violence-free society for children

### Says law minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Minister Anisul Huq yesterday said there is still a long way to go before a society free from violence, exploitation and torture can be established for children.

"The current government wants to upgrade the justice system for children to an international standard. For this reason, the law ministry has taken various measures," he added.

The minister was speaking at an event organised on the occasion of inaugurating refurbished Child-Sensitive Courtrooms under the "Strengthening Capacity of Judicial System for Child Protection in Bangladesh (SCJSCPB) Project".

It was held at Judicial Administration Training Institute in the capital. The project was implemented by the ministry and UNICEF Bangladesh.

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**As part of the project, extensive dredging work will be conducted across a 33.77km stretch of the river, 44.07km long canals connecting it, 20km of Sutikhali river, and 12.37km of Bharara canal. Also, numerous construction works will also be carried out, which include 10km retaining wall, 10km drainage, 23 new bridges, 56 ghats, and a 10km walkway on the riverbank.**

হাজীগঞ্জ পৌরসভা কার্যালয়  
হাজীগঞ্জ, চাঁদপুর।  
ফ্যাক্সঃ 02334488163, ফোনঃ 02334488360, 02334488337, 02334488073  
E-mail: hajigonjpourashava@yahoo.com; Website: www.hajigonjpoura.org

Memo No. Haji.Poura/Engr.Dept/2024/ 46 Date: 29/02/2024

### e-GP Tender Notice No. 04/2023-2024

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of the following works under LOCAL GOVERNMENT COVID-19 RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROJECT (LGCRRP). LGED. Details are given below.

Sl No.	Name of tender	Tender ID No.	Last date and time for tender selling	Last date and time for tender closing	Last date and time for tender opening
1	Package No. LGCRRP/Hajigonj/2023-24/W-04 R-02 Construction of R.C.C Road work at Toragor Mizi House Road, Ward No-07. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch-0.00+516.0m) =516.00m, R-03 Construction of R.C.C Road work at Mokimabad Over Bridge to Korim Bagan (Shashan Ghat) Road, Ward No-05. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch.0.00+425.0m)=425.00m, R-05 Construction of R.C.C Road work at Cumilla-Chandpur Road to Dherra Bakultala Das House Road, Ward No-02. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch-0.00+290.0m & ch.0.00+ 484-507.0m & 0.00+1037.0m-1063.0m & 0.00+1123.0m-1193.0m)= 409.00m, R-06 Construction of Uni-block Road from Hajigonj-Ramgonj Road Westwards through MD. Tafu Mia's House to Sonapur Canal, Ward No-11. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch-0.00+ 450.0m) =450.00m, R-07 Construction of Uni-block Road to Randhunimora 10 No. Ward Patwary House to Pourashava End Point, Ward No-10. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch-0.00+250.0m)=250.00m, R-08 Construction of Uni-block Road from Cumilla-Chandpur Road to Enayetpur Abdur Rob Chairman House Road End Point, Ward No-09. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch-0.00+150.0m)=150.00m, R-10 Construction of Uni-block Road work at Mokimabad Korim Bagan to Md. Mahub Bhuiyan Road, Ward No-05. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch-0.00+100.0m) =100.00m, R-11 Construction of Uni-block Road work at Balakhal Rajani Pal House to Sree Narayanpur-Ochangan Road, Ward No-01. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch.0.00 +230.0m) = 230.00m.	955555	24-03-2024 (16.00)	25-03-2024 (13.00)	25-03-2024 (13.00)
2	Package No. LGCRRP/Hajigonj/2023-24/W-05 D-03 Construction of Brick Drain from Mokimabad Over Bridge to Shashanghat Road Top Md. Mahub Hosen Chawdary House Road, Ward No-05. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch.0.00+100.00m) =100.00m D-06 Construction of RCC Drain work at Mokimabad Muktijudha Khalid Ahmed Road, Ward No-04. under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. (Ch.0.00+433.00m-823.0m)=390.0m D-08 Construction of RCC Drain from Mokimabad Over Bridge to Chowdhury Bari, Ward No-05. Under Hajigonj Pourashava, Hajigonj, Chandpur. Ch. 0.00+0.00-180.000m	957014	24-03-2024 (16.00)	25-03-2024 (13.00)	25-03-2024 (13.00)

- 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 the downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches up to 24-03-2024 up to 16.00.
- Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Md. Idrish Miah  
Executive Engineer (Inch.)  
Hajigonj Pourashava  
Hajigonj, Chandpur

GD-345

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

National Board of Revenue  
Bangladesh Regional Connectivity Project 1:  
National Single Window Implementation and Strengthening Customs  
Modernization

IDEB Bhaban (10th Floor), 160/A, Kakrail, Dhaka

### Extension of Submission Deadline

For  
Invitation for Tenders  
(Hiring of Five Vehicles)  
Country: Bangladesh

Loan No./Credit No./Grant No./IDA/6002-BD  
Package NBR-NC 6A/1

This is to inform all concerned that the deadline for submission of Invitation for Tenders is being hereby extended due to an unavoidable situation. The revised deadline for submission of tender is 2.00pm (BST) March 06, 2024 and tender opening date and time 2.30pm (BST) March 06, 2024.

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GD-346

### Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Science & Technology University



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Ref. No.	BSMRSTU/R/PD&W/FD/2023-24/1164	Date: 28/02/2024
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### e-Tender Notice

Sl. No.	Tender Id	Name of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Opening date & time
1	95307	Pipeline Repair and Renovation at BSMRSTU Campus	13-03-2024 Time 16.00	14-03-2024 Time 14.00	14-03-2024 Time 14.00

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 guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and also from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

Tuhin Mahamud  
Project Director (In-charge)  
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GD-347