

More powers, accountability

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investigation into the irregularities by "election commissioners and officials" during the last three national polls and taking action against them.

The report proposed that people convicted by the International Crimes Tribunal be disqualified for election.

It said a special law is necessary to bar people accused of serious human rights violations like enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, attacks on journalists and human rights activists as well as corruption from running for parliament.

"The reform commission has proposed an investigation against those who have exiled our electoral process over the last three elections; not just the officials, but also commission members," said Badui Alam Majumder, chief of the reform commission, while presenting the recommendations to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus.

He mentioned the allegation of ballot box stuffing the night before the 2018 election. "This needs to be investigated to bring those responsible to justice."

In January 2019, the Jatiya Oikya Front alleged before the EC that between 30 and 60 percent of the votes were cast the night before.

The same month, Transparency International, Bangladesh in a study found that stamping of ballots took place the night before election day in more than one centre in 33 of the 50 surveyed constituencies.

The last general election in January had been at the centre of controversy as it was not competitive and inclusive due to a boycott by the major opposition parties, including the BNP. The Awami League had to field dummy independent candidates, many of whom were leaders of the party, to make the polls appear participatory.

The 2014 election was also one-sided, in which 153 lawmakers out of 300 were elected unopposed as most of the opposition, including the BNP, boycotted the election.

The AL-led alliance won more than two thirds majority in all three national elections held under the Hasina government.

A section of police officials in December admitted that they were under pressure from higher authorities while performing duties during the last three national elections.

In a meeting with the reform commission, they also alleged that there were "financial transactions" during the polls.

Badiul said that many complaints are filed during elections, but they are never resolved, and many perpetrators escape accountability. The reform commission recommended steps to ensure that these perpetrators are held accountable.

To reform the electoral system, he said, the commission proposed ensuring the independence of the Election Commission, empowering it, and holding it accountable.

The commission proposed granting the EC the authority to suspend or cancel elections and call re-elections. It recommended entrusting the EC with the full responsibility of appointing its secretary.

It proposed that the executive would require prior approval of the EC for any actions that could influence elections.

"If democratic processes, part of the constitution's basic framework, are at risk due to controversial elections like that of 2014, 2018, and 2024, the Election Commission shall be given the authority to suspend the election for 90 days after showing reasonable cause. But it should be done with the approval of the Supreme Court's Appellate Division through the president," the report said.

The EC will be tasked with verifying the affidavits submitted by candidates and the affidavit forms will change drastically, the report said.

"It will be mandatory to disclose overseas assets. Any fake declarations will lead to the cancellation of the nomination, or the cancellation of the election to that seat," said Badiul.

Presenting these recommendations at a press briefing in their office inside the premises of the Jatiya Sangsad, Badiul said a code of conduct law must also be enacted for parliamentarians to govern their conduct while in power. MPs would be held accountable for actions that violate principles pertaining to conflict of interest, he said.

"The perks and protocols that elevate parliamentarians to the status of a zamindar (landlord) will be significantly curbed," he added.

The provision of tax-free vehicles, residential plots and allowances for MPs should be reviewed and amended, the report said. A "Member of Parliament Conduct Act" should be passed to make the MPs annually declare their assets and disclose any conflicts of interest.

It said a system should be introduced so that voters can "recall" (remove) an elected MP.

So, what's a bicameral parliament?

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A bicameral parliament, increasing the number of seats in the lower house to 400 and adding another 105 seats for a newly constituted upper house.

Out of the 400 seats in the lower house, 100 will be allocated to women who, like their male counterparts, will be directly elected.

Upper house members will be determined through a proportional representation system. Political parties will be allocated seats in the upper house based on their proportion of votes in general elections, said Ali Riaz.

There will also be provisions to ensure representation for minorities and various ethnic groups, in the upper house. The political parties will be required to include at least five members from marginalised groups among the 100 upper house members. The eight members of each province include at least three women, one Dalit, and one person with disability or a minority group representative.

In Nepal's upper house, 56 members—8 each from seven provinces—are elected by an electoral college comprising members of the provincial assembly, village councils and municipal councils. The eight members of each province include at least three women, one Dalit, and one person with disability or a minority group representative.

Three members, including at least one woman, are appointed by the president on government recommendation. The tenure of members is usually six years, with a third of the seats going into election every two years.

India's lower house, the Lok Sabha, comprises 545 directly elected lawmakers. Of them two members of the Anglo-Indian community are nominated by party leaders.

Since the ouster of Sheikh Hasina on August 5, 2024, in a popular uprising, dozens of corruption cases have been filed against the four-time PM herself, some of her family members, cabinet colleagues and party leaders.

The issue of ACC's failure to prevent corruption over the years also came to the fore, prompting the interim government to form a reform commission to come up with recommendations to strengthen the ACC.

An institution like the Anti Corruption Commission alone cannot control corruption in any country, including Bangladesh. An appropriate state and social environment are needed to make a nation free of corruption," Iftekharuzzaman said while handing the report to the chief adviser.

Later at a press conference at the TIB office in the afternoon, he said they made

Structural, legal overhaul stressed

FROM PAGE 1

Led by Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, the commission recommended the enactment of several laws and amendments to some existing ones.

In all, it presented a set of 47 recommendations to strengthen the ACC.

The reform commission recommended amending article 20 (2) of the constitution to ban misuse of constitutional and legal authority for personal interest, asking the authorities to add this sentence in the constitution: "The state will create a situation where, as a general rule, no individual can misuse constitutional and legal powers for personal interests."

The commission submitted the report to Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus at his office yesterday.

Three other reform commissions on constitution, Election Commission, and police also submitted their report to the chief adviser.

"After the fall of the kleptocratic government in the glorious July '24 uprising, Bangladesh is now at a critical juncture of a new journey. As part of state reform in shaping this new journey, there is no alternative to an independent, impartial, and effective Anti-Corruption Commission," reads the synopsis of the ACC reform commission's report.

The report comes amid allegations of corruption and money laundering by some people affiliated with the previous Awami League government.

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the 47 recommendations in three different categories.

"For implementation, short term (6 months), medium term (18 months), and long term (48 months) roadmaps have been proposed. We believe that it is possible to implement these recommendations within the given timeframe," he said.

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As for the qualification of the commissioners, it said apart from the candidates from the background of law, education, administration, judiciary, law enforcement agencies, people having at least 15 years' experience in financial institution, audit, governance or anti corruption activities will be eligible for the post. As per the existing law, candidates must have 20 years of experience.

The ACC will have to submit a report to the seven-member search and review committee every six months and the committee will hold a public hearing on the report and give their evaluation as a measure to monitor their activities, the reform commission report says.

In a shift from the existing practice, the reform commission proposed filing a case first and then begin investigation if the allegations fall under its jurisdiction.

The commission also recommended amending the section 20 of the ACC act to allow police to take over the matter when appropriate.

It also wants repeal of 32(Ka) of the ACC act – a provision that bars the ACC from filing cases against judges and public servants without prior approval from relevant authorities.

The section 32(Ka) which was added to the law in 2013 through an amendment to the act is "discriminatory" and "goes against the independence of ACC". Besides, the High Court already declared the section unconstitutional and ordered repealing it.

The reform commission suggested establishing special judges' court in every district where the ACC has its offices for quick disposal of the cases. Currently, the ACC has offices in 36 districts.

It proposed increasing the number of director general from eight to 12 immediately.

To appoint an ACC secretary, the commission recommended a competitive and open process through advertisement.

Invitation to submit proposals for Request for Proposal (RFP) issued by UNICEF Bangladesh

RFP No. LRPS-2025- 9195315: For monitoring Ground Water in Bashan Char, Noakhali District and Cox's Bazar District.

UNICEF Bangladesh is inviting interested companies with a proven track record and professional credibility of providing the above-required services under one contract.

- Download the electronic copy of Bid documents from UNGM <https://www.ungm.org/Public/Notice/257064>
- Alternatively, vendors may request the bid documents via email at supplybangladesh@unicef.org by 23 January 2025.

Deadline for submission of the proposal is 10 February 2025 at 11:00 AM (GMT +6)

Please note UNICEF does not charge any fee at any stage of the solicitation process.

www.unicef.org/bangladesh

unicef for every child



INVITATION OF TENDER 703 MEDIUM WORKSHOP EME DHAKA CANTONMENT

1. Fin yr 2024-2025 sealed quotations are invited from bonafide reputed and enlisted (Logistic area) firms of Bangladesh Army who all are renewed (2024-2025) of local repair of vehs as bellow:

Ser	Tender no & date	Description of work	Date of selling tender schedule	Opening date of tender
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
ii.	Tender No-02 dt 05 Jan 2025	BA No- 038257 - Mitsubishi Montero GLX (5 Door Hardtop Jeep) Model V-96WLNXFR & 038184 Nissan Patrol SGL (5 Door Hardtop Jeep) Model TVTRSEFF Y-61NRA Necessary Spare Parts/ Equipment (As per schedule).	According to PPR 2008 rule 61 (4) the schedule will be sold upto 14 days from the date of publication of the newspaper.	Tenders will be opened on the 15 th day of the schedule sale.

2. The terms & conditions with technical specification spare available in local purchase office of 703 Medium Workshop EME, Dhaka Cantonment during office time. Two percent (2%) earnest money of the total tendered amount have to be deposited in the form of Bank draft/Pay order along with the tender in favour of CO, 703 Medium Workshop EME, Dhaka Cantonment, Dhaka. Interested firm has to purchase tender schedule from LP office of 703 Medium Workshop EME, upto 1400 hours in every working day till last date of selling as mentioned in columns 4. On the opening date (mentioned in column 5) at 1230 hours tender box will be opened in presence of intending bidders or their representatives (if any).

3. Participating firms must have past have past experience in doing the similar nature of work and experience certificate to be attached in tender

4. In the current financial year, if authority decides to do the same repair/rebuild work again the supplying firm will be bound to do with same price.

5. Lowest quoted package price will be considered as the lowest bidding price of the firms.

6. Authority reserves all the rights to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason there of.

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১৫/০১/২৫

CO
703 Medium Workshop EME
Dhaka Cantonment

STATUTORY NOTICE

Supreme Court of Bangladesh,
High Court Division
(Statutory Original Jurisdiction)

Company Matter No. 18/2025

Application under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994.

Dr. Md. Mokaddes Hossain

Versus

The Registrar Joint Stock Companies & Firms, Dhaka and Others

.....Petitioner

.....Respondents

This is to inform all concerned that the above-named petitioner has filed an application in the Hon'ble High Court Division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh under Section 81(2) read with Section 85(3) and 396 of the Companies Act, 1994, before the Company Bench, seeking a condonation of delay for holding the AGM of "Fareast Islami Life Insurance Company Limited". During the hearing, on 8 January 2025, Hon'ble Justice Mr. Ahmed Sohel accepted the petition, and it was ordered that an affidavit in compliance must be submitted of the publication of this notice on or before 10 February 2025. Anyone with any interest, concern, or objection in this matter may submit their statements before the Hon'ble High Court either personally or through a legal representative. A copy of the petition/application can be obtained from the undersigned upon payment of necessary fees.

Sovan Mahmud, Barrister-at-law, Advocate, Supreme Court of Bangladesh, Chamber: Credence LP, Noor Jahan Mahal (5th Floor), House No: 52, Road No: 15, Block-D, Banani, Dhaka-1213, Phone no.: +8801715-864849

বাংলাদেশ মুক্তিযোৱা কল্যাণ প্রার্থনা

৮৮ মতিবাল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০।

www.bffwvt.gov.bd

Ref no: 27.22.0600.201.44.001.25.48

Date: 11.01.2025

e-Tender Notice

e-Tenders are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Sales and Distribution Division-1, WZPDCL, Barishal for the execution of following works, which is available at the National e-GP System Portal website (www.eprocure.gov.bd) from 19.01.2025; time: 09.00 hrs to 09.02.2025; time: 17.00 hrs.

SL	Tender ID	Invitation Reference	Name of works
01	1061303	Ref: SND-1-Barishal-WR2-lot-a/734	Repair and Maintenance of