

Certain groups

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flawed elections -- is now making tall claims. These include that local government elections should be held first and that there will be no polls without a PR system."

"First, the local government elections will be held. Then the PR system will be used for voting. Why, brother, where did you invent these things? Who gives you this ill advice? A group of people have come to the field now to destroy this country and the nation with all this bad advice. They will not let the nation move forward."

He urged politicians not to mislead people. Later in the day, another standing committee member Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury said he doesn't see any sign of uncertainty about the national election taking place in February next year.

"So unnecessarily questioning something that hasn't happened yet is meaningless. There is no benefit in trying to disrupt the upcoming election. People across the country are preparing for the February election."

Asked whether the government has given any clear indication about the February election, he said, "The Election Commission is also making preparations. Everything is on track."

He said disagreements among political parties are not a problem.

"Everyone has the right to hold differing opinions," Khosru said after a meeting between Canadian High Commissioner Ajit Singh and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir.

Indict 8 cops for crimes against

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in custody, while the others are absconding.

Two defence lawyers sought more time to prepare, while two others requested bail for their clients. The tribunal adjourned the hearing until July 3 for defence arguments.

The tribunal had accepted the formal charges against the accused on May 25.

The other accused officials are Sudip Kumar Chakraborty, then DMP joint commissioner; Sha Alam Mohammad Akhtarul Islam, former additional deputy commissioner; Mohammad Imrul, former assistant commissioner of Ramma Zone; Arshad Hossain, former inspector (operations) at Shahbagh Police Station; and constables Sujon, Imaz Hossain, and Nasirul Islam.

Of them, Arshad, Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul are currently in jail.

According to the prosecution, Habibur, along

with Sudip, Akhtarul, Imrul, and Arshad, bore command responsibility and were involved in a joint criminal enterprise. The prosecution accused them of incitement, abetment, and complicity in the killings.

Citing the case dossier, Tajul said Habibur deployed 40-45 armed police personnel in Chankharpul and nearby areas to stop protesters heading towards Shahbagh from the Central Shaheed Minar. He allegedly arrived at Shahbagh Police Station around 5:00am and ordered the operation.

The deployment was supervised by Sudip, while Akhtarul oversaw field execution and logistics, said the chief prosecutor. Imrul coordinated the units and allegedly instructed them to open fire. Arshad enabled the conditions for targeted shooting, the prosecution said.

Constables Sujon, Imaz, and Nasirul then used rifles to shoot protesters in Chankharpul and surrounding areas, resulting in six deaths between early morning and 2:30pm.

The victims were identified as Shahriar Khan Anas, Sheikh Mahadi Hasan Junaid alias Mostakin, Md Yakub, Md Rakib Hawladar, Mohammad Ismail Haque, and Manik Mia alias Shaharik Chowdhury.

The prosecution claimed that audio evidence supports allegations that Habibur issued shoot-to-kill orders, which were documented in a general diary by Constable Sheikh Shafiq Mohammad, wireless operator of the DMP control room.

The prosecution contends that these actions constitute murder, attempted murder, abetment, incitement, and complicity in crimes against humanity, which are punishable offences under the International Crimes (Tribunals) Act 1973.

No special

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a Facebook post yesterday. On June 25, the interim government had declared August 5 as "July Mass Uprising Day" to commemorate the student-led protests that toppled the Sheikh Hasina regime that day last year.

It had also declared August 8 as "New Bangladesh Day", marking the formation of the interim government led by Prof Muhammad Yunus, and July 16 as "Shaheed Abu Sayed Day" in memory of Abu Sayed, a student of Rangpur's Begum Rokeya University, who was shot dead by police during protests in the district.

A government source confirmed that the New Bangladesh Day will now be cancelled. However, no gazette has been issued in this regard.

Earlier, three top leaders of the National Citizen Party (NCP) -- Sarjis Alam, Hasnat Abdullah, and Akhtar Hossain -- raised objections to declaring August 8 as New Bangladesh Day.

Education in remote

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79 shoals, most of them located in remote areas. There's no specific model for communities from such shoal areas, nor any reliable data or dedicated policy."

They also expressed concern about whether the new curriculum is a replacement or an add-on, and warned of policy paralysis in the absence of clear directives.

Nahid Parvin of the BRAC Institute of Educational Development said the government's revised two-year pre-primary curriculum, focusing on play-based learning and creative classroom setups, is ready for rollout.

The participants also discussed the issue of children from shoals (char), wetlands (haor), tea gardens, and other climate-vulnerable areas often being denied adequate access to education.

Shafaat Ferdous of Friendship NGO said, "We operate 43 schools in

HC asks govt

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Port Authority (CPA) and chief executive officer of Public Private Partnership (PPP) Authority have been mentioned as respondents in the petition.

Earlier, the petitioner's lawyer Ahsanul Karim told The Daily Star that the CPA's action to initiate the process for awarding the container handling contract of the NCT to DP World, which is a 100 percent foreign company, without holding any open tender is arbitrary and a violation of the Bangladesh Public-Private Partnership Act, 2015, and the Policy for Implementing PPP Projects through Government to Government Partnership, 2017.

He said the previous government had decided to award the container handling contract of the NCT to DP World in 2019 and the current government has initiated a process to finish the job.

ICT complaint filed

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and Krishna Pada Roy, who was deputy commissioner of the Detective Branch at the time. Several other law enforcement officials and political figures have also been named.

On February 6, 2023, a Dhaka court dismissed a case filed against 15 police officials, including the former DMP commissioner, over Jonny's alleged custodial death.

Judge Md Asaduzzaman of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order, citing lack of sufficient grounds to proceed, Additional Metropolitan Public Prosecutor Tapash Kumar Pal told The Daily Star in that time.

Contacted, Saber Hossain declined to comment on the matter.

PIB responds to misleading news on study

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from an ICT Division project presented findings from an ongoing study. He conducted the research on behalf of the PIB.

A section of Mamun's presentation mentioned that Prothom Alo had withdrawn the highest number of "false reports" in six months, which was 121 in total. Next are bdnews24.com, Jugantor, and Samakal.

However, in the same presentation slide, a chart showed Kaalbela in the second place, Ittefaq in third, and Jugantor in fourth.

After the PIB seminar, some media outlets published reports citing the statistics of retracted news. The issue drew attention on

social media.

Some fact-checkers posted on Facebook, suggesting that the research methodology might have some flaws.

In this context, the PIB issued the clarification. It said various journalists from different media houses, including the keynote presenter, spoke at the seminar. Later, some media outlets published "incomplete and unclear" reports on the event.

"One part of the presentation was a comparative analysis of data on retracted reports and misinformation in online media. But some media reports presented this in such a way that it created confusion. In some cases, headlines were even

written against certain media houses," it said.

Mentioning the analysis of 404 (page not found) links from news websites, PIB in its clarification said the numbers presented in the slide identified retracted reports, which may also include misinformation.

While the presentation speech clarified that not all data points are necessarily misinformation, this was not stated on the slides themselves, leaving room for confusion, it said.

Meanwhile, to verify the authenticity of the information about retracted reports, Prothom Alo contacted the researcher on Saturday.

In a written statement last night, he told Prothom Alo that misleading reports

had indeed been published regarding Saturday's seminar. He condemned such reporting and urged a more professional mindset in news presentation.

A 404 message means the report is no longer available at the corresponding link. This is commonly known as a "dead link."

According to experts, a 404 message may appear if a report is withdrawn, but there maybe many other reasons as well. Dead links can also result from website redesigns, archiving policies, or broken URLs, among other factors. News reports are not withdrawn solely due to false information; there can be other reasons too.

Meanwhile, Prothom Alo also requested the

mentioned dead links from the researcher on Saturday. After he sent those, according to Prothom Alo, upon primary review of a few of those links, it was found that some content had been published multiple times. To avoid confusion, duplicate links had been removed, keeping just one. This had no relation to the publication or withdrawal of false news, said the newspaper.

PRAYER TIMING					
JUNE 30					
Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrub	Esha	
AZAN 4-05	12-45	5-00	6-54	8-17	
JAMAAT 4-40	1-15	5-15	6-57	8-45	
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION					

b) Technical Competence:

- i. Firm's specialization compared with the sectoral focus of the assignment;
- ii. Firm's specific experience the NGO consortium must include at least one representative from each hill district with proven experience in CHT's agricultural sector, along with staff fluent in local ethnic languages to cover all priority upazilas. The partnership should feature at least one women's NGO (if not a specialized women's organization) and demonstrate 10+ years of CHT development experience, including 5+ years in agricultural capacity-building projects. Additionally, the consortium must show the ability to recruit technical experts in agriculture, livestock, and fisheries, with at least 70% of project staff from CHT ethnic communities, ensuring balanced representation;
- iii. Firm's experience in ADB/World Bank funded similar projects will be given priority.

c) Geographic Competence: Experience in similar geographic area (i.e. country experience, regional experience).

7. In addition to the above, the list of the experts along with their CVs are required for the Consultants' Qualifications Selection evaluation. For CQS selections, proposed experts during the EOI stage will be evaluated using the Personal Evaluation Sheet template, like (i) General Qualifications, (ii) Project-Related Experience, and (iii) Experiences with international/development partners organizations or in their projects.
8. Only EOIs submitted electronically through ADB's CMS using ADB template will be evaluated. EOI submitted using other than ADB templates will not be evaluated.
9. Interested consulting firms are requested to submit the Expression of Interest (EOI) electronically, using standard EOI template available through ADB's CMS by 11:59 PM (Manila Local Time) and by 09:59 PM (Dhaka Local Time) on or before 28 July, 2025 through the link of <http://csm.adb.org> [Project Name: Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts Sector Project, Package Name: Consultancy Service regarding "Agriculture Implementation NGO" (Package No: Package No: CRLIWM/SD-48, ADB Package No: CRLIWM/CI/Agri/NGO/SD-4)]. Please note that only online submission of EOIs in ADB's CMS is allowed. Any offline or manual EOI submission is not permissible and will not be considered.
10. Only the first ranked short-listed firm will be invited to submit a "Request for Proposal (RFP) for Technical & Financial Proposals which will be evaluated by the Proposal Evaluation Committee (PEC) of CHTRC.
11. Under no circumstances will ADB or CHTRC, be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the firm(s) in connection with the preparation or submission of the EOI. Interested consulting firm(s) is/are requested to submit relevant documentary evidences in support of their competence in EOI submission.
12. Interested consulting firm(s) may obtain further information including Scope of Works and Terms of Reference (ToR) from the Consultant Management System on the ADB website at <http://csm.adb.org> or from the office of the undersigned during regular office hours on all working days before deadline of submission. The EOI notice will also be available at the following websites www.cptu.gov.bd.
13. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all EOIs received without assigning any reason thereof.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts
(CRLIWM-CHT) Sector Project
Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council, Rangamati

Request for Expression of Interest (REOI)(Firm/NGO) (National) for

Consulting Services for Agriculture Implementation NGOs (A-NGOs) (Package No: CRLIWM/SD-

48, ADB Package No: CHT/NGO-Agri/SD-01

1. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) under the Ministry of Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs (MoCHTA), has been allocated public fund from Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh (GoB) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the "Climate Resilient Livelihoods Improvement and Watershed Management in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CRLIWM-CHT) Sector Project". A portion of the GoB and ADB fund is intended to be used for payments under the contract for Recruitment of Consulting Firm(s) for which this Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) is being issued.
2. The overall objective of the services is to support the implementation of the project's Output 3: Agriculture production, storage, processing and marketing improved, an Implementing Agriculture NGO (A-NGO, which can be a consortium) will be contracted to support men and women farmers in the upazilas where the project will operate. Details are included in the Terms of Reference (ToR)
3. The main scope of services is the A-NGO consortium will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and managing all project interventions related to agriculture production, storage, processing, and marketing across the CHT region and selected upazilas. Key tasks include establishing operational protocols, identifying high-potential produce, mobilizing and training farmers, forming producer groups, and facilitating market linkages with buyers in CHT, Chittagong, and Dhaka. Additionally, the consortium will collaborate with government and private sector stakeholders, conduct technical studies, ensure capacity building, and provide regular reporting to PMO/DPMO while adhering to project guidelines for monitoring and evaluation.
4. The Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) now invites national eligible consulting firms (NGOs) to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for providing the required services.
5. The consulting firm(s) should be nationally reputed and may associate with other firms to enhance their qualifications. No firm should form more than one association or joint venture (JV). If a firm submits more than one EOI forming more than one JV/association, all EOIs submitted by forming JV/association with that firm and also EOI submitted by that firm will be rejected.
6. The Consultant will be selected under Consultant Qualitative selection (CQS) method in accordance with the procedures set out in the ADB Procurement Policy 2017 ("Policy") and the Procurement Regulations for ADB Borrowers 2017 ("Regulations"):

<https://www.adb.org/documents/adb-procurement-policy>

<https://www.adb.org/documents/procurement-regulations-adb-borrowers>

'Short-listing' of the Consulting Firms submitting Expression of Interest (EOI) will be done by Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council (CHTRC) based on the complete information submitted in the Standard EOI form by the intending Consulting Firms through the Consultant Management System (CMS) as mentioned in sl. 8. Intending Consulting Firms shall have, but not limited to the following competences-

a) Management competence: Firm's management and organizational strength, financial strength, number and capabilities of permanent employees and key staff, etc.