

NATIONAL ELECTION EC working on both Feb, Apr timelines

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

No discussion took place on the election date during the meeting with Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, said Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) AMM Nasir Uddin yesterday.

The Friday meeting between the CEC and the chief adviser was the first since June 13, when Yunus suggested that the next national election could be held in the week before the start of Ramadan in 2026, if all preparations are completed.

Yunus made the remark during a meeting in London where BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman suggested that the election be held before Ramadan.

"February [as an election timeframe] has arisen [following] the London [meeting], and April has also surfaced. We are proceeding with preparations for polls based on those two timeframes," Nasir told reporters at the Election Commission office.

The EC's current focus is on the general election and not the local elections.

The promise he is making to the

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A long queue of vehicles at the toll plaza of Khulna Khan Jahan Ali bridge yesterday afternoon as students and locals imposed a blockade as part of their ongoing protest demanding the removal of Khulna Metropolitan Police Commissioner Zulfikar Ali Haider.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

2018 NIGHTTIME VOTING Ex-CEC Huda blames govt officials

Tells court, 'I was kept in the dark'

EMRUL HASAN BAPPI

Former chief election commissioner KM Nurul Huda yesterday told a court that he had been "kept in the dark" about the nighttime voting during the 2018 national election and blamed overenthusiastic government officials for the irregularities.

According to an official, the former CEC made the statement in a confessional deposition before Dhaka's Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Md Ziadur Rahman in his chamber.

Investigating officer Syed Sajedur Rahman, an inspector at the Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI), filed a petition with the court to record his confessional statement after Nurul Huda was brought to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court around 11:30am.

Later, he was taken to the magistrate's private chamber, where he remained for several hours.

Around 2:30pm, he began giving his statement, which continued for



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'Won't accept polls without reforms'

Says Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday declared that it would not accept any election before the state reforms are implemented.

"We'll ensure that reforms are carried out first and compel the interim government to give in to this demand of ours," Jamaat-e-Islami Nayeb-e-Ameer Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher said at a discussion organised by Jamaat's Dhaka South City unit.

Bangladesh will face a difficult situation if the next election is not free and fair, he said at the event held in memory of those killed and injured during the July uprising.

If a government is formed that does not reflect the people's expectations, it could pave the way for a resurgence of fascism, he said.

"People will lose their freedom of expression and fall victim to state oppression."

There is no alternative to a proportional representation (PR) system for a proper and fair election, Taher said.

"Some fear elections under the PR system because it will leave no room for vote rigging. That is why they do not support elections under this system."

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'PADMA BRIDGE GRAFT' Ex-ACC top brass forcibly closed probe Says current ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen yesterday said the ACC's own leadership in 2014 closed the investigation into the Padma Bridge graft allegations without giving any clear explanation.

According to Momen, it raises serious questions about the integrity of the decision.

"This is no longer just about corruption in a mega project. We are now also investigating whether the former ACC leadership intentionally shielded those involved," he said.

The ACC has found primary evidence of irregularities in the appointment of consultants for the Padma Bridge project, reviving a corruption case that had remained dormant for over a decade, said the ACC chairman.

Speaking to reporters at the ACC headquarters in the capital, Momen said, "The case was closed through

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Woman raped after husband bound and beaten

One held, 6 other accused on the run

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A woman was raped after her husband was beaten and tied up in Bhola's Tajumuddin upazila on Sunday.

Police have so far arrested one in this connection.

Mohabbat Khan, officer-in-charge of Tajumuddin Police Station, said the husband filed a case on Monday, naming seven individuals, one of whom was arrested the same day in a village under Chandpur union, where the incident occurred.

"Efforts are underway to arrest the remaining accused," he added.

Mohammad Shariful Huq, superintendent of Bhola police, said, "We are attaching utmost importance to this case. The arrestee [third wife of the survivor's husband] was one of the main accomplices, and the incident occurred at her house."

Speaking to reporters yesterday, the complainant said the seven people he accused include Mohammad Farid Uddin, joint general secretary of Bhola Sramik Dal; Mohammad Alauddin, a Jubo Dal activist; and one Mohammad Russel Ahmed.

OC Mohabbat, also the investigating officer, however, would not comment on the political affiliations of the accused.

"An accused is an accused. We do not consider which political party they belong to. One person has been arrested and we are trying to arrest the others involved. It's taking time as they have gone into hiding."

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Govt slashes interest rates on savings certificates

	OLD INTEREST RATE (UP TO TK 7.5 LAKH)	NEW INTEREST RATE (UP TO TK 7.5 LAKH)	OLD INTEREST RATE (ABOVE TK 7.5 LAKH)	NEW INTEREST RATE (ABOVE TK 7.5 LAKH)
5-yr saving certificate	12.40%	11.83%	12.37%	11.80%
3-month profit bearing certificates	12.30%	11.82%	12.25%	11.77%
Family saving certificates	12.50%	11.93%	12.37%	11.80%

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government has slashed the interest rates on all major National Savings Certificates (NSCs) by 47 to 57 basis points after six months, as part of a move towards a market-driven interest rate system.

The revised rates will apply only to NSCs issued on or after July 1, said the finance ministry notice yesterday.

For certificates issued before July 1, the original rates will remain valid throughout the investment tenure, as per the notification. For reinvestments, the applicable interest rate will be the

rate in effect on the date of reinvestment. The latest rate reductions are steeper than the pre-January rates.

The government introduced a market-based interest rate mechanism in January under which NSC rates are reviewed and potentially adjusted every six months based on treasury bond yields.

When setting the NSC rates, a premium of up to 50 basis points is added to the weighted average yields of five-year and two-year treasury bonds.

The five-year Bangladesh Savings Certificate will now yield 11.83 percent

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NORTH SOUTH UNIVERSITY Center of Excellence in Higher Education



Aziz Al Kaiser

Mr. Aziz Al Kaiser, Chairman of The City Bank and Partex Star Group, an eminent industrialist and a renowned philanthropist, has been unanimously elected as the Chairman of The North South University Trust and The North South Foundation for Education and Research.

We hope that under his dynamic leadership, North South University will reach greater heights in pursuit of excellence in higher education around the world. We wish him every success.

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Legal Notice

This notification is placed on behalf of our client, **ACI Godrej Agrovet Private Limited**, a private company limited by shares having its Head Office located at Kaderia Tower, (7th & 9th Floor), Ja-28/8-B Mohakhali, Dhaka - 1212, Bangladesh.

This is to notify the public that our client, **ACI Godrej Agrovet Private Limited** has executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with **Rashik GP Hatchery Limited**, a private limited company having its Head Office located at Level 16, City Centre, 90/1 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000, Bangladesh whereby the parties have proposed to enter into a transaction to purchase immovable assets together with all Fixed Structures described in the Schedule detailed below.

In relation to the proposed transaction detailed above, Legal Due diligence of the said assets together with all Fixed Structures described in the Schedule has been initiated and the same is in process.

With regard to the proposed transaction, it is hereby requested that any person or entity claiming to have any right, title, interest, claim or demand whatsoever in respect of the said land together with all Fixed Structures by way of sale, inheritance, bequest, exchange, gift, possession, trust, mortgage, lease, license, lien, charge, tenancy, pendency, development rights, maintenance, easement or under any agreement of sale or Power of Attorney, opinion, right of first refusal or pre-emption whatsoever or otherwise howsoever, to make the same known in writing with documentary proof thereof, to the address mentioned hereinbelow within 15 days from the date of the publication of this notice, failing which the sale transaction shall be completed without any reference to such right, title, interest, claim or demand and the same shall be deemed to have been waived to all intents and purpose.

Schedule-1

Total Land Area: 127.77 Decimal
Mouza: Dewli; Police Station: Damurhuda; District: Chuadanga; J.L No.-61

Name of the Seller	RS Khatian No	RS Plot No	Land Area (Decimal)
	108	238	6.78
	112	239	5.51
Rashik GP Hatchery Ltd.	246	241	30.99
	108	242	83.00
	121	240	1.49
			Total land in Dewli Mouza 127.77

Schedule-2

Total Land Area: 852.44 Decimal
Mouza: Virmulla; Police Station: Chuadanga Sadar; District: Chuadanga; J.L No.-05

Name of the Seller	RS Khatian No	RS Plot No	Land Area (Decimal)
	253	324	19.10
	253	325	43.00
	246	326	35.00
	210	327	20.00
	259	333	16.30
	246	334	56.04
	259	336	42.68
1. Rashik GP Hatchery Ltd.	246	337	97.00
2. Sayed Asaduzzaman Asad	118	339	67.40
	275	340	17.00
	275	341	33.00
	259	342	33.00
	123	343	33.75
	203	344	30.00
	130	375	21.50
	127	385	28.76
	259	386	21.00
	15	390	68.17
	15	391	56.50
			Total land in Virmulla Mouza 852.44

Schedule-3

Total Land Area: 708.85 Decimal
Mouza: Dudhpatali; Police Station: Damurhuda; District: Chuadanga; J.L No.-74

Name of the Seller	RS Khatian No	RS Plot No	Land Area (Decimal)
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