

## Strengthen

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Md Abdur Rashid said the fire was detected quickly, preventing major damage.

Police have launched an investigation and operations to arrest those involved.

Seeking enhanced security for the CEC during the upcoming polls, the EC in its letter requested an additional vehicle with a police escort for him and round-the-clock police escort with vehicles for the election commissioners and the secretary as well, covering their residences in Dhaka, offices, and travel to and from work.

It said that police escort security with a vehicle is currently in place for the CEC. "However, since the schedule for the 13th national parliamentary election was announced on December 11, special security is required for the CEC, election commissioners and the senior secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat."

The commission also wrote to three metropolitan police forces to provide round-the-clock security by appointing armed officials to the regional election offices in Dhaka, Chattogram and Khulna.

In a third letter issued the same day, the commission instructed authorities to deploy an adequate number of police personnel to ensure overall security and protection at regional election offices and district and upazila election offices across the country.

It noted that following the announcement of the election schedule, miscreants set fire to the Lakshimpur District Election Office and Pirojpur's Mathbaria Upazila Election Office.

Important election-related documents, materials and equipment are stored at field-level regional, district, upazila and thana election offices nationwide.

The EC directed police to also ensure the safety of important documents and other election materials.

## HADI'S SHOOTING AN 'ISOLATED INCIDENT'

Meanwhile, the EC termed the shooting of Sharif Osman Hadi, spokesperson for Inqilab Moncho and an independent aspirant for Dhaka-8, an "isolated event".

Speaking to The Daily Star at the EC headquarters, Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman Masud said, "The commission is currently observing the overall situation, and we have instructed our upazila election offices to remain alert. An investigation into this specific incident is underway, and it will determine who was involved.

"We won't make any formal comments at this moment.... We'll respond only once it is clear who was involved and what their motives were."

He added, "For now, if you ask for our reaction... at this stage, we can describe it as an isolated incident."

About whether the fire at the Lakshimpur election office on Friday was also an isolated incident, he said, "At this moment, what else can we call it? Right now, we are fully focused on conducting the election. The government will surely look into the matter."

About Hadi's shooting, EC Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed told this correspondent, "The police are handling the matter. The EC has been in discussions with the police since [the shooting occurred] on Friday afternoon. The necessary instructions have been given."



Nazrul Sangeet exponents came together for "Shur Shadhonar Shonali Abhijatra", a celebratory programme honouring Khairul Anam Shakil's 50-year musical journey, at the Chhayanaut Sangskriti Bhavan auditorium in the capital's Dhanmondi on Friday. A renowned Nazrul Geeti exponent, teacher, and cultural advocate himself, Shakil took to the stage and emphasised that music enriches minds, builds character, and helps a nation progress by understanding itself.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Govt to provide firearm licence to candidates

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improve law and order and bring criminals to justice.

"Operation Devil Hunt Phase Two would significantly strengthen law enforcement's efforts to recover illegal weapons and crack down on criminal activity. This operation will be accelerated to help ensure public safety and combat the growing threat of illegal arms," Jahangir said.

Experts, however, criticised the decisions.

The state must take full responsibility for ensuring security and not resort to stopgap measure like providing firearm licences, said Tawohidul Haque, associate professor at the Institute of Social Welfare and Research at Dhaka University, told The Daily Star.

"How many people will be given licences? Is it enough to secure the candidates? The government must take proper steps to address security concerns."

Besides, granting licences could lead to potential misuse of firearms as many would get one for the sake of it, he added.

Ashraf Huda, former inspector general of police, stressed that incidents of violence are often viewed through political lenses, skewing their significance and allowing criminal

activity to thrive.

"Downplaying violence as isolated incidents undermines the electoral process," he said.

Huda further emphasised that a fair election requires a conducive environment, which is currently lacking. "Swift, coordinated action by law enforcement is crucial to restoring confidence and security. Only through such efforts can a peaceful, participatory election environment be achieved, fulfilling the democratic aspirations of the public," he added.

The core committee meeting also decided that a gunman can be assigned to those candidates assessed to be at high risk, The Daily Star has learnt from officials present at the meeting.

Besides, instructions are also given to carry out notifications to high-profile candidates to improve security at their residences, said a high official of the ministry, requesting anonymity.

The measures include installing surveillance cameras at their residences, hiring watchmen and utilising detective equipment. Instructions would be given to law enforcers on recovering looted and illegal arms.

On election security,

Jahangir said election participants will be allowed to apply for weapon licences if necessary, in a departure from previous policies that allowed only government employees to possess firearms.

Weapons that were previously deposited will be returned to their rightful owners, who are participating in the election process.

"Any attempts to disrupt or hinder the election will be met with a strong response from the interim government. We will not tolerate any attempts to destabilise the democratic process," he added.

Earlier on November 5, one person was killed and two others were injured in an attack on an election rally of Ershad Ullah, convener of the Chattogram city unit of the BNP and the party's nominated candidate for Chattogram-8, in the city's Purbo Bayezid.

Not only in these two cases, but the use of firearms was found in several murder incidents in the last month alone.

On November 5, a BNP leader's body was found under a bridge in Teknaf, and on November 6, an expatriate was killed by unidentified criminals in Khulna, who fired eight rounds at him.

On November 10, in a film-style execution in Old

Dhaka, Tariq Saif Mamun, a listed criminal, was shot dead by two armed men. Later, on the same day, BNP activist Arif Mir was shot dead in Munshiganj.

On November 11, Chhatra Dal leader Sourav was hacked to death in Dhaka's Gulshan. Similarly, on November 12, a man named Mamun Sikdar was found shot dead in a house in Badda, while on the same day, a man was shot in Faridganj, Chandpur.

According to the database, a total of 5,753 firearms and 651,609 rounds of ammunition were looted from police stations and outposts. Law enforcers were able to recover 4,426 so far.

Meanwhile, the Police Headquarters (PHQ) has instructed to beef up security measures across the country and set up additional check posts, according to officials.

Talking with The Daily Star, Mobarak Hossain, the officer-in-charge of Banani Police Station of DMP, said that they have received an instruction from the police headquarters and set up check posts along with increased surveillance.

Addressing reporters at Rajarbagh after an event yesterday, Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sheikh Md Sazzat Ali said that they are taking measures to ensure the safety of all candidates.

## Freedom to

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deciding what to publish. "Now we are hopefully moving into an era in which apprehension about what can and cannot be published will be somewhat eased," he added.

Speakers at the event praised UPL and its founder, Mohiuddin Ahmed, for producing professional and high-standard publications that have helped introduce Bangladesh to the world.

Prof Ali Riaz, special assistant to the chief adviser, said UPL has been a leading name in academic publishing in Bangladesh since the 1980s and described it as a matter of pride.

He said Mohiuddin Ahmed managed to build and sustain such an institution despite a political culture that often undermines institutions.

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, distinguished fellow at Centre for Policy Dialogue, described Mohiuddin Ahmed, who died in 2021, as an optimistic, patriotic, and learned individual - something that drove him to bring out quality books as a way of establishing a knowledge-based society.

"We remember him more and more when we find ignorance all around," he said.

Dr Debapriya said Mohiuddin Ahmed taught him that institutional education alone does not define learning, and lamented that he did not receive state recognition. "We, therefore, dearly call him publisher emeritus," he said.

The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam fondly recalled his memories of Mohiuddin Ahmed, who always advocated for quality books that he strongly believed are a vehicle for building a knowledge-based society.

He said Mohiuddin Ahmed was a dedicated soul for the intellectual development - something that can be a lesson for others to follow.

Noted photographer Shahidul Alam said Mohiuddin Ahmed consistently stood for truth and justice and protested what he considered unfair.

Former adviser to a caretaker government, Rasheda K Choudhury, said she learned a great lesson from Mohiuddin, who not only led an essential institution for many years, but also developed the next ladder of leadership.

Noted actor Ramendu Majumder, Prof Swapan Adnan, Prof Syeed Ferdous, Prof Perween Hasan, Dr Tafvique Joarder, ornithologist Enam-Ul-Haque, and UPL Managing Director Mahrukh Mohiuddin also spoke, among others.

## Chhatra Union

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after independence, while "Jara Chilen Jara Achen" focuses on the left-leaning intellectuals martyred on December 14, 1971.

The remaining arrangement, "Gonohotta Sakkho", documents both the mass killings carried out by the Pakistani Army and the struggles of women during the war.

Meghmalla Bosu, president of the DU unit of the Chhatra Union, said the Awami League "monopolised" the Liberation War narrative during its rule, erasing its "people's war character". He said the anti-liberation forces have been attempting to "diminish the war's significance since

the July uprising".

"We organised this event primarily to counter these intellectual distortions. Through meticulous research, we've brought forward the reality of the people's war. We've also highlighted the genocide and exposed how Razakars manufactured consent for genocide," he said.

Regarding the event, Maeen Ahmed, general secretary of the unit, said this year's victory month holds special significance as an "organised group has been questioning the Liberation War since the July uprising".

"We see this time as both a crisis and an opportunity full of possibilities," he added.

## BNP won't run country

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will implement it if we are elected," he said.

Tarique Rahman was virtually addressing the final-day event of the BNP's seven-day programme titled "Plan for Nation Building" at the Krishibid Institution Bangladesh (KIB) Convention Hall in Dhaka as the chief guest.

Mentioning the party's 31-point demand, he said, "When we presented the 31-point proposal about two and a half years ago, no one was using the word 'reform'. The BNP put forward this proposal

despite the threat of autocracy. It prioritises improving the living standards of the general populace."

He noted that the plan encompasses women's development, farmers' fair dues, students' education, employment for the youth, and dignity for imams and muezzins.

Tarique also said that if the party's proposed 31-point reform and nation building plan is implemented, it will gradually lead to a positive transformation in the lives of the people of Bangladesh.

## Compensate nations

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"We are not indebted to industrialised nations; rather, they are indebted to us. Climate justice is now a matter of accountability and effective action," she said.

Fisheries and Livestock Adviser Farida Akhter said climate change should not be treated only as a technical or economic issue. "Climate justice means justice, survival, and accountability," she said, adding that the Global North often offers loans instead of justice.

Eminent economist Prof Anu Muhammad said the interim government had an opportunity to address climate and environmental issues after setbacks during the previous 15-year regime.

"But they failed to do so," he said, warning that taking loans in the name of climate finance could increase the country's risks.

Shaheen Anam, executive director of Manusher Jonno Foundation, said poor countries like Bangladesh are facing severe losses due to climate impacts.

She said the lives and livelihoods of people in char areas, haor regions, and coastal zones are under threat, with women and children being the most affected. Women's health, education, livelihoods, and overall lives are being

seriously jeopardised by climate change, she added.

Sharif Jamil, member secretary of the organising committee, conducted the opening session, while convener Dr Mujibur Rahman Howlader chaired it. Three technical sessions were held later.

## Freedom

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He also noted that despite achieving victory in 1971, the full realisation of the spirit and achievements of the Liberation War remains incomplete. "Various vested quarters and political interests are attempting to distort history," he said.

At the programme, guerrilla fighter Mizanur Rahman shared memories of a battle fought on November 11, 1971, in Betiara village against Pakistani forces. "In that battle, we lost 11 fellow fighters. That struggle, like the entire Liberation War, was made possible by the sacrifices of our martyred comrades and the courage of the masses," he said.

As part of the event, photographs and archival reports published in different media during the Liberation War were displayed at the Shaheed Minar premises.

## 6 Bangladeshi peacekeepers

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Calling attacks on peacekeepers a serious crime against international peace and humanity, he urged the UN and the international community to strengthen the security of peacekeepers.

Bangladesh government will continue to maintain close communication with the UN to ensure the swift repatriation of the bodies and proper medical treatment for those injured, he added.

The chief adviser prayed for the eternal peace of the departed souls of the fallen peacekeepers and extended his deepest condolences to their bereaved families.

"The government will stand by the families of the peacekeepers during this difficult time," Yunus added.

The foreign ministry strongly condemned the attack on the Bangladeshi peacekeepers and said the Bangladesh Mission in New York is working together with UN to extend all support to the Bangladeshi peacekeeping contingent in Sudan.

BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman also expressed his deep sorrow over the deaths

of peacekeepers and the injuries of eight others, including three female soldiers.

In a Facebook post, he called the soldiers' sacrifice a source of immense pride for the nation. He extended his condolences to the families of the fallen peacekeepers and also wished a speedy recovery of the injured.

Bangladesh is one of the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping missions, and its troops have long been deployed in Abyei.

The Sudanese government also condemned the attack. The army-aligned government based in Port Sudan accused the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) of being behind it.

In a statement, the Sovereignty Council, headed by army chief General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, described the attack as a "dangerous escalation".

Kadugli, where famine was declared in early November, has been besieged for a year and a half by the RSF.

Kordofan is a vast agricultural region divided into three states. It lies between RSF-controlled Darfur in the west and

army-held areas in the north, east and centre.

Its location is crucial for maintaining supply lines and moving troops.

The RSF has been at war with the military since April 2023 and has deployed fighters, drones and allied militias to the fertile region.

Analysts say the RSF seeks to break through the army's defences in central Sudan, paving the way for recapturing the Sudanese capital, Khartoum.

## CA holds

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they are excited to receive the award from the chief adviser.

They told the chief adviser that it is necessary to enhance the unity among political parties and the people for holding the upcoming general election.

About the attack on Hadi, Prof Yunus said the attack was carried out in a pre-planned manner.

"I am maintaining regular contact with the family and getting updates on Hadi's treatment. I have also spoken with political parties, and they are extending their cooperation in this regard," he said.

**PRAYER TIMING**

DECEMBER 14

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5-15 12-45 3-45 5-19 7-00

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-00 5-22 7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer  
Social Forest Division, Kushtia  
[www.forest.kushtia.gov.bd](http://www.forest.kushtia.gov.bd)

Memo No. 22.01.5000.341.10.002.25.1711 Date: 11.12.2025

**e-Tender Notice**

e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for following Packages as follows:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Reference No.	Name of work	Tender last selling (date and time)	Last date & time for security submission	Tender/proposal closing & opening date and time
01	1194425	SFDK/2025-26/Tender-1	Construction of Boundary wall at Bheramara SFNTC, Bheramara, Kushtia	28-Dec-2025 12:00	28-Dec-2025 13:00	28-Dec-2025 14:00
02	1194161	SFDK/2025-26/Tender-2	Repair & Maintenance work of different Centre of Social Forest Division, Kushtia (a. Damaurhuda SFPC Office Building b. Divisional Forest Officer's Office Room, c. Chuadanga SFNTC Office Building d. Jibannagar SFNTC Office Building)	28-Dec-2025 12:00	28-Dec-2025 13:00	28-Dec-2025 14:00
03	1194177	SFDK/2025-26/Tender-3	Repair, Maintenance & upgradation of different civil works of Social Forest Division, Kushtia (a. Grill height increase works of Mujibnagar Complex b. Soil filling & repairing of surface drain of the DFO's residential area c. Repair & maintenance of boundary wire net in Mirpur SFPC)	28-Dec-2025 12:00	28-Dec-2025 13:00	28-Dec-2025 14:00

01. This is an online tender where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.  
02. e-Tender registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required to submit the tender.  
0. 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-2735

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