

Nothing more

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"Given the presence of powerful figures such as the cabinet secretary and the home secretary in this committee within Bangladesh's governance structure, it is unrealistic to expect decision-making to remain free from government and bureaucratic influence or conflicts of interest," the statement said.

The organisation also questioned why the Citizen Complaint Management Committee and the Police Complaint Resolution Committee would be formed with commission members themselves, arguing that such arrangements would make independent and impartial complaint resolution impossible.

It added that the lack of financial independence in the law would "effectively turn the proposed Commission into a subordinate government office".

TIB also criticised the ordinance for allowing complaints that would normally fall under the jurisdiction of the National Human Rights Commission to be resolved through "coordination".

Concerns were also raised over Article 13 of the ordinance, which refers to maintaining a "balance between public security and human rights".

TIB said the absence of a clear definition of "public security" could allow human rights violations to be justified in its name.

TIB urged the government to revise and amend the Police Commission Ordinance, 2025, saying such changes are necessary to establish a genuinely independent police commission.

"Even if a police commission is formed under the proposed framework, it will neither be independent nor capable of fulfilling its intended purpose. Instead, it will become another project that wastes public funds while reinforcing the dominance of government-loyal, retired and deputed administrative and police officials," the statement said.

Nation

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Like the previous years, the Ministry of Liberation War Affairs will organise three-day Victory Fairs in all districts and upazilas.

Victory Day songs will be performed at Suhrawardy Udyan at 3:00pm today, while new-generation artists will perform songs of Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra simultaneously in 64 districts.

The president will felicitate the members of the Bir Shrestha families at Bangabhaban in the afternoon.

As per the government's special programmes to mark the 54 years of independence, 54 paratroopers from the Bangladesh Army, Air Force, and Navy will perform a flag-bearing skydive at Teigaon old airport in the capital at around 11:40am today, setting a new Guinness World Record.

Prior to the parachuting, the three forces will conduct separate fly-past demonstrations at the same venue from 11:00am.

Earlier, Chief Adviser Professor Muhammad Yunus released a commemorative postage stamp on the occasion yesterday.



Narayan Pal shapes everyday items -- including teacups and piggy banks -- from clay on a traditional potter's wheel. Defying the widespread use of machines in pottery today, he continues a family craft by working the manual wheel he has used since childhood to earn his living. The photo was taken at his home workshop in Shorapur, Khulna yesterday.

PHOTO: HABIBUR RAHMAN

250-BED BAGERHAT DISTRICT HOSPITAL Patients suffer as ICU remains non-operational

Expensive equipment lies unused amid staff shortage

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

The 250-bed Bagerhat District Hospital, the only major public healthcare facility for nearly 20 lakh people in the district, is struggling to provide critical services, as its Intensive Care Unit (ICU) has remained non-operational for nearly 11 months, while expensive diagnostic equipment lies unused.

During a recent visit, this correspondent found an automatic biochemistry analyser worth Tk 38.28 lakh lying idle and covered in dust in the pathology department. The machine, capable of conducting around 50 advanced tests and processing up to 360 samples per hour, was supplied by the DGHS on March 7, 2023, to enhance diagnostic capacity. However, it has yet to be installed.

Hospital officials said the supplier, Bangladesh Science House, did not provide installation support. Several letters sent to the DGHS seeking assistance also went unanswered.

"As a result, more than 6,000 patients who visit the hospital every month for pathological tests are being deprived of 40 to 45 types of tests at affordable costs," said Md Hasnuzzaman

Rasu, head of the pathology department.

The hospital's 10-bed ICU, located on the seventh floor, also remains locked despite being fully equipped with ventilators, cardiac monitors, infusion pumps, a defibrillator, a blood gas analyser, oxygen therapy systems and other essential facilities. Restrooms for doctors



PHOTO: STAR

and nurses are also lying unused.

Hospital sources said the ICU was initially launched with three beds during the Covid-19 pandemic and later expanded to 10 beds under a health ministry project. The unit was inaugurated on November 14, 2023 and remained operational until December 2024, when the project ended, and assigned staff were withdrawn.

"Critically ill patients are now being referred to Khulna or Dhaka, which increases both cost and risk," said Lipi Khanam, in-charge of the unit, adding that prolonged disuse could damage the equipment.

Jahidul Islam Jadu, general secretary of Bagerhat Blood Foundation, urged the authorities to take immediate steps to

resume ICU services and install the unused diagnostic machine. Hospital Superintendent Dr Asim Kumar Samadder said an acute manpower crisis was behind the prolonged shutdown. "We need at least 3 consultants, 4 medical officers, 12 nurses and 16 support staff," he said, adding that the hospital currently has only 26 doctors against 59 sanctioned posts.

Delegations

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Kolkata under the Victory Festival programme.

They will also attend several memorial events, including paying tribute at the Victory Memorial.

Meanwhile, a delegation of eight war veterans and two serving officers of the Indian Armed Forces has arrived in Dhaka to commemorate the Liberation War and participate in Bangladesh's Victory Day celebrations.

The Indian delegation will interact with freedom fighters and senior officers of the Bangladesh Army, Navy, and Air Force, according to a press statement from the Indian High Commission.

"These exchange visits provide a platform for Bangladeshi Muktiyoddhas and Indian war veterans to celebrate the unique friendship between the two countries and to renew memories of the Liberation War, which reflects the shared sacrifices of the armed forces of Bangladesh and India for Bangladesh's freedom," the statement said.

Every year, both Bangladesh and India celebrate the victory over Pakistan on December 16, 1971, and invite each other's war veterans and serving officers to participate in each other's Victory Day celebrations.

Absence of specific

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essential because the chief justice must be someone whose integrity is beyond reproach. If such concerns arise, the seniority rule may be set aside, and the Supreme Judicial Council should examine the matter."

Apart from this, seniority must guide the appointment, added the lawyer.

In the past, eight apex court judges were appointed

CJ by superseding their seniors. They are Justice KM Hasan, Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain, Justice MM Ruhul Amin, Justice Md Tafazzul Islam, Justice ABMKhairul Haque, Justice Md Muzammel Hossain, Justice Syed Mahmud Hossain, and Justice Hasan Foez Siddique.

Despite repeated attempts, Law Adviser Asif Nazrul could not be reached on his mobile phone.

Structural weakness

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"This has become an accepted way of life," he said, stressing that accountability institutions must be effective, transparent, and able to work together to challenge such norms.

Iftikharuzzaman also criticised missed reform opportunities under the interim government. "Progress on commission reform remained limited due to lack of transparency in appointments and insufficient public involvement."

Referring to TIB's proposal to form an independent Selection and Review Committee for constitutional and statutory commissions, he said all 30 active political parties supported the idea, but resistance came from within the bureaucracy.

"We have been successful in removing an authoritarian regime, but the practice of authoritarianism remains," he said, adding that key provisions were reportedly dropped from the original ordinance.

On the Right to Information Act, Iftikharuzzaman said surveys show that 93 percent of people in Bangladesh are unaware of the law. He added that enforcement remains weak, as officials often cite state security to deny information, even though the RTI Act is meant to prevail over other laws.

He called for greater public awareness and stronger institutional commitment to transparency, saying corruption and lack of accountability cannot be addressed by commissions alone.

"If we expect others to be honest, we must practice it ourselves," he said, urging citizens to question policies that allow the whitening of black money.

Abdul Wohab, associate professor of political science and sociology at North South University, said corruption

cannot be curbed through legal frameworks or punitive measures alone. It requires a fundamental shift in cultural socialisation and social behaviour, he said.

While ministries have codes of conduct and laws, independent commissions are essential for accountability, Wohab said, adding that these bodies must be citizen-centric to earn public trust.

"We are socialised to evade punishment rather than embrace ethical behaviour," he said.

He warned that an excessive focus on punishment can stigmatise individuals and families and create cycles of exclusion.

Instead, he said, the state should prioritise prevention and harm reduction, noting that corruption is sustained by a nexus between power, the economy, and society.

CPI Deputy Executive Director Shahariar Sadat moderated the discussion.

One or two

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senior law enforcement officials and issued directives to ensure security throughout the election period.

"They have assured us that peace and order will be maintained until the election and that they are capable of ensuring a smooth polling process."

Meanwhile, a press release issued by the EC last night said the CEC, through his earlier remarks, only sought to convey that the shooting of Hadi would not derail the elections.



Prayer Timing
DECEMBER 16
Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-20 12-45 3-45 5-22 7-00
JAMAAT 5-55 1-15 4-00 5-25 7-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Cox's Bazar
Phone: 02334462460
E-mail: eecox@rhd.gov.bd
Memo No. 35.01.2224.132.25/2048 Date: 15/12/2025

RHD Invitation for e-GP Tenders

This is to notify for all concerns that e-Tenders is invited and published on 15 December, 2025 in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for procurement of works for the following Tenders. Interested persons/firms can see details by visiting the website www.eprocure.gov.bd.

Sl.	Tender ID	Tender Reference No.	Name of work	Date & time
01.	1191224	E-GP/PMPMAJOR/04/BRIDGE/EECOXRD/2025-2026	Construction of 44.02m (1 X 42.68m) Long P.C Girder Bridge (Bondor Bridge) at 455th km (Ch: 454 + 629) under Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla (Moinamati)-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf National Highway (N-1) under Cox's Bazar Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	Last selling: 11.01.2026, 16:00 Closing: 12.01.2026, 13:00
02.	1191225	E-GP/PMPMAJOR/05/BRIDGE/EECOXRD/2025-2026	Construction of 44.02m (1 X 42.68m) Long P.C Girder Bridge (Domdomia BGB Checkpost Bridge) at 454th km (Ch: 453 + 551m km) on Dhaka (Jatrabari)-Cumilla (Moinamati)-Chattogram-Cox's Bazar-Teknaf National Highway (N-1) under Cox's Bazar Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	Last selling: 11.01.2026, 16:00 Closing: 12.01.2026, 13:00
03.	1191226	E-GP/PMPMAJOR/06/ROAD/EECOXRD/2025-2026	Surfacing work by DBS Wearing Course at Ch: 00+800 km to Ch: 16+000 km of Khuruskul-Chowfaldandi-Eidgaon Zila Road (Z-1132) under Cox's Bazar Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	Last selling: 11.01.2026, 16:00 Closing: 12.01.2026, 12:30

Md. Rafiq Bin Manjur
Assistant Engineer (A.C.), RHD
Road Division, Cox's Bazar
GD-2758

Rokan Uddin Khaled Chowdhury
ID No. 602345
Executive Engineer (C.C.), RHD
Road Division, Cox's Bazar

Resignation of home

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currently in India -- are not handed over to Bangladesh within 72 hours, the Indian High Commission in Dhaka should be shut down.

They urged the Election Commission (EC) to issue a circular barring the Jatiya Party from participating in the upcoming election. Their fourth demand called on the EC to prevent Awami League leaders from contesting the election as "independent" candidates, alleging such attempts are aimed at sabotaging the polls.

The fifth demand sought the identification and immediate punishment of police and armed forces personnel accused of attacking Chhatra Odhikar Parishad supporters on August 31.

Chhatra Odhikar Parishad President Nazmul Hasan alleged that the Awami League is operating covertly to undermine the election, referring to incidents involving explosives and an arson attack in Mymensingh in which a sleeping driver was burned to death.

He called for an end to what he described as a politics of violence and intimidation.

Referring to the August 31 programme, he said law enforcement personnel

attacked demonstrators with the intent to kill, leaving several injured, and alleged that no action has yet been taken against those responsible.

Questioning the credibility of the upcoming polls, Nazmul said candidates are campaigning in an atmosphere of fear.

He urged the chief adviser and the advisory council to act immediately, warning that public anger would escalate if the five-point demand is ignored.

Cabinet orders

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and divisions to separately send these directives to all departments, offices and agencies under their control.

The circular, signed by Cabinet Secretary Sheikh Abdur Rashid, said all employees must comply with any lawful instruction of the returning officer on an urgent basis. It also mentioned that no employee can be transferred without the permission of the Election Commission.

The circular further reminded that the Electoral Officers (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 remains in force to ensure a free, fair and neutral election by maintaining discipline and control over election officials.

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
Bangladesh Power Development Board
Directorate of Purchase
WAPDA Building (9th Floor), Motijheel, Dhaka-1000. Tel: 02223383081
E-mail: dir.purchase@bpd.gov.bd
www.bpd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice

The following e-Tenders are invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of:

Sl No.	Tender ID No.	Package No.	Reference No.	Description of goods/works	EOI closing date and time	EOI opening date and time
01.	1193196	CS-1 FY 25-26	27.11.000 0.304.26.2 06.25, Date: 11/12/2025	Procurement of Consultancy services for Review and Updating of Design, Documentation and Preparation of a Complete Manual for latest version of Integrated Management System (IMS) Embracing ISO 9001:2015 (QMS), ISO 14001:2015 (EMS) & ISO 45001:2018 (OH & SMS) and carrying out all activities leading to IMS Certifications for BPDB including Training.	30-Dec-2025, 14:20	30-Dec-2025, 14:20
02	1194492	CS-2 FY 25-26	27.11.000 0.304.26.2 07.25, Date: 11/12/2025	Procurement of Integrated Management System (IMS) Certification with ISO 9001:2015 (QMS), ISO 14001:2015 (EMS) & ISO 45001:2018 (OH & SMS).	30-Dec-2025, 14:15	30-Dec-2025, 14:15

These are 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 downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank branches.
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).
For more details please contact to the PE's Support Desk (01768015538).

বিস্তারিত-৪১৫(১)/১৫/১২/২৫
GD-2756

Md. Nannu Miah
ID No. 1-01304
Director
Directorate of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka