

Verifying wealth of candidates difficult in short timeframe Says ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) Chairman Mohammad Abdul Momen admitted yesterday that verifying the wealth information submitted by candidates in their election affidavits is difficult within a short timeframe.

"There is a big gap between the time candidates submit their asset statements and the time required for the ACC to conduct a proper inquiry. This makes it hard for us to detect discrepancies immediately," he said, as scrutiny of candidates' declared wealth comes into focus ahead of the polls.

He made the remarks while speaking to reporters after attending the 22nd anniversary programme of Reporters Against Corruption (RAC) at the ACC headquarters media centre in Dhaka.

Against the backdrop of the upcoming national election, Momen said corruption remains one of Bangladesh's biggest challenges and stressed the need for honest and accountable leadership.



Two crocodiles seen face to face in a waterbody at Rajshahi Central Park and Zoo, one of the few remaining animal attractions at the facility after most animals and birds were relocated or died. Once a major recreational centre in the northern region, the zoo now draws visitors mainly for its deer and a handful of surviving species. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

Participatory and peaceful polls key to democracy

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olls, along with a delegation from the European Parliament.

The full mission will comprise around 200 observers from all 27 EU member states, as well as Canada, Norway and Switzerland. This is the EU's first fully fledged election observation mission in Bangladesh since 2008.

Ijabs said the mission will engage with election authorities, political parties, the judiciary, civil society and the media. It will observe election preparations, the legal framework and its implementation, campaigning, dispute resolution, and the overall space for political and civic participation, including for women, youth and vulnerable groups.

The EOM will also monitor traditional and social media to assess whether voters are able to make informed choices. Its assessment will be based on national law and international democratic standards, guided by the principles of independence, impartiality and non-interference.

"We will observe the process, but we will not certify the results. These elections belong solely to the people of Bangladesh," said Ijabs, a member of the European Parliament from Latvia.

He added that the mission hopes to contribute to public confidence in the electoral process.

Two days after the polls, the EOM will issue a preliminary statement, followed by a final report two months later.

Asked about the election environment, Ijabs said the Election Commission appears committed to holding a credible and participatory election.

He noted that credibility and competitiveness need to be restored after previous elections.

On security, he said law enforcers must maintain order while protecting freedom of expression and association.

He added that a "participatory and inclusive" election means the involvement of all social groups, regardless of faith, ethnicity or gender, and a voter turnout that reflects

active civic engagement.

Regarding inclusivity, he said it encompasses everything, including both the capacity of citizens to participate and the assurance that they are counted in a fair and transparent manner.

Regarding the ban on the Awami League, Ijabs said the issue involves complex questions of political reconciliation and transitional justice, and he would not comment on it.

"But of course, we are going to pay attention to it as long as it makes an impact on the election and on the turnout," he said.

He also said observers would pay special attention to any risk of intimidation of minority communities.

Meanwhile, Ijabs met Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday to discuss election preparations, the level playing field for parties and the referendum, according to the Chief Adviser's press wing.

He described the meeting as highly important, with extensive discussions covering election preparedness, the level playing field for

political parties, and the referendum, particularly the 'Yes' vote," said the press wing in a statement.

Prof Yunus described the EU mission as vital for a credible election and democratic transition.

He identified misinformation on social media as a major challenge and warned that elements linked to the fallen autocratic regime may attempt to disrupt the polls.

However, Prof Yunus said the security forces are fully prepared to respond to any challenges.

HC questions EC

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According to the petition, NDF and JP (Ershad) are associate organisations of the Awami League, whose activities were banned on May 5 last year.

Despite the ban, Anisul and some other members of JP formed a political party named Jatiya Party (Anis) and an election coalition in the name of NDF, and submitted nomination papers for the upcoming 13th parliamentary election, the petition stated. JP also submitted nomination

papers to contest the polls.

The petition further said the AL instructed its members to contest the election as independent candidates, describing the practice as a direct threat to the July Charter and a betrayal to the martyrs of the July uprising.

Palak's lawyer Liton

Ahmed told the tribunal that they wished to complete the communication next Friday and hold the charge-framing hearing on January 18.

Opposing the plea, the chief prosecutor said

January 14

had already been

fixed for the hearing and

added that the lawyers could

meet Palak

yesterday in the

tribunal's lock-up room

if they wished.

Echoing the prosecution,

the tribunal chairman asked,

"Why wait until Friday? You

can do it today."

The defence

lawyers, however, remained

firm in their request.

At this stage,

the chief prosecutor

reiterated that the defence

was deliberately trying to

delay the trial.

The prosecution urged

the tribunal to frame charges

against both accused,

saying

prima facie evidence had

been found.

Meanwhile, ICT-2 fixed

January 14

for prosecution

arguments after completion

NATIONAL POLLS KPM delivers 914 tonnes of paper to EC



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited (KPM) in Kaptai, Rangamati, has delivered 914 tonnes of paper ordered by the Election Commission for the 13th National Parliament election ahead of the scheduled deadline.

KPM Managing Director Mohammad Shahid Ullah confirmed the matter to The Daily Star yesterday.

He said the paper, which was scheduled to be delivered by January 15, was supplied earlier than planned through the Bangladesh Stationery Office (BSO).

The consignment includes green, pink and brown paper, with an estimated market value of Tk 11,893,781.

He added that besides the Election Commission order, KPM will supply another 1,200 tonnes of paper in phases to 11 institutions, including Dhaka University, various education boards and the National University, through the BSO.

Defence delaying

of the recording of a defence witness in a case over the burning of six bodies in Ashulia during the July uprising.

The tribunal also granted bail on humanitarian grounds to Humayun Kabir Patwary, former AL Lakshminipur Sadar unit president, in a crimes against humanity case over the killing of five people during the July 2024 uprising – the first such bail in a July uprising case.

He was granted bail due to liver cirrhosis, the prosecution said.

The tribunal imposed strict conditions, including house confinement, bans on media and social media communication, and restrictions on tampering with evidence or contacting co-accused or witnesses.

Two other accused, Shaheen Alam and Md Salahuddin Chowdhury, remain in jail.

PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 12

Faz	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 5-30	12-45	4-00	5-36	7-00
JAMAAT 6-05	1-15	4-15	5-40	7-30

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

BNP struggles to rein in rebels

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continue to run in the election.

In Patuakhali-3, BNP leader Hasan Mamun submitted nomination papers as an independent, defying the party's decision to leave the seat for Gono Odhikar Parishad President Nurul Haque.

In Narayanganj-4, Muhammad Gias Uddin collected nomination papers for a seat that has also been allocated to Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam.

In Bhola-1, the BNP gave up the seat for Bangladesh Jatiya Party Chairman Andalee Rahman Partha, yet BNP leader Golam Nabi Alangir filed nomination papers.

In Natore-1, Jhalokathi-1

and Kishoreganj-1, four rebel candidates are contesting the polls.

TARIQUE'S INTERVENTION

On January 9, BNP Executive Committee member Mijanur Rahman Choudhury, a rebel candidate in Sunamganj-5, announced his decision to withdraw from the election following a meeting with BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman.

In a verified Facebook post, Mijanur said, "My respected guardian, BNP Chairman Tarique Rahman, called me to his Gulshan office and requested me to step down from the election for the sake of the party and the country."

Former lawmaker and Sunamganj BNP convener announced that he would

withdraw from the race.

According to party sources, Tarique held a meeting with Khaleque at his Gulshan office in Dhaka on the afternoon of January 6, where he instructed him to withdraw his nomination.

At a party meeting at Tejkhali in Bancharampur on January 10, Khaleque publicly confirmed his decision.

"The party chairman has called me. The party has nominated Zunaid Saki. If the party chief asks me to do this, how can I refuse?" he said.

In the Brahmanbaria-6 constituency, the BNP did not field its own candidate, as the seat was allocated to its partner Ganosamhati Andolon's chief coordinator Zonayed Saki.

In Brahmanbaria-1, former lawmaker Syed AK Ekramuzzaman, who was earlier expelled from the BNP, announced on January 8 that he would withdraw his nomination and work in support of the BNP-backed candidate.

Ekramuzzaman met Tarique at the Gulshan office the same day, where he was instructed to step aside in line with the party's electoral strategy.

In Jhenaidah-4, independent candidate Murshida Khatun applied to withdraw her nomination. Murshida is the wife of senior BNP leader Shahiduzzaman Beltu. In the same constituency, Rashed Khan, who recently joined the BNP, remains in the race as a party-backed contestant.

Senior party leaders warned that further expulsions would follow if others failed to withdraw within the stipulated time.

BNP Standing Committee member Nazrul Islam Khan said the party expects all rebel candidates to step aside before the deadline.

"We have asked them to respect the party decision and withdraw their nomination papers. We hope they will withdraw. Otherwise, organisational action will be taken," he said.

Nazrul said many rebel candidates have already informed the party of their intention to quit the race.

Senior BNP leaders said the party has also offered assurances to those stepping aside, including consideration for organisational responsibilities and future participation in local government elections.

Memo: 26.05.0000.006.14.019.25.

Date: 11 January, 2026

e-Tender Notice No: 05/2025-26

Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB)
Engineering Department
TCB Bhaban, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
www tcb gov bd

e-Tender Notice for Works

Package No: CSAWM-WDB-SWZ-WD-14/01-J-1

Re-excavation of Chitra River from 38.550 to 50.500 km=11.950 Km, Rehabilitation of 6 nos. WCS & Construction of 1(One) No WMG building in Chitra-Bhairab-Afra Sub-Project (Jashore Part) in c/w "Climate-Smart Agriculture and Water Management (CSAWM) Project (BWDB Part)" under Jashore WD Division, BWDB, Jashore during the year 2025-2026 & 2026-2027.

09-Feb-2026
17:00 hrs

10-Feb-2026
12:00 hrs

This is online tender, where only e-tenders will be accepted in National e-GP portal and no offline and hard copies will be accepted.

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Executive Engineer
Phone: 02-55013923

GD-79

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Project Director
Maintenance & Rehabilitation of Railway Track in Eastern Zone of Bangladesh

Railway Project
Bangladesh Railway, CRB, Chattogram

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E-mail: pd.trep@railway.gov.bd

Dated: 06.01.2026

Advertisement Correction Notice

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Tender Closing (Date and Time)	
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