

No legal bar to Pabna-1, 2 election on February 12: SC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday ruled that there is no legal obstacle to holding elections in the Pabna-1 and Pabna-2 constituencies on February 12.

The polls in the two constituencies will be held according to the boundaries set out in the gazette issued by the Election Commission on September 4 last year following the delimitation.

Accordingly, the apex court said Santhia upazila will fall under the Pabna-1 constituency, while Sujanagar and Bera upazilas together will form the Pabna-2, court sources said.

A four-member bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury, passed the order after hearing a leave-to-appeal petition against a High Court verdict that had declared illegal the EC gazette notification of September 4 last year, which had attached four unions and Bera municipality of Pabna-1 to Pabna-2.

The SC also stayed the HC verdict till disposal of the appeal against the judgement, sources at the court said.

Barrister Muhammad Nazibur Rahman Momen, Jamaat-e-Islami candidate for Pabna-1, filed the leave to appeal petition on Monday, seeking an order directing the Election Commission to lift its stay on election activities in the two Pabna constituencies.

Barrister Imran Siddiq appeared for Nazibur Rahman during hearing of the leave to appeal petition yesterday.

On January 10, citing an Appellate Division order related to constituency delimitation for the 13th parliamentary election, the EC decided to stay election-related activities in Pabna-1 and Pabna-2 until further instructions.

Earlier, on January 5, the Appellate Division stayed the amended gazette notification issued by the EC on December 24 last year, which redefined the boundaries of the two constituencies. The stay order will remain in force until the hearing of the leave to appeal filed against the HC judgment, the SC had said.

Sathia will fall under Pabna-1 while Sujanagar, Bera upazilas under Pabna-2 constituency.



PHOTO: STAR

Kutukchhari bridge work drags on for 4 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangamati

The construction of the Kutukchhari bridge on the Rangamati-Khagrachhari regional highway has remained incomplete for more than four years despite two deadline extensions, causing severe hardship for commuters on the route.

The road is the only direct link for residents of Kutukchhari, Ghilachhari and Naniarchar upazilas of Rangamati, as well as Mohalchhari and Sadar upazilas of Khagrachhari, to reach Rangamati district town.

With the bridge still unfinished, locals, including patients, students and farmers, are being forced to use a dilapidated, pothole-ridden bypass road and an old, vulnerable Bailey bridge, often risking safety and enduring longer travel times.

A recent visit to the site found that only a couple of pillars have been built, while some rods lay on

the roadside. No other construction materials were visible and not a single worker was present.

Vehicles and pedestrians were seen taking turns to cross between the two ends using the bypass road and the old bridge.

According to Roads and Highways Department sources in



Rangamati, after the Kutukchhari Bailey bridge collapsed in January 2021, a decision was taken to construct a new 81-metre-long bridge.

In July 2022, two firms -- Messrs Sardar Enterprises and Messrs Rangamati Traders -- jointly began

the Tk 14.29 crore project. However, despite the original deadline ending in 2024, there was little progress.

The deadline was extended by one year to 2025, but with only about 45 percent of the work completed, it was extended again until March 2026.

"Transporting critical patients to hospitals or agricultural produce to markets has become extremely difficult due to the incomplete bridge," said Babudhan Chakma, a local resident.

"If the bridge were built promptly, it would have benefitted us all," said Jasim Uddin, a local CNG-run auto-rickshaw driver.

Representatives of the two firms could not be reached for comment despite repeated attempts.

Sabuj Chakma, executive engineer of RHD in Rangamati, said a recommendation would be sent to higher authorities to cancel the contract if the work is not completed within the extended period.

Two killed as truck hits bike in B'baria

UNB, Brahmanbaria

Two motorcyclists were killed after being hit by a truck in Ashuganj upazila of Brahmanbaria early yesterday.

The accident took place in the Sonarampur area of the upazila on the Dhaka-Sylhet highway.

The deceased are Saimon, 20, and Abdur Rahman, 23.

OC Shafiqul Alam Chowdhury of Ashuganj Police Station, said the two were travelling from Bishwaroad in Sarail towards Ashuganj when their motorcycle collided with a truck coming from the opposite direction.

Both riders were declared dead at Ashuganj Upazila Health Complex.

Legal action in this connection is underway, the OC added.

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Defence seeks discharge of Joy Syndicate

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to make decisions. He also said Joy had no authority to issue any order or instruction to Palak.

When the tribunal observed that although Joy was an adviser, he did not take steps to prevent the crimes, the defence argued that he held no executive authority.

As the prosecution argued that the internet was shut down to conceal

the atrocities and that the highest number of protesters were killed in the three days following the shutdown, Palak, who was in the dock, said on August 2, during the movement, he had decided to step down in line with the students' demands.

He said he had spoken in favour of the protesters at a cabinet meeting and had informed the former PM of his decision to resign.

Palak also claimed that the internet had never been shut down and the international airport remained operational.

The tribunal chair then asked him to sit, saying it would hear him further when necessary.

Following the hearing, the tribunal fixed January 21 for passing an order on

whether charges would be framed in the case.

Meanwhile, the prosecution yesterday sought the highest punishment for all 16 accused after concluding its arguments before the International Crimes Tribunal 2 in a case filed over the killing of seven people, six of whom were later set on fire in Ashulia.

Defence arguments in that case will begin on Sunday.

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"Taking advantage of their prior acquaintance, Al Amin shared his confidential login credentials with Habibullah. In return, Habibullah paid Al Amin Tk 4,000-5,000 per week," the DIG said.

Using the confidential credentials, Habibullah illegally accessed the NID database and sold sensitive personal information of citizens to interested parties at rates ranging from Tk 200-300 per record, according to the CID's preliminary investigation.

The investigation also found that Habibullah used the illegal earnings to acquire a flat in Dhaka and other movable and immovable assets, and has been living a lavish lifestyle.

Legal proceedings are underway, and further investigation is ongoing, the DIG added.

INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH (IUB)
VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
Director
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For detailed information and to apply, please visit: <http://iub.ac.bd/news-and-events/jobs-at-iub> or scan the QR code

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ICT presses

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water and biscuits. He was taken to a nearby hospital, where doctors declared him dead.

The second charge relates to the killing of four others on July 19 in the same area.

The prosecution disclosed the identities of eight accused: Habib Hasan; Habibur Rahman; Ashrafur Azim; ADCs Mirza Salahuddin and Mohammad Towhidul Islam; Uttara East police station OC Muzibur Rahman; and local AL leader Monwar Islam Chowdhury Robin.

সিরাজুল ইসলাম চৌধুরী সম্পাদিত
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বার্ষিক চাঁদা (সেডাক) ৪০০ টাকা
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উচ্চতর পরবেশনা কেন্দ্র
কক্ষ ২০৪ (টিএসসি সংলগ্ন)
ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোন : ০১৮১৭-০৫৭৭৮০
০১৬২০-২৩৫৬১১

PRAYER TIMING
JANUARY 16
Fazr Juma Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:30 12:30 4:00 5:36 7:00
JAMAAT 6:05 1:15 4:15 5:40 7:30
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JCD demands resignation of CU VC, pro-VCs

Stages sit-in alleging irregularities in recruitment

CU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal leaders and activists of Chittagong University staged a sit-in yesterday, demanding the resignation of the vice-chancellor and two pro-vice-chancellors over allegations of nepotism and irregularities in recruitment.

The programme began around 10:00am in front of the main gate of the university's administrative building and continued till 4:30pm.

Due to the protest, Pro-VC (Admin) Prof Kamal Uddin was initially unable to enter the administrative building through the main gate.

Speaking at the programme, JCD CU unit General Secretary Abdullah Al-Noman alleged that partisan and regional considerations had dominated recruitment over the past one and a half years.

"All illegal recruitment must be cancelled immediately. The VC, pro-VCs, and the registrar must resign. Otherwise, we will be forced to launch a tougher programme," he said.

Around 4:30pm, the protest was postponed after Noman declared a 48-hour ultimatum for their resignation.

Earlier, allegations surfaced that 153 staff members were to be recruited in various categories. However, the university administration rejected the claim and issued a press release stating that a total of 113 staff members had been recruited.

Pro-VC (Administration) Prof Kamal Uddin said he informed the JCD leaders that the VC would speak on the issue after returning to the country from abroad. "It is not within my jurisdiction to disclose details of who has been appointed where."

Tentulia records lowest temperature for 7th straight day



FILE PHOTO

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Panchagarh's Tentulia recorded the country's lowest temperature for the seventh consecutive day yesterday, with the mercury dropping to 7.5 degrees Celsius at 9:00am.

A mild cold wave continues to sweep across the northern districts of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Dinajpur and Kurigram, disrupting daily life.

Wind speeds ranged between eight and 10 kilometres per hour, while humidity stood at 98 percent, said Jitendranath Ray, acting officer of the Tentulia Weather Observatory.

According to the observatory, Tentulia recorded 8 degrees celsius on Wednesday, 7.5 degrees on Tuesday, 8.4 degrees on Monday, 7.3 degrees on Sunday, 8.3 degrees on Saturday and 6.8 degrees on Friday.

In other parts of the region, temperatures yesterday morning stood at 9.3 degrees celsius in Thakurgaon, 9.7 degrees in Dinajpur, 9.8 degrees in Rajarhat of Kurigram, 11 degrees in Dimla of Nilphamari and 11.8 degrees in Rangpur.

Despite the cold spell, residents have found some respite as bright sunshine over the past three mornings has helped normal outdoor activities resume.