

# Postal ballots must reach ROs by 4:30pm on polling day: EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission yesterday said postal ballots for the 13th National Parliamentary Election and referendum will be counted only if they reach the returning officer by 4:30pm on polling day, February 12.

The commission urged voters using the postal system to cast their ballots as soon as they receive them and submit the completed ballot envelopes without delay, said Brigadier General Saleem Ahmad Khan, head of the EC's Out of Country Voting System Development and Implementation Initiative.

"Postal Vote BD registered voters should cast their ballots promptly and submit the yellow envelope at the nearest post office or mailbox," he said, adding that ballots received after 4:30pm on February 12 will not be counted.

Postal voting for expatriates, government officials on election duty and people in lawful custody opened at 5:00pm on January 21.

Bangladesh currently has 12.76 crore registered voters. Of them, 1,533,683 voters -- 1,281,435 men and 252,246 women -- have registered through the Postal Vote BD app.

Ahead of the twin polls, the EC has dispatched 7,28,023 postal ballots to voters in 122 countries.

Voters will receive ballot papers bearing electoral symbols and will be able to cast their votes by email.

According to EC data, Saudi Arabia recorded the highest number of registrations at 2,39,186.

District-wise, Cumilla topped the list with 1,12,090 registered overseas voters, followed by Dhaka with 1,08,757.

In addition to expatriates, 7,61,141 voters, comprising officials engaged in election duties and people in lawful custody, have registered under the Postal Vote BD system. Among them, 6,285 registrants are in legal custody.

While postal voting has been part of Bangladesh's electoral process since 1972, this is the first time the EC has introduced an IT-supported online postal voting system.

The commission said expatriate voters will not be charged, although the cost per ballot under the Postal Vote BD system is Tk 700.



# Man shot dead over 'smuggling rivalry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

A 28-year-old man was shot dead by miscreants early Friday in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar, police said.

The victim was Shaiful Alam, also known as Ledaputu.

According to police, locals, and family members, Shaiful received several phone calls around 1:30am asking him to come outside while he was having dinner.

He eventually left home without finishing his meal. About an hour later, locals heard gunshots and later found his body lying in the area. Locals said rival groups operate in the area over control of cattle smuggling from Myanmar. Shaiful was reportedly the second-in-command of a group led by Shahin Dakat, who was recently arrested.

Ramu Police Station OC Monirul Islam Bhuiyan said efforts are underway to identify those responsible.

# Partho calls for unity

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bridge -- in parliament.

Referring to his family legacy, he said his father had never wronged anyone. "People in Dhaka may like me, but the people of Bhola love me. Bhola is my home. My symbol is the bullock cart," he added.

He also called for peaceful campaigning, urging supporters

to ensure that other candidates could conduct election activities without obstruction and that no violence or deterioration of law and order takes place.

Partho later travelled through Choumuhani and Kalinath Bazar from the ferry terminal, before reaching the BJP office, where he met party leaders and activists.

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**Contact: 01842456904**

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বসুন্ধরা আবাসিক এলাকায় ৮.০০+ একর ও পি-ব্লকে যেকোন সাইজের প্লট ক্রয় করতে আগ্রহী। শুধুমাত্র সারাসরি জমির মালিকদান যোগাযোগ করুন।  
**মোবাইল : ০১৩২৯-৬৬৬ ১৬২**

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Civil Surgeon Cum Superintendent  
Pirojpur District Hospital, Pirojpur  
Memo No. DHP/Admin/Tender-2025-26/62  
Date: 24/01/2026  
**e-Tender Notice (Revised)**  
e-Tender will be invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for Supply of following goods.

Tender ID No.	Description	Publication date and time	Online tender closing & opening date and time
1157129	Procurement of Non EDCL Medicine	23-Jan-2026 12:00	03-Feb-2026 14:00
1215905	Procurement of MSR Instrument	23-Jan-2026 12:00	03-Feb-2026 14:00
1215908	Procurement of Gauze, bandage, cotton	23-Jan-2026 12:00	03-Feb-2026 14:00
1215907	Procurement of Linen product	23-Jan-2026 12:00	03-Feb-2026 14:00
1215909	Procurement of Chemical Reagents	23-Jan-2026 12:00	03-Feb-2026 14:00
1215910	Procurement of MSR Furniture and Kitchen items	23-Jan-2026 12:00	03-Feb-2026 14:00
1157174	Procurement of Diet	25-Jan-2026 12:00	09-Feb-2026 14:00
1157175	Procurement of Stationary	25-Jan-2026 12:00	09-Feb-2026 14:00
1157176	Procurement of Linen Washing	25-Jan-2026 12:00	09-Feb-2026 14:00

This is an 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 document from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through and registered bank branch. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

**Dr. Md. Matiur Rahman**  
Civil Surgeon Cum Superintendent  
District Hospital, Pirojpur

GD-176



**Fish farmers strain to catch fish from a wetland in the Rajshahi district, as the rapid drying of waterbodies there has forced them to harvest early. This vast wetland in Mohanpur upazila's Mailboli area, replete with water just a few days ago, is now nearly dry. In the coming days, Boro rice will be planted here, turning it green again, as farmers have already begun planting nearby fields. The photo was taken yesterday.**

PHOTO: AZAHAR UDDIN

# Security, stability dominate voter concerns

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of Dhanmondi for nearly 30 years, said he has faced repeated evictions despite assurances from politicians about permanent space.

Driven by the need for a livelihood, he has set up his stall once again. Now a voter of Dhaka-10, his perspective is grounded in survival.

"The country has many problems, but I believe unemployment is the foremost," Kabir told The Daily Star. "Unemployment fuels crime, theft, mugging and drug abuse."

The New Market area, a major commercial and educational hub, continues to face traffic congestion, footpath encroachment by hawkers and unplanned parking.

Frequent waterlogging and recurring clashes between students and traders further disrupt daily life.

Abu Sayeed Rubel, member secretary of the New Market Traders' Association, said ensuring security and maintaining a stable business environment are their main demands from the next MP.

As the election approaches, candidates have intensified door-to-door campaigns and courtyard meetings to understand local grievances.

Mid Jashim Uddin Sarker, the Jamaat e-Islami candidate for Dhaka-10, said voter enthusiasm has increased, especially among young people who were unable to vote in 2014 and 2018.

"They want more than a power shift; they want an end to corruption, extortion and misrule," he said, identifying security, drainage and gas supply as key issues.

"Extortion, mugging, and the teen gang culture are major threats. Traders live in constant fear of extortion," he said, promising to solve these issues in phases if elected.

He also stressed the need

for a level playing field, citing the recent killing of Osman Hadi as evidence that armed criminals remain active.

BNP candidate Sheikh Rabiul Alam described Dhaka-10 as a diverse constituency, housing both working-class and elite residential zones, with varying voter expectations.

"I have adopted a strategy to reach people by considering these differing realities," he said.

Emphasising the BNP's goal of establishing a participatory state system and an accountable government, Rabiul said, "In the past, many MPs of this constituency were not residents of this area. Many voters feel that elected representatives disappear after elections."

"I live here and have always stood beside the people, even during the last 17 difficult years. By any means, I will be here for the people," he said.

He pledged zero tolerance

for political criminalisation. "If corruption, land grabbing, or extortion occurs, I ask the people to contact me directly," he said, urging everyone to vote spontaneously.

Both major candidates promised to address long-standing tensions between students and traders in the New Market area.

Other candidates contesting in this constituency are -- Md A Awal (Islami Andolan Bangladesh), Nasreen Sultana (AB Party), Abu Hanif Hridoy (Bangladesh Republican Party), Abul Kalam Azad (Bangladesh Labor Party), Anisur Rahman (Muktijote), Abdullah Al Hussain (Amjanata Dal), Banhi Bepari (Jatiya Party), and Md Zakir Hossain (Janata Dal).

Dhaka-10 has 388,660 voters -- up by 63,727 from the last election -- including 204,604 men, 184,050 women and six hijra voters.

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# Conspiracy

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Parliamentary Election, scheduled for February 12.

He urged the authorities to maintain neutrality.

Calling for the establishment of an Islamic state in future, he urged voters to cast their ballots in favour of the candidate nominated by the Jamaat-led alliance.

Jamaat candidate for Pirojpur-2, Shameem Sayedee, and his younger brother Masood Sayedee, who is running from Pirojpur-1, were present alongside leaders and activists of the party.

Shameem and Masood are sons of the late Jamaat leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee, who was convicted for war crimes and died serving out his sentence.

# Push to advance investment for water resilience

Say speakers on textile sector



CITY DESK

Major apparel brands, development partners, development finance institutions, commercial banks, industry experts, and Bangladesh Bank joined a high-level dialogue on January 22 to advance investment pathways for water resilience in Bangladesh's textile sector.

The event was convened by the Resilient Water Accelerator, said a press release.

Opening the session, Ella Lazarte, CEO of Resilient Water Accelerator, said Bangladesh has the opportunity to surpass global sustainability standards and become a model of excellence.

Participants discussed financing options such as dedicated credit lines, blended finance, and zero-liquid-discharge technologies. RWA's techno-economic assessment programme, covering 25 brand-nominated factories, was highlighted as a tool to translate technical solutions into investment-ready projects.

Chowdhury Liakat Ali, head of Sustainable Finance at Bangladesh Bank, said sustainable finance measures allow banks to offer loans below the cost of capital.

Jishan Shamsad, sustainable finance lead at HSBC Bangladesh, emphasised blended finance to lower investment costs.

# ABM Habibullah

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University, described Habibullah as a professional historian who relied on original sources instead of popular narratives.

He said Habibullah had a strong command of languages and was fluent in Arabic, Persian and Urdu by family tradition, later learning Sanskrit, German and Russian.

"Unlike many scholars who depend on secondary translations, he worked directly with original texts," Anisur said. "His Bangla translation of Al-Biruni's Kitab-ul-Hind captures meanings that are missing even in standard English translations."

Anisur also referred to Habibullah's argument that Islam entered Bengal mainly through trade routes. As a result, he said, religious practice in Bengal developed a more liberal and syncretic character than in North India, where Islam was shaped by military elites.

The historian's grandson, Somudro Haque, joined the discussion virtually from the United States and drew a parallel between his own work in aerospace engineering and his grandfather's

scholarship.

A senior principal engineer at Northrop Grumman, Somudro said he was currently designing technology for a lunar space station.

"I am designing equipment for the moon that must last 30 years, while he built a narrative of our past to last for generations," he said, adding that he would finance the digitisation of Habibullah's works.

The Daily Star journalist and event coordinator Shamsuddoja Sajen said Habibullah's most enduring contribution was his focus on social and cultural history rather than the history of kings and courts.

However, he expressed concern over the current condition of institutions such as the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Itihas Parishad, both of which the historian helped establish.

"We had hoped for a revival in historical practice after August 5, but there has been little improvement," Sajen said.

Emran Mahfuz, another journalist of The Daily Star, conducted the programme.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Institute of Marine Technology, Faridpur  
Beribandh Road, Adampur, Faridpur Sadar, Faridpur-7800  
Memo No. 49.01.2947.002.14.011.2024-42  
Date: 22 January, 2026  
**e-Tender Notice**  
e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the following procurement:

Sl#	Tender ID	Package name	Type method	Date & time		
				Publication	Last selling	Closing
01	1207800	Supply of Welding Machineries	NCT OTM	25 Jan 2026 14:00:00	08 Feb 2026 17:00:00	9 Feb 2026 14:00:00
02	1207779	Supply of Safety, Electric, and RAC related Goods	NCT OTM	25 Jan 2026 14:00:00	08 Feb 2026 17:00:00	9 Feb 2026 14:00:00
03	1207241	Supply of rudder steering system, propulsion system and Heat Exchanger	NCT OTM	25 Jan 2026 14:00:00	08 Feb 2026 17:00:00	9 Feb 2026 14:00:00
04	1206265	Supply of Furniture	NCT OTM	25 Jan 2026 14:00:00	08 Feb 2026 17:00:00	9 Feb 2026 14:00:00
05	1205295	Supply of Lathe and Milling Machine	NCT OTM	25 Jan 2026 14:00:00	15 Feb 2026 17:00:00	16 Feb 2026 14:00:00

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**Engr. Mohammad Khorsheed Alam**  
Principal (In Charge)  
Institute of Marine Technology, Faridpur  
Phone: 01781173431

GD-168

**PRAYER TIMING**  
JANUARY 25  
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha  
AZAN 5:35 12:45 4:15 5:46 7:15  
JAMAAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45  
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION