

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.



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

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 Shaful Alam, also known as Ledaputu.

According to police, locals, and family members, Shaful 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. Shaful 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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remembered that we are all equal citizens of the same country," he also said.

He outlined several pledges, including creation of jobs for one crore people and issuance of health cards.

"I want to tell you clearly that BNP always stood by the people in the past and will continue to do so in future, god willing," Fakhrul added.

Referring to the Liberation War of 1971, Fakhrul said those now seeking votes for the scales had opposed Bangladesh's independence.

"This time we have the opportunity to take the right decision. Vote for the sheaf of paddy and strengthen the hands of those who stand for independence and speak about family cards, agriculture cards, health cards and strengthening law and order," he added.

District, upazila and union level leaders of BNP and its associate bodies were present at the rally.

Separate structures will be built for a mosque, kitchen, waste management, and other services. The hospital will also include a helipad and an automated ambulance system, according to project documents.

After China expressed interest in investing in a large hospital in Bangladesh, the interim government decided to locate the facility in the northern region, which lacks advanced healthcare infrastructure.

Currently, most patients from the area depend on Rangpur Medical College Hospital or facilities in Dhaka for advanced treatment.

Following demands from residents of several northern districts for a major medical facility, the health administration selected Nilphamari after conducting a study with a government organisation.

A senior official of the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS), speaking anonymously, said China had initially proposed Dhaka as the site, but the interim government preferred to build the hospital outside the capital.

Nilphamari was eventually chosen partly due to the presence of a large number of Chinese nationals working at the Uttara Export Processing Zone in the district, he said.

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size are currently situated in divisional cities.

Apart from serving the northern region, the hospital will also provide treatment to patients from neighbouring countries, marking a significant development in Bangladesh's medical sector, health officials said.

The main hospital building will be 10 stories high with a semi-basement. Two additional 10-story buildings will be constructed for doctors, along with a six-story building for nurses and two 10-story buildings for other staff.

Separate structures will be built for a mosque, kitchen, waste management, and other services. The hospital will also include a helipad and an automated ambulance system, according to project documents.

According to government documents, Nilphamari has a population of around 21 lakh and requires between 45,000 and 60,000 hospital beds under World Health Organization standards.

However, the shortage of facilities forces residents to seek treatment in Rangpur or Dhaka, significantly increasing healthcare costs.

The documents also note a rising prevalence of non-communicable diseases in the northern region, including cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and diabetes.

The planned hospital will offer both general and specialised services, including ICU, CCU, and HDU facilities, along with modern diagnostic and surgical capabilities.

Nilphamari was eventually chosen partly due to the presence of a large number of Chinese nationals working at the Uttara Export Processing Zone in the district, he said.

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

Faz Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha

AZAN 5:35 12:45 4:15 5:46 7:15

JAMAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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 translation of Al Biruni's Kitab ul Hind captures meanings that are missing 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 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

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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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To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP 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).

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22.01.26

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