

39,768 Gram Sarkar units formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A total of 39,768 Gram Sarkar units, out of 40,392, have been formed across the country on the last day yesterday amid opposition by political parties.

A writ challenging the act on the formation of the units is also pending before the High Court.

The process of formation of 15-member Gram Sarkar units in all the wards under 4,488 union parishads began on August 2 and it was

scheduled to be completed within 45 days.

However, 606 Gram Sarkar units could not be formed in different wards of 19 districts due to recast of wards, river erosion, pending cases, and death of ward commissioners, the officials said.

The 19 districts are Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Gazipur, Kishoreganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Chittagong, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Comilla, Noakhali,

Rajshahi, Natore, Dinajpur, Pabna, Jessore, Magura and Barisal.

One hundred and seventeen units are yet to be formed in Comilla, 63 in Chittagong, 81 in Narayanganj, 45 in Shariatpur and 63 in Magura.

The Gram Sarkar units in five unions under Barisal district could not be formed because of death of ward commissioners and recast of wards.

Pending cases and recast of

wards also created obstacles to forming the units in 12 other districts. And river erosion delayed the process in five unions under Madaripur district.

The officials, however, said the authorities are trying to resolve the problems and time may be extended to complete the process.

So far, no untoward incidents were reported during the formation of Gram Sarkar units.

The entire process has been

completed smoothly and peacefully, joint secretary of the Local Government Division Fazlul Haq told The Daily Star.

Steps would be taken to form the remaining units after solving the problems, he added.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry would soon take up a plan to impart training to the members of the Gram Sarkar on their responsibilities and activities and functioning of the units, sources said.

'Hasina's comments misleading'

UNB, Dhaka

Political Secretary to the Prime Minister, Harris Chowdhury has termed the comments of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina about the Prime Minister's speech at Boalmari on Saturday as "misleading and imaginary."

Harris Chowdhury in a statement said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia never declared Abu

Zafar as a "de facto MP" at the meeting at Boalmari arranged on the occasion of the joining of BJP leader Shah Muhammad Abu Zafar in BNP.

"The opposition leader is trying to mislead the nation by concocting different meanings of the speech of the prime minister," he said.

BNP, known as the best platform for democracy, believes in accountability to the people.

Every leader and worker of the party has a responsibility to the people, Harris added.

He said the opposition leader's allegation against the prime minister that she violated the Constitution "is very ridiculous."

Harris said as leader of the main opposition party, Sheikh Hasina should play a responsible role.

Tonatuni artistes call on president

BSS, Dhaka

Tonatuni prize winning artistes and distinguished persons made a courtesy call on President Iajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

Mentioning the role of artistes and celebrated persons in the field of culture, the president hoped that they would play a creative role in their respective fields.

The artistes thanked the presi-

dent and said the awards would be memorable and would inspire them in future.

Secretary to the President Anisul Haq Chowdhury and Secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury, Quadari Kibria, Mahbubur Rahman Joynal, Sandeep Roy and Madovi Mukherjee were present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR
Leaders of the 11 Party took out a procession in the city yesterday to rally support for today's hartal. The Jute, Cotton and Textile Mills Employees Action Committee called the hartal to protest the closure of state-owned mills and factories.

Truck owners' assoc election Sept 26

The election of the Bangladesh Truck Owners' Association will be held on September 26, says a press release.

Some of the candidates, however, have been elected unopposed. They are Md Rustam Ali Khan -- general secretary, Hanif Talukder -- office secretary, Md Jasimuddin -- international affairs secretary, and Omar Faruq, Fayeze Ahmed, Shamsul Haq, Md Firoz Ahmed and Md Badshah Mia -- members.

