

Dhaka-5, Naogaon-6
by-polls on Oct 17

UNB, Dhaka

By-elections to two parliamentary constituencies -- Dhaka-5 and Naogaon-6 -- will be held on October 17, according to a schedule declared by Election Commission (EC) yesterday.

As per the schedule, deadline for submission of nomination papers is September 17, while the date for scrutinising the papers is September 20. The last date for candidacy withdrawal is September 27.

Md Alamgir, senior secretary of EC, announced the schedule in a press conference at the capital's Nirbachan Bhaban.

The by-elections will be held from 9am to 5pm through electronic voting machines (EVMs) instead of traditional ballot papers.

The Dhaka regional election officer and Naogaon district election officer will act as returning officers for the by-polls.

Dhaka-5 fell vacant following the death of Awami League MP Habibur Rahman Mollah on May 6, while Nagaon-6 became unoccupied after the demise of AL MP Israfil Alam on July 27.

The commission has legal obligation to arrange a parliamentary by-election within 90 days after the constituency falls vacant.



A PPE-clad staff takes a sample for Covid-19 testing at BITID in Chattogram city's Fouzdarhat area yesterday. Although people had to go through quite a bit of trouble to get tested and then wait a while to receive the results, the process has been made much smoother lately. People can get their test results via SMS and through a website within a day, and the facility can collect up to 300 samples now.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Efforts on to speed
up metro rail work

120 Thai, 240 Indian engineers and consultants to be brought back this month

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

The metro rail authorities have taken initiatives to bring back more foreign engineers and consultants to accelerate the construction work of country's first metro rail project.

Twenty-four Thai engineers have already been brought back in charter flights last month, as regular flights between Bangladesh and Thailand has remained suspended.

Now, Dhaka Mass Transit Company Ltd (DMTCL), which is implementing the project, has taken steps to bring back 120 more Thai and 240 Indian engineers and consultants within this month, officials said.

However, the authorities continued to face problems in bringing back Japanese nationals involved in the project as the Japan government has not lifted an embargo it imposed on its citizens to come from Japan.

Most project contractors and consultants are from Japan and regular flights to and from Japan have been suspended since mid-March, they said.

The development came as the authorities are trying to accelerate the construction work, which remained halted for more than two months after the government declared a national holiday in late March to contain spread of Covid-19.

The project -- formally known as Mass Rapid Transit-6 or MRT Line-6 -- is being implemented to build an elevated rail line from capital's Uttara Third Phase to Motijheel at the cost of Tk 20,000 crore. But the fast-track project witnessed only 5.03 percent progress in the last five months.

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BAN ON RAG DAY

DU clears air after
'misunderstanding'

DU CORRESPONDENT

In light of huge criticism, Dhaka University authorities yesterday backtracked from their earlier decision to ban Rag Day celebrations on the campus, claiming the issue was a misunderstanding.

In a press release yesterday, the authorities claimed that the information on the previous press release -- issued on Wednesday -- regarding the ban was inadvertently misrepresented.

"In a meeting (of the academic council), authorities concerned were asked to remain alert so that no untoward, inhumane, disrespectful and anti-disciplinary act takes place on the campus and dormitories in the name of celebrating Rag Day," reads the press release.

"Policies need to be formulated regarding the hosting of any programme or rally to celebrate completion of education or graduation festivals," the release also added.

The authorities also regretted sending out the previous press release.

HINDU WIDOWS

MJF welcomes
HC rule on their
right to property

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Manusher Jonno Foundation (MJF) has welcomed the High Court's rule on Hindu widows' right to both agricultural and non-agricultural lands that belong to their husbands, terming the verdict a "breakthrough".

In order to create a nondiscriminatory law, regardless of the Hindu women and men, MJF has already created a draft Hindu Inheritance Law and exchanged its views with lawyers and Hindu leaders in seven divisional cities.

In addition to that, to implement the Hindu Marriage Registration Act, MJF has been working with different networks.

It has also been working for the formation of divorce law of the Hindu women.

Hindu women and girls in Bangladesh have been facing discrimination in terms of their right to inheritance.

MJF hoped this verdict will protect the rights of Hindu widows as well as pave the way for achieving other rights of Hindu women.

Man 'beaten to death by
rehab staff' in Barishal

Owner, four staffers shown arrested after murder case filed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barishal

A man was allegedly assaulted to death in Barishal on Wednesday night by staff of a rehabilitation centre, while they were trying to restrain and take him to the centre after he apparently became violent at home.

Police have shown the owner of the Dream Life drug rehabilitation centre and four other staff arrested in a case filed by the mother of the deceased.

The incident took place in the area adjacent to the radio station in the city's Rupatli.

The deceased was identified as Sumon Khan (30).

His mother Khadija Begum said, "Sumon had drug addiction problems, and used to beat me and my relatives up on various pretexts. He was sent to Dream Life drug rehabilitation centre several month ago. He was at home for a month and a half. When Sumon attacked me last night, his two brothers Sultan and Rumman were informed about the matter. They then informed the rehab facility, who sent seven or eight people on Wednesday evening to take Sumon."

Khadija claimed that staff of the rehabilitation

centre tried to take Sumon away without discussing anything with her. At one stage, some furniture of the house was also vandalised in a scuffle. Then they took Sumon out of the house and threw him on the ground.

Three or four of them got up on his back and grabbed him, and asked relatives for towels and ropes to restrain Sumon. At one point, Sumon fainted, and was rushed to Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital by locals, where doctors confirmed his death.

Eyewitnesses also corroborated Khadija's statement.

Locals detained four staff of the rehab while they were trying to flee the scene. When the owner of the company came to the spot, he was also chased and detained by locals, and handed over to police.

Khadija Begum filed the murder case against the staff and owner of the centre yesterday, said Abdur Rahman Mukul, officer-in-charge (investigation) of Barishal Kotwali Model Police Station.

He said the five people were shown arrested in the case, and the body was sent to morgue for autopsy.

CTG FUEL TANK BLAST

Another victim dies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Another victim of an oil tanker blast at Patenga of Chattogram on Wednesday has passed away.

Rabiul Hossain (32) was on his way to Dhaka when he succumbed to his injuries on Wednesday night. Doctors at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH) had referred him to Dhaka for better treatment, said police.

With the death of Rabiul, four people have been killed from the blast. Another two are undergoing treatment at CMCH.

Jobayer Hossain, officer-in-charge of Patenga Police Station, said Rabiul had suffered over 90 percent burns. He succumbed to his injuries as the ambulance carrying him reached Cumilla on the night of the blast.

On Wednesday, an oil tanker went off as fuel was left inside it when the workers were welding. They were working at a workshop of Incontrade Container Depot.

Rabiul, hailing from Cumilla, was a staff of the container depot. After the incident, the depot authorities formed a three-member committee to investigate the incident.

An unnatural death case was lodged with Patenaga Police Station.

HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES FOR COVID-19

Malaysia to ban entry
from Bangladesh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Malaysian government will impose an entry ban on citizens of countries recording more than 150,000 cases of Covid-19, including Bangladesh, starting from September 7, Malaysia's Security Minister Ismail Sabri Yaakob reportedly said yesterday.

The senior minister said among the countries in the list were the US, Brazil, France, UK, Spain, Italy, Saudi Arabia, and Russia, as well as previously announced, India, Indonesia and the Philippines, reports The Star, citing Malaysia's national news agency Bernama.

"We will add more countries deemed high-risk, which have more than 150,000 positive cases, into the list. Their citizens will be barred (from entering Malaysia)."

"However, for emergency cases or involving bilateral relations, such as if a person needs to come for a meeting between countries, we will allow entry. But it requires permission from the Immigration Department," he told reporters after chairing the special committee meeting on the Embracing New Norms Campaign.

He added that the country's health ministry would be announcing the details on countries which have recorded more than 150,000 positive cases of Covid-19 later.

Last Tuesday, Ismail Sabri announced an entry ban on long-term pass holders from India, Indonesia and the Philippines beginning September 7 due to a spike in Covid-19 cases in those countries, says The Star report.

The ban involves six categories of pass holders, namely those with permanent resident status (PR), Malaysia My Second Home Programme participants, expatriates including professional visit pass (PVP) holders

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A man holds a pigeon, out of the many displayed, in his hands to examine it before making his valuable purchase at the capital's Banasree yester. Pigeon fancying has a rich culture and history in the capital, with a thriving community of those who love these birds as their companions.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



Jakir, a recent master's graduate from Dhaka University's Institute of Education and Research, has been living in Chankharpool area of the capital as he continues his job search. However, with the pandemic causing an economic crunch, he decided to move to the far end of the city in Rayerbag, gathering up all his belongings in a rickshaw van. "The new accommodation will save me some money, and also it is not as crowded so I hope the risk of Covid-19 will be a little lower," said the enterprising youth.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Road accidents
killed 379 last
month: report

40pc of casualties from
motorbike crashes

STAR REPORT

At least 379 people were killed and 368 injured in 302 road accidents across the country in August, according to a report of Road Safety Foundation, a non-government organisation.

Of the deceased, 66 were women and 32 children, as per the report released yesterday.

Around 129 people died in 121 motorcycle accidents, which is 40.06 percent of the total fatality, the organisation said.

Some 81 pedestrians were run over, while 47 drivers and helpers of vehicles were killed in accidents.

Meanwhile, around 47 people were killed, 32 injured and six went missing in 13 waterway accidents, while six died in six train accidents.

Road Safety Foundation collected the data based on reports published in seven national dailies, five online news portals and electronic media.

NAIMUL ABRAR'S DEATH

Anisul Hoque gets bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday granted bail to Kishor Alo Editor Anisul Hoque and four others in a case filed over the death of Naimul Abrar Rahat, a student of Dhaka Residential Model College.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Mohammad Jasim passed the order after the five surrendered before the court and sought bail in the case.

The four others are: Kabir Bakul, head of event and activation of Kishor Alo; Shuvashish Pramanik Shuvo and Shah Paran Tushar, assistants at event and activation of Kishor Alo; Mahitul Alam Pavel, senior assistant editor of Kishor Alo.

The court also withdrew the attachment order on the properties of them.

Earlier, the same court ordered to confiscate their properties after the complainant's lawyer appealed to it to issue such an order.

Abrar, a ninth-grader, was electrocuted during the anniversary programme of Prothom Alo's youth magazine Kishor Alo on November 1 last year.

Mojibur Rahman, the victim's father, filed the case against Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman and nine others with the Fourth Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in Dhaka on November 6 last year.

On January 16 this year, another Dhaka court issued arrest warrants against them after Mohammadpur Police Station Inspector Abdul Alim, also investigation officer of the case, submitted the probe report to the court.

Following the arrest warrants, the High Court on January 20 granted bail to Matiur Rahman for a period of four weeks and directed him to appear before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court of Dhaka after expiration of the period.

While granting the anticipatory bail to Matiur, the HC directed law enforcers not to harass or arrest him or any of the five other accused until the charges were framed in the case.

Matiur Rahman is now on bail in the case.