

More areas go under water

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remained missing, 13 rifles, one smg and 142 round of ammunitions could not be recovered from the river.

An embankment in Gangachara upazila has been washed away by flood which may inundate a large area of the Rangpur town. The low lying area of the town is already under flood water.

Flood took a serious turn in Dinajpur Wednesday. District administration sources told the Daily Star last night that 95 percent houses in Dinajpur town were inundated by flood water. Four deaths were reported from the flood affected areas of the district.

A total of 70 unions in 13 upazilas of the district have so far been affected by the flood. Railway communication between Dinajpur and Parbatipur remains suspended as the rail line has gone under water. Road link from Dinajpur to Saidpur and Fulbari has been snapped as a bridge on the road was damaged by flood.

According to report available from Panchagarh, six people died in the flood affected areas.

In Chapainawabganj 315 square km in the district was inundated by flood till Wednesday affecting nearly two lakh people, damaging standing crops on about 30 thousand acres of land about 20 thousand dwelling houses. 25 shelters were opened at different places in the district.

In Rajshahi, flood situation worsened and parts of the city were inundated seventy thousand people in four upazilas and in the city areas have been affected besides damage of five thousand acres of crop land.

In Kushtia district more areas in Daulatpur, Mirpur, Bheramara and Sadar upazilas were inundated.

Flood protection embankments in Mirpur and Bheramara were damaged and five hundred acres of crop land were submerged.

In the municipal area, three hundred houses have been affected by the flood.

Three people died of diarrhoea in the affected areas of Bera upazila of Pabna

Shahabuddin
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He enquired about the turnout of voters in those centres in the morning.

The Acting President saw both the male and female voters standing in the queue in those centres while in some centres he was told that the rush of women voters was expected in the afternoon.

Justice Shahabuddin was happy to see that the polling was being held in a peaceful atmosphere in those centres.

The presiding officers told the Acting President that they had been requesting the voters to turn up for participating in the forthcoming referendum to be held on September 15.

Hasina's allegation

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Bhola and Madaripur during the by-elections.

The ruling party supporters violated "code of conduct" set by the Election Commission she told an impromptu press conference at the Bangabandhu Bhawan at Dhanmondi. "This is unfortunate the BNP government has frustrated the nation by destroying the sanctity of the poll," she said.

She alleged that the BNP supporters who were moving around within 10 yards of the polling centre started firing and blasting cocktails when she just got down from her car and stepped towards the polling centre at Green Road Family Planning Centre at around 2.30 pm. An AL worker was injured in the shootout that continued for about 15 minutes, she said.

One Wahed was caught with fire arms by the people and handed over to police, she claimed.

Only implicating BNP chief Khaleda Zia, Hasina said that her party did not take part in any election under Ershad rule on the plea of violence and rigging. "But what is the people's experience under her rule?" She posed the question.

Hasina, who is also Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament alleged that the BNP workers on board Dhaka Metro-JA-4992, Dhaka metro JA-5662, Dhaka Metro Cha-4979 and Dhaka Metro Cha-3899 micro buses moved freely at different polling centres in Green Road, Mohammadpur, Hazaribagh, Azampur, and Cantonment areas. They ransacked AL campaign centres and also forced her party election agents out from Anwara Girls High School centre, in Cantonment, she alleged.

Al General Secretary Sajeda Chowdhury, Presidium Member Abdus Samad Azad, Mohammed Nasim, Amir Hossain Amu and other senior leaders were present at the press conference.

Tofael alleges violence, false voting in Bhola

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed, MP Wednesday blamed the ruling BNP for widespread violence and irregularities during polling in Borhanuddin-Daulatkhan constituency, reports UNB.

Tofael told UNB over phone that armed activists of BNP exploded bombs, occupied 22 polling centres, dragged out Awami League's polling agents and cast false votes. The local administration totally failed to maintain order both before and after the voting, he added.

"Not a single voter of the minority community could cast votes", he claimed, alleging that the BNP activists unleashed violence to frighten the minority voters.

Shashi Doctor, a local Awami League worker, died of heart attack when the BNP activists raided his house at Nalgora with bombs and lethal weapons last night. Tofael said.

He accused State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan of patronising violence and hooliganism by influencing the administration.

The Awami League leader claimed that violence occurred in 22 places, including Daulatkhan High School centre and at Gangapur, Joy Nagar, Nalgora, Charkhata, Paschim Char, Gupti Bazar and Sachara.

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Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed visiting a polling centre in Dhaka on Wednesday's by-elections to the Jatiya Sangsads. — PID photo

Soviet troops withdrawal

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the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which the Kremlin leader used as a platform from which to appeal for foreign aid to help the Soviet Union's beleaguered economy.

The Bush Administration has warned that its ability to assist the Soviet Union financially during these tough economic times would in part depend on Moscow's willingness to cut its economic and military ties to Cuba.

The United States has long viewed Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba, 90 miles from Florida, as an irritant and a potential subversive influence in Latin America.

Baker said the gesture over Cuba underscored what both he and Gorbachev agreed were "new opportunities" created by the new political situation in which Soviet reformers are in ascendancy.

Baker did not actually promise any new US aid to Moscow. But he noted that Washington drew a clear distinction between humanitarian aid and technical assistance on the one hand, and other types of aid that may be tied to progress on a Soviet economic reform plan.

He said the two men spent a great deal of time on the importance of quickly producing a "credible" economic reform plan for the Soviet Union that could be discussed with world financial institutions such as

the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Gorbachev pledged his intention of moving towards a market economy, including the development of a plan to move rapidly toward the convertibility of the ruble.

He assured Baker that "we remain committed to the foreign policy course of recent years which we pursued in cooperation with the United States" and predicted this cooperation would expand in the future.

He specifically cited his intention to co-sponsor a Middle East peace conference with the United States and to work with Washington to resolve the Afghan conflict.

Earlier, Soviet Foreign

CEC visits polling centres

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf visited some of the polling stations of constituency numbers 184 Dhaka-5 and 188 Dhaka-9 Wednesday morning.

During his visit the Chief Election Commissioner observed congenial and peaceful atmosphere in the polling stations.

He also talked with the voters, who expressed their satisfaction at the arrangements for taking the polls smoothly. The Chief Election Commissioner also talked with the polling personnel.

Minister Boris Pankin rejected US as a potential venue for the conference and raised the possibility that the Czechoslovak capital Prague may be an appropriate location.

French President Francois Mitterrand called today for a meeting of the four nuclear powers in Europe to discuss the safety of atomic arms following the failed coup in the Soviet Union.

A meeting of the four powers with nuclear weapons in Europe seems to me indispensable, as soon as possible," he told a news conference.

Results

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Alhaj Karimuddin Bhana	JP	36,005
Mujib Rahman Pramanik	AL	11,721
Shah Ruhul Islam	Jamat	10,011
Rangpur-2		
M Ansul Huq Chowdhury	AL	25,509
M Ilyas Ali	BNP	3,202
Sri Perieth Chakravarti	JP	28,864
Shah Muhammad		
Nur Hossain	Jamat	2,341
Rangpur-5		
IM Aliqur Rahman	AL	20,917
Maulana Abu Bakr Wahid	Jamat	9,236
Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury	JP	52,421
Md Nurul Huda	BNP	7,179
Rangpur-6		
Advocate Salam Pradhan	Jamat	2,078
M Muzur Rahman	AL	20,447
Shah Mohammad Saiek	BNP	2,065
Shah Moazzem Ihsan	JP	30,985
Chittagong-8		
Amir Khasru	BNP	68,686
Mohammed Abdul Mannan	AL	51,864
Bogra-7		
Aminul Islam	Ind	13,929
HA Azam Khan	AL	11,045
Helaluzzaman Talukder		
Lalu	BNP	47,839

75 injured in poll violence

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Wednesday.

Of the injured four were admitted to hospital in Dhaka and five others in Chittagong, according to reports till the filing of this report.

The by-elections in the rest of the eleven constituencies were by and large peaceful. A total of 34 person were arrested in Dhaka city in connection with election-related offences.

The turn out of voters was poor compared to the February 27 elections. In Dhaka city there was hardly any queue of voters in any polling station in the Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur and Cantonment Gulshan constituencies.

Women voters were rarely seen, possibly fearing violence as supporters of rival candidates had exploded crackers in different areas the night before. Polling started amid tight security. Besides Police and Ansars, BDR personnel were also deployed to ensure peace and discipline.

Senior officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police moved from centre to centre supervising the maintenance of law and order.

Afzal Hossain Khan, a polling agent of the BNP and Md. Salamat Ullah a polling agent of the AL at the Dhaka City College polling centre said that from 8 am to 9 am only one or two voters had come to cast votes.

Shashi Doctor, a local Awami League worker, died of heart attack when the BNP activists raided his house at Nalgora with bombs and lethal weapons last night. Tofael said.

He accused State Minister for Education Principal Mohammad Yunus Khan of patronising violence and hooliganism by influencing the administration.

The Awami League leader claimed that violence occurred in 22 places, including Daulatkhan High School centre and at Gangapur, Joy Nagar, Nalgora, Charkhata, Paschim Char, Gupti Bazar and Sachara.

According to witnesses, the clashes took place at several polling centres under the Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur and Gulshan Cantonment constituencies between the activists of the ruling BNP and Opposition Awami League.

AL workers handed over one Wahidur Rahman to police in connection with the incident.

Police later chased the attackers out of the area.

At the Shahjadpur Primary

School centre of North Badda under Gulshan thana, tension prevailed during the whole of the voting period following scuffles, chase and counter-chase between the workers of the BNP and the AL. Police had to resort to a baton charge on them. Voting at the centre was suspended for an hour from 1.15 pm.

Two AL activists were shot and injured during the clash in Mohammadpur Central College at about 12.30 pm while two others receive bullet wounds in firing at Family Planning Centre of Green Road.

Besides, chase and counter-chase, scuffles also took place between the rival groups in several other places under the two constituencies.

They said that names of some voters who had voted at the centre in February were missing from the new voters list released recently.

One of them said names of some voters had been transferred to the Kurnitola centre.

The voters, however, were not informed and this caused

(32) of 227 Green Road, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with head injuries. His condition was stated as critical.

Besides, Badal Alam Miton (23), a student of Tejgaon College and Syeda Kohinur (25), a student of Dhaka Law College were given first aid at the DMCH. Another injured Selim was treated at a clinic.

According to witnesses, a group of youths turned up at the Mohammadpur central college centre in a car at around 12.30 pm. As the locals chased the armed youths, they blasted several bombs and fired shots while fleeing. Kohinur and Miton were injured in the firing. Awami League workers on the spot alleged that the attackers belonged to the BNP.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited the centre soon after the incident. Police caught one of the attackers red-handed but he was later released.

Police also resorted to baton charge when the workers of the BNP and the AL were engaged in a chase and counter-chase during the period.

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According to witnesses, the attack followed a visit by Mir Shawqat Ali MP of the BNP, who they said threatened the AL workers.

At about 3 pm, another group of youths fired several blank shots soon after Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina entered the Family Planning Centre.

In the incident, Raju and Selim were injured. Hasina went to visit the centre on hearing that her party workers were being obstructed from polling duties allegedly by workers of the BNP.

AL workers handed over one Wahidur Rahman to police in connection with the incident.

Awami League termed the firing as an 'attempt' on Sheikh Hasina.

Police later chased the attackers out of the area.

At the Shahjadpur Primary

School centre of North Badda under Gulshan thana, tension prevailed during the whole of the voting period following scuffles, chase and counter-chase between the workers of the BNP and the AL. Police had to resort to a baton charge on them. Voting at the centre was suspended for an hour from 1.15 pm.

However, 711 male voters out of a total of 1200 registered at the centre, voted during the same period.

Of the 10 persons injured in cracker blasts five were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital while others were released after first aid.

The five admitted to the hospital were Lal Mian (32), Akhtruzzaman (30), Shah Aliam (25), Abdur Rahim (26) and Jahangir (31).

Clashes between the BNP

Li for improved Sino-Indian ties

BEIJING, Sept 11: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said here today that in the current international situation China and India should further improve bilateral relations and strengthen contacts in the fields of politics, economy, trade and culture, reports Xinhua.