



A group of youngmen vandalised the Jameya Mohammadia Arabia Madrassah polling centre in Mohammadpur yesterday. — Star photo

Elections violence

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polling officer was slightly injured in the attack of the hoodlums. Police made a baton charge and fired in the air to bring the situation under control.

The supporters of two commissioner candidates backed by the Awami League and the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) blamed each other for the violence.

In Dhaka University, a group of armed youths reportedly belonging to the ruling party's student front took control of the University Laboratory School centre and drove out the agents of the opposition candidates. Witnesses said the attackers fired pistol shots and blasted crackers before storming the centre. They allegedly cast all the votes closing the gates of the centre.

Campus sources say, the incident in the Laboratory School was sequel to similar incidents at the nearby Udayan School and Public Library centres which were reportedly captured by opposition groups.

At one stage, the rival groups started a chase and counter chase in front of the Udayan School. Police fired teargas shells to disperse the groups.

In Lalbag Primary School, a group of armed people fire pistol shots, blasted crackers and stormed the polling centre. They snatched the ballot papers and set them on fire forcing the authorities to postpone the polling. More than a dozen voters and pedestrians were injured.

Torn ballot papers found

By Staff Correspondent

Torn ballot papers were found lying around some of the troubled polling centres in the city yesterday.

Many of these ballots, according to sources, were snatched from different polling centres.

The Leader of the Opposition, in a press briefing yesterday evening, alleged that false votes were cast in some 40 polling centres. Sheikh Hasina showed the newsmen a bundle of ballot papers which, she claimed were snatched from some polling centres.

Similar 'hijacked' ballot papers also reached The Daily Star office shortly after the end of polling.

At the University Laboratory School, a group of unidentified youngmen stormed the polling booths and forced their rival polling agents out of the centre. The agent of the Awami League mayoral candidate Jamaluddin, was assaulted.

Stray ballot papers were also found at Azimpur, Lalbagh, Mohammadpur and on the Dhaka University campus, sources said.

Voters resent omission from electoral list

By Staff Correspondent

Several complaints were received from voters of different parts of the capital that their names were either missing from the voter list or their votes had been cast before they could reach the polling booths.

Prof Badrul Imam, a resident of House No. 28, Road No. 5, Dhanmondi informed The Daily Star that he and his family members could not cast their votes because their names were not included in the voters' list. The family had voted in the last parliamentary elections. He said ten voters, including University professors, architects, housewives and retired pensioners known to him were excluded from the list.

Similar complaints were received from the residents of House Nos 61, 62, 63 and 64 at Road No 6A, Dhanmondi.

Ctg CC

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Barring these stray incidents, polling in the 335 centres was held today almost peacefully with a heavy turnout of voters.

This correspondent visited a good number of polling centres where he found both male and female voters standing in long queues to exercise their right of franchise in the city corporation polls.

Some 6,87,743 people, 2,66,653 of them female were registered voters in 41 wards of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) comprising an area of 60 square miles.

The voters started arriving at the polling centres, about an hour before the polling began at 7 am although, according to witnesses, some election officials reportedly arrived late by half an hour in a number of centres to initiate the process of polling.

The polling officer at the Khashtagir Girls' High School centre, Md Shah Alam, said 414 votes, out of 3027, were cast in his centre from 7 to 8:55 am.

Alam, who had worked as a polling official in four other elections in the past, said, today's election was held really in a very peaceful manner.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting a city polling centre yesterday. — Star photo

AL stuns BNP in Dhaka

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of polling centres in both Dhaka and Chittagong. Law enforcement agencies resorted to lathicharge and firing teargas canisters to bring the situation under control in several places.

Police arrested at least 80 people from the two cities for violation of election rules and other violent activities.

According to reports received from our correspondents from the four cities, voter turnout appeared to be high and the atmosphere generally peaceful and upbeat. The percentages of voter turnout in the four metropolitan cities were not available till the writing of this report.

However, there were reports of mismanagement in some polling centres while voters also complained of inordinate delays. There were also allegations of false voting when some registered voters discovered that their votes had already been cast by someone else. City residents also complained about not finding their names in the voter's lists although they had voted in the 1991 parliamentary elections and subsequent by-elections.

The day was a public holiday in the four cities.

Polling commenced at 7 am in the 1366 polling centres set up in the four cities and continued without a break till 3pm. However, some polling centres in the capital failed to open on time while others remained open beyond the deadline to allow voters standing in line to cast their votes.

Forty-eight candidates, including nominees of all the major parties, and independent candidates, were in the fray for the four mayoral posts while 1384 others contested for the 192 posts of ward commissioners.

The total number of registered voters in the four cities was 28,69,040; of them 17,00,848 were in Dhaka, 6,87,743 in Chittagong, 3,28,766 in Khulna and 1,51,683 were in Rajshahi.

Garments export

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'sabotage' to enable some foreign countries to gain access to the US market.

The country, as of January 9, had been able to export 82.42 per cent of its US quota for this year and was set to clear the whole lot by yesterday.

According to the US Department of Commerce, the country was seriously lagging in some items like play suits (only 60.4 per cent), gloves (63.8 per cent), dresses (61.7 per cent) and trousers, slacks, shorts (67 per cent).

Garments owners now allege that some inherent weaknesses of the country's import policy had also caused the shortfall in exports. They said, only the backward linkage textile industries can import grey cloth, but the garments industries, which use the bulk of the greys cannot do so.

Some garments industries had imported the greys in view of their urgency as per the US importers' demand. But it was held up by the National Board of Revenue (NBR) because the country's import policy does not allow such import.

The garments owners had been pressing the government to withhold this restriction from January 1 in view of the expiry date of the US quota. Only on January 22, the Textiles and Commerce ministries and the NBR decided to waive such restrictions to release the imported greys for the sake of export under a clearance permit issued by the Chief Controller of Import and Exports.

However, garments manufacturers say the decision was taken belatedly, causing the present crisis in export.

They said, unless the country's policies are made harmonious, such faults would continue to hamper exports.

Left alliance faults EC, police

By Staff Correspondent

The committee conducting the DCC mayoral election of the Left parties' alliance candidate Manzurul Ahsan Khan yesterday said the Election Commission and police did not take any action against the law breakers even after being informed.

The committee in a press release last night, although admitting that the elections were 'spontaneously participated by the people, however, said the polls were not totally free and fair due to violence, occupation of booths by different parties and violating of the election rules.

This election has again proved that people were not spared from the politics of black money," the press release said.

Salam Talukder

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Giving another example of rigging and violence by miscreants belonging to the Awami League, Barrister Talukder said in the Dhaka University area, Chhatra League workers had occupied the Udayan and Annex Building centres and filled ballot boxes with false votes. He alleged that Chhatra League leader Pankaj Nath had given the leadership in such attacks.

He said many BNP workers, including president of the SM Hall unit of the JCD Nazrul Islam and JCD central leader Manzur Elahi were severely injured in Chhatra League attacks.

The LGRD and Cooperatives Minister alleged that in Madhubagh, Awami League-backed hoodlums led by Akhteruzzaman hurled molotov cocktails in one polling centre for women, forcing the voters to quit. Several persons, including Jubodul leader Dulal, were injured in the attacks.

He said BNP polling agents were forcibly driven away jointly by hoodlums belonging to the Jatiya Party and the Awami League who had filled ballot boxes with false votes. He said many BNP workers were injured in the attacks.

The BNP Secretary General said the opponents had resorted to rigging and violence to frustrate the victory of BNP candidate Mirza Abbas MP, a tested and honest person.

The BNP Secretary General congratulated the people of Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi for exercising their voting rights to consolidate the democratic process despite armed attacks led by leaders and workers belonging to some parties responsible for 'killing of democracy'.

The BNP, on the other hand, Barrister Talukder said, extended all-out cooperation to the Election Commission to ensure a neutral and fair polls to help institutionalise the democratic process.

ক্ষুদ্র শিল্পে বিনিয়োগকারীদের জন্যে ক্রেডিট গ্যারান্টি স্কিম

সভাবনাময় ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প গড়ে তোলার লক্ষ্যে নতুন উদ্যোক্তাদের জন্যে ক্রেডিট গ্যারান্টি স্কিমের আওতায় ঋণদান কর্মসূচী চালু করা হয়েছে।

ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প স্থাপনে আগ্রহী উদ্যোক্তাদের মাঝে যারা সহায়ক জামানতের অভাবে ব্যাংক ঋণ সুবিধা গ্রহণ করতে পারছেন না, এই স্কিমের মাধ্যমে সোনালী ব্যাংক থেকে ঋণ সুবিধা গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।

ক্রেডিট গ্যারান্টি স্কিমের ঋণ গ্রহীতাদের ঋণ সুবিধা গ্রহণের প্রধান প্রধান শর্তাবলী হলো -

- এই কর্মসূচীর মাধ্যমে শুধুমাত্র নতুন উদ্যোক্তাবৃন্দ ঋণ নিতে পারবেন।
- উদ্যোক্তা যে পরিমাণ অর্থ বিনিয়োগ করবেন বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক তার ঋণ পরিমাণ গ্যারান্টি প্রদান করবে (তবে গ্যারান্টির পরিমাণ হবে সর্বোচ্চ ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা)।
- উদ্যোক্তার বিনিয়োগকৃত অর্থের সমপরিমাণ অর্থ ব্যাংক জামানত বা গ্যারান্টি ছাড়াই অর্থায়ন করবে।

ক্ষুদ্র শিল্প স্থাপনে আগ্রহী উদ্যোক্তাবৃন্দ এই স্কিমের মাধ্যমে দেয়া ঋণ সুবিধার জন্যে সোনালী ব্যাংকের বিভিন্ন জেলার শিল্প ঋণ বিতরণকারী শাখাসমূহে যোগাযোগ করতে পারেন।

সোনালী ব্যাংক



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ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ বিল পরিশোধের নিমিত্ত সম্পত্তি বিভিন্ন পত্র-পত্রিকা এবং টেলিভিশন ও রেডিও-এর মাধ্যমে খেলাপি গ্রাহকদের অনুরোধ জানানো সত্ত্বেও বকেয়া আদায়ের কামিষ্ঠ লক্ষ্যমাত্রা অর্জিত না হওয়ায় ঢাকা ওয়াসার আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকার সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্তশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল শ্রেণীর খেলাপি গ্রাহকের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ ও তাঁদের বিরুদ্ধে পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ কার্যক্রম আরো জোরদার করা হয়েছে। বকেয়া পরিশোধের সুবিধার্থে যাদের কিস্তি মঞ্জুর করা হয়েছিল, সময়মত কিস্তির টাকা পরিশোধ না হলে তাঁদের সংযোগও তৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হবে এবং আর কিস্তির সুবিধা দেয়া হবে না।

ইতিমধ্যে নভেম্বর-ডিসেম্বর '৯৩ বিলিং মাসের বিলও জারী করা হয়েছে। যারা এখনো হালনাগাদ বিল পাননি তাঁদেরকে সত্ত্বর নারায়ণগঞ্জ অফিসসহ ওয়াসার সর্বাঙ্গীক রাজস্ব আঞ্চলিক অফিসে এবং ওয়াসা ভবনে কম্পিউটার বিলিং সেক্টরে (ফোনঃ ৩১৩০৯২) যোগাযোগ করে নির্দিষ্ট ব্যাংকের শাখায় অবিলম্বে বিল পরিশোধের জন্য অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে। প্রয়োজনে ওয়াসা ভবনে বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৩২৭২৪৫) অথবা সদস্য (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৮১৬৭৯৯)-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এড়ানোর জন্য আজই বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ ওয়াসার বিল পরিশোধ করুন এবং সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে কার্যস্থলে প্রয়োজনে রাসিদ প্রদর্শন করুন।



ঢাকা ওয়াসা

ওয়াসা-জরতঃ ৫৯০/৯৩