

# Dhaka Day by Day

## Election's Selections

by Ayesha Fariha

Election fever is in the air. The science fair exhibition at the Osmani Memorial during the Science and Technology Week can be seen as a reflection of the political situation in the country. Just as there have been only a handful of female participants in the June 12 elections the male visitors at the show significantly outnumbered the female ones. It was truly a male affair.

Our (male) politicians should have paid a visit to the exhibition, and they would have been overjoyed. A number of the projects would be useful in any political campaign, particularly those in the villages.

"Be Careful from Thief" was one of the exhibits in the junior section. It is an alarm that automatically switches on the lights, and sets off a deafening sound if someone tries to break into the house. An acquisition of one of these would ensure that a to-be MP can sleep in peace in his house in the village. Another exhibit - batteries created from starch (maar). This is also very useful, particularly if one has a passion for speeches. He can offer food to his interested listeners, and use the "maar" to produce batteries that will enable him to talk for hours at an end into a microphone without the need for electricity. A third item - the "Shangskritik Launch." If a budding politician purchases one of these he is sure to win the elections. He can woo the voters by taking them on a cruise and entertaining them with singing and dancing. Further, he does not need to rely on electricity, the singing and dancing. Further, he does not need to rely on electricity, the maar batteries can be made available. For a stage, he need not contact any decorator. One of the exhibitors explained an ingenious method of making hardboard from coconut peel. Therefore, Mr Politician only needs to purchase a few million coconuts, and put his chamchas to work. He will achieve three things at the same time: a sure vote from those who have supplied the coconuts, barfi to entice the voters, and material for further speeches abroad where he can empathise with donors

and say he is an environmentalist.

Our (male) politicians are very intelligent people, and they would have been suitably impressed by two items: an "Automatic Vote Counter", and "Voting through the Computer". Both these items can count votes and in effect prevent any human "error". If these machines are installed, then we do not need the army and foreign observers. It will truly be a free and fair election. To take the matter a step further, if we had known of the possibility of the existence of such machines, perhaps senior members of the army might not have lost their jobs.

A very interesting item: the "Digital Heart Beat Counter". It is battery operated and portable and costs only Taka 1,000 to manufacture as opposed to purchasing it from abroad for the equivalent of Taka 20,000. It can be used for special effects. During a speech, or in the middle of any important and well-publicised event, a politician should stage spasms. One of his cronies should take out the Heart Beat Counter, using the maar batteries, of course, and connect it to the politician's heart and declare that he is having a heart attack. The audience will be devastated. They will then vote for him out of sympathy (and perhaps because they can actually distinguish him from the other candidates due to his little demonstration). To create further excitement during the demo, the cronies and chamchas should (at the same time) start talking excitedly into their Taka 90 cordlesses - yet another exhibit.

Last but not least there was an item that comprised of a deck set, ECG, amplifier, and voice indicator. Total cost of all 4 components - Taka 6000. This could be used for extra special demonstrations. Mr Politician can pause during a speech, allowing for a music break, amplify the effect of the sound of his heart attack, pause during the heart attack allowing for another music break, recover, and indicate his recovery on the voice indicator. This tactic should be his last resort.



### 5 new asstt secys join EC at last

By Staff Correspondent  
Five officials recruited with the designation of Assistant Secretary for the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat by the Public Service Commission almost two years back have finally joined their offices at the EC Monday, according to official sources.

After their recruitment, files were sent to the offices of the Prime Minister's Secretariat (currently the Chief Advisor's office) over six months back for approval, which however, remained there till recently, said officials.

There exists 17 posts of assistant secretaries at the EC secretariat of which it had nine of its own personnel, prior to these appointments, while six were on deputation and two other posts were lying vacant.

### Talk on national day of Russia

Russian Cultural Centre jointly with Gorky Theatre and Sergei Bondarchuk Film Club organised a discussion, cultural function and film show on the occasion of the national day of the Russian Federation at the center's auditorium yesterday, says an embassy release.

The discussion was presided over by Aziz Meher, president, Dhaka Film Club.

Ali Aksad, general secretary, Bangladesh Peace Council was present as chief guest.

Sergei M Foshkin, First Secretary, cultural department of the embassy was present as special guest.

The discussion meeting was followed by a cultural programme presented by the students of Serov Academy of Fine Arts. The feature film "Commandos" in the Allert Region was also screened.

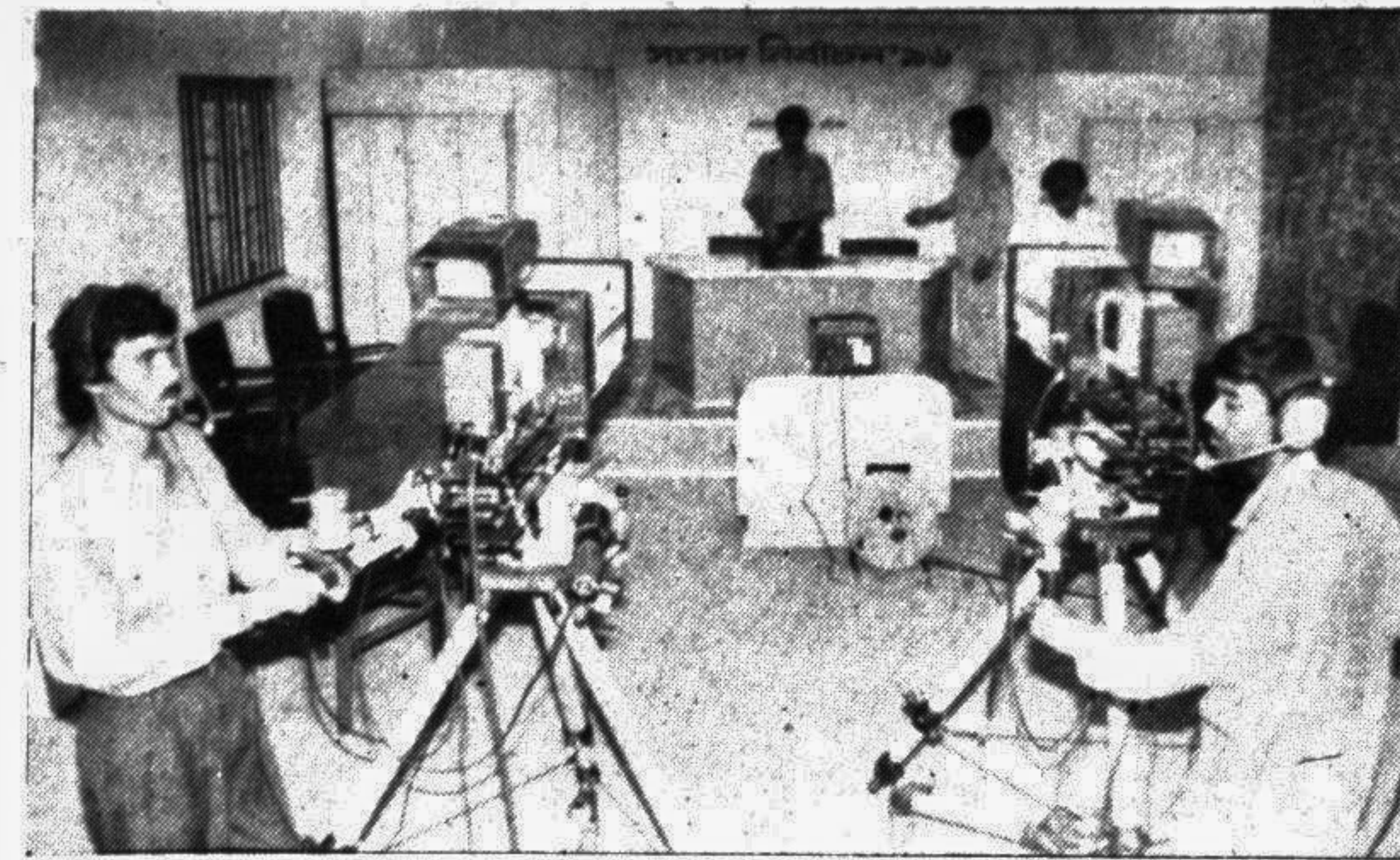
### 460 arms recovered in 9 weeks

By Staff Correspondent  
The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) during last nine weeks till Monday recovered 460 illegal firearms, 5,304 bullets, huge quantity of explosives and arrested 472 persons in this connection from different parts of the city.

The members of the advisory council for law and order Prof Md Yunus, Nazma Chowdhury, Manzur Elahi, Barrister Ishting Ahmed, Prof Shamsul Huq and AZM Nasir Uddin visited the DMP headquarters and inspected the recovered arms and ammunitions yesterday noon.

Secretaries of respective ministries, Inspector General of Police M Azizul Huq and DMP Commissioner Mohammad Salam were also present.

The recovered illegal arms included 22 rifles, 33 single-barrel guns, 28 double-barrel guns, 72 revolvers, 32 pistols, 107 pipeguns, seven shutter-guns, four LGs and 155 miscellaneous firearms, said a press release of the DMP.  
Besides, the DMP forces also recovered 528 cocktails and bombs, 312 kilograms of raw materials used in manufacturing explosives, 8,101 bottles of seductive liquids and 3.5 kilograms of hashish, police sources added.



Preparations for live telecast of polls results on BTv, at Election Commission office yesterday. — Star photo

### Study reveals Some DU teachers involve in igniting campus crisis

Star Report

Shelter provided to the terrorists by a coterie of university teachers has a catalytic influence on the increase of campus violence observed a recent study.

The research titled "Campus Terrorism: Dhaka University" was conducted recently by Abdullah Al Hasan Shamim, Md Arif Hossain Khan, Md Zahidul Islam and Omar Hasan Ali, students of International Relations as part of the academic curricula of their Masters Degree.

According to the study researchers during their course of investigations have talked to the students of the university, the authorities of their institution, government officials and executives, besides those known as terrorists.

Giving details in this connection the researchers revealed that the teachers even provided safe passage to the identified terrorists besides keeping their weapons in safe custody in their own almshouses in their offices and residences. For attaining positions in the syndicate and top slots in other administrative units the university teachers throw their tacit support behind the back of these hoodlums revealed the study adding, "That is why a reign of anarchy prevails over the campus prior to the nomination of VC, Pro-VC or Dean."

Not only on grounds of political affiliation but also for extracting financial benefits a coterie of teachers patronise the known terrorists inside the campus, the study reported.

"At the cost of Tk 40,000 per enrollment illegal admissions are also granted by the official of the administration in connivance with the campus terrorists," the study revealed.

Besides that delay in conducting the examination and leakage of the question papers,

uncertainty in announcing the results, delay in issuance of students' identity cards and enlistment of outsiders as boarders evidentially proves the inherent weaknesses of the university administration.

The corrupt practice of the administration is also reflected from the fact that university students had been identified for their involvement in collecting tolls from the contract of construction work inside the campus.

Another section of university teachers fearing losing their privileged positions and pressure from influential quarters also maintain silence over the issue of campus terrorism noted the study, adding, "various inquiry committees formed to find out the reasons of campus terrorism failed because of it."

The authorities often sidetrack when the issue of campus violence is linked with the weakness of the administration, write the researchers adding that "along with economic, social and political factors the administrative aspect of the university also contributes to the increase of campus violence."

### 'Advisers should not cast votes'

By Staff Correspondent  
The Chief Adviser of the caretaker government and members of the council of advisers should not cast their votes to prove their neutrality, the Legal Aid Foundation, a voluntary legal aid body suggested Monday.

If they cast votes, this will raise question about their neutrality, it said in a press release.

### Prisoners unlikely to cast votes

By Staff Correspondent

Prisoners in the Dhaka Central Jail, have not yet been given permission to cast their votes through postal ballots in the June 12 parliamentary elections, according to a survey conducted by the Bangladesh Jatiyo Mahila Ainjibi Samiti (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association), or BJMAS.

In a press statement Monday, the BJMAS claimed that except the jailed former president H M Ershad, none of the 6213 prisoners, 195 of them women, currently incarcerated in the Central Jail, have been given permission to cast their votes. A number of them are registered voters, it added.

Prisoners are allowed to exercise their franchise from jail through postal ballots. Prisoners who are registered voters have to apply to the returning officer (RO) concerned within 15 days of the announcement of the election schedule.

The BJMAS statement further claimed that prison authorities had written to the ministry concerned on behalf of a prisoner, seeking clarification on the issue. However, the authorities are yet to receive a reply from the ministry.

"Such indifference on part of the government is going to deprive imprisoned voters from exercising their franchise," the BJMAS said.

### ERMCO to receive reports on poll anomalies

Election Research and Monitoring Committee (ERMCO), an independent polls monitoring body, has requested voters, polling agents and candidates or their representatives, irrespective of party affiliation, to report back any irregularities, intimidation, threat, violence or obstacles which may impair or jeopardise their rights to cast votes at their respective polling centres.

ERMCO will receive complaints relating to polling infractions at its control room in Suite 400 at Sheraton Hotel, phones 861191 or 863391.

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Office of the Curator  
Dhaka Zoo, Mirpur, Dhaka  
**Re-Tender Notice**  
No DZ/Re-196/1036 Dt: 4-6-96 (21-2-1403 BS)  
চিড়িয়াখানা পরিদর্শন করুন। নির্বল আনন্দ লাভ করুন  
Sealed tenders are invited from Animal Resources Directorate enlisted all class of contractors & outsider contractors for the undermentioned works during 1996-97 financial year.

No.	Description of work	Estimated cost	Earnest money
1.	Group 'E' supply of loaf & dietary food	Tk 4,50,000/=	Tk 12,000/=
2.	Group 'H' carrying of animal feed and mowing the grass within the Zoo & supplying the same	Tk 6,00,000/=	Tk 15,000/=
3.	Group 'T' supply of Cat fish, takifish, rat, snake etc	Tk 3,00,000/=	Tk 7,500/=

Tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned or Animal Resources Directorate, Agri Farm Road, Dhaka by 12 Noon of 19-6-96 (5-3-1403BS) which will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM at Animal Resources Directorate in presence (if any) of the contractors. Group wise earnest money must be deposited with the tender through Pay Order/Bank Draft (scheduled bank) in favour of Curator, Dhaka Zoo. Tender document containing description of work, terms & conditions etc, can be collected from the office of the undersigned & Animal Resources Directorate, Agri Farm Road, Dhaka from 16-6-96 to 18-6-96 during office hours. Price of tender document is Tk 400/= (Four hundred) only per group (non-refundable). The undermentioned papers must be submitted with the tender: (1) Trade Licence (1995-96), (2) Bank Solvency Certificate, (3) Income Tax Clearance Certificate (up to date), (4) Experience certificate of said work. The authority reserves the right to reject any tender without assigning any reason whatsoever.  
Dr Md Afzar Ali  
Curator  
Dhaka Zoo, Mirpur, Dhaka

**International Re-Tender Notice for Supply of Petroleum Products during July-December 1996**

Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) hereby invites offers from International Integrated Oil Companies with a proven record of reliability and expertise in the supply and transportation of petroleum products, for supply on C & F Chittagong basis of about 4.385 million Barrels plus minus 10 (ten) per cent at BPC's option of Superior Kerosene Oil (SKO), Motor Spirit (MS), Aviation Turbine Fuel (Jet A-1), and High Speed Diesel (HSD) during the period July to December 1996 in accordance with the delivery schedule and terms & conditions set out in the tender document.

- Tender documents will be available on all working days during office hours from (a) Commercial & Operations Division, BPC Head Office, HBFC Building (4th floor), 1/D, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, (b) Bangladesh Missions in Singapore, Kuwait, KSA, Abu Dhabi & Jakarta, and (c) BPC Liaison Office, 40, Segun Bagicha, Dhaka, on payment of non-refundable amount of Tk 1500/- or US \$ 40/-. No tender document will be sold on the tender opening date.
- Offers will be received up to 1200 hours (BST) on June 25, 1996.
  - in a sealed envelope delivered at BPC Head Office, HBFC Building (4th floor), 1/D, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong, Bangladesh,
  - through Telex No. 633280 FUEL BJ & 633009 FUEL BJ (Offers through facsimile shall not be accepted).
- Unless exempted all offers must be accompanied by a Bid Bond in accordance with the provisions of tender documents and all offers must have validity up to 1800 hours (BST) on July 08, 1996.
- Bidders shall furnish along with the offer a declaration that the bidder has carefully examined and understood the tender document and his offer is subject to the terms & conditions contained in the tender document.
- Tenders shall be opened at 1205 hours (BST) on June 25, 1996 at the BPC Head Office, Chittagong, Bangladesh in presence of bidders or their authorised agents who would wish to be present.
- No rights of any kind shall be created in favour of any person by virtue of having obtained the tender document, nor shall any right be created in favour of any person by virtue of submitting an offer. BPC reserves the right to accept the lowest offer or to reject any or all offers in part or in full without assigning any reason.

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