

National

Deposit money of 17 candidates forfeited in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, June 16: Deposit money of 17 candidates in the June 12 Parliamentary elections have been forfeited in Jhenidah district as they failed to get one-eighth of the total votes cast. A total of 28 candidates participated in the election for four seats in the district.

According to Election Commission office sources, those who failed to reach the mark are Advocate Abu Tayeb (Jamaat), Golam Mustafa (JPF), Jahidunnabi (Gano Forum), Dr Abdul Wahab (Islam Shashantara Andolion), Rakibul Hassan (LDF), Akramuddin (Joker Party) and ZM Akteruzzaman (Independent) from Jhenidah-1 constituency (Salkupur).

Mosharraf Hossain Mosha (JP), Abu Taleb (Zaker Party), Mufti Arif Billah (Islam Oikyo Jote), Tahera Begum (JDF) and Anwarul Karim Rantu (Freedom Party) from Jhenidah-2 constituency (Jhenidah and Harimakundu) lost their deposit money.

Mohammed Khalekuzzaman Sentu Chowdhury (JP), Abdul Mannan (Zaker Party) and Mosharraf Hossain (Gano Forum) from Jhenidah-3 (Moheshpur-Kotchandpur) constituency and Jahidul Islam (JP) and Abdus Salam (LDF) from Jhenidah-4 (Kalignanji) constituency lost their deposit money.

2 killed in Magura road accidents

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, June 16: Two persons were killed in two separate road accidents on Magura-Jhenidah highway in the district recently.

According to the police, Alami was killed when a Dhaka-bound coach coming from Jessore knocked him down near Ichkhakha bazar under Sadar thana of the district on May 31.

Another report says, unidentified man was killed at 'Saitrish' under Sadar thana when a bus fell into a ditch. According to witnesses, the accident occurred as the driver lost the control over steering.

Poll official arrested in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 16: Mohammad Ali, assistant presiding officer of Sohagdhi high school centre under Swarupkathi thana of Perojpur district was arrested on the election day from the polling centre.

Witnesses said Mohammad Ali was challenged by the polling agent of Awami League when he allegedly issued more than one ballot papers to some identified people during voting. Later, the members of law enforcing agency arrested him.

Besides, one fake assistant presiding officer Saidul Islam was also arrested from the Ghergha centre under Nazirpur thana of Perojpur. He was allegedly giving proxy of one Abdul Mannan. Who was officially deputed in that centre as assistant presiding officer.

Extension work of hospital buildings not yet completed

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGONJ, June 16: Extension of seat capacity from 50 to 100 in Chapainawabgonj sadar hospital has become uncertain. About a year ago all the initial preparations including tender and work order were made for the construction of the buildings. Yet the construction work has not started for some unknown causes.

It is known from the concerned sources, there was a major defect in the blue-print of the present one storeyed building. But in this building wards, chambers of the doctors and operation theatre were not duly arranged. As a result, doctors, nurse and other officials often face troubles in giving treatment to the patients. In spite of these faults the ground floor was built. Not only that, tender and work order were also made for further extension on this building. Just before starting the construction the defects in the blue print were detected by the engineers of the health department and construction was stopped.

Till then a year has passed, yet a new blue-print with proper arrangements of all the offices of the hospital was not made. It is learnt from an source that meanwhile, the money sanctioned for the purpose has been withdrawn due to uncertain delay of the construction.

Sarbahara Party leader held

From Our Correspondent MAGURA, June 16: A leader of banned Sarbahara Party was arrested with arms from Sonakandi village in Sripur thana of the district recently, according to police sources.

Sripur police acting on a secret information raided a house of the Sonakandi village and arrested Ashok Kumar, 25, with arms, on June 3.

People deprived of HBFC loan facilities

Acute housing problem in Cox's Bazar

From Abdul Monayem Khan

COX'S BAZAR, June 16: People of the Cox's Bazar and Chittagong pourashavas have been deprived of the house building loan facilities from the House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) for about 15 years.

The concerned officials of Chittagong zonal office, when contacted, cannot say when it will start again. Meanwhile, house rent has increased manifold at the town over the past few years due to acute shortage of accommodation.

According to official sources, the government initiated the programme of disbursing loans for building one-storied house in 1973 in all the districts through HBFC.

Then the rate of interest of the loan was 11 per cent. The programme was taken to help the town dwellers of low income and of middle class. Later in 1977 the government extended the programme to sanction loan at a lower rate of interest of only five per cent for building multi-storied buildings. The loan programme became very popular and a huge number of people took loans.

After a few years most of the loans, however, remained unrealised. As a result, the house building loan programme had to be suspended in 1981 throughout the country. In 1992 through a special decision by the newly elected then government the HBFC restarted the loan programme in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Sylhet, except in Cox's Bazar district.

At present the corporation

did not limit itself in its ordinary project of financing for multi-storied house building, it has expanded its programme in five different loan projects.

These projects include: General loans which can be provided in joint name, group loan that can be enjoyed by more than one people as flat based group loan for building flats on a plot owned by many people, flat and apartment loan project.

It has also started providing loan for constructing small units of 1000 square feet and semi pucca houses.

The zonal office of the HBFC in Chittagong, when contacted, could not give any specific reasons behind the suspension of house building loan programme in Cox's Bazar. The sources, however, said that one of the reasons might be the considerable large number of defaulters in Cox's Bazar district.

The HBFC cannot recover the amount of money by selling the houses of defaulters for their low quality and worse conditions, it was learnt.

The president of Cox's Bazar Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Ali said in a recent press release that, the problem of residential accommodation in Cox's Bazar town has become acute in the last few years. He hopes that the outstanding loans would be realised and at the same time, the loan pro-

gramme of HBFC would be started again.

At present, a single-unit residential quarter is being let out at a monthly rent of Taka 2,500 on average. In many cases, the house owners realise advance rent from the tenants. As a result, many tenants, especially the fixed income group, find it difficult to pay the next.

Due to accommodation crisis, a large number of professionals have been living alone in the town leaving their families at village homes. The accommodation crisis both for residential and commercial purposes and rent hike have been attributed to non-availability of land at reasonable prices and lack of investment and government initiatives of house building in this commercial centre, many elite and business leaders said.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation has undertaken some measures for realisation of outstanding loans. Concerned officials said that the corporation was rescheduling the outstanding loans of the defaulters to enable them to pay the loan. By new instalments and was decreasing the rate of interests also on condition of payment of at least four instalments at a time. This has encouraged the defaulters and some have already paid a sufficient amount of loans, HBFC officials said.

Meanwhile, it has also been decided to reduce the rate of interest on loans offered by the HBFC with a view to developing housing in the private sec-

tor. The decision came into effect from last January 1, according to HBFC sources.

HBFC has decided to disburse a total of Tk 5,300 million credit in the current fiscal year. Last year the organisation disbursed credits of Tk 2,380 million. According to a report of HBFC, the organisation has invested a total amount of Tk 15,642 million as house building loans from July 1972 to May 1995.

With a view to enhancing the loan programmes the approved and paid up capital has been increased to Taka 1,100 million and 973 million respectively from the previous Tk 100 million and 98 million.

The corporation used to collect money from Bangladesh Bank, nationalised commercial banks and insurance companies by selling credit certificates with the government guarantee.

Besides the headquarters, the corporation has seven local offices and 14 local offices around the country to provide house building loans among the people at thana levels. The corporation is now giving loans of Tk two million highest for 4,000 square feet area and Tk 1.5 million highest for buildings having 3,000 to 4,000 square feet area.

For the construction of small unit building, the HBFC is giving Tk 12 lakh in 1,000 square feet area for construction of four and more units. It has been providing loans to more than one members of the same family.

JCD activist stabbed in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, June 16: Abdul Halim, a JCD activist and a student of Khalishpur Mohsin College was severely stabbed by some unknown young men at Khalishpur BIDC road on Friday evening.

Police said his condition was critical. The incident has sparked off tension in the industrial town.

Bumper production of 'Binamug-2'

MYMENSINGH, June 16: The hybrid summer crop Mug named 'Binamug-2', evolved by the BINA, yielded bumper production at some 50 exhibition plots in the Rabu season, reports UBN.

Bangladesh Institute of Nuclear Agriculture in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Extension cultivated the crop in 25 thana exhibition plots of the southern region of the country.

The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Madaripur, Rangpur, Noakhali, Cox's Bazar, Khulna and Magura.

The exhibition plots in these districts were visited recently by Barisal Agricultural Extension Department's SMS Sudhir Ranjan Shil, Babuganj thana agricultural officer Nikhil Ranjan Mondol, SMO Firoz Ahmed, block supervisor Alamgir Mian and scientific officers Niaz Pasha and Jahangir Kabir.

All the visitors expressed their satisfaction for the bumper production of 'Binamug-2'.

A good number of farmers of different districts expressed their interest to cultivate the high yielding variety crop, they said.

JP candidates were re-elected in all the six seats of Rangpur.

In 1991 election, AL got all the four seats of Nilphamari. But this time, AL lost all these seats. Three seats went to JP and Jamaat got one seat — the only seat in the division.

JP candidates were re-elected in all the three seats in Lalmonirhat and all five seats in Gaibandha.

In Kurigram, out of four seats, JP bagged three seats and AL got the remaining seat in 1991 election. This time, AL bagged five seats and leading in one seat while BNP got one seat.

In Bogra district, out of seven seats, BNP bagged three seats and Jamaat got one seat in 1991 election. This time, AL bagged five seats and leading in one seat while BNP got one seat.

In Dinajpur, out of six seats, AL bagged five seats and Jamaat got the remaining seat in 1991 election. This time, BNP bagged all the seven seats.

BNP candidates were re-elected in all the two seats of Joypurhat.

BNP and CPB bagged the two seats of Panchagarh each in 1991. This time, BNP cap-

tured all the two seats.

In Pabna, out of five seats, BNP bagged three seats and Jamaat got the remaining seats in 1991 election. But this time, AL bagged four seats while BNP got one seat.

In Sirajganj, out of seven seats, BNP bagged six seats and AL got the remaining seat in 1991. But this time, AL bagged five seats and leading in one seat while BNP got one seat.

In Chapainawabganj, out of three seats, BNP got two seats and Jamaat got the remaining seat in 1991 election. This time, all the three seats went to BNP.

In Rangpur, out of five seats, JP bagged three seats and AL got the remaining seat in 1991 election. This time, JP captured all the five seats.

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On the other hand, Jamaat-e-Islam got one seat this time as against seven in the division in the 1991 polls.

There are 72 seats in Jatiya Sangsad for 16 districts of Rajshahi division.

According to unofficial results of 71 constituencies here announced so far, BNP bagged 31 seats while JP, AL and JI got 21, 18 and one seats respectively in 1991 election. This time, BNP bagged three seats while AL got one seat.

In Naogaon, out of six seats, BNP, AL and JI got three, two and one seats respectively in 1991 election. This time, BNP bagged all the six seats.

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