

FedEX
Federal Express
The World on Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 216 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 650 planes, 37,000 vehicles and 1,200,000 people, promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments, thanks to our unique computerized global tracking system. So to the next time you have to send a package, relax - call your FedEx agent BANEZ to deliver your package hassle-free - on time to your satisfaction.

For more information call: Head Office: 955114-7; Fax: 956112
Gulshan: 85771, Chittagong: (031)-712127, Khulna: (041) 25068

FM holds official talks in Yangon

Bangladesh and Myanmar yesterday held an official talks in Yangon and discussed bilateral matters of mutual interest including the exchange of visits of high defence personnel, repatriation of Myanmar refugees from Bangladesh and cooperation in various fields, specially in the economic sector, according to a message received in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, led the Bangladesh side in the talks while the Myanmar Vice Chairman of State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) General Maung Aye and Foreign Minister U Ohn Gyaaw represented the Myanmar side in the talks.

During the talks Bangladesh Foreign Minister conveyed the best wishes of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to SLORC chairman Than Shwe. The Vice Chairman of the SLORC warmly reciprocated and congratulated Bangladesh.

AL MP assaulted

Chowdhury, while talking to newsmen at the Chittagong Press Club, blamed the activists of BNP for the attack on him.

He alleged that the unruly activists had dragged him down from the car and hit him with iron rods on his back at around 3 pm today while he was on his way to the AL candidate's house. He said his car was put on fire and three others with him were also injured.

Comments from the BNP were not immediately available in this regard.

The Chandanaish constituency witnessed a series of clashes in the past few days between the supporters of AL and BNP centering the by-election there tomorrow, police said.

A clash this morning at Chandanaish between the supporters of AL and BNP left several persons injured, police added.

Against the backdrop of tension, security has been tightened around all the 69 polling centres at Chandanaish, officials said.

By-elections today

meeting was held at the parliament lobby while the JS was in session.

A central leader of the JP said on condition of anonymity that they were confident of winning at least 3 out of 4 seats vacated by the party chairman in Rangpur and Kurigram districts and another in Peropur-2 constituency. "Our candidate will give a tough fight against BNP's Moudud Ahmed in Laxmipur-2 constituency."

"As a partner of the government of Sheikh Hasina, it is only natural for us to help the Awami League to win in the constituencies where we have no strong chance to win," the JP leader added.

When asked about Rangpur-6 constituency vacated by Ershad, the JP leader evading a direct reply said: "The Prime Minister's brother in law, Prof Wahed Miah, is contesting for the seat from Awami League." Wahed Miah is the brother of Sheikh Hasina's husband, Dr. Wajed Miah.

The JP has withdrawn a candidate from Bagerhat-1 constituency, where Sheikh Helal Uddin, a first cousin of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, is fighting from Awami League.

In another development, a JSD candidate was withdrawn from the constituency of Laxmipur-2 constituency. Col (ret'd) Zafar Imam of the Jatiya Party, who was also scheduled to contest for the seat has withdrawn. Moudud Ahmed of BNP is contesting for the seat.

When asked separately about the ruling party's negotiation with the JP and JSD, two influential leaders of the party neither confirmed, nor ruled out it.

On the other hand, a section of the BNP leadership is optimistic about Jamaat support for their candidates in the by-elections. "To the best of my knowledge, with the June 12 election debates, the district level leaders of the Jamaat are not happy with the party high command's past hob-nobbing with the Awami League," a member of the BNP high command said adding: "We hope that this time Jamaat supporters would be voting for our candidates."

Jamaat leader Matiuur Rahman Nizami, however, told The Daily Star on Tuesday that his party had sent no directives asking their members to vote for any particular party. The central leadership of our party have left the issue to the rank

Laxmipur-2 111 observers may monitor today's polls

From Our Correspondent
LAXMIPUR, Sept 4: A total of 111 polls observers have requested the Election Commission to allow them to monitor the by-election in Laxmipur-2 constituency, according to polls officials here.

Of them, 24 are from the US embassy in Dhaka, 50 from the Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), 39 from the Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council, two from the Lawyers Forum and 5 from the High Commission of UK in Dhaka.

Of the 24 intending observers from the US embassy, eight are its own officials and the rest are local. Of the 5 from the UK High Commission, 3 are its own officials while two are locals, the officials said.

The Laxmipur-2 constituency comprises 15 unions and one municipality covering two thanas. There are 1,82,508 voters, 1,20,019 male and 80,289 female.

The EC has set up 73 polling centres and 373 polling booths in the constituency.

Officials of the district administration talking to The Daily Star said that 19 polling centres have been identified as 'trouble spots' in the constituency and for each of these centres one magistrate would be on duty.

A total of 47 magistrates will be on duty in all the polling centres of the constituency.

The former prime minister said they have no other option but to launch a street movement against those who continue repression on the people and does not practise democracy, nor even respect the High Court order.

She called upon the government to stop harassment and punishment transfer of the bank employees. Otherwise, Begum Zia said, her party would be compelled to come out into the streets to protest repression and protect rights of the bank employees.

The former prime minister said her government had allowed the employees of every organisations to work independently and without any hindrance, irrespective of their political affiliations.

But she alleged that after assuming power only two months ago, the present government has started creating pressure on the employees to join the ruling party. They are politicising each and every organisation.

Refuting the allegations against her regime, Begum Zia challenged her political opponents to specifically name the organisations where politicisation was made.

Indian FM

level between the two neighbours that was not previously addressed for several years.

The official level talks between the two sides will take place for nearly two hours on Saturday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Gujral will head the Indian side while Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will lead Bangladesh side in the talks.

The agenda for the talks are likely to be open-ended, covering all bilateral issues with an aim towards resolving those through dialogue and mutual understanding, another official said. Both sides are however expected to raise several issues at the talks, the official added.

During his stay here the Indian External Affairs Minister will pay a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on September 8. He will also have meetings with Finance Minister A M S Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak.

Gujral is likely to visit the Bangla Academy during his stay. He is due to address a press conference on September 9 prior to his departure.

Strong contingents of army, BDR, police and Ansar were also deployed in the areas to ensure free and fair voting.

Sources said nearly 3,000 army personnel were deployed yesterday. A platoon of 100 troops have been deployed in each of the 24 thanas in the 15 constituencies.

The army troops will be stationed for five days till next Monday, apparently to guard against possible post-election violence. About 200 army officers have been given the charge of by-election duty.

In each polling centres, 27 army, BDR, police and ansar personnel will be posted. A 4-member task force consisting of the representatives from Establishment and Home Ministries have been formed to oversee the polls as a whole.

A total of 628 magistrates have been posted in the 15 constituencies. Each magistrate will look after two polling centres.

The Election Commission also imposed total ban on plying of motorbike, babytaxi, microbus, jeep and pickup on roads and mechanised boat and speed boat in waterways from 6 am yesterday till 6 am Friday in all the thanas where by-elections will be held.

However, the restriction will not be applicable for the vehicles of contesting candidates, persons having legal identity cards, polling agents, election observers, journalists and officials to be engaged in conducting polls and emergency services like ambulance, fire service, electricity and gas supply.

It also imposed total ban on carrying licensed arms from midnight last night to Saturday midnight in the areas.

The Election Commission has given permission to some 4000 election observers both from home and abroad to monitor the election. Foreign observers from Commonwealth Secretariat, India, USA, Russia, Japan, UK and Malaysia will monitor the by-polls.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

College student murdered in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 4: A college student was killed by an armed gang at the Jalalabad residential area of the town tonight.

Police said, Babul Ahmed Hira, 19 son of Abdul Rashid of 8, Jalalabad residential area and a 2nd year student of the MC College was called out of his house by a group of seven youngmen at 7:30 pm.

After he came out, the youths pushed a needle into his left chest and left him. He was immediately taken by local people to the Sylhet MAG Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The joint-convenor of the Sylhet district JCD, Shamsuzzaman has claimed that the victim was an active member of the organisation and alleged that an armed gang of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists killed him.

A case has been registered with Kotwali police.

AL worker

up a BNP student activist Manzur Elahi Manzu, and with the help of police sent him to the thana custody.

Superintendent of police of Laxmipur, talking to The Daily Star, said that Manzu was sent to the thana custody as his name appeared in the FIR lodged against the killing of Abdus Sattar.

Advocate Kazi Iqbal, General Secretary of the local Jubo League unit told The Daily Star that Abdus Sattar and his brother was stabbed at Char Rahita Tuesday night. He added that two other AL workers, Zahir and Suman, also received bullet injuries at Char Samita. He also blamed the district administration for its failure to arrest the culprits.

The Resident Medical Officer (RMO) of Laxmipur Sadar Hospital said that the injured were admitted to the hospital Tuesday night. Abdus Sattar died in early hours Wednesday. Others were under treatment in the same hospital.

The district Secretary General of BNP refuted the allegations against his party and said that AL with the help of the district Administration has let loose a reign of terror in the area.

The nemaz-e-Janaja of Abdus Sattar was held at the Tamji market road area here at around 5:30 pm Wednesday.

The workers and leaders of the AL earlier brought out a procession and marched carrying the body. He was later buried at a local graveyard.

Peace at DU

mitories, the meeting decided that all such students would be summoned in their hall auditoriums and would be allowed to enter the hall after verifying their identity cards in presence of the VC, the proctor, teachers concerned and student leaders, meeting sources said.

The student organisations will not shelter any 'terrorist' and will not demand release of any 'terrorists' if arrested, the leaders agreed in the meeting.

They also decided that police, during raid on halls, will be able to arrest any person from the halls in presence of the Provost and house tutors, meeting sources said.

The meeting also agreed that the university authorities would recommend the release of arrested students including JCD president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Annie if there were no specific cases against them, the sources added.

The meeting which continued late into the night will resume this afternoon and a peace accord is likely to be signed.

The student leaders also reached a consensus that they would take a stand against the party or parties who would violate any terms of the agreement, meeting sources said.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the DU Syndicate will be held at 8 pm today with the acting VC in the chair, according to DU authorities.



Artists of the Chhayana rendering Nazrul songs at a function at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday in observance of the death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam. —Star photo

Khaleda: By-election

Leaders of different pro-BNP employees' associations of Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Uttara, Rupali and Pubali banks addressed the meeting. They apprised the BNP chairperson of the harassment and punishment transfer of bank employees.

The government is planning to privatise the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) as per the prescription of the World Bank, the bank employees leaders alleged and also accused the government of politicising the banking administration.

They requested the Leader of the Opposition to take the initiative for building resistance against repression, harassment and transfer of bank employees and for realising their demands, including a separate pay scale for them.

Those who addressed the meeting included BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Srani Dal General secretary Nazrul Islam Khan, Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP, Bangladesh Bank Employees Federation president B M Bakir Hossain and general secretary A K M Shamsuddin, Mohammdullah Chowdhury, Tofazzal Hossain, Enayetul Karim, Q M Kabir, Emdadul Karim Manik and Khan Azizur Rahman.

Some 250 families in Kumarkhali thana have been rendered homeless.

UNB adds: Five minor boys drowned in the flood water in Raiganj thana of Sirajganj district in the last three days.

The victims were identified as Abdus Salam, 7, Nikhil, 8, Sorman Ali, 6, Imon, 5 and Khaibar, 7.

Meanwhile, low-lying areas of Raiganj, Kazipur and Chowhali thanas were inundated due to heavy rainfall. Standing crops on about 2200 hectares of land were damaged.

Some 161 families in Kazipur, Chowhali and Shahjapur thanas were rendered homeless in last 24 hours due to erosion by the river Jumuna.

Another UNB report adds: The flood situation of Rajshahi and Nawabganj districts is likely to aggravate further as the Ganges and the Mohananda continue to rise during the next 24 hours ending 6 am today.

A Flood Information Centre bulletin's warning yesterday gave the local officials repeated direction to remain alert in the wake of flood which may cause damage to the roads, embankments and culverts in the districts.

Besides, flood situation of Manikganj, Munshiganj and Dhaka districts are likely to deteriorate.

The bulletin said the Ganges continued to rise at all points except at Pankha while the Brahmaputra recorded fall at all points except at Aricha during the last 24 hours till 6 am yesterday.

Arafat, Netanyahu hold talks

EREZ, Gaza Strip, Sept 4: Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said after meeting for the first time today they were committed to making peace, reports Reuter.

"I would like to emphasize once again our commitment to cooperation with Israel, our commitment to all aspects of the agreement with Israel in accordance with agreements signed," Arafat told a news conference after an hour long meeting.

"Both parties reiterate their commitment to the interim agreement and their determination to carry out its implementation," Netanyahu said.

But he added: "We have to take into account the needs and requirements of both sides on the basis of reciprocity and the assurance of the security and well-being of both Israelis and Palestinians alike."

Netanyahu said Israel and the Palestinians wanted to "advance the issues of concern to all of us."

College student murdered in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Sept 4: A college student was killed by an armed gang at the Jalalabad residential area of the town tonight.

Police said, Babul Ahmed Hira, 19 son of Abdul Rashid of 8, Jalalabad residential area and a 2nd year student of the MC College was called out of his house by a group of seven youngmen at 7:30 pm.

After he came out, the youths pushed a needle into his left chest and left him. He was immediately taken by local people to the Sylhet MAG Hospital where doctors declared him dead.

The joint-convenor of the Sylhet district JCD, Shamsuzzaman has claimed that the victim was an active member of the organisation and alleged that an armed gang of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists killed him.

A case has been registered with Kotwali police.

Iraq

along with heavy anti-aircraft fire, witnesses said.

It was not immediately known what caused the explosions.

Reporters in their offices said they heard about a dozen large explosions in Baghdad. The ground was shaking in some areas, a Reuters correspondent said.

The night-sky was lit up with anti-aircraft fire. Air-raid warning sirens blared.

Iraqi army said one Iraqi was killed and seven were wounded in a second US missile strike today.

Our casualties are one martyr and seven wounded," the army said in a statement read on television, without specifying if they were soldiers or civilians.

The army also said several cruise missiles were shot down. The strike came 12 hours after President Clinton warned that a defiant Saddam Hussein must pay a price for his bold aggression since the Gulf War.

Acknowledging that the first effort had fallen short, Pentagon spokesman Ken Bacon said: "This is what we would call a mop-up operation."

Hand Mixer

With stand and bowl

Let's make things better

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics NV.
For selling products, radio and TV sets.
Dhaka: 815306-9, 819425-9, 809993
Ctg.: 501082, 503578, Khulna: 20304, Bogra: 6215

CEC's call to cast votes spontaneously

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday called upon all concerned to caste their votes spontaneously in today's by-election in 15 constituencies, reports BSS.

In a statement on the eve of the by-election, the CEC said measures have been taken to hold the by-elections in a free and fair manner and the local administration have been asked to conduct the polling remaining above all interferences and influences.

Hena said his commission held several meetings with the political parties on the law and order issue during the polls and they have assured him of cooperation particularly in seizure

of illegal weapons and checking of terrorism.

The CEC said several meetings were also held with divisional, district and thana level officials as well as law enforcing agencies. They have been given strict directives to take up stern measures against the terrorists and possessors of illegal weapons irrespective of their party or political affiliations, he added.

He said necessary measures have already been taken to ensure the security of voters, polling officials and polling agents at the centres.

Hena said the authorities concerned have been warned that stern measures would be taken against those who would fail to perform their duties properly.

Hena said armed forces have been deployed at all the 15 constituencies.

He said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.

The CEC said election was the basic foundation of democracy and unless the democratic values were exercised properly, the democracy would be endangered.

Hena said the members of the armed forces would be stationed at all thana headquarters of the constituencies while their mobile units would move to assist the law enforcing agencies.