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Announcement

The Star Weekend Magazine this week sheds light into our Olympic performance, identifies reasons for our failure and discusses measures need to be taken to be on medals table. And the regular columns and features apart, read a special story "Of Sarbaharas and Arms".

—Editor

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DSE MARKET

DSE price index 1328.81
Market capital Tk 9199.08 cr
Transactions in volume 763035
Transactions in value Tk 16.83cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index 525.58
Market capital Tk 4696.72 cr
Transactions in volume 104842
Transactions in value Tk 20541856

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NEWS BRIEFS

BB refixes US dollar rates

Bangladesh Bank's buying and selling rates for US dollar from and to banks have been refixed at Tk 42.20 and Tk 42.40 respectively per US dollar with effect from Sept 7, a Bangladesh Bank press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

Awami League 8 : Bangladesh Nationalist Party 3 : Jatiya Party 2 : Independent 1

Ruling party bags majority seats



Female voters queuing up at a polling centre in Pirojpur-2 constituency yesterday (Top) and an army camp set up at the Bhandaria TNO office for the by-elections (Bottom)

— Star photo

Star Report

The Awami League won eight seats, Bangladesh Nationalist Party three seats, Jatiya Party two while an independent candidate won one seat in the parliamentary by-elections in 15 constituencies held yesterday.

The Jatiya Party candidate was leading in Pirojpur-2 constituency till the filing of this report at 2 am, Election Commission (EC) sources said.

The by-elections were held as AL had vacated four seats, BNP six and JP five. EC sources said that there was a voter turnout of 62 per cent in the by-polls. This was 11 per cent less than that in the June 12 general election.

The EC unofficially declared the following AL candidates elected: Anisul Islam Chowdhury from Rangpur-2, H N Ashiqur Rahman from Rangpur-5, Dr Muhammad Selim from Sirajganj-1, Sheikh Helaluddin from Bagerhat-1, Master Mujibur Rahman from Shariatpur-1, Imran Ahmed from Sylhet-4, Harunur Rashid from Laxmipur-2 and Engr Mosharraf Hossain from Chittagong-1.

The BNP candidates declared unofficially elected are: Mumtaz Begum from Chittagong-13, Mohammad Jahurul Islam from Bogra-6 and Muhammad Helaluddin Talukder Lal from Bogra-7.

An AL dissident, Panchanan Biswas, who fought independently defeated AL candidate Sheikh Harunur Rashid and won the by-elections in Khulna-1 constituency.

The JP candidates declared unofficially elected are Muzammel Hussain from Kurigram-3 and Nur Mohammad Mondol from Rangpur-6 while Tasmima Hossain from Pirojpur-2 was leading by more than 13,000 votes till the time of filing this report.

See Page 12 Col 4

Polling postponed at one centre in Rangpur-5

From Morshed Ali Khan

RANGPUR, Sept 5: By-elections in Rangpur 2, 5, and 6 constituencies were held amid heavy security with polling postponed in one centre in Rangpur-5 due to ballot stuffing, according to the Returning Officer and the District Election Office here.

The Returning Officer said that apart from the Imadpur centre having 1,223 voters, the by-election passed off by and large peacefully in the remaining 258 polling centres in the three constituencies.

In the evening, BNP candidate from Rangpur-5, Golam Mustafa Batul, alleged at a press briefing that at least 23 polling centres were taken over by AL activists in the constituency under Mithapukur thana and they chased away the voters.

See Page 12 Col 7

BNP alleges massive rigging, violence

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) alleged massive rigging and widespread violence by the ruling party in yesterday's by-elections, reports BSS.

Briefing newsmen at the party's central office, BNP office Secretary Nazrul Islam Khan said booth capturing, driving out the BNP polling agents, stuffing the ballot papers and intimidation of voters marked the by-elections. He said that many places women voters were threatened with acid throwing.

Police and the administration played a silent role during the violence and acted in favour of the government, he alleged.

Khan said they had received so far partial reports of incidents from different constituencies.

The BNP, he said, would give a detailed briefing today after receiving detailed information from different constituencies.

The BNP leader alleged that at Mirsharal most of the polling centres were forcibly occupied in the morning under the leadership of Awami League

leaders. Five BNP workers, he said, received bullet injuries while more than 20 BNP leaders and workers were arrested at Mirsharal.

The BNP leader said at Chandanaisah all polling centres under nine unions of the thana were forcibly occupied under the leadership of Mayor of Chittagong.

At Luxmipur, he said, all centres of three unions and more polling centres in other unions were captured by the Awami League leaders and workers. Khan said at Kurigram all polling centres of two unions were captured by the ruling party. The Awami League, he said, in league with the administration, had stuffed the ballot papers.

At Shariatpur, he said, all centres of Jajira thana were captured by the ruling party under the leadership of 17 MPs of Awami League. The polling agents of the BNP, Khan said, were driven out of the centres in these constituencies.

See Page 12 Col 8

Stray incidents mark polling in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: Despite a tense situation the by-election at the Chittagong 1 and 13 constituencies were held today almost peacefully barring some stray incidents of violence outside the polling centres.

According to local administration and health complex doctors, in the stray incidents three persons were injured in the Chittagong-13 constituency. They were identified as Belal, Gas Uddin and Jabel Hossain, all activists of BNP.

Talking to a group of newsmen, who visited the election centres today at Chandanaisah, former BNP minister Oli Ahmed, whose wife Montas Begum contested from here, alleged that his party's supporters were attacked and polling agents were turned out from 8 centre by the activists of a rival party.

He said that he had lodged a written complaint with the concerned authorities in this regard.

The Awami League leaders denied the charge and alleged that the activists of BNP terrorised the localities by attacking the rivals and looting shops.

Chittagong City Corporation Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury

See Page 12 Col 1

Ban on rallies, processions in Khulna-1

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 5: Victory processions or protest demonstrations, rallies and public meetings in Khulna-1 constituency (Batiaghata and Dakop thanas) have been banned for seven days from this evening to avoid any post-polls violence, the divisional commissioner and the DIG, Khulna Range, told newsmen.

Meanwhile, polling in all the centres of the constituency was held peacefully. No false voting or any incidents of violence were reported from any polling centre.

The turnout of voters in the constituency was over seventy per cent, said the returning officer.

Polling in all the centres of Bagerhat-1 constituency was also held peacefully. But two youngmen were arrested allegedly for casting false votes at Ghatbila Govt Primary School centre under Mollahat thana.

The turnout of voters in this constituency was over sixty per cent, said the returning officer.

Voting free, fair & peaceful, says CEC

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena said byelections for 15 parliamentary seats yesterday were free, fair and transparent, reports BSS.

The CEC made this observations while talking to the waiting reporters at his office yesterday evening on his return from visit to four of the polling centres where byelections were held.

He brushed aside an allegation of trouble in Laxmipur. "I heard about it and flew there, but found voting held peacefully there."

When asked to compare the byelections with the June 12 general election, the Chief Election Commissioner, quoting the local administrations of the areas he toured, said: "Polling was peaceful and fair."

BSS adds, Abu Hena visited 10 polling centres under Bogra-6, Sirajganj-1, and Laxmipur-2 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad to see for himself the by-elections there.

The polling centres, which were visited by the CEC were the Vocational Teachers Training Institute, Bogra, Bogra City Girls High School and Primary Teachers Training Institute under Bogra-6 seat, Alampur High School Centre and Meghal High School Centre under Sirajganj-1 seat, Nandanpur High School Centre, Kafilaata Government Primary School Centre and Kerua Sirajia Primary School Centre under Laxmipur-2 seat.

At the Mirsaral Pilot High School Centre and Mithachhara High School Centres under Mirsaral constituency, he saw the progress of the counting of the ballot papers.

At all the places, the voters, polling agents of all the candidates, presiding officers and members of the law-enforcing agencies told the Chief Election Commissioner that polling was taking place in a orderly manner.

But in Laxmipur-2 constituency, as the CEC alighted from the Bangladesh Air Force helicopter, BNP candidate

See Page 12 Col 3

Voting in Bogra-6 & 2 peaceful

From Reaz Ahmad

BOGRA, Sept 5: Voting conducted peacefully in two Jatiya Sangsad (JS) constituencies in the district with voters queuing up from the morning to exercise their franchise in today's parliamentary by-polls.

Beginning at eight in the morning, casting of votes continued till 4 pm in all the 190 polling centres in the two seats, vacated by BNP chairperson and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia. The constituencies are Bogra-6 (Sadar thana excluding three unions) and Bogra-7 (Gabalia thana and three unions of Sadar thana).

There was no report of any untoward incidents during polling-hours. Votes were cast in a very peaceful manner amidst tight security measures. Armed police backed by BDR, Ansar, VDP personnel were posted around the polling centres while units of the army were seen patrolling the areas all through the day.

Though the turnout of voters was relatively less this time compared to that in the June 12

See Page 12 Col 3

Gujral arrives today: Talks tomorrow

Indian Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral, arrives here today on a four-day official visit to Bangladesh during which the two sides would discuss the entire gamut of bilateral relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

This would be the first visit by an Indian foreign minister after the new government headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina came to power following the June 12 general election.

Gujral will be accompanied by his wife.

The long-standing issue of sharing the Ganges water is expected to figure prominently during the official talks between Foreign Minister Abhismitra Singh and his Indian counterpart, Gujral tomorrow, a foreign office source said.

Apart from water sharing issue, the two sides will discuss Chakma refugee issue and matters relating to trade and economic cooperation between the two countries, he said.

The issues relating to regional co-operation and inter-

See Page 12 Col 8

Women voters obstructed in Laxmipur-2

From Mizan Ali

LAXMIPUR, Sept 5: Voters were seen seeking help from the members of law enforcing agencies to enter the polling stations as they were being obstructed allegedly by activists of a particular party from casting their votes in Laxmipur-2 constituency.

Nine candidates contested from this seat vacated by Begum Khaleda Zia, former prime minister and chairperson of the BNP.

This correspondent visited eight polling centres of three unions in both the thanas — Raipur and Laxmipur — under this constituency.

During the polling hours today, voters, particularly women voters, were seen seeking help from members of the law enforcing agencies to reach the polling stations. On at least two such occasions, BDR personnel were seen giving protection to the voters and were looking for votes.

In Mollarbari area, under

See Page 12 Col 4

Gunmen attack Raozan police camp, kill one Ansar, loot rifles

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: A member of the Ansars was gunned down and another injured when a police outpost at Noapara village under Raozan thana came under attack by a gang of about 50 'terrorists' equipped with LMG and other sophisticated weapons at 2 pm today, police said.

The terrorists also looted 9 rifles during the attack.

The member of the Ansars who died was identified as Abdur Rashid (30) and the other injured, Arfan Ali, was admitted to hospital.

Police said during the attack police and Ansars at the camp had an exchange of fire with the terrorists for about an hour. At

See Page 12 Col 8

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh National Board of Revenue

Dhaka

একজন সং মানুষ একজন সং করদাতাও বটে

Subject : Submission of Income Tax Return for the assessment year 1996-97.

The last date for filing income tax returns for the assessment year 1996-97 both for normal and self assessments is 15 September 1996. Apart from existing assesses, all persons having a total income exceeding Tk 60,000 for the assessment year 1996-97, are required to file their returns of income and pay taxes on the basis of such returns by 15 September 1996.

Income tax return forms are available in Head Post Offices of all districts. Newly introduced one page self assessment returns for individual assesses having limited income (not exceeding two lakh Taka) are light blue in colour. Return forms for normal assessment are white in colour. The white returns can also be used for self-assessment purposes by inscribing the words "Self Assessment" on the top of the return form.

Assessee's filing their returns are requested to obtain acknowledgement slips in prescribed forms from the concerned tax offices.

All assessee's who are required to file returns are expected to submit their income tax returns disclosing their correct income within the stipulated time, failing which they will be liable to penal action as per Income Tax Law. The Government expects that assessee's will extend their whole hearted co-operation towards national revenue.

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National Board of Revenue