

15,76,778 new voters in Barisal division

AROOP TALUKDER, Barisal

About 15,76,778 new voters have been enrolled in fresh voters' list in six districts of Barisal division.

The districts are: Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Jhalakati, Pirojpur and Barguna. There had been 35,12,724 voters in 23 constituencies of six districts during the parliament elections held on 12 June, 1996.

But according to the new voters' list, number of voters now stand at 50,89,502. According to official sources, there had been 9,46,183 voters in six constituencies of Barisal district in 1996 elections.

The number rose to 14,25,225 in the new voters' list. A total of 2,28,534 voters had been enlisted from two constituencies of Jhalakati district in 1996. The number has been increased to 4,01486 in the new voters' list.

A total of 10,62,214 voters has been enrolled for the next general election from four constituencies of Bhola district. But during 1996 election there had been 6,68,284 voters, according to official sources. In the four constituencies of Patuakhali district, there has been an increase of 3,33,813 voters this year. The number had been 6,44,888 in 1996.

A total of 6,85,447 voters have been listed in the new voters' list from four constituencies of Pirojpur district. But the number had been 5,75,874 during the parliamentary election of 1996.

There had been 3,95,961 voters in three constituencies of Barguna district during 1996 election. But according to new voters' list, the total number now stands at 5,37,429.

Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital ailing

UNB, Sylhet

Stinking smell in and around Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital has been vitiating the environment in absence of cleanliness.

Toilets and bathrooms in every ward are in deplorable condition. Many patients and visitors are seen using handkerchiefs to protect themselves from the bad odor.

Garbage are accumulated in the toilets over the days making those slippery, as there is none to look after. Poor patients use the toilets with risk.

Acute scarcity of drinking water is prevailing in the hospital since long. The lone tube well in the hospital compound remains out of order most of the time. Patients are to buy bottled water from outside.

Many patients have complained that the doctors hardly visit them. Once a doctor visits a patient, he never comes again.

They said hospital supplies them only saline and paracetamal tablet. They are to purchase all other medicines prescribed by the doctor from outside, which is not always possible for the poor patients.

The condition of the outdoor section is worse. Doctors do not maintain duty schedule and remain absent most of the time causing suffering to patients.

Cases of theft of belongings of patients are also reported.

The patients have urged the concerned authority to look into their grievances and take immediate steps to redress their suffering.

Our Gopalganj Correspondent reports: Muksudpur Upazila Health Complex is beset with manifold problems.

As a result the healthcare service is being hampered greatly.

Every day a large number of patients come to this health complex from far and flung areas of the district. Ultimately they have to go back disappointed due to absence of proper healthcare facilities.

Shortage of doctors, accommodation problem, lack of medicine, non-availability of ambulance, faulty drainage system and polluted environment have shattered the healthcare service. Ramshackle doors and windows of the health complex also added to the problems.

Rickshaws, rickshawvans and pushcarts are being used for carrying patients, as the ambulance of the health complex remains inoperative for a long time.

Shortage of doctors is hampering the treatment facilities. Most of time no doctor remains in the health complex. Some posts of doctors remain vacant in Pighna and Pugaldigha for a long time.

Simple ailments like common cold, dysentery and headache are being treated in the 31- bed health complex.

On the other hand scarcity of pure and safe drinking water has been prevailing in the health complex. Ten ceiling fans, out of 22 remains inoperative. Shortage of X-ray films is also prevailing. Most of toilets remain dirty.

Patients having complex diseases are being deprived of better treatment facilities. On the other hand, poor patients have to buy medicine from outside.

When this correspondent asked a doctor about shortage of medicine, he said that the allocation of medicine, gauge, bandage, cotton and other surgical instruments, round the year, are too meagre than the actual requirement.

Because of erratic power supply operation becomes risky as the health complex has no power generator.

Most of the doctors of the health complex remain busy with their own private practice, alleged many patients.

Local elite and suffering patients have urged the government to take immediate steps to mitigate the sufferings of the patients.

Viral disease to affect shrimp production in Satkhira

ABU AHMED, Satkhira

Shrimp production will be affected this year in Satkhira district due to outbreak of viral disease in epidemic form in the shrimp cultivation area.

According to local shrimp cultivators, a mysterious viral disease has broken out in the shrimp farming areas of the district. It has caused a grave concern among shrimp cultivators. Nature of the disease is yet to be known.

Affected shrimp producers are moving from place to place to combat the disease, but all efforts are in vain. Shrimps worth Taka 200 crores have already been affected by the disease during the last two

years. The disease has been spreading fast causing panic among the shrimp farmers.

It may be mentioned here that viral disease breaks out almost every year causing huge loss to shrimp farmers.

According to official sources, about 5,795 shrimp enclaves have been set up on nearly 1.5 acres of land in the district.

Two thousand more acres of land will be brought under shrimp cultivation in the district this year.

Affected shrimp farmers have urged the authorities concerned to take necessary measures to combat the disease immediately.



PHOTO: STAR

Pitiable condition of Dhoail Post Office in Mohammadpur upazila of Magura district. It needs immediate repair.

Three ICS cadres, JCD leader, 6 others held in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police Monday arrested three Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) cadres from Satkania upazila and seven listed terrorists and a city JCD leader loyal to Salehuddin Quader Chowdhury in Chittagong city.

District police in a raid at Garangia area in Satkania in the early hours of yesterday arrested the Shibir cadres Harun ur Rashid, 15, Enamul Hoq, 30 and Md Ishaq, 28 all loyal to notorious 'Jamaat' terrorist Ahmadya with one LG and five cartridges.

Meanwhile, CMP arrested listed terrorist JCD leader Showkat Azam Khaja, Hasan Murad, Md Selim, Mohammad Ali, Abdus Sabur alias Sabuj, Didarul Hoq Kazami alias 'Kirich Babul' and Nurul Alam alias Putul.

Body of girl exhumed

UNB, Narayanganj

The body of a teenage schoolgirl was exhumed from a grave at Kalainagar in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla district on Saturday.

Police said the body of Nargis Akter was disinterred from the grave in presence of Magistrate Mirana Mahrufa after the victim's father Monir Hossain filed a murder case with Fatulla thana. Police said Nargis accompanied by her next-door-neighbour Moslemuddin and his wife went to Comilla on May 18. Later she was killed there and buried at a grave. Police suspect that she was murdered after rape. The body of the 14-year old girl bore marks of injury. Later the body was sent to Comilla Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile police arrested the wife of Moslemuddin in connection with the killing.

Extortionist caught red-handed

UNB, Pabna

An extortionist was caught red-handed along with arms at village Gopalpur in Atgharia upazila of Pabna district on Sunday.

Police said local people caught the extortionist Jijal with a cut rifle when he along with his accomplices stormed the house of Abdus Shukur at 9 am as he denied paying them Tk 10,000 toll. The other muggers fled the scene after firing blank shots and exploding hand bombs. Local people rushed to the spot hearing the hue and cry of Shukur and his family members. Later Jijal was handed over to the police. A case was filed in this connection.

Bogra produces 6.77 lakh mts of foodgrains

UNB, Bogra

Over 8.77 lakh mts of grains, including paddy and wheat, were produced in Bogra district of 32.3 lakh people where the daily demand for foodgrains is 453.6 mts.

Officials at Food Department said the district needs some 5.34 lakh mts of foodgrains a year.

War veterans, intellectuals appeal Build resistance against anti-liberation elements

BSS, Naogaon

Prominent politicians, war veterans of the War of Indepence in 1971, intellectuals and academicians on Friday called for building up all-out resistance against the anti-liberation and fundamentalist communal elements.

The anti-liberation fundamentalist elements wanted to make the country regress to the old age of Pakistani military subjugation, they told a function organised at KD High School to mark the launching of "Commemorative Book on the Life of Shaheed Intellectual Abdul Jabbar."

Chaired by President of Shaheed Abdul Jabbar Smriti Parishad Altaf Hossain, the function was addressed, among others by Commerce Minister Mohammad Abdul Jalil as chief guest, Major (retd) Rafiqul Islam, Bir Uttam, valiant freedom fighter and Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS Haroon Habib, Shaheen Monwara Huq, MP, politician M A Raqib, District Freedom Fighter Commander Shafiqul Islam and Zahid Anwar, eldest son of Shaheed Jabbar.

Jalil said the independence of the country would be jeopardised and democracy could not be freed from the clutches of the killers and anti-liberation elements of 1971 if not resisted right now.

Paying tribute to Shaheed Abdul Jabbar, he urged all to build up an all out resistance movement against these identified evil elements.

Rafiqul Islam said the main objective of the spirit of the War of Liberation was to build a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, but it would not be possible without the economic emancipation of the people.

He paid rich tribute to Shaheed Abdul Jabbar and said the nation would ever remember with deep gratitude the contribution of the Liberation War martyrs.

Haroon Habib said enemies of the War of Liberation were active on the soil after 30 years of independence. These elements, he said, banking on democratic leverage, were hatching conspiracies against the independence and sovereignty of the country to re-establish Pakistan-style politics.

He said two trends of politics were now prevailing in the country-one group wanted to establish anti-independence trend of politics and the other group was working for giving pro-liberation trend of politics a rocksolid foundation.

NEWS SNAPS

Port worker dies as jute bale falls on him

UNB, Bagerhat

A port worker was killed when a jute bale fell on him from a crane while loading it in a ship at Mongla seaport in Bagerhat Monday.

The victim was identified as Yasin, 40, of Swandip, Chittagong.

Rivals' clash leaves six injured

UNB, Munshiganj

A clash between two rival groups of people at village Makhati in Sadar upazila of Munshiganj district left six people injured on Sunday.

Police said the clash was a backlash of a dispute between the two groups. Three of the injured Noorjahan, 65, Salma, 35, and Oli Ahmed admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

Eight alleged robbers arrested

UNB, Narayanganj

Police arrested eight alleged members of an inter-district robber-gang, including two women, and recovered huge arms and ammunition from different parts of Narayanganj district Sunday night and Monday.

A special team of police caught gang leader Anwar Hossain Anar, 31, and his accomplices Rahmatullah, Alamgir and Upendra Chandra Das from Madanpur area in Bandar thana while taking preparation to commit a dacoity. One revolver, 12 rounds of bullet and a sharp weapon were recovered from their possession. Upon their confessional statement, police nabbed Rahima Khatun and Sheuli from Anar's in-law's house at Bhatbania in Arailhazar upazila on the same night and seized a pistol, two magazines of pistol, one LG and 24 rounds of bullet.

Three alleged terrorists nabbed

UNB, Luxmipur

Three alleged terrorists were arrested from Karpara village Ramganj upazila of Luxmipur district Sunday.

The arrested, Ripon, Solyman and Noor Hossain, were said to be the activists of BNP. They were wanted in eight cases, including the Nirul Amin and Zakir Hossain murder cases. Ripon was taken on a three-day remand. Police in another raid recovered a gun from a shop at Purba Mandari Bazaar in sadar upazila on the day.

Four 'kidnappers' arrested

UNB, Shariatpur

Four youths were arrested from Buirhat in Shariatpur district while fleeing with a kidnapped college girl Monday.

The arrested were identified as Mohammad Suman Mia, 22, Kishore, 24, Siddiqur Rahman Pahar, and Iqbal Hasan. Police said the youths picked up the college girl at about 9 am while she was going to Syed Abul Hossain college to appear at the ongoing HSC examination. On information, police launched a quick manhunt and arrested the kidnappers from an area, 8 km off the town, and rescued the girl from an auto-rickshaw. They were produced before a local court and the court rejected their bail prayers.

Vacancy in Sherpur EC office

UNB, Sherpur

At least 15 posts of officials and employees in the upazila Election Commission (EC) office and two in District Election Commission office in Sherpur have been lying vacant hampering official activities seriously since long.

Official sources said posts of election officers in Sadar, Nalitabari, Shribordi, Jhinaigati and Nakla upazilas remained vacant for long. Besides, the posts of accountant and office assistant in the district office are also lying vacant. At present Assistant Commissioner (Land) is performing the duty of upazila election officer and upazila Nirbahi Officer as assistant election officer in addition to their regular duties. Local leaders urged the authorities concerned to fill up the vacant posts of upazila and district election commission offices without further delay.