

8,474 female voters may cast vote this year

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Thousands of female voters in two unions of Jhalakati and Patuakhali in Barisal division may be able to exercise their right to vote in the coming parliamentary election.

The female voters of Magor union in Nalchity upazila of Jhalakati and Pangashia union in Dunki upazila of Patuakhali district could not cast their votes in any election earlier for some particular reasons.

This time, the Chief Election Commissioner's office, local people, social workers and the candidates themselves have come forward to motivate and create congenial atmosphere for the female voters of the two unions to cast their votes ignoring all obstacles.

According to Barisal Divisional Election office here, the Chief Election Commissioner in a recent order asked the authorities of

Barisal divisional office to take necessary steps for persuading about 8,474 female voters in two unions of two districts to cast their votes in the coming general election.

The Barisal divisional office, on receipt of the order, issued directives to the deputy commissioners of Jhalakati and Patuakhali districts to take necessary measures on an emergency basis so that 3,947 female voters of Magor union in Jhalakati and, 4,527 female voters of Pangashia union in Patuakhali can cast their votes in the coming election.

Later both the district election offices reported to the Chief Election Commissioner's office explaining the cause of the female voters less interest in casting their votes.

The report prepared by the officials of Jhalakati district election office on the spot visit said that the

voters of Magor union showed less interest in casting their votes for long 30 years reportedly for an unpleasant occurrence that took place in a Magor polling centre of the UP election in 1968. A bloody clash occurred at that centre following the insult of a housewife for casting the vote of another housewife.

The other report of the Patuakhali district election office revealed that the female voters of Pangashia union have refrained themselves from casting their votes for long 45 years following a 'fatwa' given by a local peer.

The then 'peer' of that area Maulana Hatem Ali gave the 'fatwa' forbidding women to cast their votes, following a clash between two opponent groups Nasaria Alia Madrasa polling centre in the union during an union parishad election in 1955.

Panic of violence grips Faridpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

Law and order has been deteriorated recently to a great extent in all the eight upazilas of the district causing grave concern, fear and horror among the people in general.

Panic of all sorts of violent incidents has gripped the people of Faridpur in recent days.

Incidents of killings, armed robberies, snatching, mugging and violence over election campaign are taking place in different areas of all the eight upazilas every now and

then.

On September 2, six persons including three policemen have been injured, three of them seriously in a clash between the supporters of the four-party alliance MP candidate Md Shahagada Mia and Independent candidate Choudhury Akmal Ibne Yusuf near Char Hajigonj under Char Bhadrason upazila. The clash ensued when Shahajada Mia reached the place of occurrence on his way to Char Bhadrason upazila headquarters to hold a projection meeting there.

As a sequel to the clash, one BNP activist Majin Biswas of village Char Hajiganj of the same upazila was shot dead at Bhajandanga on the outskirts of the town while the victim was returning home from Faridpur town on September 6.

Besides, reports of armed robberies, snatchings, muggings and the incidents of violence are pouring in to the district headquarters from different parts of the district every day.

Electoral inquiry body for Netrakona

BSS, Netrakona

An Electoral Inquiry Committee for Netrakona district has been formed here recently to check violation of the election code of conduct by the contesting candidates and their supporters.

Netrakona District Election Office sources said the committee, comprising District and Session Judge Netrakona Nur Mohammed Jahangir Sarker and Assistant Judge of Netrakona Mohammed Al Mamun, will keep constant watch on the process of electioneering campaign of all the contesting MP candidates and their supporters till the closing of voting.

PCJSS threatens voters, alleges UPDF

UNB, Khagrachhari

Members of Parbatiya Chattagram Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), who are boycotting the election, are allegedly threatening the voters to refrain from going to polling centres on October 1.

United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), a regional political party, brought the allegation at a news conference here Tuesday.

UPDF leaders alleged that the PCJSS members were attacking their leaders and workers and obstructing electioneering in the district creating panic among the common voters.

They urged the Chief Advisor and the Chief Election Commissioner to take necessary measures for creating a congenial atmosphere for the October 1 election.

They also sent a memorandum to the CEC containing their four-point demand, including postponement of all activities of Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council.

Their other demands are immediate arrest of armed terrorists, ensure security to UPDF leaders during election campaign in vulnerable areas and full-time security to their candidate Prasit Bikash Khisha.



(Top) 'Boat', the election symbol of Awami League has been damaged allegedly by the activists of BNP in Baligaon area of Tongibari upazila in Munshiganj district while (bottom) an election camp of BNP has been damaged allegedly by the Awami League workers of the same area on Tuesday. Political violence marks pre-election scene in Munshiganj.

Steps to motivate 3,096 female voters

UNB, Cox's Bazar

For the first time in 30 years of the country's independence, women voters of Edgarh union in Ramu upazila are going to exercise their franchise in the October 1 general election.

Public representatives and religious leaders of the union at a meeting organised by local information office Tuesday assured the authorities of motivating women to go to polling centres to cast their votes.

The female voters of the union have never cast their votes since the country's independence simply because of religious prejudice.

Addressing the meeting, the religious leaders said Islam does not prohibit women to exercise their

franchise for electing public representatives, while others, including local women representatives, teachers and political leaders, assured their all-out cooperation in this regard.

Deputy Commissioner of the district Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan attended the meeting as chief guest while SP Mozammel Hossain as special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, they warned that stern action would be taken against those who would try to obstruct the women in casting their votes in the election.

Out of 6,336 voters in the union, women account for 3,096. The existing three female members of the union were even elected by male voters in 1997 UP election.

AL-BNP clash leaves 25 hurt in Netrakona

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

At least 25 persons were injured, five of them seriously in a clash between rival political parties at Durgapur upazila in Netrakona-1 constituency on Sunday.

Police and witnesses said, a group of BNP activists attacked an AL procession at Gajirkona bazaar in presence of police when the processionists were going to attend in an AL meeting at Kumudgonj in Durgapur upazila.

Twenty-five AL activists including a police constable Deluar Hossen were injured in the clash. Of them, five were seriously injured and admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital (MMCH). They are Abdul Hakim, Robbani, Abul Hossen, Belal and Hamid.

On the day a group of BNP activists damaged a Hindu temple at Ram Nagor in Durgapur upazila. The attackers were led by BNP leader Sufian. They also ransacked some houses of the Hindu community in Ram Nagor village.

Two separate cases were filed with Durgapur police station in this connection.

39,202 new voters in Khagrachhari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

A total of 39,202 new voters were enlisted in Khagrachhari this year.

The number of voters stood at 3,25,277 in the district. The district election office source said, in the new voters list a total of 1,69, 643 male voters and 1,55,684 female voters were enlisted. In the previous list there were 1,52,799 male and 1,33,326 female voters in the district.

NEWS SNAPS

Pre-polls clash in Naogaon leaves 7 hurt

UNB, Naogaon

A pre-election clash between Awami League and BNP workers left at least seven people wounded at Parail union in Raninagar upazila Monday.

Witnesses said the clash took place as an election procession of BNP candidate Alamgir Kabir came under attack by the supporters of AL candidate Ishrafi Alam in the evening. An AL activist was allegedly kidnapped after the clash. A case was filed against BNP workers in connection with the kidnapping. BNP leaders alleged that their workers have been implicated in a false case in a bid to mislead the voters ahead of the Oct 1 election.

10 injured in Shariatpur pre-polls clash

UNB, Shariatpur

Ten people were injured in a fierce pre-election clash between BNP and Awami League workers at Nagerpara village in Shariatpur-3 on Tuesday.

Witnesses said the clash took place at about 11 am when AL workers attacked the election office of BNP. BNP workers said seven of their shops were ransacked and a house was looted during the clash causing a loss of Tk 5 lakh. All the victims belonging to BNP were admitted to local hospital and the condition of two of them Hasan Kazi and Dulal Khan was stated to be critical. Additional police have been deployed to fend off further trouble as tension heightened in the area following the incident.

140 centres in Magura vulnerable

UNB, Magura

Some 140 polling centres out of 233 in two constituencies of the district have been identified as vulnerable.

Election officials said of the total 64 centres out of 114 in Magura-1, encompassing Sadar and Sripur upazilas, are vulnerable. They said 76 centres out of 119 in Magura-2, comprising Mohammadpur and Shalikhra upazilas and four unions of Sadar, have been identified as sensitive while 60 as most sensitive. District administration said special security measures have been taken in the vulnerable centres to hold the October 1 general election in a free and credible manner. According to election officials, the total number of voters in the district now stands at 4,96,205, including 2,51,231 made and 2,44,974 female, as 1,07,552 new voters were enlisted in the voter list. The number of voters in Magura-1 constituency is 2,50,308 while 2,45,947 in Magura-2, they said.

AL-BNP clash leaves 5 wounded in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

A clash between Awami League and BNP supporters left five people injured at Barmi Sohagpara village in Sreepur upazila Tuesday.

Witnesses said the clash took place following an altercation between the two rival groups. An election camp of BNP was ransacked during the dustup. Another report from Barguna adds: one Shamsu Mia, 50 was wounded in a bomb attack on a procession of AL candidate AKM Jahangir Hossain at Guliawilapur Bridge in Dashmina upazila Monday night. He was admitted to local upazila health complex. A case was filed against local BNP activists in this connection.

2,111 nabbed in Narayanganj

UNB, Narayanganj

Some 2,111 people, including 22 convicted criminals, were arrested and huge arms, explosives and drugs recovered in the district in last one month.

Police said they recovered 63 firearms, including 10 foreign-made revolvers, 57 rounds of bullet, 1,987 petrol bombs and cocktails, 2,835 bottles of phensidyl syrup and 182 current nets during the period.



Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra addressing a reception meeting as the chief guest where 13 meritorious students of Gouripur upazila in Mymensingh who secured 'A' grade marks in SSC examinations this year were accorded a warm reception recently by Sachetan Nagarik Samaj, an association of conscious citizens at Gouripur. Azizur Rahman, retired headmaster of R K High School presided over the function. Ten winners of book reading programme of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, were also awarded there. The function was rounded off with a musical programme.