

EC starts sending ballot papers to dists from today

UNB, Dhaka

Election Commission starts sending ballot papers to the district head-quarters from today.

Ballots will be sent to 29 districts on the first day of the three-day dispatch. On the second day, ballots will be sent to 22 districts while to the rest 13 districts on the third day.

"Printing of over 7.5 crore ballot papers has already been completed," a spokesman of the Election Commission said during its regular briefing yesterday.

The returning officers have been instructed to send the district election officer or the magistrate concerned along with adequate security personnel to Dhaka to receive the ballots and carry those back to their respective districts.

The EC spokesman, Khairuzzaman Chowdhury, additional secretary at the EC

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BNP candidate Kh Mahbub, 34 others get bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-five people including Advocate Khondaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, BNP candidate for Dhaka-9 JS seat, were granted bail in two criminal cases yesterday.

The court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Biman Bihari Barua, granted them bail upon a bond of Tk 5,000 each with two guarantors.

Mahbubuddin Ahmed and others along with their lawyers appeared before the court and prayed for bail.

The prosecution side opposed the petitions. After hearing both the sides, the court granted them bail.

The two cases were filed against Advocate Mahbub and others with Mohammadpur thana on Saturday on charges of ransacking election camp and assaulting supporters of Alhaj Mockbul Hossain, AL candidate for the same seat.

Earlier on Sunday Alhaj Mockbul Hossain and 54 people, were granted bail in two criminal cases, filed by BNP.

Police defy home ministry order

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite orders from the home ministry, police did not turn up for removal of illegal structures from Shahinbagh residential area at Tejgaon owned by the Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB), sources said.

Following the ministry's orders, CAAB contacted Tejgaon police, who assured of taking part in the drive on Friday. CAAB officials went to the area with bulldozer but for unknown reasons police did not turn up, they said.

The civil aviation ministry had earlier requested the home ministry to take necessary steps for removal of illegal structures from the area.

There are 15 four storied buildings on the land owned by CAAB. Some people illegally set up over 200 shanties and more than 100 small shops there and rented those to others. They have kept that place

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Who is Laden, how does he operate from hideout?

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Harun ur Rashid

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The chiefs in the fray in Khulna and Not a cakewalk this time for SQC in Ctg.

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WB-BB asset securitisation programme begins in city today

WTO likely to postpone Nov Qatar summit: Supachai

DSE, CSE price quotations

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Sept 25		5-52 pm
Sept 26	5-48 am	

Prayer Timings

	Azan	Jamaat
Sept 25		
Fajr	4-45	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-00	6-06
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		



Preparation for war amidst call for peace... British nuclear submarine Trafalgar (left) cruises through the Suez Canal yesterday to join military manoeuvres in the Gulf as US prepares to retaliate for the terrorist strikes in New York and Washington on September 11. In New York on Sunday there was the "Prayer for America" memorial service for the victims of the World Trade Centre attack (R) while more than a hundred peace activists of a Christian forum brought out a rally in Calcutta yesterday to express concern at the rise of hostilities against Muslims.



415 out of 463 UZs are trouble-prone

64 most vulnerable, says home ministry

NAZRUL ISLAM

The home ministry has labelled 415 of the 463 upazilas trouble-prone, of them 64 most vulnerable.

Moreover, 64 thanas out of 70 in the metropolitan areas have been identified as most vulnerable.

The seriously vulnerable upazilas and thanas total 50 constituencies out of total 300. The list was based on intelligence reports gathered from across the country ahead of the October 1 general election.

A draft plan has already been prepared to deploy the security personnel at the polling stations categorised as most vulnerable, vulnerable, less vulnerable and non-vulnerable.

Amid mounting violence, officials in the Election Commission anticipate more cautious measures to ward off disturbance during, prior to and after the election across the country. The army deployment in all districts

began on September 22 to ensure a peaceful atmosphere during the election.

According to the plan, 15 security personnel including three members of the police with arms, one armed Ansar and 11 members of the Ansar with lathi will be deployed at the vulnerable centres in the country's four metropolitan cities.

In the most trouble-torn centres, five more police personnel equipped with arms and an unspecified number of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel will also be deployed in addition.

The metropolitan cities apart, the security personnel in the vulnerable centres will comprise one member of the police and three Ansars equipped with arms, and ten members of the Ansar including four female ones with lathi.

With the security forces, armed members of the Ansar

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Long-term programme needed to develop skilled manpower

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has to develop skilled manpower under a long-term programme to cater to the needs of future job markets abroad and to tap the economic benefit from this for nation building.

Over three million Bangladeshis working abroad remit nearly two billion dollars annually. This is the single largest source of foreign currency for Bangladesh.

This was observed by discussants at a workshop on 'Strategy for Streamlining Recruitment Process of Overseas Employment in Bangladesh,' in the city yesterday.

They called for early remedy to all sorts of harassment faced by the migrant workers and keeping track of the latest trends in the world job markets.

Advisor for Law, Justice, and Parliamentary Affairs, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed inaugurated the workshop, held at CIRDAP auditorium.

It was jointly organised by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET), Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA) and Refugee and Migratory Movements Research

Unit (RMMRU).

Barrister Ishtiaq apart, three other advisors of the caretaker government Rokia Afzal Rahman, Abdul Muid Chowdhury and M Hafiz Uddin Khan took part in the workshop. It was split into four working sessions dwelling on issues like recruitment process, strengthening institutional framework, media campaign and migrants' interest.

Eminent economists Prof Rehman Sobhan and Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, academics, researchers, repatriated migrant workers and representatives of

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BB governor links hundi money to smuggling of arms, drugs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Money transacted through *hundi* is used to sponsor smuggling of illegal arms, drugs and pornographic movies into the country, Bangladesh Bank Governor Dr Mohammad Farashuddin told a workshop in the city yesterday.

However, he produced some statistics that showed scope of *hundi* had been substantially reduced over the last three years due to stringent government measures against illegal money transfer.

"As a result of the crusade against *hundi*, volume of remittance

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Parties patronise terrorism: Ishtiaq

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Advisor of the caretaker government Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed yesterday blamed the political parties for patronising terrorism over the years and also for ongoing political violence across the country.

"Over the last 15 to 10 years they have patronised terrorism and now they are asking us to free the country from terrorism and illegal arms in three months. What have they done while they were in power for five years?" he said.

Barrister Ishtiaq, in charge of law, justice and parliamentary affairs, civil aviation and tourism ministries, was speaking as chief guest at a workshop on "Strategy Streamlining Recruitment Process of Overseas Employment in Bangladesh" in the city yesterday.

The caretaker government has done everything possible within a short period of time, he said, adding that terrorist activities "have been reduced to some extent" but the country could not be freed from illegal arms.

The caretaker government has deployed army as an alternative but the violence is yet to be stopped, he said.

Barrister Ishtiaq blamed the political parties for the ongoing violence and said, "The terrorists are there amongst them. There is, of course, an alternative for stopping the violence, but who will then tackle the political situation."

Amendment to Dock Workers Act '80 okayed

UNB, Dhaka

The Council of Advisors at a meeting here yesterday endorsed the proposal for amending the Dock Workers (Appointment-Control) Act, 1980.

Chaired by Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman at his office, the meeting approved in principle the proposals to enact Money Laundering Act, and simplification of the provisions/rules regarding pension grant and payment for civilian government service-men.

Members of the Council of Advisors, Cabinet Secretary and other officials concerned attended the meeting, said a release.



Soldiers get a briefing on the polling centres in the Dhaka University area (right), patrol the Nawabpur Road (left), and inspect designated polling centres at two schools in the city's Gandaria and Nawabpur areas yesterday. Some 55,000 officers and troops have been deployed across the country to help the civil administration maintain law and order in the run-up to the October 1 general election.

Hartal in Bagerhat: 30 injured as BNP, AL activists clash

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

At least 30 people were injured as activists of Awami League and BNP clashed in different areas of Mollahat during the half-day hartal in Bagerhat district yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the rival groups exploded crackers indiscriminately during the clashes. Several houses of BNP leaders at Mollahat and Fakirhat were also ransacked, police said.

Awami League called the hartal protesting the bomb explosions at its election meeting at KR College playground at Mollahat on Sunday,

in which eight people were killed and over 30 injured.

In a backlash to the incident, almost seventy per cent of election camps of fourparty alliance in Bagerhat-1 constituency (Fakirhat-Mollahat-Chitalmari) were destroyed allegedly by activists and armed cadres of Awami League on Sunday night and during the hartal hours yesterday.

Normal life was completely paralysed as transport services remained suspended and shops closed. Panic gripped the entire district comprising four parliamentary constituencies in nine upazillas.

Awami league and all its front organisations brought out processions at Bagerhat town and in other areas, chanting slogans against four-party alliance candidates and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

Sources said "provocative" slogans were raised from the processions but there was no violence as their opponents were off the roads.

An uneasy calm prevailed till 2 pm yesterday at Mollahat and neighbouring upazillas under Bagerhat-1 and 2 constituencies from where AL candidate Sheikh

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