

NEWS SNAPS

Jamaat-Shibir activists with gun arrested

UNB, *Bagerhat*
Awami League workers caught three Jamaat and Shibir activists from near Juba League office here along with a pipe gun and handed them over to police on Monday.
The Awami League activists said they caught the trio as they came in a car to kill Sramik League district unit general secretary Rezaur Rahman Montu. They also damaged the car. Meanwhile, Jamaat claimed that they were going to Islami Bank in the car and then handed over to police with a firearm they did not carry.

Identified terrorist nabbed

BHOLA, *UNB*
Members of the armed forces arrested an identified terrorist and recovered six firearms along with huge ammunition from a house at Bhabanipur in Daulatkhan upazila on Monday.
Police said the 17-member army team led by Major Zia raided the house of Bazlu Mia and arrested Imam Hossain, 25, a notorious pirate, and recovered six pipe-guns, 31 rounds of bullet, huge bombs, 10 weapons and four hockysticks.

10 hurt in Rangpur bomb blast incident

UNB, *Rangpur*
At least 10 people were injured in twin-bomb explosions at an election meeting of Awami League at Haragach High School ground in Kaunia upazila on Tuesday night.
Witnesses said two bombs went off one after another near the dais just when Awami League candidate Tipu Munshi, contesting election from Pirgacha-Kaunia constituency, rose to make his speech at about 9 pm. One of the injured is Awami League's Haragach Municipality unit President Mozaffar Hossain, 30. Protesting the bomb attack, Awami League brought out a procession demanding exemplary punishment of those involved in bombing their meeting. "Army personnel and policemen rushed to the scene soon after the explosions," the DC told.

Two factions of BNP clash: 2 hurt

UNB, *Barisal*
Two people were injured in a clash between two factions of BNP in Alakanda area of the town Monday.
Witnesses said the clash took place as some BNP activists were playing carom in an election camp instead of joining a procession. They said six houses and two shops were also ransacked during the fight.

Comilla BNP activist held

UNB, *Comilla*
ABNP activist wanted in a case under the Public Safety Act was arrested early Sunday.
The arrested was identified as Mizanur Rahman, son of Sadiqur Rahman of village Hossainpur in Sadar upazila. Following his confessional statement, police later recovered a foreign-made single barrel gun from the kitchen of Abul Kashem Chowdhury at nearby Noagram village. Another report from Magura adds: Police arrested a listed terrorist, Mintu Chowdhury, from his Barisat village home in Sripur upazila on Sept 20. He was wanted in a number of criminal cases.

Complaint lodged against AL candidate

UNB, *Shariatpur*
A complaint was lodged with the returning officer against AL candidate and former minister Abdur Razzak for violating the election code of conduct.
Shahiqur Rahman Kiron, a four-party candidate from Shariatpur-3, alleged that the AL leader violated the election laws through wall writings and erecting arches. He also alleged that the AL workers were pressing the local voters to cast votes in favour of boat and sought the intervention of the district administration.

Views exchange meeting in Laxmipur

UNB, *Laxmipur*
A views exchange meeting was held at Deputy Commissioner's conference room here for holding the ensuing general elections in a free and fair manner.
Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong AK Shamsul Haq presided over the meeting attended by a cross section of people, including DC MM Zahurul Islam, SP SM Sazzat Ali, government officers, UP and municipality chairmen and journalists. The meeting held threadbare discussion on the duties of the UP and municipality chairmen, army, and vulnerable centres, arrest of identified terrorists and suspension of polling centres if necessary. Divisional Commissioner, in his speech, laid stress on the impartial role of administration, police and army and sought allout cooperation from all to hold the election peacefully.

Training programme for poll observers

UNB, *Khulna*
A training programme for election observers was held at the BMA auditorium here Tuesday.
Over 80 election observers, mostly women, took part in the training programme organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Coordination Council. Of them, 76 will monitor elections in 76 polling centres under Khulna-3 on October 1. Officials of the human rights organisation said they have decided to send poll observers across the country to monitor the national election.

Training on election management

BSS, *Jamalpur*
A training course on 'Election Management' was held at Circuit House here recently.
All the Upazila Nirbahi Officers, Assistant Commissioners (Land), Magistrates, Officers-in-charge of police stations, Additional and Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASP) Additional Deputy Commissioners, Additional District Magistrate participated in the training course. The election office sources said, DC, SP and district election officer conducted the course. The training also reviewed the law and order situation of the district. It may be noted that 25 candidates would contest for five seats of national assembly in the district. The numbers of total voters are 13,72,782 including 6,72,938 women.

1,361 polling centres in Sylhet 'vulnerable'

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

As many as 1,361 polling centres out of 2,283 have been marked vulnerable in four districts of Sylhet division, official sources informed.

The vulnerable centres had been marked in four categories extremely vulnerable, most vulnerable, highly vulnerable and vulnerable, the source added. Considering the nature of the centres, measures in advance will be taken to maintain proper voting atmosphere, said an official.

Of the total, 273 are most vulnerable while the number of highly vulnerable centres is 494 and the number of vulnerable is 594. With a view to maintaining the law and order in the polling centres as well as in other places, the administrative officials met with the political and social leaders at upazila levels to exchange views.

The district-wise number of polling centres include, 679 in the district of Sylhet, 602 in Sunamganj, 428 in Moulvibazar and 574 in Habiganj district. Among the district the higher number of 198 extremely vulnerable centres is in Sylhet district while there are 54 extremely vulnerable centres in Sunamganj and the number is 21 in Habiganj. But, in Moulvibazar there is not such centres, the official informed. In Sylhet district, the number of highly vulnerable centres is 202 and the number of vulnerable centres is 175 and the number of less vulnerable centres is 104. In Moulvibazar, there are 147 highly vulnerable centres, 85 vulnerable centres and 196 less vulnerable centres. The number of highly vulnerable centres in Sunamganj is 65 and 258 vulnerable centres while 221 are less

CHT people won't accept elections results: Larma

UNB, Khagrachhari

Tribal leader Santu Larma forewarned that people of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) would not accept whatever the results of October 1 parliamentary elections are.

"The hopes and aspirations of the people of CHT are not reflected in this polls," he said talking to reporters at the local Circuit House Monday morning, barely a week before the national elections.

The leader of PCJSS and Chairman of CHT regional Council, however, said his people had no intentions of applying force on the people to resist the election in the hill area.

"We have urged to resist and boycott the polls because our various demands, including fresh voters list based on permanent residency," have not been fulfilled.

Jyotirindra Bodhipriya Larma, popularly known as Santu Larma, alleged that the past Awami League government did not implement the Peace Agreement or fulfill their demands. He said the caretaker government also paid no heed to their legitimate demands.

He observed certain groups are spreading misleading propaganda. "All we are doing is motivating the people and have no intention of applying force."

Referring to recent incidents of killings in the hills Santu Larma refuted any connection of his party with those. He, however, said the incidents were happening because of resentment over non-implementation of the Peace Accord.

Santu Larma also criticised the past three members of parliament elected from the three hill districts of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban for failing to come up to the hopes and aspirations of the hill people during their tenure.

He accused them of looking into their personal gains and not into the problems of the people of their constituencies.

Bhola situation worsening

UNB, Bhola

The situation in trouble torn Bhola that witnessed 11 political murders since the caretaker government took over is worsening with the poll date nearing.

At the fall of night people hardly come out of home for fear of explosion of bombs in different parts of the town, which has become a regular feature, said a resident in the heart of the town.

Most of those engaged in terrorist activities are believed outsiders. Some doubt that about 200 terrorists hired from outside, including the cadres of Kana Jahangir and Tokai Sagar from Dhaka, are active in different parts of the district, said a number of residents requesting anonymity.

Awami League and BNP fought a gun battle on September 12 in presence of BDR and barely 100 yards away from the thana.

After deployment of army on September 17, a sense of relief prevailed among the people. But the situation changed within a couple of days. Armed cardres were activated to destabilise the situation.

Smugglers gear up activities before election

UNB, Naogaon

With the administration turning eyes to election activities, smugglers aided by a section of BDR and police have geared up smuggling of Indian goods, including firearms, through Damoirhat frontier.

Taking advantage of the election mood, the bootleggers are taking Indian firearms, ammunition and explosives into the country apart from sugar, salt, spare parts and phensidyl.

Some dishonest border guards and police have joined hands with the smugglers despite a stern warning by the Chief Advisor here on August 27.

"Small arms are being smuggled more than any other items as its demand is now high in the country due to the coming election," said a smuggler who would not disclose his name.

Police said the firearms so far recovered during the countrywide arms recovery drive are mostly Indian.

Meanwhile, BDR in surprise drives in Damoirhat and Patritola upazilas recovered 1,245 bags of Indian sugar.



PHOTO: STAR

Brigadier (ret) M A Malik, adviser of the caretaker government speaks as the chief guest at a seminar on Saturday on 'Free, Fair and Neutral Election: Nation's Aspiration' which was organised by Bangladesh Human Rights Bureau at Sylhet District Bar Association building.

Khisha seeks vote to establish people's right

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khagrachhari

Prosit Bikash Khisha, candidate of the United People's Democratic Front (UPDF), on Tuesday urged the hill people to vote for his party to establish their socio-economic rights and preserve their culture and traditions.

Khisha, also the UPDF chief, was addressing a huge projection rally at Swanirbhar Bazaar of the district headquarters amid tight security.

He urged people from all walks of life to get united under the UPDF umbrella to establish full autonomy in the hill tracts region.

Khisha, who went underground six years ago, said an uneasy calm has long been prevailing in the hill tracts and hill people want to get out of this situation behind them.

Khisha was critical of the Parbattya Chattagram Jono Songhoti Samity (PCJSS), alleging that it was upsetting the environment in the hill district on the pretext of boycotting the election.

He also alleged that the PCJSS activists have so far killed three UPDF leaders and engaged in abducting his colleagues.

Khisha said the PCJSS wants to establish their supremacy by spilling blood and creating anarchy. He called upon the PCJSS leaders to give up the path of violence to hang on to power and wage a street movement of self-reliance.

Presided over by UPDF leader Kiron Marma, the rally was, among others, addressed by UPDF leaders Sanchoy Chakma, Kabita Chakma, Elira Chakma, Borendro Lal Tripura, Manosh Chowdhury, Sayeda Gulrukh Dipti and Shankor Chakma.

