

NEWS SNAPS

Tribal youth succumbs to injuries

UNB, Khagrachhari
A tribal youth, who was wounded by bullet in Wednesday's election violence at Dighinala, succumbed to his injuries on Friday.
Kalo Bikash Chakma, 23, a supporter of United Peoples Democratic Front candidate Prasit Khisa, died on way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.
With this, the death toll rose to two in the incident took place at Pukurghat village. One Kitu Gula Chakma was killed while four others were injured in the attack.
UPDF blamed Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) for the attack.

Rajshahi situation remains volatile

UNB, Rajshahi
Deployment of army could not stop political violence in the district. The situation in different constituencies still remains volatile.
Some 30 people were injured, five by bullets, in a series of clashes between the activists of Awami League and BNP in Durgapur upazila on Tuesday and Wednesday. Bullet-wounded Mainul, 25, Anisur Rahman, 14, Naz Nabi, 25, Abdul Khaleq, 22 and Kismat, 25, were admitted to the upazila health complex. The clashes took place at Polashbari and Amgachhi villages. One mishuk and a motorbike used for BNP election campaign were damaged during the clash. Meanwhile, an election camp of Awami League at Meherchandi in the city was set ablaze allegedly by BNP supporters Wednesday morning.

A victim of political vengeance

UNB, Magura
She was never involved in politics. But she had to suffer cruelty of political vengeance.
Archana Rani, 22, was picked up and tortured at village Chandpur in Sadar upazila on Sunday only because of her brother's allegiance to a political party. The terrorists stabbed her mercilessly and even beat up her mother Durgarani as she tried to save her daughter. Both Durga and Archana were admitted to Sadar Hospital. According to family sources the attackers, Tabbar, Sabur, Abul Sheikh, Badar, Habib and Mannan are known as BNP cadres. They said the hoodlums actually wanted to kidnap Archana's brother Amores, an Awami League activist. Failing to get him, they took away Archana in broad daylight. A case was filed with Sadar thana.

30 hurt as Jamaat motorcade attacked

UNB, Khulna
Some 30 people were injured in an attack on the motorcade of Jamaat-e-Islami allegedly by Awami League supporters in Fultola upazila on Friday.
Witnesses said the Awami Leaguemen attacked several minibuses carrying the Jamaat supporters at Dhopakhola in Fultola-Shahapur road while going to join an election meeting. Of the injured, 12 were admitted to upazila health complex. Local Jamaat leaders at a press conference demanded arrest and punishment of the people involved in the attack. The alleged that the attack was led by UP chairman Salam.

Abandoned bomb recovered

UNB, Tangail
An abandoned bomb that caused panic among locals were recovered from Fatepur Bazar in Mirjapur upazila Thursday.
On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the eight-inch bomb. Local Awami League and BNP leaders blamed each other for planting the bomb in the area where an election rally of BNP candidate Abul Kalam Azad Siddiqui was supposed to be held Wednesday. Another meeting of AL candidate Ekabber Hossain was scheduled for Friday at the same venue.

Newsmen's procession in Bogra

UNB, Bogra
Local newsmen brought out a procession in the town Thursday demanding immediate removal of Deputy Commissioner Safiz Uddin and ADC (General) Abdur Sabur.
They broughtout the procession under the banner of Journalists' Rights Protection Committee accusing the DC and the ADC of non-cooperation with them.
The processionists paraded the main thoroughfares of the town and held a rally at Satmatha where they burnt the effigies of the DC and the ADC.

Women's rally to motivate female voters

UNB, Nababganj (Dhaka)
A women's rally was held at the Dohar-Nababganj College auditorium Tuesday urging the female voters to shake off their shyness and exercise their franchise in the coming election.
Organised by divisional Information Office, the rally was presided over by its deputy director MA Halim. It was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner M Abdul Aziz, Police Super M Khoda Baksh, Captain Rafiqul Amin, DC's wife Begum Rehana Aziz and SP's wife Foizunnesa Begum. Several hundred women took part in the rally that expressed satisfaction over the security measures taken by the government to ensure the safety of voters. The meeting hoped that the turnout of female voters would be much higher than ever before.

Candidates violating poll code of conduct

UNB, Gazipur
Despite warning by the Election Commission, candidates of different political parties are violating the election code of conduct in all constituencies of the district.
Almost all the candidates are using big banners, multi-colour posters, creating arches and hanging symbols larger than allowed size in defiance of the election laws. Allegations are also there that the candidates are using more than one mikes at a time in their electioneering. Repeated written warnings to the political parties by local administration fell into deaf ears.



Electioneering for Monday's parliamentary polls ended at midnight Saturday night amidst hectic campaign by political parties and candidates. (Left) BNP leader Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury is seen addressing such an election meeting held earlier at Jalalpur in Sylhet-3 constituency in favour of a party candidate while (Right) in Naogaon-5 constituency the supporters of an Awami League candidate engaged in a last minute campaigning in favour of their candidate.

Acid attack on political rival's daughter

UNB, Jessore
Political rivalry did not even spare a teenage girl from the brutality of terrorists at Bangda village in Jikargachha upazila.
Schoolgirl Muslima Khatun, 13, daughter of Jul Hossain of the village, suffered burn injuries in her face in an acid attack by his father's political rivals.
According to a delayed report, "Awami terrorists" beat up Jamaat activist Jul Hossain for participating in a four-party alliance meeting on September 9.
Hossain filed a case against six terrorists later on the day and police arrested Arab Ali Khokan at night in this connection. Angered by filing of the case, the terrorists threw acid at his daughter Muslima.
Hossain filed another case against Bikash, Sumon, Taidul, Minto, Safdul, Alamgir and Kauchher with the local police station.
The ill-fated girl was being treated at sadar hospital, where doctors advised the guardians to send her to Dhaka for better treatment.

Workshop on empowerment of women

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Speakers in a three-day long workshop on the "Empowerment of Women for Development and Stability" have stressed the need of proper education for the empowerment of women.
Jointly organised by Institutional Development for Human Rights in Bangladesh (IDHRB), the Ministry of Law, Justice, Parliamentary Affairs, Centre for Rights and Development (CRD) and UNDP the workshop was held at the BRAC auditorium in which Vice-Chancellor of Rajshahi University Prof Sayeedur Rahman Khan attended as the chief guest.

Revitalise sick industries, demand Khulna voters

BSS, Khulna
Most of the voters of Khulna-3 constituency situated in the industrial belt of Khalishpur and Daulatpur have demanded immediate revitalisation of sick industries.
Both Awami League and the four-party alliance candidates have been requested by the voters to save the decaying, jute and other industries as most of the people of the region are directly or indirectly involved with those industries for maintaining their livelihoods.
Voters of Khalishpur, Daulatpur, Phulbari Gate and other parts of Khanijahan Ali thana termed degradation of Khulna industries as their "number one problem." Hundreds of workers and employees lost their jobs in the last decade due to either heavy loss in industries or closure of those.
Former MP Kazi Sekandar Ali Dalim of Awami League and labour leader Ashraf Hussain from BNP are the main contenders in the seat, sources close to the candidate said.
A labourer of a jute mill Monwar Hossain said one of his colleague, who recently died, returned home empty handed after 30 years of his service in a jute mill of the region.
"Jute industries lost international markets due to wrong policies adopted by the past governments, but owners of these industries grabbed crores of money from banks showing the loss," said Feroz Ahmed, a leftist labour leader.
Basically these industries were the economic backbone of Khulna, but all the industries are now on verge of extinction, said Hasan Tareq, a voter. "The latest casualties are Newsprint Mill and Hardboard Mill," he said.

Bad days for weavers of Cox's Bazar

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar
Thousands of weavers of Cox's Bazar Sadar, Ramu, Moheskhali and Chokoria upazilas have been facing a tough time due to closure of a number of handloom units of the region.
Most of the handloom units of the areas were closed down due to lack of working capital and low demand of the handloom items. The handloom units, which are being run by some of the weavers, are also remaining closed for a number of reasons. Some weavers, while talking to The Daily Star, during a visit to the area, said the handloom units of the area were mostly affected by the devastating cyclone in 1991 and 1997.
The weavers of the area incurred huge losses during the time and were unable to run their units further, they said.
Moreover, higher cost of production due to price hike of yarn and non-availability of dyeing chemicals and weaving materials also contributed to the closure of the handloom units. Some officials of the Bangladesh Handloom Board, which has recently launched a new project for reviving the handloom units in the area, said the handloom industries have tremendous potential to produce quality fabric and if the weavers are provided with necessary inputs and expertise, the products would be able to capture even a large market in USA, Europe and Russia.
The weavers of the area have been in this occupation for about 40 years and meeting the requirement of huge amount of fabric in the country, but due to lack of mere attention to this sector, the weavers are now at stake, the officials said.
They also alleged that the Handloom Board of the government, which is supposed to provide the weavers with financial, technical and marketing facilities, is doing nothing in the area.
Identifying the marketing of handloom products as the most important problem, the officials said in most cases the weavers were being deprived of fair prices due to the exploitation by the middlemen.
Besides, non-availability of new designs and quality dying materials squeezed their market over the years, they said.
Some of the officials felt that efforts should be made to reduce the cost of production of the handloom items since the market has become more competitive due to frequent import and smuggling of low priced Indian products. The government should also make massive efforts to stop smuggling of Indian products specially saree and bed sheet, which is available in the market at a very low price, they observed.

Preparations completed for holding peaceful polls

BSS, Barisal
Preparations for holding the Jatiya Sangsad election on October 1 have already been completed here in six southern districts in Barisal division.
According to Divisional Election Commissioner's office sources, ballot boxes, ballot papers, posters, leaflets and other election related materials have already been sent to the Assistant returning officers of the district to ensure free, fair and impartial elections in a peaceful atmosphere this year.
Besides, military, BDR, police, coast-guard, Ansar and VDP members have been kept ready for maintenance of law and order situations around and inside the election centres.
The election procedures will be closed down if clashes and rigging start at any centre of the districts.
A total of 24,624 ballot boxes were sent to the Assistant Returning Officers and it will be distributed among the presiding officers on Sunday.
A total of 10,337 booths were sent in 1,975 centres of this division this year. Some 50,90,621 voters including 24,65,791 women will exercise their franchises in this election.
A total of 137 candidates have been contesting in the poll at 23 constituencies of the districts.

Alliance candidate sued

UNB, Narail
Islam has directed the Sadar thana OC to investigate into the matter.
A case has been filed against four-party alliance candidate Mufti Shahidul Islam for allegedly hurting the religious sentiment of Muslims.
Local Awami Leader Adv Golam Nabi, also general secretary of district Bar Association, filed the case with the Magistrate Court under section 396 of the penal code on September 11.
In his case, the AL leader alleged that Islami Okiya Jote leader Mufti Shahidul, a candidate from Narail-2, hurt the religious sentiment of the Muslims speaking against Islam.
He alleged that Mufti Shahidul told in an election meeting at Tularampur in sadar upazila on September 10 that if any body hears his sermon (boyan) he or she does not need to go to Kaba Sharif in Makkah.
He also reportedly threatened the minority Hindu community that they would be forced to leave the country if they do not vote for him.
Meanwhile, Magistrate Sabirul

4,361 voters will cast votes in Dahagram, Angorpota

UNB, Lalmonirhat
All preparations have been completed so that the voters of Dahagram-Angorpota enclave here can cast their votes in the upcoming general election.
A total of 4,361 voters will cast their votes at three centres Aragi Khoribari Government Primary School centre in Dahagram union, Bongerbari Government Primary School and Syederhat Government Primary School centres in the October 1 election.