

Peaceful polling held in city



PHOTO: STAR

Women belonging to the Hindu community queuing up to exercise their right to franchise at a voting centre at city's Hazaribagh area.



PHOTO: STAR

Citizens wishing to make an early start queuing up at a polling centre at Haricharan Roy Road at Sutrapur at 7.30 in the morning, all polling centres officially opened at 8 in the morning.



PHOTO: STAR

Army personnel making a round to keep order at a long queue of voters at the Bangshal Government Primary School centre.



PHOTO: STAR

Army personnel helping a handicapped man at a centre in Old Dhaka.



PHOTO: STAR

Turnout of women at the polls was relatively higher this year than previous ones. Picture shows women waiting with their little ones in their arms in long queues at Fatullah under Narayanganj district.



PHOTO: STAR

Voters wait patiently in long queues at a polling centre under Sutrapur thana in the morning.



PHOTO: STAR

An army personnel smiles during an exchange of words with voters in a queue at a polling centre at Baghbazar.

No untoward incident in Khulna-2, 3

QUAZI AMANULLAH, *Khulna*

No untoward incident took place in any of the 182 polling centres in Khulna-2 and 3 constituencies comprising Khulna city and adjoining areas.

However, there were allegations of rigging in 13 polling centres in these two constituencies. Most of the false voters were women, polling agents of both Awami League and four-party alliance said.

Also, women outnumbered male voters in most of the polling centres. The average turnout of voters was higher than in all previous national elections, according to the Returning Officer.

He also said casting of vote by members of the minority community was higher than in all previous national elections.

Minority voters, both male and

female, turned up in different polling centres in large numbers, as the security measures were tight, said Shyamal Halder, Vice President of Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad.

In Khulna-2 (Sadar-Sonadanga), BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is contesting against six candidates including Khulna city Awami League president Manjurul Imam.

Candidates of four-party and AL in Khulna-3 said polling was free and fair, but some false votes were cast at some centres.

Agents of four-party caught four people red-handed while they were casting false votes in Labonchora and Station Road centres in Khulna-2.

One Rezaul Karim of Gopalganj district was arrested for impersonating a FEMAs polls observer.

Polling postponed at 11 centres in Ctg

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, ABDULLAH - AL MAHMUD AND ATAUL GANI, *Chittagong*

The voting in the Chittagong district was peaceful barring some sporadic incidents of violence in four vulnerable constituencies where polling was postponed in eleven centres.

Of the eleven centers, three are in Satkania (Chittagong-14), two each in Chandnaish (Ctg-13), Fatikchhari (Ctg-4), Rangunia (Ctg-7) and Rauzan (Ctg-6).

However, no irregularities were reported from most of the over 1500 centres across the district.

A total of 20 troublemakers were arrested in connection with these incidents and two firearms were recovered during the polling hours.

Of the arrested, five shibir activists were held with one country-made gun from Satkania Alia Madrassah polling centre while an AL activist with a sawn-off gun. A BNP activist was also arrested from Rauzan.

In a clash between the supporters of BNP and Awami League, a polling agent of four-party alliance received bullet wounds at Bauria High School centre in Sandwip at around 10 am.

A minor boy was injured when a cocktail exploded near a polling centre at Jail Road in the city at 9.30 am.

Exchange of fire between BNP and AL supporters and snatching of ballot box prompted the authorities to postpone the voting at Afzal Shikder Rahmania Primary School at Madhyam Hashimpur union in Chandanaish.

As both the groups exchanged fire for about 15 minutes, presiding officer Abidul Islam postponed the polling at the centre at around 11 am. One of the ballot boxes was snatched away by armed miscreants from this centre. Out of 2668 votes, only 200 votes were cast.

A gunfight between the BNP and AL also took place at Uttar (North) Kaliyaisa Forkania Madrassah centre in Chandanaish at around 1 pm. As a result, the polling was

postponed there.

Armed supporters of one candidate looted 50 ballot papers and a seal from the Deodighi KM High School centre of Aeoehia union in Satkania. The incident forced presiding officer Rawshan Ali Chowdhury to stop voting at 1.35 pm. Eighteen hundred votes, out of 2888, were cast there.

Polling was postponed at Shahid Jamal Primary School centre at Aeoehia in Satkania at 11 am after an exchange of fire between Awami League and Jamaat activists for half an hour.

Aventis Pharma Relaunches some products

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Aventis Pharma, Bangladesh, re-launched some of the well-known pharmaceutical products of Hoechst Marion Roussel (HMR) at a ceremony at a city hotel on Friday.

"We are pleased to reintroduce HMR products like Roxit, Lasix, Frisium, Avil, Novalgin injection, Trental and Daonil. For a long time since closing of the HMR factory at Chittagong, we could not make the products available," said A K M Shamsuddin, Managing Director of Aventis Pharma.

National Professor M R Khan formally inaugurated the ceremony. He said that the products are time-tested and they are some of the best options for treatment.