

NEWS SNAPS

Polling goes on peacefully in Barisal

BSS, Barisal
Polling started in Barisal district at 8 am on Monday in all 475 centres of the district. Voters were seen lined up at polling stations much ahead of starting time of polling. About 50 per cent of the total voters queued within 9 am to cast their votes. Besides, the voters were seen pouring in the polling stations defying rains that started from the morning. Polling will continue till 4 pm. Polling is going on peacefully at all the centres. When contacted polling officials said that polling is progressing peacefully at all the centres. Eyewitnesses said balloting was a bit hampered by rains at some rural areas of this district.

30 arrested for violating code of conduct

UNB, Sherpur
Army personnel arrested 30 activists of BNP and Krisak-Sramik Janata League from various places in Nakla upazila on Saturday night on charges of violating electoral code of conduct.

Police said a patrol team of army nabbed 26 people, including Talki UP Chairman Khorshed Alam, from a meeting of BNP in Baroikandi area at about 1 am while four people belonging to Janata League from a meeting in Mawra area at about 1:30 am. They said the meetings were being held violating the midnight deadline. Later the arrested were sent to the court, police said.

Sramik Dal leader Nazrul Islam Khan claimed that BNP activists did not violate electoral code of conduct, but they were rounded up just to harass them while Janata League candidate Shafiqul Islam alleged that his supporters were arrested while returning home.

One held for threatening minority voters

UNB, Narail
One person was arrested from Chandpur village in Sahabad union of Sadar upazila on charge of threatening the minority voters of Narayanpur village on Wednesday.

Police said a gang of 17 terrorists led by Mahmud Hasan and Haider Ali raided Narayanpur village and threatened the minority voters to refrain from going to polling centres to cast their votes. Police arrested Haider Ali and a case was filed in this connection.

Two alleged terrorists arrested

UNB, Jamalpur
Police aided by army personnel arrested two alleged terrorists along with a sophisticated pistol and two bullets from in front of Jamuna Fertilizer Company in Sarishabari upazila early Sunday.

The arrested were identified as Mizanur Rahman, son of Shamsuddin and Zahurul Haque, son of late Bahazuddin. A joint team of police and army challenged three youths riding on a motorbike at about 3am and arrested two of them with the pistol. The third youth, however, managed to flee from there.

Two workers killed in accident

UNB, Jhenidah

Two workers of a construction company were killed in an accident at Grid Station (Powerhouse) in the town on Sunday.

The victims were identified as Abdul Halim and Waziullah, workers of BEL construction company.

Witnesses said the two workers were critically injured when they fell down from the rooftop of the under construction powerhouse.

They were rushed to sadar hospital where the attending doctors pronounced them dead.

Nine terrorists held: Revolver recovered

UNB, Chandpur

Police and army, in a joint raid, arrested 19 terrorists and recovered a revolver from Mollob and Kochua upazilas on Friday.

On information, the joint force raided Pachani, Mohonpur and Badarpur villages in Mollob upazila on early Friday and arrested professional terrorists Lenin, Dalim, Mohammadullah, Shahadat, Kausar, Babar Ali, Alim, Iqbal, Amzad Hossain, Abdus Salam, Habib, Amin Khan, Zahir Hossain, Sadequul Hossain, Khairul and Ashanto Ghosh. It is learnt that the terrorists, wanted in a number of cases, were hired from Dhaka to create instability in the polling centres during the election. Meanwhile, the army personnel, in a raid, recovered a revolver from a coach on Chandpur-Comilla road.

Mutilated body recovered

UNB, Faridpur

Police recovered one mutilated body from the river Kumar on Sunday rising the death toll to four.

Earlier police recovered three unidentified bodies from the same river on Saturday. Police said the bodies, mostly mutilated and believed to have been killed five to six days back, were seen floating on the river near the town. The bodies were sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Cox's Bazar newsman, wife stabbed by terrorists

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Muhammad Ali Zinnat, district correspondent of Daily Bhorer Kagoj, and his wife were stabbed by a gang of terrorists who attacked their house early Sunday.

Family sources said the armed terrorists stormed into the house of Zinnat, also general secretary of Cox's Bazar Reporters' Unity, at about 3 am in an attempt to abduct him.

When the wife of Zinnat tried to resist the abduction attempt, the attackers stabbed both of them indiscriminately. They were rushed to Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Police visited the spot, but could not yet arrest anyone.



PHOTO: AKHTERUZZAMAN BABLU

An overloaded truck carrying sugarcane and people passes by the Sirajganj Road crossing along Dinajpur-Dhaka highway before the very nose of police personnel. A police van is seen following the truck, but policemen on board the van do not bother to stop the truck which violated traffic rules by carrying goods and passengers beyond its capacity. Road accident is a regular feature along this highway. But the authorities concerned did not take effective measures till now to prevent continued road mishaps which claim lots of valuable lives every year.

Lakhs suffer from malnutrition in Kishoreganj, Gopalganj

A large number of people in Kishoreganj and Gopalganj districts are suffering from malnutrition.

UNB reports from Kishoreganj: A large number of people mostly children in all the 13 upazilas of the district are suffering from malnutrition.

According to a survey conducted by an NGO, about two lakh children of 107 unions of Katiadi, Itna, Austagram, Nikli, Mitamain, Karimganj, Bajitpur, Bhairab, Tarail, Pakundia, Hossainpur, Kuliarchar and Sadar upazilas are suffering from acute malnutrition.

As a result, they are vulnerable to various diseases like diarrhoea, dysentery, pneumonia, malaria and whopping cough, it said.

About 80 per cent people of the poverty stricken remote areas of the district depend on agriculture, a non-profitable sector, to eke out their living.

Besides, different natural calamities like drought, flood, storm and pest attack are hampering the crop production in the district for last 20 years.

For this, the children of the poverty-stricken families are being deprived of foods needed for their nutrition and physical and mental growth.

BSS reports from Gopalganj: About two lakh people mostly women and children in the district are suffering from malnutrition due to lack of nutritious food and its high

prices.

As a result, pregnant women are suffering from various diseases like anemia, diarrhoea and dysentery and children from skin diseases, night-blindness and other diseases.

Some 65 per cent people out of over 7 lakh in the district are living under poverty line and they cannot buy nutritious food even locally produced cow-milk due to their financial hardships.

According to physicians, protein, iron and calcium alongside breast-milk are needed for proper growth of children. But people can not afford those necessary foods due to their poverty. Besides, babies can not get sufficient breast-milk from their ill-health mother.

Slaughtering of sick animals going on in Kishoreganj

UNB, Kishoreganj

Sick animals including milch and even pregnant cows are being slaughtered indiscriminately in unauthorised and unhygienic places in Kishoreganj town.

There are about 25 meat shops in the town and it is found that the sick animals are slaughtered in secret places far from the town and the meats are brought to these shops for sale.

As per rule the butchers are to slaughter the animals only at the authorised houses and sell the meat in the market after necessary clearance from the authority concerned. But most of the meat sellers of the town do not abide by the rules.

The local alleged that the municipality authorities were not serious in enforcing the rules and as a result, the buyers are kept in dark about the

quality of meat they bring home for consumption.

About 5,000 cattle and 25,000 goats are slaughtered yearly in the town. The only slaughterhouse in the town is situated in Harua area, which is quite inadequate to meet the requirement of the dwellers. The meat traders also run their business on "meatless day" in violation of the rules.

The dwellers have urged the authority concerned to look into the matter and take necessary steps in this regard without further delay.

Meanwhile, cattle lifting became rampant in different areas of the district creating panic among farmers and hampering cultivation activities.

In last one month, some 60 cattle were lifted from different places in Karimganj, Nikli, Katiadi, Tarail, Hossainpur, Itna, Mithamain,

Pakundia, Austragram, Bajitpur, Kuliarchar, Sadar and Bhairab upazilas.

Farmers alleged that a group of criminals are lifting cattle from different places and selling these to another places. In some cases some of them were identified.

It was learnt that most of the farmers are reluctant to lodge complain with local police stations after losing their cattle fearing trouble by law enforcers, rather they prefer to pursue alternative way to get back their cattle in exchange of money.

The farmers who don't have sufficient ability to purchase bullocks are facing trouble in cultivating their land.

Local farmers urged the law-enforcing agencies to take immediate step and identify the criminal network involved in this misdeed and save them from the problem.

Shortage of doctors in Gaibandha hospitals

UNB, Gaibandha

Poor patients of Gaibandha appear to continue to suffer as there is no sign in sight yet to address the problems its hospitals and health centres are grappling with for long.

According to competent sources, only 58 doctors are presently working in nine health complexes, one hospital in sadar and one clinic of the district against 121 posts.

Though it is located within seven kms of the district headquarters, now there is no doctor at Sadar upazila health complex.

Local people, on a number of occasions, requested the Civil Surgeon to send doctors to the health complex, but their appeal went unheeded.

Only one doctor has been posted to sadar hospital in the district town against the posts of three senior and seven junior consultants.

Yet worse, there is no doctor in surgery, gynecology, medicine, orthopedics, eye, cardiology, anaesthesia and dermatology departments.

Officials said each and everyday poor people from remote areas visit the hospitals, but they have to return home without treatment.

Meanwhile, the number of heart patients is on alarming rise in four upazilas, Sadar, Rajoir, Kalkini and Shibchar in Madaripur.

A survey conducted by a local NGO revealed that most of the patients are between 40 to 50 years of age, come to the Sadar hospital and upazila health complexes for treatment. But they do not get proper treatment, as there is no heart specialist in upazila level.

The on-duty physicians in the health complexes only give prescriptions to the patients and advise them to take rest. In most cases patients were advised to consult with senior physicians either in Madaripur town or in Dhaka.

A good number of patients are going abroad like India and Singapore every year for better treatment.

According to local people, most of the doctors serving in the hospitals are connected with one or more private clinics. Some doctors have their own clinics. It is alleged that the doctors of different health complexes and hospitals advise the patients to go to their private clinics for better treatment, which is very expensive for general people.

According to the hospital sources, upazila health complexes and union level health sub centres are facing shortage of specialist physicians, medicine, bed and other necessary apparatus for treatment.

In a bid to reach healthcare facility at the doorsteps of rural people, a health complex is being constructed at Baralidah village in Sreepur upazila of Magura at a cost of Tk 40 lakh.

Meena Day observed

UNB, Thakurgaon

Meena Day organised by Community Development Library in collaboration with Unicef was observed in the district on Monday.

The programmes of the day included bringing out a colorful rally, holding discussion, painting and essay competition. A prize giving ceremony was also arranged on the occasion. Additional district magistrate Ibrahim Khalil was present in the function as chief guest. Chaired by Rahima Chowdhury, the function was addressed, among others, by Rezaul Karim, Masud Ahmed and Azizul Haque.

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12X2

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