

SNAPS

New Moulvibazar Press Club body

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar
A 17-member managing committee of Moulvibazar Press Club led by Bakshi Iqbal Ahmed of Banglar Din as president and Rajat Kanti Goswami of The Daily Star as general secretary was elected in an election held at the local Press Club auditorium here recently.

Separate incidents

kill two

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra
Two persons were killed in separate incidents here within two days.

The deceased are Raton, 20, son of Bulu Pramanik of Nayapara village in Khulna upazila and an unidentified person at Nongon in Adamdighi upazila, according to police sources.

Villagers at Chowdhury para in Dhupchanchia upazila told this correspondent Raton was stabbed to death as he teased a schoolgirl on Saturday.

Another unknown person was chopped to death by a gang of miscreants in Indol bridge area on the Bogra-Nongon highway in Adamdighi upazila on Sunday, according to eye-witnesses.

7 killed in Tangail road accidents

JAHANGIR ALAM, back from Tangail

Netrakona: Seven persons were killed and 45 others injured in two separate road accidents at Kalihati and Sadar upazilas in Tangail district on Saturday and Sunday.

Police and witnesses said six persons were killed and 45 others injured at Bagutia in Kalihati upazila on Saturday night when a Mymensingh-bound passenger bus fell into a roadside ditch as its driver lost control over its steering.

Five dead victims were identified as Abdur Rashid, 40, Shahidul Islam, 27, Abdul Kaddus, 32, Samir Ali, 28, and Rajon, 28, while another could not be identified. The injured were admitted to Kalihati and Tangail hospitals.

Meanwhile, a 60-year-old man named Naya Mia hailing from Mirzapur upazila was crushed under the wheels of a truck in Tangail town on Sunday. He met tragic end of his life on the spot while crossing the road.

Landless submit memo to Shyamnagar UNO

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Hundreds of landless people who were evicted from government 'khas' shoal lands of the silted Jamuna on April 11 laid a seize to Shyamnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer's (UNO) office on Sunday.

They were pressing for realisation of their three-point demands. They also handed over a memorandum to the UNO.

Earlier, they brought out a procession which paraded the main streets of the upazila headquarters. A rally in front of the UNO office followed the procession.

The rally, presided over by Ashrafuzzaman.

The demands include rehabilitation of evicted landless people on the 'khas' land where they had been living for the last 40 years, distribution of 'khas' land to landless people once for all, cancellation of illegal lease, compensation to suffering people and withdrawal of cases against landless people.

BNP-Jamaat clash in Nilphamari

Riot police deployed at Jaldhaka: Section 144 withdrawn after 48 hours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Riot police was kept deployed at Jaldhaka upazila headquarter yesterday as tension prevailed following a series of clashes between BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami on May Day that left at least 30 people injured.

Section 144, deployed at the upazila headquarter on the May Day, was however withdrawn on Monday.

Riot police was called out as police reinforcements from the district headquarter failed to stop clashes between activists of two components of the ruling alliance.

Thirteen tear gas shells and seven rubber bullets were fired to contain the violence, police said.

Witnesses alleged that Jamaat activists carrying lethal weapons damaged several shops and houses of local BNP leaders.

Tension prevailed as motorcycle-riding BNP and Jamaat activists made sorties in the area one after another in a show of strength, witnesses said.

On Sunday, at least 100 Jamaat activists came to Jaldhaka Bazar and chased two BNP activists -- Kamal and Ashraf. Shopkeepers downed their shutters in panic and people ran for safety.

On Monday, a large number of BNP activists moved in the area flexing muscles.

High officials from the district headquarter visited the area on Sunday.

The clashes ensued as local BNP and Jamaat brought out May Day processions at Jaldhaka, known as a Jamaat stronghold.

Jaldhaka BNP brought out a colourful procession under the banner of Sramik Sangram Oikko Parishad comprising 12 labour unions led by Municipal Chairman and Upazila BNP President Anwarul Kabir Chowdhury.

The Jamaat, led by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury MP, also formed a Sramik Kalyan Federation to observe the May Day though the party unit had no past record of observing the day in the area, local people said.

A clash between BNP and Jamaat erupted as the Sramik Kalyan Federation procession reached near the Motor Sramik Union office, a BNP stronghold, at about 1 pm.

Witnesses claimed that Jamaat activists ransacked the Motor Sramik Union office, municipal office, a petrol pump, several shops and attacked houses of Kabir Chowdhury and two other party men-- Rustom Ali and Jamaat Ali in

Bogulagaria area.

They searched houses and looked for Kabir Chowdhury, the witnesses claimed.

The clashes soon spilled over to other areas.

The witnesses claimed that Sramik Kalyan Federation is a small organisation with only two unions but it brought in a large number of outsiders who were carrying lethal weapons.

As Jaldhaka police failed to control the situation, riot police from the district headquarter rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

When contacted, Kabir Chowdhury told this correspondent that Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was behind the violence.

"They (Jamaat) did this in a planned way to prevent rise of BNP in the upazila".

He alleged that Jamaat brought in a large number of armed cadres from Rajshahi University, Rangpur Carmichael University College and Dinajpur.

They were kept at AL-Falah Academy, an educational institution set up by Jamaat, he claimed.

As local people came to know that Jamaat activists from outside were staying at AL-Falah Academy, they were then sheltered at the

house of Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at Balagram village. Two white minibuses were used for their movement, he claimed.

Kabir Chowdhury also alleged that Jamaat activities desecrated the National Flag and damaged the photos of Khaleda Zia and Shaheed Ziaur Rahman at the municipal office.

Jamaat MP Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury told this correspondent that supporters of Kabir Chowdhury attack their peaceful procession, injuring 20 party activists.

He denied involvement of Jamaat activists in the May Day rampage.

President of the newly formed Sramik Kalyan Federation Mofid Alam told this correspondent that the outrage was a protest by Jaldhaka Bazar shop owners against "autocratic activities of the municipal chairman".

Niphamari district Ameer of Jamaat Mozammel Haq said the violence was done by a "third party" to create a rift in the Alliance.

To bring the situation to normalcy, a meeting of BNP and Jamaat leaders was held at the office of Jaldhaka thana OC at the behest of the district administration.

The meeting formed an inquiry committee with two leaders from BNP and two from Jamaat.

Most polling centres in Barisal 'vulnerable'

Staggered municipal polls begin today: BDR, APBN deployed: 15 chairman candidates expelled from BNP, AL

AKTER FARUK, Barisal

Staggered polls begin today in nine municipalities in Barisal division amid reports of sporadic violence and allegations of violation of code of conduct by candidates.

The polls will continue till May 10.

Polls in Banaripara and Nalchiti will be held today, followed by Patuakhali and Barguna on May 6; Bakerganj on May 8; Motbaria, Patherghata and Jhalakathi on May 9 and Gourmadi on May 10.

Election at Baulf municipality was also scheduled to be held today but was postponed by the High Court on May 2 following a writ petition by a voter alleging false voters in the voter list.

Election Commission sources here said BDR and APBN battalions have been deployed at all the municipalities as "most of the

polling centres" in the areas are vulnerable.

A total of 43 candidates are in the race for ten posts of municipal chairman, 349 for 90 posts of ward commissioner and 102 for 30 reserved seats of women ward commissioners.

Among the 43, 20 are from ruling BNP, 14 from opposition Awami League and eight are independent candidates. The lone women candidate for the post of municipal chairman is from Jatiya Party (Ershad).

Fourteen chairman candidates - nine from BNP and five from AL - have been expelled from their parties for contesting the polls violating party decisions, according to sources in the parties.

The nine expelled from BNP include three in Nalchiti, two in Jhalakathi, one in Patuakhali and one each in Bakerganj and

Motbaria.

The five chairman candidates expelled from AL include two in Gourmadi and one each in Bakerganj, Patuakhali and Jhalakathi.

Election observers said in most of the municipalities, candidates belonging to the Four-party Alliance and the opposition AL are the main contenders.

A common allegation by opposition candidates is use of official position and protocol by ministers in campaign for their party candidates.

Many opposition candidates have demanded deployment of army for holding of free and fair polls.

Sporadic incidents of clash between rival campaigners took place at several places but there has been no report of death.

Polls in Jamalpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj today

50 centres vulnerable: EC

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

Election to Jamalpur, Netrakona and Kishoreganj municipalities will be held today.

The Election Commission (EC) has earmarked 50 polling centres in the three districts as vulnerable. Of those 21 centres are situated in Kishoreganj, 20 in Jamalpur and nine in Netrakona.

Meanwhile, several clashes occurred in Jamalpur municipality between the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the opposition Awami League (AL) over the polls. The AL publicity secretary

Asaduzzaman Noor was prevented from holding a public meeting here in support of his party candidate Amanullah Akash. Section 144 was also imposed from 6 pm on Saturday till 12 noon on Sunday in the pourasabha area. A tense situation prevails here.

Additional forces have been deployed in the entire municipality area where 74,500 voters are likely to cast their votes.

Voters here are in doubt about casting of votes peacefully.

Four chairman candidates, 80 commissioner candidates and 27 woman candidates will

vie for reserve seats in 12 wards here.

In Kishoreganj municipality, 45,139 voters will cast votes in 21 polling centres of nine wards. Two chairman candidates, 57 commissioner candidates and 11 woman commissioner (for reserve seat) candidates will compete here.

In Netrakona municipality, 45,851 voters are likely to cast votes in 27 polling centres of nine wards. Four chairman candidates, 69 commissioner candidates and 17 woman commissioner candidates are contesting in the polls here.



State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon (left) addressing officials and teachers at a division level meeting, held at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park at Satkhira yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Stopping cheating in exam is a challenge to govt

Milon assures full security to teachers, warns of punishment for negligence

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Haq Milon yesterday said the government has taken up the issue of stopping cheating in public examinations as a challenge.

Steps in this regard produced good results during the last SSC, HSC and degree examinations, he said.

He was addressing a divisional motivation meeting of government officials and teachers, held at Shahid Abdur Razzak Park here.

Organised jointly by the Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Jessore and the Satkhira Day and Night College, the meeting was presided over by Jessore

education board Chairman ABM Sattar.

It was addressed by, among others, Habibul Islam Habib MP, Gazi Nazrul Islam MP, Maulana Riasat Ali MP, Satkhira Deputy Commissioner AYM Ekramul Haq, Khulna Range DIG of police Abdul Aziz Sarker, Jessore Board Controller of Examinations Prof Amirul Alam Khan and Principal Abu Naser.

Officials from Jessore, Khulna, Satkhira, Kushtia, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Bagerhat, Narail, Magura and Jhinnidah and principals and teachers of different government and non-government colleges in Khulna division attended the meeting.

Milon said stopping cheating in examination is a continuous process and needs a strong commitment of teachers and guardians.

He urged teachers and officials to give serious attention to stopping cheating in the ensuing HSC examination beginning on May 11.

Teachers found negligent to duty and helping examinees in copying should be punished seriously, he said.

Answering questions he said, the government will give full security to teachers during examinations. No teacher will lose job for low pass percentage in their college. He said, journalists have also a vital role in this regard.

Illegal plying of vessels stops in Meghna estuary

A follow-up of The Daily Star report

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Illegal plying of small and old launches in risky routes in the Meghna estuary has been stopped.

This was confirmed by sources in Barisal district administration, BIWTC, Barisal port and Launch Owners Association on Sunday.

A team from Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) and port officials is maintaining vigilance so that such launches can not ply in the routes which include the route from Ilisha in Bhola to Maju Chowdhur Hat in Laxmipur.

Only BIWTC sea trucks and government approved vessels are now plying the routes, they said.

Plying of small launched in the routes are banned during the season of storms from March to October because the Meghna estuary remains very rough.

Only sea trucks and big launched are allowed in the routes during the period.

But the vessels owners ignored the ban.

The Daily Star on Thursday published a report which said such small launches including two owned by the state minister for religious affairs were plying the Bhola-Laxmipur route.

20 hurt in AL- BNP clash in Patuakhali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Both the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League (AL) attacked and ransacked each other's office at Baulf upazila in Patuakhali district on Saturday.

Twenty persons were injured in the incident. Of them Mahmuda Begum, 38, Humayun Kabir, 40, Akkas Molla, 29, and Nuru Mia, 50, were admitted to a local hospital with critical injuries.

According to eye-witnesses, a group of 20 to 25 BNP activists attacked and ransacked the upazila AL office at Janata Bhavan in Baulf on Saturday. At that time the AL leaders and workers were taking preparations to hold a meeting and a procession in protest against attack on ex-member of parliament (MP) and party president in the upazila ASM Firoz by local MP and BNP president Shahidul Alam Talukder and his men inside the UNO office complex. They attacked Firoz for protesting the BNP MP's interference in the Rickshaw Sramik Samabaya Samity election on

April 30. Attackers damaged pictures of Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina. They also looted furniture of the opposition party office.

AL workers retaliated by attacking the BNP office in Hassan Dalal Market of Baulf municipality. They too ransacked and damaged Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and ex-President Ziaur Rahman's photos. They looted valuables including furniture of the ruling party office, alleged BNP leaders.

After the incident BNP workers brought out a protest procession.

Tension prevailed in the area although police quelled the situation.

Two cases were lodged by the rival parties. AL Leader and the municipality chairman candidate Abul Kalam lodged a complaint accusing 55 BNP men.

The upazila organising secretary of BNP Waliur Rahman lodged another case accusing 52 AL men including ex-MP and AL president ASM Firoz.

However, none was arrested.



PHOTO: STAR

Bhati Netrakona, an organisation of people living hoar areas of Netrakona, formed a human chain in front of Netrakona Deputy Commissioner's office and handed over a memorandum recently to fulfil its seven point demand. The demands include food assistance, soft agricultural loan to flood victims and creation of employment opportunities. Flash floods damaged crops on about 40,000 hectares of land this year, the memorandum said.