

SNAPS

Jessore Zilla School Welfare Assoc formed

A nine-member executive committee of SSC Candidates' Welfare Association was formed for a year with Major (ret) Amirul Kamal Dipu as president and Khurshid Anwar Bulbul as secretary at a meeting held recently at Jessore Zilla School, says a press release.

Former president Alhaj Engineer Jamil Hossain was in the chair. Noted educationist and a former student of the school Professor Sharif Hossain was chief guest and Mozammel Hossain Sheikh and Aminuddin were present as special guests.

The meeting decided to award scholarships to brilliant students of the school. Several gifts were also presented to the chief guest and former teachers of the school.

5 killed in Patuakhali in 11 days

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

Five persons were killed here within a span of 11 days from April 22 to May 2.

Ibrahim Khalil, a businessman of Arojegg bazaar in Dashmina upazila was killed on April 22 night. A gang of miscreants killed him while he was returning home from his place of work. The next day police found his body beside a road.

Another physically handicapped businessman, Gobindo of Kalia bazaar in Bauphal upazila was killed on April 23 night. His business rival Liton killed him by sharp weapons when he was returning home. Local people caught killer Liton and handed him over to police.

Abul Kashem, 40, a farmer of Aulapur village in Sadar upazila was killed on 23 April night. An unidentified miscreant killed him while he was returning home from a nearby a shop. Police could not arrest anybody.

Steps to hold cheating-free HSC exam

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Jessore education board has taken strict measures to hold the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination beginning tomorrow in a cheating-free atmosphere.

Five special teams and 24 powerful vigilance teams have been formed to inspect the centres, according to board sources. Two centres namely Khasmathurapur and Kumarkhali have been cancelled. Eleven most risky centres have been brought under special vigilance.

A total of 73,898 examinees will sit in the examination in 132 centres of 10 districts. Of the centres 17 are in Kushtia, 11 in Jhenidah, four in Meherpur, seven in Chuadanga, 28 in Khulna, 14 in Bagerhat, 13 in Satkhira, 22 in Jessore, six in Narail and 10 in Magura.

There are 44,762 male students and 29,136 female students. In Science group 9,967 students, in Humanities group 47,934 students and in Commerce group 15,997 students will sit in the examination.

The examination will continue till June 26.

Re-election demanded at Moulvibazar

Massive rigging by ruling party men alleged in municipal polls: Hartal called

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Alleging massive rigging by ruling party men, five chairman and nine ward commissioner candidates in Moulvibazar pourasabha election have jointly rejected the polls results and demanded re-election.

BNP leader Fayzul Karim Moyun was declared unofficially elected in the election held on Saturday.

At a joint press conference Saturday night, they called down to dusk hartal in the town on Sunday and Monday (May 9 and 10) demanding re-election and threatened of tougher agitation for non-compliance.

All the five chairman candidates - Syed Mohsin Ali (AL), Al-Haj Mahmudur Rahamn (Independent), Abu Yahya Mujahed (Nagorik Committee), Syed Hedayatullah Belal (Independent) and Hamidur Rahman Mukul (Independent) — spoke at the press conference, held at the residence of district Awami League President Syed Mohsin Ali.

The nine commissioner candidates, district AL General Secretary

Abdul Wadud and Jatiya Party (Ershad) General Secretary Syed Shahab Uddin Ahmed also attended it.

Fayzul Karim Moyun at a separate press held at the residence of former BNP lawmaker Begum Khaleda Robbani however refuted the allegation of rigging.

The defeated candidates said they faxed their written complaint to the Returning Officer as police batoned and dispersed their procession towards his office.

They also showed to newsmen a copy of the written complaint and counterfoils of ballot papers allegedly used in the rigging.

One ballot book marked GA-758 contained 100 ballot papers from No. 0075701 to No. 0075800, of which 73 were seen used. Another book marked GA-757 contained 100 ballot papers from No. 0075601 to No. 0075700, of which 73 were used.

They blamed local BNP lawmaker M Naser Rahman, son of Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, for the alleged rigging.

The candidates alleged that the lawmaker entered five out of 12 polling centers with his supporters and forced their polling agents out. Other BNP leaders did the same in other centres.

At all the centres, BNP men snatched ballot papers and cast false votes.

Polling was peaceful at all the centres till 11 am. After that BNP men entered the centres and started rigging, they alleged.

At this, chairman candidates except Fayzul Karim Moyun made written complains to presiding officers and then marched towards the Returning Officer's office at about 1 pm.

Barred by police and BDR, they and their supporters brought out a procession at Chowmohona Square.

Police charged batons and fired rubber bullets, injuring chairman candidate Al-Haj Mohmudur Rahamn and 10 others.

At this stage, all the chairman candidates except Moyun withdrawn their polling agents from all the centres as there was no normal

atmosphere for polls, they said.

They claimed that no voter could cast vote in at least four centres.

Returning Officer ADM Matiur Rahman neither held any press briefing nor could be contacted. This correspondent tried several attempts to contact him over phone at his office.

"He is busy", was the reply from the other side.

He however told the correspondent of national daily Sangbad that polling was interrupted in 11 of the 12 centres. It was interrupted for two hours only at the Hafiza Khatun School centre.

At the press conference arranged by Fayzul Karim Moyun, M Naser Rahman MP claimed that the election was held peacefully and in a free and fair manner. Naser Rahman is also president of Moulvibazar district BNP.

He alleged that AL nominee Syed Mohsin Ali and his men tried to capture the Hafiza Khatun High School Centre but polling officials resisted them.

Sunamganj AL demands action against Suranjit

Campaign against party-backed candidate in municipal polls alleged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

The Sunamganj district Awami League has demanded action against party stalwart Suranjit Sengupta MP for violating party decision and campaigning against the party-backed chairman candidate in the pourashava election held on Thursday.

District AL President and former lawmaker Abdul Jahur and acting general secretary Nurul Huda Mukut in a letter to the central committee on Friday requested for "immediate action" against Suranjit for his anti-party activities which "misled" the party rank and file and voters during the polls.

Copies of the letter were circulated among newsmen.

They said the party backed its former district general secretary Ayub Bakht Jaglu in the contest for

the post of pourashava chairman.

The central committee also sent a three-member body to run the election in favour of Jaglu, they said. They stayed at Sunamganj during the polls.

But Suranjit campaigned for Mominul Moujdin and introduced him as an "AL nominee" at polls projection meetings though he (Moujdin) himself declared that he was a "nonpartisan candidate", the letter said.

Suranjit's role went against party interest and misguided party men as well as voters, they said.

The demand for action against Suranjit has fuelled the intra-party feud in the district, party insiders said. The two rival factions of the party in the district are led by stalwarts Abdus Samad Azad MP and Suranjit Sengupta.

Abdus Samad Azad threw his

weight behind Jaglu, who lost the polls to Moujdin.

The insiders claimed that the demand for action against Suranjit was instigated by Abdus Samad Azad.

Once a JSD leader, Moujdin joined AL years ago, but remained off party activities due to the party feud, they said.

In the just concluded polls, Moujdin was re-elected chairman of Sunamganj pourasabha for a third term.

According to unofficial results, Moujdin polled 11,450 votes against Jaglu's 9,244.

Four-party Alliance-backed candidate Advocate Humayun Kabir Jahanur, president of Sunamganj town BNP, got 1755 votes. Another candidate, Dewan Iskandar Raja Chowdhury, got 151 votes.

More protests against AL MP murder

Rallies, processions by teachers at RU and by AL in Gaibandha, Patuakhali

STAR NATIONAL DESK

More protests by opposition Awami League and professional groups against the murder of AL lawmaker Ahasan Ullah Master were reported from different areas of the country yesterday.

Our Rajshahi University Correspondent reported that about 100 teachers of the university brought out a silent procession on the campus protesting the killing.

Starting from the Senate Bhaban (building), the processionists paraded the main streets on the campus.

They also held a protest meeting in front of the Senate Bhaban.

Speakers at the meeting demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of the killers.

Progressive Teachers' Association (PTA) Convenor Prof Entajol Haque led the procession.

RU teachers in a statement also condemned the murder.

Signatories to the statement are Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) President Prof Khalequzzaman, Joint Secretary Sadekul Arefin, former vice-chancellor Prof Saidur Rahman Khan, Prof Molyol Kumar, Prof Anser Uddin, Prof Anando Kumar Shaha and Prof Hasibul Alam Prodhhan.

The RU unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) also brought

out a protest procession and held a meeting in front of the university main gate on the day.

BCL Convenor Kamruzzaman Chanchal led the procession. The meeting was addressed by, among others, Kamruzzaman Chanchal and BCL Joint Convenor Rashidul Islam.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Gaibandha district Sramik League held a meeting at the Shaheed Miner in the town on Saturday protesting the killing of Ahsanullah Master MP and president of Sramik League, AL's labour front.

Presided over by Gaibandha Sramik League President Khairul Islam, the meeting was addressed by, among others, district AL President Mohammad Khaled, Sadru Kabir Angur, Sayed Shamsul Alam Hiru, Sultan Ali Mandol, Mahmudul Huq, Sahjada, Razaul Karim Rangu, Shah Masud, Jahangir Kabir Milon and Shamiron Kumar.

The speakers expressed grave concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in the country.

The country is now under the grip of terrorism and people's life and property is insecure.

The murder of a parliament has shaken the people and their confidence on law enforcers. The country will plunge into a deep crisis and a total chaotic situation unless

urgent steps are taken to restore order, they said.

Our Patuakhali Correspondent reports:

Awami League units in Patuakhali Sadar, Kalapara and Dumki upazilas have protested the assassination of Ahsanullah Master MP.

AL brought out a procession at Patuakhali town on Saturday and held a meeting in front of the local Press Club protesting the killing.

Town AL President Shajal Khan, its secretary Gazi Hafizur Rahman Sabir, Jubo League leaders Kabir Hossain, Sramik League leader Tofazzel Hossain addressed the meeting.

The speakers said the murder of a lawmaker shows the state of lawlessness in the country. The government should resign immediately, they said.

Kalapara upazila AL brought out a procession yesterday at the upazila headquarter and held a rally at Monohar Patti protesting the killing.

AL lawmaker and party president in the upazila Mahbubur Rahman Talukder, its secretary Rakibul Ahsan addressed the rally.

Dumki AL also brought out a procession at the upazila headquarter Saturday evening to protest the incident.

United they change their lot

30 unemployed youths join hands and earn Tk 30 lakh from maize farming on fallow Teesta shoals in Kaunia

A CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

They have shaken off the scar of unemployment by joining hands to cultivate maize. A bumper production on 50 hectares of land in fallow Teesta shoals is going to change the life of 30 youths.

"We will earn a profit of at least 30 lakh after meeting costs", Shafiqul Islam, one of the youths, told this correspondent during a visit to their maize fields in Kaunia Upzila last week. The crop is being harvested.

Islam said the estimated production is around 45 maunds per bigha. They are selling the maize at Tk 300 per maunds. This will make a profit of over Tk 9000 per bigha after meeting the production cost of Tk 4000.

Traders from Dhaka and other areas are buying the maize, he said.

The youths are now planning to grow the same crop on high lands in the area and other businesses with the money.

The 30 youths formed an association styled Char Chatra Cooperative Society to grow maize in Maya Bazar, Char Chatra, Char Mornea and Mollah Tari shoals. Safiqul Islam is secretary of the society.

Maize cultivation on the fallow Teesta shoal is its maiden venture.

"People called us mad when we sow maize seeds on the Teesta Shoal. We did not care. We continued to nurse the field.

"We started with bare hands without a penny. Fortune smiled on us", he said standing on the maize field.

"We brought under cultivation lands which were never utilised".

"We were unemployed and



Shafiqul Islam (left) snapped with sheaves of maize.

PHOTO: STAR

frustrated. We decided to do something together. We thought of maize cultivation and proposed to some landlords to lease land. None agreed.

"Finally, we decided to cultivate maize on fallow Teesta shoals. We leased 50 hectares in the shoals on condition to pay Tk 300 per bigha to the owners after harvest.

Abdul Karim, a landlord in Char Chatra, said he never thought of growing any crop on his land in the shoal. "When they proposed, I at once agreed to lease the lands to Char Chatra Cooperative Society".

Safiqul Islam said, "Credit also goes to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), WINROK, a donor agency and Eco

Social Development (ESDO), a local NGO. WINDROK has financed us and Kounia Upzila DAE and ESDO provided us technical support."

Islam said they had thought there would be problem in marketing. "We are now worry free as wholesale traders have offered to purchase it from fields".

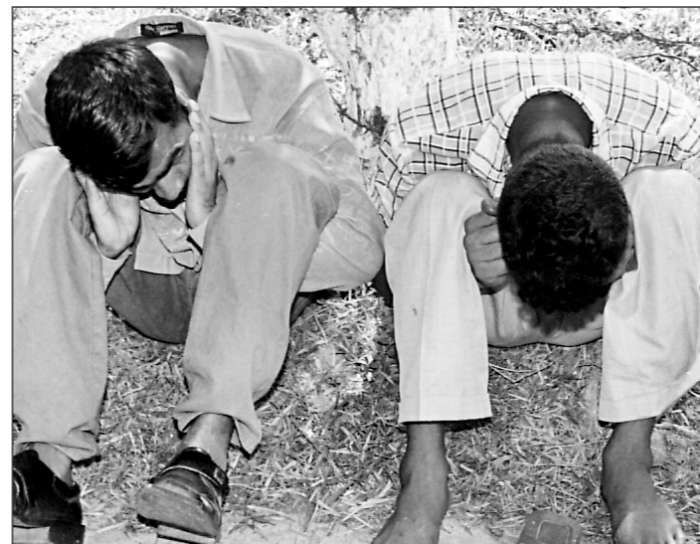


PHOTO: STAR

Punishment for false voting. The picture was taken from the Udbodhan Secondary School centre in Jhalokati yesterday.

JCD locks RU Arabic Department

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) on Saturday locked the rooms of the Arabic Department demanding cancellation of "illegal" appointment of four teachers on Thursday.

JCD also demonstrated on the campus protesting selection of teachers from teachers' relatives and Jamaat-e-Islami supporters.

The newly-appointed teachers are Iftekhar Alam Masud, son of

former departmental chairman Prof Samsul Alam, Zahidul Islam, brother of departmental teacher and assistant proctor Prof Nizam Uddin, Motiur Rahman, son of departmental teacher Prof Abdus Salam Madani and Ekramul Islam, a candidate of departmental chairman Prof Dr Abdul Haque.

On contact, departmental chairman Prof Haque confirmed the report.

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