

Shirin, Nur Sramik Jote president, secy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shirin Akther and Mohammad Nur Khan were re-elected president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Jote (BJSJ) respectively for the next two years, says a press release.

The new committee of the Sramik Jote with its 51 members was elected at its biannual national council started from April 1 to 4 at the Engineering Institution auditorium in the city.

Jatiya Oikya Mancha president Dr Kamal Hossain and Bangladesh Economic Association General Secretary Prof Abul Barakat attended the inaugural secession of the council.

Other office bearers are Executive President Ruhul Amin, Vice President Mokbul Hossain, Sujabat Ali, AFM Mofizur Rahman, Nur Mohammad, Lal Mian Sarkar and Joint General Secretary Saiful Islam Talukder.

CCC POLLS

EC plans to increase polling centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The number of polling centres for the May 9 Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) elections may increase between 150 and 170 from the previous figure, sources said yesterday.

Although the number of centres has not yet been finalised, the deputy election commission office in Chittagong said a draft list was being prepared and would be completed within a day or two. "Once we send the draft list to the office of chief election commissioner in Dhaka, it will make public the final list through gazette notification 15 days prior to the election date", Assistant Election Commissioner SM Ezaharul Haq told The Daily Star yesterday afternoon.

He said the number of the polling centres was 408 in the CCC area during the last parliamentary elections in October 2001 but this figure might go up to between 550 and 575 in the upcoming corporation polls. However, the election commission offices here are yet to identify the vulnerable centres for the CCC election.

"After the draft list is prepared, we will categorise the centres as most vulnerable, vulnerable and normal in consultation with the law and order enforcement agencies concerned," Ezaharul Haq said. Depending on that evaluation, the election commission office would seek necessary forces for each of the centres to maintain law and order during the polls, he added.

Mannan laid to rest with state honour

BDNEWS, Tangail

Former home minister and Awami League leader Abdul Mannan was laid to rest with state honour yesterday at his family graveyard at Paradisepara Darbar Sharif.

His namaz-e-janaza was held at the Bindubasini Government Boys High School ground in the morning.

Tangail district Awami League has announced a three-day mourning programme at his death.

Hundreds of mourners thronged the residence of the late leader after his body was taken there on Monday night.

His body was first taken to the Awami League office yesterday morning and later to local Shaheed Minar creating a heartrending scene.

AGITATION OVER REINSTATEMENT OF TEACHER

Saburunnesa Girls' College closed sine die

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Saburunnesa Girls' College in the city was closed sine die yesterday as the teachers and students began agitation demanding reinstatement of acting principal Nazrul Islam.

All academic activities of the college have been suspended.

Ali Ahsan Bony, president of the managing committee, illegally suspended Nazrul on January 15, the agitating teachers and students said.

Bony, younger brother of ruling party MP Ali Asgar Lobi, also ille-

gally appointed Muslim Nargis, a lecturer of Political Science, as principal of the college with effect from April 2, they added.

They confined Bony to his office for about one hour demanding reinstatement of Nazrul.

Later, police rescued him. Bony said action against Nazrul was a right step.

Nazrul said he was suspended by Bony as he did not support his (Bony) illegal decisions detrimental to academic atmosphere of the college.

