

Female voters decisive factor in today's UZ polls

DWAIPAYAN BARUA

Female voters are the decisive factor in today's elections in the 14 upazilas under Chittagong district as their number is higher than the male ones.

A total of 28,10,289 voters will exercise their franchise in the election and women voters make up around 51.63 percent of the electorate, says the district election office.

The number of female voters in 14 upazilas is 14,51,036 and male voters 13,59,253.

Of the upazilas, female voters are higher in 12 upazilas including Mirsarai, Sandwip, Rangunia, Hathazari, Fatikhari, Raozan, Anwara, Boalkhali, Chandanaish, Lohagara, Satkania and Banskhali. Male voters are higher in Sitakunda and Patiya upazilas.

Patiya has the highest

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number of 2,99,424 voters.

Fatikhari has the highest number of 1,49,842 female voters against 1,30,304 male voters.

In Mirsarai the number of female voters is 1,25,421 against 1,09,849 male voters. Against 68,593 male voters there are 84,387 female voters in Sandwip. Rangunia has around 89,000 male voters while the number of female voters is 98,992. Against 1,12,557 male voters the number of female voters is 1,21,310 in Hathazari.

In Raozan 1,05,608 female voters will exercise

their franchise while the number of male voters is 98,665. Anwara has 76,820 female voters against 75,467 male voters. A total of 69,968 female voters and 65,287 male voters will cast their votes in Boalkhali. Against 59,669 male voters there are 62,964 female voters in Chandanaish. In Lohagar the number of female voters is 75,638 against 67,768 male voters. Satkania has 1,01,811 male voters and 1,07,719 female voters. In Banskhali the number of female voters stands at 1,16,238 against

1,11,743 male voters.

The candidates are trying to woo the female voters as they think women are one of the key factors to win the election.

Many of the candidates also formed teams with only women to for door to door campaign in this regard.

Such teams can easily meet and try to persuade the female voters going inside every house, which is not possible for the male ones.

Md Gias Uddin, an Awami League-backed chairman candidate for Mirsarai upazila, has engaged a good number of

female campaigners in several teams for campaign in different areas.

A housewife working in such a team for Gias said, "Being a woman it is easy for us to meet female voters and carry out campaign when the housewives feel shy to talk males."

Wives, daughters and sisters of many candidates busy in door-to-door campaign are becoming a common scene in the upazila areas.

Syeda Tahmina Gias, wife of Gias, also is campaigning since her husband got nomination.

Mohammad Solaiman, a chairman candidate in Boalkhali upazila, said during the campaign he pledged to work for creating jobs for the women if elected.

Like other candidates he also believes that female voters are the main factor in today's election.



Immediate after the change of power following the December 29 parliamentary elections, vendors again reign over the footpath in front of Chittagong Court Building near Kotwali Police Station. Hundreds of people use the main walkway everyday to go to the court from different parts of the city and district.

STAR PHOTO

the week that was



Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui speaks as the chief guest at the Engineers Institute auditorium in Chittagong on January 20 on the occasion of the 7th founding anniversary of Premier University.

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IUB winter semester orientation held

Orientation programme of winter semester of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) Chittagong campus was held here on Thursday.

The campus Coordinator Prof M Nuruzzaman presided over the programme while the campus MBA Programme Acting Coordinator Dr M Tahilil Azim, Assistant Librarian Zillur Rahman and students Aklima Farah and Sad-U-Jaman spoke.

Speakers emphasised the need for hard study from the beginning of the semester for good results.

They said all the existing facilities including computers, digital, electronics, simulation and physics laboratory, and resourceful library of the university would help the students to achieve their goals.

Later, the freshers were welcomed with flowers and a video on the Chittagong campus was screened on a multimedia projector.

Presidency School annual sports held

Annual sports of Presidency International School were held at Dampara Police Lines field on Friday.

Local daily Purbokone Managing Editor Jasim Uddin Chowdhury was the chief guest in the first session while the school Principal Lt Col (Retd) Mohammad Zia Uddin, Chairman Nasir Uddin Ahmed, Managing Director Nawbab Siraz Uddola and members of board of directors attended the programme.

Speakers in their speech emphasised the need for sports for students as it is an important part of the educa-

tion. Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil was the chief guest at the second session and handed over prizes among the winners of different events.

Over 100 students ranging from playgroup to 'A' level took part in 15 events.

Ismail Bin Azim of class IX and Zeba Sadia Nasir of class VII clinched the championships from the male and female groups respectively.

Teachers and guardians also took part in different events.

Tulshi Das joins Ctg PDB as chief engr

Engineer Tulshi Das Saha joined the Chittagong Power Development Board (PDB) Southern Region (Distribution) as chief engineer on Monday.

He replaced Chief Engineer Joytish Chandra Biswas.

Engineer Tulshi obtained his honours degree in electrical engineering from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (Buett) in 1976.

He joined Bangladesh Power Development Board as assistant engineer in 1977 and served in various important posts of the board.

Before joining Chittagong PDB, Tulshi served as the additional chief engineer of Rajshahi Northern Region (Distribution).

Call to maintain peace on CMC campus

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) Commissioner Mohammad Maniruzzaman said stern action will be taken against those who would try to disrupt normal academic atmosphere at the educational institutions.

He said this to Chittagong

Medical College (CMC) Principal Mohammad Gofranul Haque at a view exchange meeting on law and order situation on the college campus.

Maniruzzaman assured Principal Gofranul of all help in maintaining congenial atmosphere on the campus.

He said policemen have been directed to take proper initiative to keep law and order situation under control at CMC and all other educational institutions in the Chittagong metropolitan area.

The CMC Vice Principal Prof Amin Uddin Khan and senior officials of CMC and CMP also attended the meeting.

Ship breaker fined

A High Court division bench on Wednesday fined a ship breaker and owner of Madina Enterprise Tk 1 lakh for contempt of court for dismantling a toxic ship in violation of court order.

The fine will be realised by the deputy commissioner (DC), Chittagong within two weeks, in default, ship breaker will suffer a seven-day imprisonment in jail.

The HC bench comprising Justice Md Iman Ali and Justice Md Ashfaqul Islam awarded the financial penalty to Joinal Abedin, owner of M/S Madina Enterprise for continuing dismantling of MT Enterprise -- an oil tanker -- blacklisted by the environmental group Greenpeace for containing hazardous substance, ignoring an injunction of the court passed on November 11, 2008.

The Wednesday's court order came following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers' Association (BELA) challenging the import of the Greenpeace-listed hazardous ship for breaking in deviation of government decisions on not allowing import of such ships, said a BELA press release.

New towers to add a touch of class to New Market

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD

To keep pace with the increasing demand of shopping facilities for the city dwellers, Bipani Bitan, the New Market in the port city, is expanding with construction of two new towers under separate projects.

Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) is renovating and extending the 45-year old market building under a project of Tk 33.81 crore approved by the ministry concerned on December 28 last year.

CDA, owner of Bipani Bitan, has started appointment of consultants and tender process to begin the work in next three months, said the sources.

The project is scheduled to be completed by June in 2011, they added.

The retrofitting project meant for strengthening the existing four-storey building constructed on 1.80 lakh square-foot land at the A-block of Chittagong New Market in 1964.

Later, the project included construction of a six-storey tower on 60,000 square-foot open space in the middle of the New Market building for self-financing increasing the number of shops.

The tower will have land coverage of 17,200 square-foot, keeping the existing ramp (spiralling wide staircase like structure) untouched and raise the number of shops to 500 from 420, said the sources.

With backdated open wiring, walls developing cracks and pillars getting worn out the New Marketing building that also lacked in toilet and electric lift facilities, badly needed renovation.

As such, the ramp would be conserved as an architectural heritage when the six-storey tower with a huge rooftop dome allowing daylight inside while the renovated old building would have a touch of

B-block, would raise the number of shops of Bipani Bitan to 783, they added.

The 10-storey tower approved in May 2005 is being constructed on 22,000 square-foot of land replacing a two-storey shabby building that housed a market of electric and sanitary items.

When constructed by June 2010 the tower would have a huge parking space on the ground floor, 283 shops on the next five floors and spaces for offices and other business establishments on the top four floors, said Project Director Executive Engineer Ahmed Mainuddin.

The project took two additional years since CDA had to raise retaining walls in three stages for proper conservation of adjoining Parir Pahar (Fairy Hill) and complete the piling for starting construction of the tower, he said.

"CDA is implementing the projects as part of its efforts for urban renewal. Structures like Bipani Bitan required to be conserved with retrofitting since they lacked many modern facilities," said CDA Chairman Shah Mohammad Akhteruddin while talking to The Daily Star on Monday.

"CDA would improve all the inner facilities for the shoppers with a kids' corner at Chittagong New Market," he said, adding that it would continue with such retrofitting and urban renewal.



Model of 10-storey tower at 'B' Block of New Market.

But, when constructed about four and a half decades ago it had one of the few escalators, only for ascending, in this sub-continent and required the ramp for running trolley carrying heavy goods, they said.

modern architectural beauty and offer different inner facilities to the shoppers, they said.

When completed the project, including the ongoing Tk 32.24 crore project, under which a 10-storey tower is being constructed at

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Foy's Lake Resort opens

Foy's Lake Resort, a first ever theme resort at Sea World Foy's Lake of Concord Entertainment Company Limited, was inaugurated here on Saturday.

The Concord Group Chairman SM Kamal Uddin inaugurated the resort through a ceremony and promised to provide the quality entertainment to the people of Bangladesh.

A colourful gala event, including daylong cultural show, live music, game show and fashion show were arranged to mark the event.

Concord Group Managing Director SK Lala, Deputy Managing Director Shahriar Kamal, Executive Director (Admin) Shah Kamaluddin, Concord Entertainment Company Limited Senior Executive Director Air Com (Retd) Rashid Ahmed, Concord Amusement World Executive Director Major (retd) Mojaffar Ahmed and General Manager (Marketing) Anup Kumar Sarker joined the ceremony among others.



ZOBER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Foy's Lake Resort built by Concord Group at the Lake Sea World at Foy's Lake was inaugurated on January 17.