

EC starts voter list

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completed on or before December 31 this year.

Photographs of fresh voters will be taken at the registration centre of each ward of the respective city corporations, which will start from October 12 and continue till November 10.

If any voter misses the deadline to give photo shots, they will be given seven days to appear before the respective centre to be enrolled as voters.

The enumerators will write down the information on the registration books after collecting it from others if the eligible persons remain absent during information collection process.

No-one would be allowed to get enrolled as a voter if they go to the registration centres and their information is not found on the registration books, sources say.

EC sources say the enumerators will provide a slip to each fresh voter mentioning the date and time when their photographs will be taken. An eligible voter will have to take the slip to the respective registration centre in their ward for giving photo shots and fingerprints.

The EC website says people born on January 1, 1992 or

Coroner terms

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residence at Mirpur in the capital on September 19.

Police recovered Sutapa's dead body from Mirpur National Heart Foundation Hospital on September 20 and sent it to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

A murder case was also filed against Sutapa's husband Abeer and his parents with Mirpur Police Station.

Officer-in-Charge of Mirpur Police Station Jakir Hossain Mollah told The Daily Star that Abeer was earlier taken on a five-day remand in two phases for questioning.

"On remand, Abeer told the law enforcers that he and Sutapa often quarreled over family affairs. She (Sutapa) might have committed suicide following such dispute," OC Jakir said quoting Abeer.

Abeer was later sent to jail on Sunday after being produced before a Dhaka court.

SUST asks

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campus due to the clash between the rival factions of the ruling party backed student front, an official said.

Police arrested three Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists from the campus last week and also recovered firearms from their possession after the Arif-Moloy faction captured some rooms of the Hajrat Shahporan Hall from their rival Raju-Asad-Sumon faction on 21 September.

The authority also rescheduled the date to resume the academic activities from 8 October instead of 4 October, the official added.

Interview to allot dormitories to the students would be held from today through to 6 October and would remain open for new entrants on 7 October.

Durga puja

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Gen (ret'd) CR Dutta, from Melangan where thousands of devotees joined.

The procession carrying 32 idols in over 80 trucks ended at Waiz Ghat after parading different city streets. The immersion ghat was managed by Mohanagar Sarbojanin Pujakomitee.

As their processions marched towards the river people were seen dancing to the rhythm of Dhak circling the idols being carried on Trucks and Pickups.

Earlier, Mohanagar Sarbojanin Pujakomitee held programmes at 10:00am celebrating Bijoya Dashami. Prof AAMS Arefin Siddiqui inaugurated a blood donation programme.

The government took tight security measures as members of different law enforcement agencies escorted the processions. A huge number of law enforcers including members of Rapid Action Battalion stood guard over the puja mandaps and rivers where idols were immersed.

This year the number of mandaps has increased by around 2,500 across the country and nine in the city.

Bijoya Dashami is the special ceremony to reaffirm peace and good relations among the people. Families visited each other to share sweets during the Dashami festival. Married Hindu women put sindur on each other's forehead on the occasion. Now the Dashami is

earlier will be eligible to register their names as new voters.

Those who will become voters this year will get national ID cards, the sources add.

The draft voter list is likely to be published in January next year after all objections regarding the voter list are resolved. A final voter list would be published after that.

Names of the listed voters who have died will be deleted from the existing voter list and those who were disqualified will be dropped from the list during the updating process.

The EC has urged city dwellers to help the enumerators providing them with accurate information.

2 more

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Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner AKM Shahidul Haque told The Daily Star that they would decide about accepting any cases regarding the incidents after investigating the incidents.

Meanwhile, Nayek Nurul Amin, 48, of Patuakhali, died of cardiac arrest yesterday around 11:00am, said Lt Col Shahidul Islam, commander of 37 BDR Battalion.

His body has been sent to Patuakhali, added the commander.

Nurul Amin was serving at Khanpur Border Outpost (BOP) under Talaimari BDR Company in Rajshahi. He had been suffering from hypertension and diabetes for last several years and fell sick in the early morning while he was on duty at the BOP, said Ayub Ali, commander of Talaimari BDR Company.

Nurul Amin was rushed to Talaimari Padma river ghat by a speedboat and then taken to RMCH. He was declared dead there. His autopsy report read that he died of cardiac arrest.

Another BDR member Shawkat Osman, 28, died at Mitford Hospital Sunday night. He was an accused in the BDR mutiny and was at the Kashimpur Jail.

Osman fell sick in the jail on Saturday and was taken to Mitford Hospital Sunday afternoon where he died at night, said sources from the Kotwali police.

Outlaw

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founder Rony Biswas, who was killed in an encounter with Rapid Action Battalion in 2008.

Two policemen were also injured during the gunfight.

Acting on a tip-off, Damurhuda police raided Zuranpur field where some Lal Pataka cadres, led by Hamidul, were holding a meeting at about 2:00am.

Sensing presence of police, the outlaws opened fire prompting them to retaliate.

Hamidul died on the spot in the 'shootout' while his associates managed to flee the scene.

Police recovered one pipe gun and one shutter gun and two bullets from there.

Hamidul, an accused in 12 cases, including six for murder, surrendered to police in 1999 and 2006 but was released on bail from the higher court, police said.

CID sources said the investigators would need more time to complete the investigation as many others concerned with the case required to be interrogated.

The CID investigators already have interrogated fifty-five persons including former industry secretary Nurul Amin, two ex-chiefs (director generals), one former director, one former deputy director and one field officer of NSI, former BCIC chairman brigadier general Imamuazzaman, former managing director of Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Company Limited, former CMP commissioner Sabir Ali, former DC (port) Abdullah Baki, former assistant commissioner (port) Mahmudur Rahman and two former investigation officers Ahadur Rahman and AKM Kabir Uddin.

The state-run and private television channels and radios aired special programmes while newspapers published special supplements on the great religious festival.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent adds: Several kilometres area at Laboni Point of Cox's Bazar sea beach echoed with the slogans of "Maa Durga Ki Jai" yesterday afternoon.

Huge number of Hindu devotees of all ages joined the immersion of the idol. Thousands of local and foreign tourists, and Muslim men and women also watched the event.

The immersion of the idol started with an announcement from the Bijoy Mancha set up at Baluchar with the reciting from the Hindu Holy Scripture at around 6:00pm.

Carrying the idol of goddess on their shoulders the devotees went into waist deep water in the sea and immersed Maa Durga.

Explosion

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condition and needed to be admitted to Intensive Care Unit (ICU). As DMCH burn unit has no ICU facilities they had to shift the injured to the City Hospital, he added.

Health Minister AFM Ruhul Haque visited the patients at DMCH.

Raisul Islam, manager of Tritech Computers and Engineering on the second floor of the BCIC building, said Padma Fabric had been closed for a long time. The company stored different chemicals in their office, which might have caused the explosion.

However, DD Abdur Rashid of fire brigade said they found no chemical stored in the Padma Fabric office.

He said as most of the offices in the building were closed the casualties were less.

The fire fighters doused the blaze around 11:00am and opened the road for traffic around 2:00pm, added the DD.

Besides the BCIC, two other fire incidents occurred at BNP central office at Naya Paltan and a residential building at Baridhara in the capital yesterday. None was reported injured in these two incidents.

An electric short-circuit occurred at a room on the third floor of the BNP office around 12:55pm.

Fire fighters immediately reached the spot and brought the fire under control within a few minutes, said the fire brigades sources.

In other incident, fire destroyed everything of a room of former secretary Mohammad Mahbubul Haque's house at Baridhara around 10:40am.

Station Officer of Baridhara fire station Syed Monir-ul-Islam said the fire originated from an electric short-circuit that damaged an air conditioner, a fax machine, books, three television sets and other belongings in the room on the second floor.

Fire fighters doused the blaze around 12:30pm, he added.

Ctg arms

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Of the probe committee members, major general (ret'd) Rezaqul Haider Chowdhury who retired as the NSI DG was now behind bars along with another former NSI DG brigadier general (ret'd) Abdur Rahim for alleged involvement in the sensational arms haul incident.

Rezaqul Haider was grilled on remand at Joint Interrogation Cell while Abdullah Baki was interrogated at the CID headquarters.

Meanwhile, IO Muniruzzaman, also a senior ASP of CID under Chittagong region, on Sunday submitted a petition to the court of Metropolitan Sessions Judge Bhabani Prasad Sinha for extending the time for further investigation for another three months as the previously extended time for investigation ends on October 5.

The court fixed hearing on the time petition made for the fifth time on October 05.

The same court earlier on July 22 extended the time for further investigation into the sensational case for 75 more days against a prayer for 90 days.

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Nerve-racking

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trainers recommend who among their subjects should be full-timers and who part-timers (Gayeri Ehsar).

The recruits are sent to JMB veterans to have their military skills honed and resolve strengthened.

Each of them must do a stint as a rickshaw-puller.

"Pulling rickshaws is compulsory for every new member, as JMB leaders believe it will keep the recruits in touch with the masses and purge them of conceit," said the investigator.

After this, the veterans recommend if the one under him should be chosen for the military wing or for other organisational jobs.

Before picking a person for the three-day training, the JMB recruiter builds a rapport with him.

"They usually pick from among the relatives and friends they think are cut out for the outfit," said an investigator.

The recruiters start talking about jihad once the prospective operatives take them into their confidence.

If they feel sure that the target person would not harm the organisation even if he should decline the dawet (invitation) for joining it.

"If the person accepts the dawet, the JMB leaders consider him for the three-day special training," said sources.

How long it takes to give a person dawet depends on how quick the designated JMB recruiter motivates him about the cause of jihad.

Jalil remark

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Fakhruddin Ahmed and ex-army chief Gen (ret'd) Moeen U Ahmed (during caretaker govt's tenure) for sending her to jail, and for other 'unlawful' activities, the prime minister said they don't believe in politics of vendetta.

"Should a man bite a dog if it bites him?" asked Hasina.

On the caretaker government system, she said it was introduced to hold free and fair election within a stipulated time frame. So there should be a solution to the issue of time frame.

Asked if her government faces any international pressure for not trying the war criminals, Hasina said, "Don't pay heed to rumors." The killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, four national leaders, grenade attackers and smugglers of 10-truck arms would also be tried, she said.

Those who committed corruption would also face trial, Hasina added.

Asked about extra-judicial killings, the premier said she is against it. But if a criminal opens fire, law-enforcers hit by bullets cannot sit idle.

On the demarcation of maritime boundary, Hasina said her government is seeking resolution of the problem through talks with the two next-door neighbours—India and Myanmar—keeping in view the international laws.

Meanwhile, speaking at a

"Those who are expert in motivating a person usually take around six months. Sometimes it might take a year depending on the performance of the recruiter and the inclination of his subject," said a source.

Investigators said they have learnt from the arrested JMB men that there are instances of failure to recruit a person even after nurturing him for a long time.

The detainees however claim they know of no-one dropping out of the three-day training.

Things have been difficult in recent years, especially after the crackdown on militants. While some members have become inoperative, some are believed to have divulged organisation secrets to the law enforcers, doing much damage to the JMB networks.

Those who remain inactive or reluctant to discharge their responsibilities for the outfit have been identified as betrayers.

"JMB has a list of over a dozen such members that it believes pose a threat to the organisation and so need to be killed," said an investigator.

Some investigators stress the need for research and efforts to get into the heart of the militant groups to design counter-measures to blunt the efficacy of their motivational campaigns.

Otherwise, they fear, these outfits would keep brainwashing the young minds into joining the extremist movements.

discussion in the capital yesterday, Syed Ashrafur Islam criticised Jalil's statement, saying, "There is no reason to think that the daughter of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman (Hasina) can make any compromise for power."

Awami Jubo League organised the programme to mark the 62nd birth anniversary of Hasina.

Ashraf, also minister for LGRD and cooperatives, said those making such statements are trying to undermine Sheikh Hasina and her government. She could have become prime minister much earlier had she made any compromise, he added.

"Sheikh Hasina did not accept a proposal to become prime minister even without contesting election during the past caretaker government's tenure," Ashraf said.

Earlier, AL presidium members Matia Chowdhury and Obaidul Quader had said Jalil's fate would be decided at the AL Central Working Committee meeting on October 3.

Those who spoke at yesterday's discussion included acting AL President Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Presidium Member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, prime minister's advisers HT Imam and Syed Modasser Ali, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Jahangir Kabir Nanak, Whip Mirza Azam and Prof Sultana Saki.

Return to JS

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York after being elected prime minister.

Amidst the presence of several thousand Bangladeshis expatriates, the PM said the opposition party is not joining the parliament on the excuse of sitting arrangement though they have been given more seats than they deserve.

Hasina said while in the opposition, AL was given five seats in the front row in parliament though it had 64 members of parliament (MPs) in the House.

But the present opposition party has been given as many front seats despite its total number of MPs being 29.

"In fact, the opposition has not decided yet who will sit next to their party chief in the House," Hasina said.

"We all should show respect to people's verdict. Please come to parliament and make our democracy strong."

Hasina told the Bangladeshis expatriates that she and the opposition leader had taken lift together when she also requested the opposition leader to join parliament.

The AL president said 1/11 took place following "endless" corruption and greed of BNP and its ally Jamaat during their rule.

"They had almost ruined the country through their reckless corruption and greed. They tried to stage another election of vote rigging with thousands of fake voters on the list," she said.

Hasina said BNP-Jamaat conspiracy to stage another farcical election came to

broad daylight when some 1.23 core fake voters were identified by the last caretaker government.

The caretaker government with the help of Army successfully prepared a flawless voter list with which the people could cast their vote freely to elect their own democratic government at the December 29 parliamentary polls, she said.

Hasina boldly said her government wants to build up Bangladesh as a most peaceful nation of the South Asian region.

She asserted that her government would never allow the soil of Bangladesh to be used by militants or any other terrorists.

She sought help of the Bangladeshis expatriates in establishing "a peaceful and prosperous Bangladesh rooting out militancy and any other terrorism."

The reception programme was started with the observance of one-minute silence in memory of the martyrs for the 1971 liberation war and with recitation from holy Quran, Geeta, Bible and Tripitok.

State Minister for Forest and Environment Hasan Mahmud, USA Awami

League unit president Khaled Hossain, general secretary Sajjadur Rahman Sajjad, among others, addressed the function.

Hasina's son, Sajeeb Wazed Joy, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were present at the function.

JMB finds

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eight months back.

The outfit is no stranger to relocation, they added. It used char areas in Tangail, Sirajganj, Jamalpur, Gaibandha, Pabna and other northern districts for training in the past too.

It had its activities concentrated in Dhaka and adjoining districts to flee the anti-militant drive in char areas after the countrywide blasts in 2005.

It organised training programmes and stored huge bombs and grenades in its dens across the capital.

Zahidul Islam alias "Boma" Mizan, captured a few months ago from the city's Monipur area, divulged the information to the interrogators.

Acting on leads obtained from him, Rab unearthed a mini-munitions factory in the city and seized a huge amount of explosives.

Meanwhile, the five JMB men arrested on Friday and Saturday from Khagrachhari, Gazipur and Comilla were produced before courts yesterday.

Our correspondent from Khagrachhari reports: The Chief Judicial Magistrate's Court here sent three detained JMB members including Rahim to jail.

Matiranga police prayed for Rahim, Delwar Hossain and Yunus Miah to be remanded for seven days.

But the court rejected the prayer as police failed to submit case dossiers.

Asked about the investigation officer's absence in court, Superintendent of Police Ameer Jafar said he had failed to attend because of duties at Pujamandaps.

In Gazipur, a court placed Delwar Hossain, one of the five arrestees, on a three-day remand.

SI Mobarak Hossain of Joydebpur Police Station, IO of the case, prayed for a 10-day remand.

Monir alias Ripon, another arrestee, was sent to jail by a Comilla court.

Rab sources said the arrestees will soon be quizzed at the Taskforce for Interrogation Cell for more information about the militant network.

Merkel moves

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Merkel was to hold meetings Monday with leaders of her Christian Democratic Party, to prepare for upcoming coalition talks with the pro-business Free Democrats, whose leader Guido Westerwelle is widely expected to be tapped as her deputy and foreign minister.

Merkel's CDU and its Bavaria-only sister, the Christian Social Union, won 33.8 percent of the vote and the Free Democrats captured 14.6 percent together enough to ensure a majority in parliament. Merkel's former partner in the uneasy "grand coalition", the Social Democrats, took 23 percent. The Left Party had 11.9 percent and the Greens 10.7 percent.

"We have managed to achieve our election aim of a stable majority in Germany for a new government," Merkel told supporters, beaming despite her party's worst showing since 1953.

The result gave the conservatives 239 seats and the Free Democrats 93 in the lower house for a comfortable centre-right majority of 332 seats to 290. The Social Democrats won 146, the Left Party 76 and the Greens 68.

Merkel, 55, had said she would hold "swift and decisive" coalition talks with Westerwelle. The new centre-right government is expected to lower taxes in an effort to spur growth and create jobs.

Four drown

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Officer-in-charge of Mirzapur Police Station Habibullah Sarkar told The Daily Star that the small boat was carrying around 50 people, beyond its capacity and overturned while crossing the river around 8:15pm.

Most of the passengers swam ashore but four went missing, the OC said.

A team of divers from Dhaka later rushed to the spot at night and recovered the body of Tushar Sarkar on the same night. The bodies of Partha Saha, Partha De and Biswajit were recovered in the next morning, sources said.

All of them had come to Mirzapur to see the Durga puja at Ranada Naat Mandir beside the Louhajang river.

BNP finds way

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The party, earlier, was almost ready to announce a convening committee with DCC Mayor Khoka as the convener.

While talking to The Daily Star a BNP leader yesterday said, "As far as I have heard, a new leader who will be acceptable to all BNP factions in the city may be picked as convener of the city committee."

He also said the new convener will be responsible only to form the fully-fledged city committee by holding a city council accommodating all the factions in the process.

Party leaders said some leaders of the party suggested that the chairperson nominate a fresh but senior leader as convener. Khaleda liked the idea and later the names of former ministers MK Anwar and Brig Gen (ret'd) Hannan Shah came up.

They said the chairperson might pick any of the two.

Asked whether he is interested to lead the party in the capital, Hannan Shah said it is the jurisdiction of the chairperson to nominate anyone for any post and he will give his opinion when and if she asks.

Sources said following conflicts between Khoka and Abbas, chairperson Khaleda

Cops in south

FROM PAGE 16
and Abdullah Sheikh--are now in Bagerhat jail.

Both the SP and the OC claimed that apart from phone calls from outlaws, Sheikh Ali has been exerting pressures on police for last few days seeking release of Alam Sheikh, one of the extremists.

"I filed a general diary on Saturday against Sheikh Ali," the OC said. A message regarding this was dispatched to the police headquarters in Dhaka.

Asked, Sheikh Ali, husband of lawmaker Noor Afroze Ali, refuted the claim. He, however, said he had warned the SP against excesses in the name of drive against extremists.

He also claimed that Alam Sheikh is a sincere activist of ruling Awami League and alleged that police tortured him physically.

"It is my commitment to continue the drive against extremists and extortionists at any cost without fear and favour," the SP told The Daily Star.

Meanwhile, Lal Pataka circulated leaflets at different places of the district Sunday night demanding release of their cadres and stoppage of crossfire, and called upon the toiling masses to "participate in the ongoing guerilla fight against capitalists and feudal lords to establish the rule of the proletariat."

Pakistan vows

FROM PAGE 16
But he added that "a crime of the magnitude committed in Mumbai would not have been done by seven individuals. There were forces behind them."

He urged Pakistan to "look into groups that are backing them." He described the meeting on the margins of the UN General Assembly session as "useful, constructive and candid."

"We will be monitoring steps on that score very carefully," Krishna said. But he made clear that new Delhi had "legitimate concerns" that groups operating from Pakistan continue to pose a threat to