

UNION PARISHAD ELECTION

18,205 to vie for 4,017 posts in Barisal divn

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

As many as 18,205 candidates are contesting for 4,017 posts in 309 union parishads (UPs) under six districts of Barisal division. Of them, 1,966 are vying for 309 chairman posts, 12,545 for 2,781 ward councillor posts, and the rest 3,694 for 927 women reserved seats.

tions for chairman posts, 3,286 for 720 ward councillor posts and 954 for 240 female reserved seats.

In Patuakhali district, 391 filed nomination papers for 61 chairman posts, 2,470 for 549 ward councillor posts, and 739 for 183 female reserved seats in 61 union parishads under seven upazilas of the district.

In five upazilas of Barguna district, a total of 2,025 candidates are contesting for chairman and councillor and reserved women councillor posts in 35 union parishads. Of

them, 195 are vying for 35 chairman posts, 1,425 for 315 councillor posts, and 404 for 105 female reserve seats.

In Jhalakathi district, 181 candidates are in the election race for 32 chairman posts, 1,160 for 288 councillor posts, and 366 for 96 female reserved seats in 32 union parishads under four upazilas.

A total of 3,193 candidates are in the election race in 52 union parishads under seven upazilas of Bhola district. Of the candidates, 310 are vying for 52 chair-

man posts, 2,234 for 468 ward councillor posts, and 649 for 156 female reserved seats.

In Pirojpur district, 309 candidates filed nominations for 49 chairman posts, 1,970 for 441 ward councillor posts, and 582 for 147 female reserved seats.

Manirul Islam, acting deputy election commissioner in charge of Barisal division, said voting will take place on March 29, 31 and April 3. Number of voters in 307 union parishads under six districts of the division is 44,05,529, he added.

Ruling party men 'grab' RHD land in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 17 decimals of Roads and Highway Department (RHD) land have been 'grabbed' after felling 120 deodar trees there allegedly by ruling party men at Sadar Hospital Road in the town.

The grabbers have also started constructing market on the land. Most of the 50 shops of the market will be allotted to the party men, sources said.

Locals said during the last state of emergency, joint forces with the help of municipal authorities demolished some illegal structures on the land and planted deodar trees.

Land grabbers however claimed that they did nothing 'illegal' as the plots were allotted to them by the municipality as per its rules.

An AL leader at Sadar Hospital Road, on condition of anonymity said, "I got a plot from the municipality on condition of Tk 1000 annual toll."

Lalmonirhat municipality mayor, also AL leader Reazul Islam Rintu, however, claimed that the authorities, being its owner, allotted the land to some businessmen for raising municipality fund.



PHOTO: STAR

A few ruling party men with the connivance of a section of officials are illegally constructing shops on a piece of Roads and Highways land in Lalmonirhat.

"The ex-mayor of the municipality with the help of joint forces demolished structures on the land and planted some deodar trees unnecessarily," the mayor said.

Ex-mayor Mosharof Hossain Rana said, during the state of emergency, joint forces

decided to plant the trees following talks with the authorities concerned of RHD for developing the hospital area.

Lalmonirhat RHD executive engineer Ilyas Shah claimed that the hospital road falls under the RHD. So RHD should be the real

roadside land owner. RHD has not allotted the land to municipality or any person, he said.

"Hearing the matter, I have already informed it to the higher authorities to take necessary steps officially as per rules," Ilyas Shah added.

Stalker, accomplices foil wedding

UNB, Chandpur

A stalker and his accomplices foiled the marriage ceremony of a young girl at Sokdi Panchgaon village in Sadar upazila Friday afternoon.

Local people said Hasan, 27, son of Abdul Haque, used to sexually harass Fahima Akter Rupa, daughter of Delwar Hossain Talukder of the same village. Recently he sent a proposal to Delwar to marry his daughter.

Rejecting the proposal, Delwar fixed Rupa's marriage with another youth, Masud Gazi, of Roghunathpur village in the upazila on Friday.

Police said when Masud and his bridal party arrived at Rupa's house,

Hasan and his accomplices, equipped with lethal weapons, all of a sudden attacked the guests leaving at least 10 people injured.

Of the injured, three people, including the bridegroom, were admitted to Chandpur General Hospital.

Locals caught three of the attackers red-handed and handed them over to police.

The main culprit, Hasan, however managed to flee the scene.

In Laxmipur district, a youth was sentenced to three months imprisonment by a mobile court here on Wednesday for teasing and injuring a schoolgirl.

Convict Ahad, 20, is son of Milon, a

resident of Char Lamchi village in Sadar upazila.

Local people said, since long Ahad used to tease Sweety Akhter, 15, a class IX student and daughter of Abul Hashem, on her way to school at the village.

The stalker punched Sweety indiscriminately leaving her injured as she turned down an indecent offer recently.

Victim's father lodged a written complaint with upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) SM Nazrul Islam.

After investigation, the mobile court, led by the UNO and aided by police, arrested the culprit on Wednesday afternoon and handed down the verdict.

15 MONTHS AFTER CLASH Jamaat sues 1,000 AL men in Nilphamari

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh has sued 1,000 local leaders and activists of Awami League and its front organisations on charge of damaging, ransacking and torching its district party office.

Though the incident took place more than a year ago on 13 February, 2010, Jamaat filed the case on 8 March, 2011.

Nayeb-e-Amir (vice president) of the local unit of Jamaat Azizul Islam filed the case with the court of Monjur-e-Alam, chief judicial magistrate of Nilphamari.

The court accepted the case and directed the judicial magistrate Ramesh Chandra Daga to start investigation and file a report within 5 May.

After filing the case, Jamaat men tried to conceal the matter, but somehow it came to light on Friday. This has created tension among

Awami League leaders and activists who termed the case 'false and baseless,' sources said.

Earlier, a fierce clash took place between pro-Awami League and pro-Jamaat activists on 13 February in 2010 in front of Jamaat office as a procession brought out by AL was intercepted by Jamaat men who were holding a meeting there at that time.

A large number of people belonging AL and Jamaat were injured in the clash.

The next day, a case was filed by Awami League men for attacking their 'peaceful' procession by Jamaat and Shibir men including district amir of the party Muzzammel Haque.

Some Jamaat men were also arrested and remanded in connection with the case. The accused Jamaat leaders are now on bail.

In retaliation, Jamaat filed the case after about 15 months of the incident.

Betel leaves on 7 more bighas 'torched'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Betel leaves on seven more bighas of land in Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district were 'torched' yesterday.

The incident took place at Balarampur village at around 3:30pm. Villagers brought the blaze under control after two hours of frantic efforts.

The affected farmers are Tapan Kumar Das, Chandni Kumar Das, Bishnu Kumar Das, Ganesh Chandra Das, Shasti Chandra Das, Laxmi Chandra Das, Bikash Kumar Das, Ashok Kumar Das, and Rabindra Nath Bishnu.

"I saw smoke in a betel leaf garden of Ganesh Chandra Das at around 3:30pm. The fire spread very fast to the adjacent gardens and gutted betel worth about Tk 30 lakh," said Akbar Ali, an elderly resident of Balarampur village.

This was the fifth arson attack on betel leaf gardens in the upazila since February this year. The latest attack was made on March 9 on around 500 bighas of land in four villages of the upazila, destroying betel leaves worth about Tk 20 crore.

Betel leaves on 60 bighas of land were torched on February 9, on 20 bighas of land on February, 20, on 50 bighas of land on February 22, and on 500 bighas of land on March 9 at Raigram and Dulamundia village in Kaliganj upazila of the district.

The mystery behind the fire incident that caused indescribable loss to the farmers is yet to be unearthed.

AL lawmaker's house looted in Barisal

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

House of a ruling Awami League lawmaker, also district AL office secretary was looted in broad day light in the city yesterday.

Advocate Talukdar Md. Yunus, the AL MP, said unknown criminals broke open the door of his rented house on the second floor of Afsana Cottage at Anami Lane and looted goods worth Tk 3 lakh and Tk 1.75 lakh between 11:00am and 12:30pm.

The lawmaker was attending a programme at his constituency Gournadi and his family members were residing in Dhaka at the time of the incident.

H M Manik Hossain, a headmaster of Dhandoba School in Gournadi, came to visit him at 2:30pm. Getting no response after repeated calls he found the door open and house ransacked.

The AL lawmaker was informed immediately and high officials of police and other law enforcing agencies rushed to the spot. A case was lodged in this connection with Barisal Kotwali police station.



PHOTO: STAR

Candles were lit at Katka memorial on the Khulna University campus yesterday evening in remembrance of 11 students who drowned in sea near Sundarbans in 2004.

'Katka tragedy day' observed at KU

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Teachers, students, officials and employees of Khulna University (KU) observed 'Katka tragedy day' yesterday.

Khulna University observes March 13 every year as a mourning day and pays homage to 11 students who were drowned in the sea near Katka of the Sundarbans in 2004.

Programmes of the day included wearing of black badges at 9:30 am, mourning procession round the campus from Shaheed Minar at 10:00 am, laying of wreaths at Katka memorial on the campus, milad mehfil after Zohar prayers at the university mosque, destitute feeding at 2:00 pm, condolence meeting at 4:00 pm, candle lighting at 6:00 pm and a documentary film show at 6:30 pm.

Pro-vice chancellor of Khulna University Professor Dr Fayekuzzaman led the mourning procession.

On March 13, 2004, nine final year students of Architecture of Khulna University and two students of Mechanical department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka were swept away by powerful current while bathing in the sea near Katka of the Sundarbans.

The 11 hapless students were among those who went to the Sundarbans for sight seeing and picnicking.

The victims are Arnaj Rifat Rupa, Kauser Ahmed Khan, Ashrafuzzaman Toha, Kazi Abdul Mueed bin Walid, Munadil Raihan bin Mahbub, Abdullah-el-Baki, Maksumul Aziz Mostaji Nipun, Touhidul Enam Opu, Mahmudur Rahman Russel of Khulna University, Samiul Hasan Khan and Shamsul Arefin Shakil of BUET.

Nine out of 11 met water graves while bodies of the two victims were recovered from the sea beach.

Boy drowns at Madhabkunda waterfall

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

A nine-year-old boy fell in a well of Madhabkunda waterfall and drowned on Saturday.

Body of school student Pevez Ahmed Bappi was recovered by the fire brigade divers from the well yesterday morning.

According to the fire fighters and Baralekha police, Bappi and his brother-in-law Firoz Miah met the tragic accident at the tourist spot while they were riding a hill adjacent to the well.

Suddenly they slipped and fell into the well. Firoz was rescued at once but Pevez went missing. Both were members of a 60-member tourist team from Gazipur.

Local people tried to rescue Bappi but failed. Later a team of fire brigade divers came from Dhaka yesterday morning and recovered Bappi's body from the well.

Relatives of Bappi yesterday returned to Gazipur with the body. His brother-in-law Firoz Miah was admitted to Baralekha upazila health complex.

Bappi was a student of class IV at Dhumarishala Government Primary School under Sreepur upazila of Gazipur district.

SNAPS AND SNIPPETS



PHOTO: STAR

Students of Cox's Bazar Government Women's College yesterday formed a human chain in the town to press their 7-point demand including introduction of Honours course at the college.

BNP activists attack police

UNB, Benapole (Jessore)

Two policemen were injured as BNP activists threw brickbats on them from a procession in Jhikorgachha upazila bazaar bus stand area Saturday evening. The injured were identified as SI Shoeb Ali and ASI Mursalin of Jhikorgachha police station. Police said local BNP organised a protest meeting demanding withdrawal of a defamation case filed against BNP leader and publisher of a local daily former minister Toriqul Islam in bazaar area Saturday afternoon. After the meeting, when the processionists were passing by the bus stand, some activists threw brickbats targeting police, leaving the two police officers injured, said OC Abdur Razzak of Jhikorgachha PS. The injured were admitted to the upazila health complex. AGD was filed.

Robbery in B'baria, 4 hurt

UNB, B'baria

Robbers looted valuables worth Tk 3 lakh from a house at Champak Nagar in Bijnayagar upazila early Saturday injuring four members of the house. Locals said a gang of robbers, numbering 10/12, swooped on the house of Mahmud Chowdhury at about 3am. At one stage when the house members tried to resist the gang, they beat them mercilessly leaving the owner and his relatives Rubel Chowdhury, Hannan Chowdhury and Shahjada Begum injured. Later, the robbers took away 7 tolas of gold ornaments, cash and other valuables worth Tk 3 lakh from the house.

Jute seeds seized, one held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

Detective branch of police here seized 423 packets of low quality Indian jute seeds and arrested one Belal Hossain from Chawk Rampur area in the town on Saturday. Arrestee Belal Hossain is son of Abdus Salam of Jongli Bograpara village under Natore Sadar upazila. He was allegedly involved in repacking the date-expired low-grade seeds. Local people and sources said, Abdus Rahim, 45, his younger brother Abdus Sattar, 40, and Rahim's brother-in-law Abdul Quddus used to make and sell fake jute seeds in the name of an Indian company. Nasirul Islam, acting superintendent of police in Natore, said, on secret information, DB police seized about 300 sacks of fake 'Bharot Nursery' seeds from Chawk Rampur area and arrested van driver Belal. Later, the team raided Rahim's house and seized more than 120 bags of seeds and tools for making fake seeds.



PHOTO: STAR

DEATH TRAP: A big hole that appeared on a culvert on Thakurgaon-Ruhia road in Sadar upazila two months ago is yet to be repaired. Locals said accident takes place every day as the hole at the road turning point is not easily visible in the evening.