

Peaceful voting in 74 UPs on fifth day

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Elections to 74 union parishads (UPs) in 10 upazilas of seven coastal districts were held yesterday, the fifth day of ongoing polls in the lowest tier of local government structure, largely peacefully except some stray incidents.

Our Barisal and Patuakhali correspondents quoting election officials as saying that peaceful voting, barring some stray incidents, were held in 49 unions of seven upazilas of four districts under Barisal division.

The unions include nine in Char Fashion, five in Tajumuddin and two in Monpura upazilas of Bhola district, four in Sadar and

three in Zianagor upazilas of Pirojpur district, 16 in Galachipa upazila of Patuakhali district, and 10 in Nalchhity upazila of Jhalakathi district.

Besides, two to four union parishads in Teknaf upazila of Cox's Bazar, 4 union parishads in Kamalnagar upazila of Laxmipur and 17 union parishads in Sadar and Kachua upazilas of Bagerhat districts were held peacefully yesterday, report our correspondents.

Mozammel Hossain, returning officer of Galachipa upazila, said

presiding officer Mizanur Rahman Khan of Pashchim Kalyan Kalas registered primary school centre in

Kalagachhiya UP has been withdrawn for having meal at the house of a member candidate.

Mobile court led by Magistrate Asaduzzaman fined a candidate Tk 2,000 for wooing voters outside Sutabaria registered primary school centre under Chiknakandi union of the upazila.

Hasnain Jewel, an election worker, was sentenced to one day's imprisonment by a mobile court led by magistrate Nazrul Islam at Ratandi under Taltali Union of Galachipa upazila.

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Shahidullah Kiron, general secretary of Jubo League Tajumuddin upazila unit, at

Basherhut registered primary school centre on charge of violating election rules.

At least 13 people were injured in an attack on the house of chairman candidate Ali Ahmed Akon allegedly by the supporters of his rival candidate Saidur Rahman alias Rubel Molla in Char Kajal Union under Galachipa upazila early yesterday.

Of the injured, Rashid Khan, Firoz Akon, Sohel Akon, Forkan, Yusuf and Lal Mia were admitted at galachipa health complex while the rest given first aid.

Ten people were injured in a clash between two rival chairmen candidates' men at Ranapasha in Siddhakathi Union under Nalchhity upazila yesterday noon. Injured people were given first aid at the local health complex, Officer-in-Charge of Nalchhity Police Station Abul Khayer said.

Police and locals said a group of people led by one Mamun swooped one Altaf Hossain, supporter of their rival candidate, at north Auliapur Sadar upazila on Patuakhali Union on Friday night. He was admitted to Hospital at around 11:00pm and later shifted to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College and Hospital as his condition deteriorated. A case filed with Patuakhali Police Station against 16 people.

Rivals attacked the house of Ali Ahmed, chairman candidate for Char Kazal Union Parishad early yesterday and injured at least 19 people. Of them, four are undergoing treatment at the hospital while the rest took first aid.



PHOTO: STAR

A woman casts her vote at PC Dema Government Primary School centre in Dema union under Bagerhat Sadar upazila during the union parishad elections in several coastal districts yesterday.

Today's polls

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Election to 24 union parishads (UP) in Tala and Kalaroa upazilas will be held today.

Sixty-two candidates are vying for 12 chairman posts in Tala upazila while 51 candidates for 12 chairman posts in Kalaroa upazila.

Two women candidates are contesting the election for chairman post of two union parishads in Tala and Kalaroa upazilas. They are Jahanara Begum and Monowara Anwar Moina.

Jahanara, mother of slain chairman Arifuzzaman Chanchal of Dhandia union Parishad, is contesting the election to retain her son's seat while Monowara to retain her husband Anwarul Islam's seat in Dearsa Union Parishad. Anwarul Islam died last year.

59 jailed for mutiny at Khulna sector hqs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Fifty-nine jawans of 23 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were yesterday sentenced to jail terms ranging from four months to six years for their involvement in the mutiny at Khulna sector headquarters on February 25 and 26 in 2009.

The special court-12 headed by Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan delivered the judgement at 11:30am. Two other members of the court were Lt Col Gazi Mohammad Khalid Hossain and Major Md Touhidul Islam. Deputy

Attorney General Shashanka Shekhar Sarker was present.

Of the convicts, 11 were jailed for six years, three for four years, three for three and a half years, 11 for three years, five for two years, seven for one and a half years, five for one year, ten for six months, three for four months and one was jailed for two and a half years.

The court, set up at BGB Khulna sector headquarters at Galkhali in the city also fined the convicts Tk 100 each.

According to the prosecution, the 59 jawans revolted against their officers at the sector headquarters on

February 25 and 26 in 2009, looted arms and ammunition from armoury, put up barricades at several points of Khulna-Jessore highway and damaged a number of vehicles.

Subedar Major Jalal Ahmed of the sector headquarters filed the mutiny case with the special court against 59 jawans on October 25 last year.

Charges against the rebels were framed on February 22 this year while hearing on charges was held on February 23 and 24. The court recorded statements of 36 prosecution witnesses in this case during trial.



PHOTO: STAR

Hindu devotees throng to have a holy dip in the Karotoa River as the three-day Baruni Snan started at Boalmari in Panchagarh district yesterday.



PHOTO: STAR

Freedom fighter Lokman Hossain, locally known as Tiger Lokman, has set up a gallery at his Ashapur village house in Ghior upazila of Manikganj district to preserve and display the photographs commemorating the glorious role of his fellow freedom fighters and himself during the turbulent days of the Liberation War.

FF Lokman sets up gallery with photos of glory days

ZAHANGIR BISWAS, Manikganj

Freedom fighter Lokman Hossain has set up a gallery with the photos of his glorious days of battle during the War of Liberation in 1971 and fellow freedom fighters at his home at Ashapur village under Ghior upazila.

As many important photos are there in the gallery, he has sought Lokman's support to maintain it.

Lokman Hossain, locally known as 'Tiger' Lokman, led a fierce battle against the Pakistani occupation Army at Golaidanga village in Singair upazila on October 28, 1971. At least 83 Pak soldiers were killed.

He was in the Army at Chittagong Cantonment in 1966. Leaving the force, he joined the liberation war at the end of April in 1971.

"I went to Captain Abdul Halim

Chowdhury at Sutarali village under Harirampur upazila in the district," recalled Lokman Hossain while talking to this correspondent recently.

"He sent me to Singair with two others. As per his order, we went to the house of Salam, brother of language martyr Rafique Uddin Ahmed, at Paril village, by a boat in the month of June," Lokman narrated adding, "We joined Engineer Tobarak Hossain Ludu there. Then we recruited 35 young men from the village and neighbouring areas."

We took position at Golaidanga around 7:00am on October 28 as Kismot Munshi of Paril village informed us that the Pak soldiers were coming by seven boats. As soon as they came close, we fired on them and 83 Pak soldiers drowned in the river, he said. "We later recovered 54 arms including LMG, Chinese rifle, mortar

shell etc. from the spot".

Zahidur Rahman, Pannu, Yakub, Tobarak Hossain Ludu, Wazed, Lutfar, Mahadev, Bhabesh, Maznu, Zahangir, Ginu and a few other freedom fighters were with me, he added.

In the evening, the occupation forces come to the spot with helicopter. They recovered the bodies and took them to Dhaka.

Lokman was born on January 2 in 1946. He is the youngest of five children of late Nesu Mia and late Antema Begum.

The valiant freedom fighter and his wife Firoza Begum have a son and a daughter. Their son Lemon is doing a private job in Dhaka after passing SSC examination and daughter Beauty Akter got married earlier.

"I am now worried whether I can maintain the gallery as I have got no financial support", Lokman said.

Kobi Nazrul university student expelled

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Authorities of Jatiya Kobi Nazrul Islam University (JKNIU) yesterday expelled a student for threatening the university students with sharp weapons and barring them from attending classes.

A Syndicate meeting with vice-chancellor Prof Giasuddin Ahmed in the chair expelled Shah Md Shahabul Alam of Accounting and Information Technology department. The Syndicate earlier at a meeting on March 15 had expelled him for two semesters for instigating clashes between two groups of students on December 6 last year.

After the action, Shahabul along with his associates brought out several processions on the campus and threatened the students several times not to attend the classes. Shahabul also allegedly threatened the students on the university buses with sharp weapons, sources said.

Considering those as criminal activities, the university Syndicate yesterday expelled him permanently.

Before admission, the students have to give undertakings that they will not involve with any political activities. Despite this, a 61-member convening committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was formed recently, violating the rules of the university, sources said.

It was also decided at the Syndicate meeting that show cause notices will be served on all the 61 members of the committee and their guardians will be informed about the matter, meeting sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

A colourful procession marking International and National Day for the Physically Challenged People parades the main streets of Gaibandha town yesterday.

Teachers of RU music, drama dept on strike

RU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of music and drama department at Rajshahi University (RU) observed work abstention yesterday demanding removal of the department chairman.

Students of different years of the department also staged a sit-in programme in front of the department at Ismail Hossain Siraji Bhaban in favour of the demand.

Sources said, no classes and examination were held at the department. The department chairman's office remained locked as the teachers put the office under lock and key on Thursday. Following the incident, a group of teachers led by RU Progressive Teachers' Society convener Prof Shah Nowaz Ali met with the department's teachers at around 1:00pm on behalf of the vice-chancellor.

During the meeting, Prof Nowaz urged the teachers not to go for any destructive activities and assured them that the university authorities would look into the matter as soon as possible.

The teachers assured him (Prof Shah Nowaz Ali) of avoiding untoward incident on the campus but vowed to continue work abstention until their demand is met.

Earlier on Friday, 15 teachers out of 19 at

the department at a press conference vowed to continue work abstention till removal of departmental chairman Prof Moly Bhoumick.

The teachers alleged that Prof Bhoumick took several arbitrary decisions ignoring the academic and planning committee since taking office on November 10, 2009.

Prof Bhoumick also fixed the Masters final examination date of the 2009 batch brushing aside the concerns of the members of the exam committee, they said.

Other allegations against Prof Bhoumick include issuing of threats and misbehaviour with colleagues.

A few teachers of the department however said that some teachers could not 'accept' Prof Bhoumick's positive steps as he was made chairman from management department.

Contacted, Prof Moly Bhoumick said, after his takeover he brought back congenial atmosphere for study and research work at the department and removed session jam and other problems.

Refuting the allegations, he urged the university authorities to investigate the charges brought against him before taking any decisive step.