



PHOTO: STAR

ENTHUSIASM FOR FRANCHISE: A large number of voters queue up to cast their vote at Char Moishadi Government Primary School centre in Patuakhali Sadar upazila yesterday, the last day of the first phase of election to union parishads, the lowest tier of the local government institution.

First phase of UP elections over

STAR NATIONAL DESK

With the holding of elections in 132 unions yesterday, the six-day staggered UP polls in 12 coastal districts came to an end.

According to the schedule announced by the Election Commission (EC) on February 24, elections to the lowest tier of local government structure began on March 29. In the first phase, polls to 568 union parishads (UPs) were held largely peacefully except some stray incidents.

The EC will announce the schedule for phase-wise elections to 4,300 more UPs across the country later.

Yesterday, peaceful voting took place in 53 unions under four districts of Barisal division, 28 unions in Khulna, 24 unions in Satkhira, 19 unions in Bagerhat and eight unions in Noakhali districts.

Our correspondents from Barisal and Patuakhali reported that peaceful elections, barring some stray incidents, were held to 23 UPs in Barisal district, 12 UPs in Patuakhali district, seven UPs

in Barguna district and 11 UPs in Pirojpur district.

In Patuakhali, a mobile court jailed a candidate for three months for violating election rules. The convict is Md Hossain alias Dulal Madbar, chairman candidate for Matharunia UP under Sadar upazila.

Magistrate Nazrul Islam delivered the judgement at around noon at Birajola School center. Dulal Madbar was arrested while giving money to voters inside the polling centre.

Our staff correspondent from Khulna reports: Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested Jubo League leader Shimul at a polling centre in Shovna Union under Dumuria upazila for openly seeking votes in favour of a candidate vying for chairman post.

Besides, a mobile court, led by Executive Magistrate Md Mokhlesur Rahman, arrested three people on charge of distributing money and leaflets among the voters of Barasat union under Terokheda upazila of the district.

The arrestees are Mangol Roy, 28, Pallab Roy, 26, and Azad Sheikh, 23.

Police recovered Tk 2,700 and 105 leaflets from their possession.

Md Matiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Terokheda Police Station, said the three were arrested while distributing leaflets and buying votes at Kalinagar village for a chairman candidate for Barasat UP.

General Secretary of Awami League Terokheda upazila unit Sheikh Shahidul Islam, also a chairman candidate for Terokheda UP, was chased by his rivals when he went to Katenga Bazar at around 10:00pm on Saturday to seek votes. Police on routine patrol duty rescued him and escorted him to his house.

Shahidul Islam, the sitting chairman of the same union, is the prime accused in Terokheda BCL leader Fakir Imran Hossain murder case. Imran was gunned down on March 19 while leading a motorcycle procession in favour of another chairman candidate.

Police seized the gun of Shahidul Islam used to kill BCL leader. But Shahidul Islam managed to get bail from court.

43 jailed in Rangpur for 2009 mutiny

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Forty-three jawans of 34 Battalion under Rangpur sector of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were yesterday sentenced to jail terms ranging from six months to six years for their involvement in the mutiny in 2009.

The incident followed a mutiny at the BGB headquarters at Peelkhana in the capital.

The special court-13 headed by Dinajpur Sector Commander Col Md Saleh Ahmad delivered the judgement in the Rangpur mutiny case and also fined the convicts Tk 100 each.

Two other members of the court were Lt Col Mahfuz Alam and Maj Muhammad Masudul Islam. Deputy Attorney General Bisawjit Roy was present.

According to the judgment, havilder Hakim was jailed for four years and nine months, havilder Md Jahangir Alam for six years, havilder Md Mazedur Rahman six years, havilder Md Sirajur Rahman four years, havilder Md Shahajahan five years and six

months, nayek Md Chhamidur Rahman five years and three months, nayek Md Ruhul Ameen five years, lance nayek Md Rahmat Ullah five years, lance nayek Md Liton one year and six months, lance nayek Nurul Islam Gazi three years, lance nayek Rajob Ali once year, lance nayek Nur Uddin two years and six months, lance nayek Kamal Hossain Talukder two years and nine months, sepoy Abdul Khaleque three years, sepoy Rafiqul Islam three years, sepoy Zamirul Islam four years, sepoy Gopal Chandra Das three years, sepoy ATM Kamruzaman two years, sepoy Moshirur Rahman three years, sepoy Mohammad Ali one year, sepoy Kamrul Islam one year, sepoy Zillur Rahman one year, sepoy Kamrul Islam once year, sepoy Zillur Rahman three years and three months, sepoy Md Dayedur Rahman six years, sepoy Abdul Mannan four years, sepoy Saiful Islam three years, sepoy Sheikh Billah one year, sepoy Monir Uddin one year, sepoy Abdul Jabbar three years,

sepoy Hasan Tareque two years, sepoy Md Rezaul Karim two years, sepoy Md Mominur Rahman one year, sepoy Md Humayun Kabir three years, sepoy Md Reaz Uddin three years, sepoy Mominul Islam one year, sepoy Al Mohammad two years, sepoy Md Golam Kabir once year and six months, sepoy Zunayet three years, sepoy Sayed Ashraf Ali four years, sepoy Md Alamin Hossain Gazi four years, sepoy Md Faruque Hossain two years, sepoy Md Mihir Bhuiyan three years and sepoy Md Mostafizar Rahman six months.

Acting Subedar Golam Kibria of the battalion filed the case.

In the case statement, the complainant said the jawans revolted against their officers, looted firearms and ammunition from armoury and fired blank shots on February 25 and 26 in 2009.

Hearing on charges against the accused was held on February 14, 15 and 17. The court framed charges against the rebels on March 2 and 3 and then recorded depositions of 29 witnesses.

Two commit 'suicide'

STAR NATIONAL DESK

A young man and a schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide in Thakurgaon and Satkhira on Saturday.

A youth killed himself at Gourpur village under Sadar upazila in Thakurgaon on Saturday evening, reports our correspondent.

The deceased was identified as Hashem Ali, 20, son of Saffuruddin of the same village.

Police said the youth took pesticide on Saturday evening.

In Satkhira, a schoolgirl allegedly committed suicide by hanging herself at Uttar Eksara village in Ashasuni upazila Saturday, reports our correspondent.

The injured was identified as Shamal Hossain, a third year student of Mathematics department. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) after giving primary aid at the university medical centre.

Sources said, a group of cadres led by Sujon, a local and Jubo League activist of the university, severely beat up and stabbed Shamal in front of university Binodpur gate at around 9:00pm as he protested his younger brother's mobile phone snatching by Sujon.

Jubo League cadres beat up, stab RU student

RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of ruling party cadres severely stabbed a resident student of Rajshahi University (RU) on Saturday night allegedly as he protested mobile phone snatching.

Protesting the attack, several hundred resident students of Nawab Abdul Latif Hall staged demonstration on the campus till midnight and demanded immediate punishment to the attackers.

Following the incident, Motihar police arrested 10 people suspecting their involvement in Saturday's attack.

The injured was identified as Shamal Hossain, a third year student of Mathematics department. He was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College and Hospital (RMCH) after giving primary aid at the university medical centre.

Sources said, a group of cadres led by Sujon, a local and Jubo League activist of the university, severely beat up and stabbed Shamal in front of university Binodpur gate at around 9:00pm as he protested his younger brother's mobile phone snatching by Sujon.

They said, on Friday night, Sujon along with his aides took away a mobile phone set

and Tk 500 from Shamal's younger brother Minarul Islam, a second year student of Applied Mathematics department of the university.

Witnesses said, a gang led by Sujon, younger brother of Binodpur unit Jubo League secretary Shahidul Islam, also beat up Shamal with iron rods and stabbed him with a knife.

Hearing the news, friends of Shamal went to the spot and took him to the university medical centre. Later Shamal was shifted to RMCH as his condition deteriorated due to stab injury.

At around midnight, several hundred residential students of Latif hall staged demonstration and brought out a protest procession on the campus demanding immediate punishment to the attackers.

RU proctor Prof Chowdhury Muhammad Zakaria rushed to the students' hall and assured them of immediate action against the attackers as the protesters gave him a 24-hour ultimatum.

The students also threatened to go for strike on the campus if the university authorities failed to take any step within the deadline.

Students go on rampage at Rajshahi Govt College

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Students of Rajshahi Government College on Saturday vandalised and torched furniture of the college and a vehicle in front of the administration building.

Backed allegedly by college unit BCL, the incident foiled the two-day function of the college's 139th founding anniversary on the concluding day.

According to police and witnesses, students of degree pass course became angry as their names were announced after those of college employees while bringing out a procession marking the 139th founding anniversary in the morning.

Led by the college unit BCL convenor Tawhidur Rahman, the students stormed into the administrative building and vandalised tables and chairs.

They then torched the broken furniture in front of the building. They also attacked photojournalists of print and electronic media and set a motorbike on fire.

College principal Ali Reza Abdul Mazid said the names of degree students were announced after employees as the students chose to stay behind for dancing and drumming during the procession.



Madrasa students under the banner of Hefajat-e-Islam bring out a procession in Jessore town yesterday in support of today's countrywide hartal called by Islamic Law Implementation Committee, right, fellows carry Ahmed Hussain, 19, who was bullet-hit during a clash between police and the agitators and later died at Jessore Sadar Hospital. (Story on Page One).



PHOTO: STAR

Deadlock on at RU music, drama dept

Chairman demands probe into allegations while students stage sit-in, teachers continue work abstention

RU CORRESPONDENT

Prof Moloy Bhoumick, chairman of music and drama department at Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday demanded investigation into the charges brought against him by the teachers of the department.

At a press conference on the campus, he also urged the university authorities to take legal steps against the culpable persons who brought 'baseless' allegations against him.

Prof Bhoumick arranged the press conference as the teachers of the department went on 'indefinite' work abstention from Saturday demanding his removal as

departmental head.

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

Other allegations against Prof Bhoumick include fixing the Masters final examination date of the 2009 batch brushing aside the concern of other members of the examination committee and issuing of threats and misbehaviour with colleagues.

Claiming himself innocent, Prof Bhoumick said he neither took any arbitrary decision nor defied the university acts.

He said that the Masters final examination date was fixed by the examination committee but now they (members of the examination committee) are blaming him.

He said after his takeover he brought back congenial

Follow-up

atmosphere for study and research work at the department and removed session jam and other problems but some teachers could not 'accept' the 'positive steps' as he was made chairman from Management department.

Prof Bhoumick also alleged that the teachers

locked his office and used defamatory words against him instead of demanding probe.

Meanwhile, the teachers and students of different years of the department yesterday staged a sit-in in front of the vice chancellor's residence for two hours at around 2:30pm and in front of the department at Ismail Hossain Siraji Bhaban at around 1:30pm to press their demand.

The teachers also held a counter press conference on the campus at around 4:30pm where they claimed that Prof Moloy Bhoumick gave baseless statements before the newsmen.

They also decided to observe a sit-in programme from 8:00am to 2:00pm in front of the residence vice chancellor Prof Abdus Sobhan and vowed to continue their work abstention.

The teachers threatened to go for tougher programme including hunger strike from today if the university authorities did not meet their demand by Sunday.

Sources said, no classes and examinations were held at the department yesterday. The departmental chairman's office remained locked as the teachers put the office under lock and key on Thursday.

SNIPPETS

Rivals kill Khulna criminal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A 'listed criminal', who came out of Khulna district jail on last Wednesday, was hacked to death by his rivals at about 10:00pm on Saturday at Kashipur under Khalishpur police station of Khulna city. He was identified as Abu Saleh, 28, son of Zainal Abedin, a worker of state-owned Crescent Jute Mill at Khalishpur. The murder was committed as a sequel to rivalry over establishing supremacy in the area, police and locals said. According to police, a group of young men kidnapped Abu Saleh from Khalishpur Chitrali Bazar in the morning and later chopped him to death behind Kashipur graveyard. The gang had a quarrel with Saleh on Saturday afternoon, said OC Munirul Gias. Abu Saleh was an activist of Jubo Dal and accused in four criminal cases, the OC added.

Beheaded body recovered

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police recovered beheaded body of a young man in Sadar upazila on Saturday night. Victim Rashed Ali, 23, son of Zahidul Islam of Harinarayanpur, went 'missing' 11 days ago. He was a battery-run auto-rickshaw driver. According to police, Rashed went out on March 23 morning to buy firewood and did not return home. Rashed's father Zahidul filed a general diary (GD) with Islamic University police station the next day in this regard. Police failed to trace him out. But on Saturday, farmers found his two severed legs in a roadside canal at Jugia at about 6:00pm and informed police. A team from Sadar police later recovered the body without the head. Police said the murder was committed several days ago and then dumped into the canal.

2 youths fined for stalking

UNB, Nilphamari

Two youths were fined Tk 5,000 each for sexually harassing a female SSC examinee at Dimla upazila headquarters Friday. Sources said, when Nazmul, 17, son of Faizur Rahman and Rabbi, 16, son of Majibur Rahman of Gayabari village teased SSC examinee Rowshan Akhter, daughter of Rashidul Islam of West Kharibari village Friday on her way to Dimla, police caught them red-handed. Later, a mobile court, led by executive magistrate upazila nirbahi officer Mizanur Rahman fined them Tk 5000 each, in default, to suffer two months imprisonment.