

UP poll schedules for five more districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Elections to 290 union parishads (UP) in Kushtia, Rangpur, Rajshahi, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh districts will be held from May 31 to July 5.

Kushtia District Election Officer (DEO) Matiar Rahman said polls in 62 unions in six upazillas of the district will be held from May 31 to June 18, reports our correspondent.

According to the schedule, voting will take place in 12 unions of Mirpur upazila on May 31, 14 unions of Daulatpur upazila on June 4, six unions of Bheramara upazila on June 7, nine unions of Khoksa upazila on June 11, ten unions of Kumarkhali upzila on June 14, and 11 unions of Sadar upazila on June 18.

Candidates will submit nomination papers in Mirpur upazila on May 5, Daulatpur upazila on May 9,

Khoksa upazila on May 16, Kumarkhali upazila on May 19, Bheramara upazila on May 22, and Sadar upazila on May 23.

As many as 29 returning officers have been appointed to conduct the elections to 62 union parishads, the lowest tier of the local government.

Our Rangpur correspondent reported that schedule for elections to 70 union parishads in the district was announced yesterday.

As per schedule, elections to five UPs in Pirganj upazila will be held on June 5 while the rest six on June 7. Out of 17 UPs in Mithapukur upazil, elections to nine UPs will be held on June 11 while the rest eight on June 13. Eight unions in Pirgachha upazila will go to polls on June 16, five unions in Kounia upazila on June 19, ten unions in Baderganj upazila on June 22, five unions in Gangachara

upaila on June 25 and the remaining 10 unions in the upazila on June 28.

In Rajshahi, elections will be held in 64 out of 71 unions in nine upazilas of the district from June 9 to July 4, says our staff correspondent.

According to Returning Officer Sayed Muhammad Musa, UP elections in Godagari upazila will be held on June 9, Tanore upazila on June 11, Bagmara upazila on June 14 and on June 18, Mohonpur upazila on June 20, Durgapur upazila on June 23, Charghat upazila on June 25, Puthia upazila on July 2, and Poba upazila on July 4.

Elections to seven union parishads in the district will not be held due to cases pending with courts.

Our correspondent from Thakurgaon adds: Polling in 94 unions in ten upazilas of Thakurgaon and

Panchagarh districts will be held from June 1 to June 22.

Of the 51 unions in Thakurgaon district, voting in six unions in Hariapur upazila will take place on June 5, eight unions of Ranishankoil upazila on June 8, ten unions of Pirganj upazila on June 12, eight unions of Baliadangi upazila on June 15, and 19 unions of Thakurgaon Sadar upazila on June 19 and June 22.

District Election Officer Aftabuzzaman said necessary measures will be taken to hold peaceful elections to 51 union parishads.

In Panchagarh, election to seven union parishads in Tentulai upazila will be held on June 1, ten unions in Boda upazila on June 6, ten unions in Debiganj upazila on June 11, six unions in Atwary upazila on June 15, and ten unions in Panchagarh Sadar upazila on June 20, district election office sources said.

63 mutineers jailed in Jessore

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole

Sixty-three jawans of 22 Battalion of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) were yesterday sentenced to jail terms ranging from four months to seven years for their involvement in the mutiny at the battalion headquarters in Jessore on February 26 in 2009.

Of them, seven were jailed for seven years, two for six years, four for five years, seven for four years, four for two years, four for one year and six months, 29 for one year, four for six months and one was jailed for three years while

another for four months. The court also fined the convicts Tk 100 each.

The special court-12 headed by Rajshahi Sector Commander Col Ehia Azam Khan delivered the verdict at around 9:00am. One of the accused was acquitted of the charges as allegations brought against him could not be proved.

Charges were earlier brought against the rebels by Prosecutor Lt Col Md Hasib Alam, also the commanding officer of 22 Battalion.

He told the court that the jawans revolted against their officers at the

battalion headquarters on February 26 in 2009, expressing solidarity with the mutineers of BGB headquarters in the capital.

They looted firearms and ammunition from armoury, fired blank shots and damaged some vehicles, the prosecutor added.

After hearing, the special court framed charges against the accused and recorded deposition of the prosecution witnesses (PWs). Argument between the accused and PWs were held in the court.

Using the Jubo League muscle

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

A disputed makeshift structure claiming 'temporary office' of a ward Jubo League unit in Dinajpur municipality has triggered discord between physicians and local Jubo Leaguemen.

The structure, erected by one Azam Khan just in front of the door of the residence of Dr Md Abul Kalam Azad, former assistant professor of Dinajpur Medical College, hinders entrance and exit to the residence.

Five press conferences were held over the matter during the last one week.

Dr Azad, accompanied by several doctors of Dinajpur Medical College and Hospital, members of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), and Swadhinata Chikitshak Parisad, a doctors' association backed by ruling Awami League, held a press conference at Dinajpur Press Club on Tuesday morning.

"I bought the four decimals of land from Azam Khan and got it registered in the name my wife. But Azam along with advocate Saiful Islam, general secretary of



PHOTO: STAR

A local influential man has erected this corrugated iron structure with a signboard reading 'Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, temporary office of ward No 7 of Dinajpur municipality,' after sand-filing a roadside land at Balubari in Dinajpur, much to the disturbance of the family of a doctor residing at an adjacent house.

Dinajpur Jubo League, built the structure on a disputed land of Roads and Highways Department," Dr Azad said at the press conference.

"Their motive is to force me to sell the land to Azam Khan for a low price. Using political influence of ruling Awami League, they also hung with the makeshift structure a signboard that reads 'Bangladesh Awami Jubo League, temporary office of ward No 7 of Dinajpur municipality,'" he said.

Convener of Dinajpur municipality Jubo League Md Moniruzzaman Jewel, who was present at the press conference, said the organisation has at present no committee at Ward No 7.

At the press conference, Dr Azad's wife Maleka Banu said their neighbours Azam Khan and advocate Saiful Islam and their accomplices have inflicted untold sufferings on them for the last one month to force them out of the land.

Meanwhile, Dr Ahad Ali, general secretary of BMA wrote a letter to the president and the general secretary of Dinajpur unit of Awami League seeking a solution to the matter but to no effect.

On the other hand, Azam Khan at a press conference on Sunday said that Dr Azad was building walls on a disputed land.

Advocate Saiful Islam claimed that he has no involvement with the incident.



PHOTO: HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU

Farmers sell newly harvested boro paddy to wholesalers at Rudrabaria village in Singra upazila of Natore district yesterday. Growers in the northern districts are happy due to better yield and higher price this year.

KATIADI UZ VICE CHAIRMAN MURDER

Wife sues chairman, 24 others: One held

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Wife of Katiadi upazila (UZ) vice chairman Rafiqul Islam Milon on Monday filed a murder case with Katiadi police station.

Milon was attacked by a gang on Saturday afternoon at Katiadi

bus stand while returning from Bazitpur Zahurul Islam Medical

College and Hospital after treatment of his ailing children.

He was rushed to Zahurul Islam hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital. He later died at a private clinic early Sunday.

The prime accused in the case filed by Ismat Ara Rosy is Katiadi UZ chairman Lion Ali Akbar and Murshed Ali, a relative of the deceased.

Among 25 accused, 18 were identified while 7 remained unidentified.

Of them, one Sumon was arrested on Tuesday, said Farid Ahmad, OC of Katiadi.

Meanwhile, the supporters of Milon organised a press conference at Kishoreganj press club on Tuesday protesting the killing and demanding arrest of the culprits

In Rangpur, a union parishad member of Pirgachha upazila, who was attacked by rivals recently,

died early yesterday, reports our correspondent.

Pirgachha police said UP member of Etakumari union Amzad Hossain of Hayat Khan village succumbed to his injuries at about 1:00 am at Rangpur Medical College and Hospital.

Family members alleged that Rajab Ali and his men of the same village attacked Amzad Hossain and his supporters at about 9:00 pm on April 12.

Amzad and three of his aides received injury. They were rushed to RMCH on the same night where Amzad succumbed to his injuries yesterday.

BIDHAN SABHA POLLS

No activities for a day at Benapole land port

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Benapole, Jessore

Export-Import activities between Bangladesh and India through Benapole land port remained suspended yesterday because of West Bengal State Assembly (Bidhan Sabha) polls in Kolkata and North and South 24 Pargana districts in India.

Petrapole Customs Clearing and Forwarding Staff Welfare Association secretary Kartik Chandra Dey said export and import activities through Benapole won't be held for 24 hours from Wednesday morning due to election of three districts.

The activities will resume from Thursday morning, he added.

Meanwhile, hundreds of trucks loaded with perishable and other items got stranded on both sides since morning, port sources said.

Aminul Islam, deputy director of Benapole port, said all other activities are going on as usual at the port.

Sources said activities through Bhomra land port also remained suspended from morning due to the elections.

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