

More UP election schedules

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Schedules for elections to 182 union parishads in Kishoreganj, Jhenidah, Moulvibazar and Chapainawabganj districts have been announced, reports our correspondents.

Kishoreganj District Election Officer (DEO) Rashedul Islam said polling in 104 unions under 13 upazilas will be held from May 31 to July 5.

As per schedules, voting will take place in 11 unions of Sadar upazila on May 31, nine unions of Katiadi upazila on June 4, 11 unions of Bazitpur upazila on June 7, seven unions of Nikli upazila on June 11, seven unions of Bhairab upazila on June 15, six unions of Kuliarchar upazila on June 18, eight unions of Austagram upazila on June 21, nine unions of Itna upazila on June 25,

seven unions of Mitamoin upazila on June 28, 11 unions of Karimganj upazila on July 2, and seven unions of Pakundia upazila and four unions of Hossainpur upazila on July 5.

In Jhenidah, elections to 67 union parishads (UP) in six upazilas of the district will be held from June 1 to June 28.

Polls to five UPs in Kotchandpur upazila will be held on June 1, 12 UPs in Moheshpur upazila on June 5, 11 UPs in Kaliganj upazila on June 9, eight UPs in Horinakundu upazila on June 14, nine UPs in Sadar upazila (east zone) on June 18, eight UPs in Sadar upazila (west zone) on June 22, 14 UPs in Shaikupa upazila on June 28, according to schedules announced by District Election Officer (DEO) Md Rokunuzzaman.

District election office (DEO) source said as many as 9, 60,221

voters in six upazilas of the district are expected to exercise their right to franchise on the scheduled dates to elect their union leaders for the next five years. Of the voters, 2,23,457 are in Sadar upazila, 2,09,576 in Shaikupa upazila, 1,13,504 in Harinakundu upazila, 69,375 in Kotchandpur upazila, 1,89,809 in Moheshpur upazila and 1,54,501 in Kaliganj upazila.

In Moulvibazar, elections to 67 union parishads under seven upazilas of the district will be held from June 4 to July 4.

According to schedules, ten unions in Baralekha upazila will go to polls on June 4, Six unions in juri upazila on June 7, Seven unions in Kulaura upazila on June 11 and the rest six unions in the upazila on June 14, eight unions in Rajnagar upazila on June 18, nine

unions in Kamalganj upazila on June 21, nine unions in Srimongal upazila on June 25, six unions in Moulvibazar Sadar upazila on June 28 and the rest six unions in the upazila on July 4.

In Chapainawabganj, elections will be held in 44 out of 45 unions of five upazilas from June 6 to June 19.

Voting will take place in eight unions of Gomostapur upazila on June 6, 14 unions in Sadar upazila on June 9, four unions in Nachole upazila on June 12, four unions in Bholahat upazila on June 15, and 14 unions in Shibganj upazila on June 19, according to schedules announced by District Election Officer Sarkar Mohammad Ashrafal Alam.

He said necessary measures will be taken to ensure, free and fair voting in 44 unions of the district.

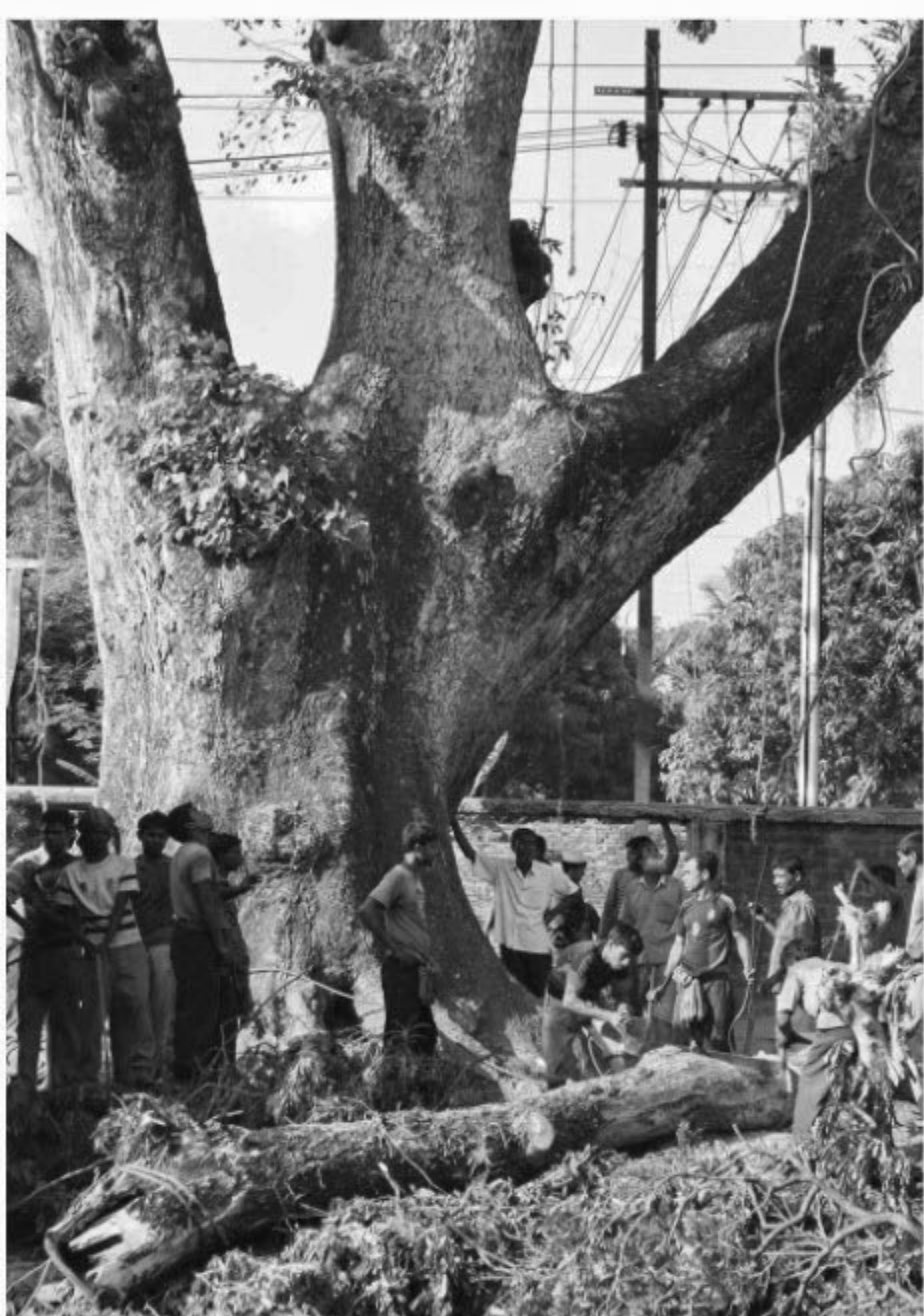


PHOTO: STAR

Workers continue cutting this hundred and fifty years old rain tree near Jessore rail station as railway authorities has sold it out to a bidder.

BR felling an old 'useless and dangerous' tree

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Labourers employed by the bid winner have started felling a hundred and fifty years old rain tree in front of Jessore railway station as authorities of Bangladesh Railway (BR) has sold it through a tender.

The BR official records showed the tree as 'useless and dangerous for movement of trains'.

But the tree is more than one hundred yards away from the rail line and so, the question of its being dangerous for train movement does not arise, locals said.

"I have legally purchased the rain tree for Tk 3 lakh 50 thousand, being the highest bidder in a tender arranged by Rajshahi divisional office of Bangladesh Railway," said Ashrafuzzaman, hail-

ing from Naldanga village under Kaliganj upazila of Jhenidah district, also a local leader of the ruling party.

Labourers employed by Ashrafuzzaman started cutting the tree branches on Wednesday morning.

The tree was sold through a tender process by the divisional office of BR, said Mashiul Islam, senior assistant engineer of Jessore Railway.

Engineer Masudur Rahman of the divisional office of BR said that he had issued work order to fell the tree upon recommendation from the office of general manager.

"I remember seeing people take rest under the shade of this large rain tree since my childhood," said centennarian Khadija Khatun.

Aggrieved people swoop on docs staging protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Amid panic due to clashes between striking interns and people around Khulna Medical College Hospital (KMCH), many patients left the hospital yesterday.

Aggrieved locals and patients' relatives, who foiled the interns' human chain programme in the morning, warned of 'serious consequences' if the latter's indefinite work stoppage programme is not withdrawn.

The Interns Doctors Association (IDA) of KMCH announced an indefinite work stoppage from yesterday and different other programmes including human chain and protest rallies in front of Sheikh Abu Naser Specialised Hospital, Khulna General Hospital and all upazila health complexes in the district.

They are agitating against manhandling of KMCH Assistant Registrar Dr Rafiqul Islam on Thursday noon by Sheikh Lenin, organising secretary of Shyamnagar upazila unit of the ruling Awami League.

Following a meeting of the interns at BMA auditorium in Khulna city on Friday evening, IDA General Secretary Dr Shuravi Ira Shuchi issued a press statement announcing continuation of their work stoppage until all their demands are met.

The demands include punishment for

beating Dr Rafiqul Islam, adequate security for doctors and patients of KMCH, introduction of ID cards for visitors of patients and end to political influence in internal matters of the hospital.

Aggrieved at the interns' work stoppage programme, patients' relatives and the people living around KMCH area chased the interns and foiled their human chain programme in front of KMCH at 10:30am yesterday.

Security forces escorted the interns to a safer place inside the KMCH, said Shawkat Hossain, officer in charge (OC) of Sonadanga Police station.

He said, "Reba Sultana, 36, wife of businessman Ali Azam Titu of Phulbari gate area of Khulna city, went to KMCH for admission on Thursday as she has been suffering from a complicated disease. Her relatives got angry when KMCH Assistant Registrar Dr Rafiqul Islam reportedly hurled an insolent remark after seeing her in a cabin without his prior permission. At one stage of altercation, AL leader Lenin slapped Dr Rafiqul."

"Consequently, interneer doctors and the patients' relatives started exchanging punches.

Later, police entered the hospital and brought the situation under control," he said.

7-yr-old girl violated

UNB, Rajshahi

A seven-year old girl was violated by a middle aged man at a betel-leaf garden at Teghoria village in Durgapur upazila on Thursday morning.

The victim is a class II student of a local school primary school.

Local people said, Bablu, 42, son of late Kishore Mondol of the village tactfully took the victim to the betel-leaf field while she was going to the workplace of her father at about 11 am. Later, he violated the girl and fled away.

Hearing her cry for help, locals rescued her in profusely bleeding condition and rushed her to Durgapur health complex.

Later, following the deterioration of her condition she was shifted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed against the culprit with Durgapur police station.

BCL men damage principal's office at B M College

UNB, Barisal

Two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed and ransacked principal's office room over students' union election at Barisal Government Brojo Mohon College Friday noon.

Police and witnesses said Prof Dr Nani Gopal Das, principal of the college, returned to his office at about noon after conducting examination of Law part-1 on the campus.

Then activists of BCL factions led by Rafiq Serniabat, Fatema Mamtaz Moly, college BCL joint conveners backed by district AL secretary, former chief whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah and Moin Tushar, Shuva Sen, Nahid Serniabat, college BCL unit joint conveners

backed by city AL president BCC Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron, met the principal.

Both factions demanded immediate declaration of B M College Students' Union (BCSU) election schedule.

The principal expressed his inability to declare the election schedule of BCSU without clearance of ruling party leaders and approval of higher authorities and left his office.

Then the both factions of BCL engaged in an altercation and attacked each other leaving at least four activists from both sides injured.

They, at one stage, also damaged the room of the principal during the clash.

Two separate cases were filed in this connection

Lightning kills four in two districts

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Lightning killed four people in Rajshahi and Kishoreganj districts on Thursday.

An elderly man and a young woman were killed by lightning during storm in two upazilas -- Bagha and Tanore-- in Rajshahi, reports our staff correspondent.

Police and locals identified the victims as Tuhin Begum, 25, of Kishorpur of Bagha upazila and Altaf Hossain, 50, of Amso Mathurapur village in Tanore upazila.

The sources said Tuhin Begum was struck by lightning when she went out to bring her cows back home during the storm while Altaf

was supervising labourers at his crop field during rain.

Both were rushed to health complexes in the upazilas where doctors declared them dead.

In Kishoreganj, two farmers were killed by lightning in Katiadi on Thursday. The deceased were identified as Bakkar Mia, 55, son of Abdul Gani and Habi Mia, 30, son of Hossain Ali of Manziler Kanda village, reports our correspondent.

Police and locals said the two were struck by lightning at around 2:30 pm while harvesting paddy at Manikhali Chandpur Beel (water body) in Katiadi. Both died on the spot.



PHOTO: STAR

Employees of 15 sugar mills form a human chain at Ishwardi rail gate in Pabna district on Friday demanding time scale and promotion as per agreement with the government in 2009.

Workers, employees of 15 sugar mills agitate

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

Workers and officials of 15 sugar mills under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) formed a human chain yesterday demanding promotion, time scale and increased facilities.

Held near Ishwardi rail gate, they also held a protest rally at the venue.

Among others, assistant development officers Abdul Mottalib, Ali Asgar, Dipak

Kumar Pal, Rezaul Karim of Pabna Sugar Mill, Imran Mondol of Rajshahi Sugar Mill, Riazul Islam of Thakurgaon Sugar Mill, Ishtiaq Hossain Mondol of Kushtia Sugar Mill, Abdus Salam of North Bengal Sugar Mill spoke at the rally.

The speakers said that the assistant sugarcane development officers at 15 sugarcane mills of the country did not get time scales in last 25 years. The officers also did not get any promotion since

joining the job decades ago.

The last government also assured the workers in 2009 of fulfilling their demands when the national scale for wage was announced. But after two years the government is yet to give the time scales and the promotions, the speakers said.

The speakers urged the government to meet their demands without further delay. Otherwise we will go for a tougher agitation, they threatened.

Criminals critically injure journalist

UNB, Khulna

A journalist and his brother were critically injured by criminals at Godaipur village in Paikgachha upazila on Friday night.

The victims were identified as FMA Razzak, editor of local fortnightly 'Gonomichhil' and former president of Paikgachha upazila press club, his brother Oliar Rahman, sons of Nur Ali Fakir of the village.

Police quoting witnesses said members of notorious 'Kajol Bahini' forcibly took Razzak and his brother Oliar Rahman to a secluded place while they were gossiping at the local bus counter at about 10:30 pm.

Later, they beat them up mercilessly with iron rods, almost maiming their hands and legs. They also tried to gouge out the eyes of Razzak.

Hearing their cry for help, locals rushed in and rescued them with the help of police at about 12:30 am.

Critically injured, they were rushed to Khulna Medical College and Hospital. Later they were shifted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital yesterday morning as their condition deteriorated.

Locals said there was a longstanding enmity between Razzak and ring-leader of the gang Kajol over a disputed piece of land.

Police arrested seven people in this connection yesterday.

5 held from border, 9 others handed over to BGB by BSF

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Five Bangladeshis were arrested yesterday from Joypurhat border while nine freed from jails in India handed over to BGB by BSF in Thakurgaon on Wednesday.

Five Bangladeshi nationals with visa expired passports were arrested from Panchbibi upazila border of Joypurhat district yesterday. BGB sources said, they crossed the border, went to Nepal about three months ago in search of jobs, but returned empty-handed after being cheated there.

BGB members of Joypurhat also recovered some currencies of Nepal and India, mobile handsets from the arrestees, reports our Dinajpur correspondent.

The arrestees were identified as Iqbal Hossain, 25, son of Babu Mia of Sreepur village in Brahmanbaria district, Belal Hossain, 30, son of Nurul Islam of Sinamore village in Daudkandi upazila of Comilla, Mamun Mia, 22, son of Safiqul Islam of Junai village in Daudkandi of Comilla, Alam Hossain, 30, son of Yakub Ali of Aralbazaar village of Kapasia in Gazipur and Iman Ali, 29, son of Abdur Rahman Falodi of Maofdolbazaar of Raipur in Narsingdi district.

In Thakurgaon, Indian Border Security Force (BSF) on Wednesday handed over eight Bangladeshi citizens,

jailed in India three years ago for intrusion, to Border Guard of Bangladesh (BGB), reports our correspondent.

The handing over followed a company commander-level flag meeting at the Zero Line on Dabri border under Haripur upazila.

BDR sources said the eight youths illegally crossed the border at different points of the district three years ago. They were arrested by Indian Border Guard.

Then BSF handed them over to Indian police and later all of them were jailed on different terms.

The eight were identified as Ratan Chandra Roy, 17, son of Chand Mohan Roy, Gobinda Roy, 20, son of Chekendu Roy, Kanto Roy, 17, son of Dhakuru Roy of Sengao village and Biplob Barman, 17, son of Anil Barman of Karona village under Pirganj upazila, Md. Mamunur Rashid, 17, son of Abdul Hasan Ali, of Vaturia village, Md. Delwar Hossain, 16, son of Md. Khalil Ahmed, Ratan Ali, 15, son of Abdul Baset of Fazilpur village under Haripur upazila and Dipak Kumar Paul, 20, son of Dinesh Chandra Paul of Dheurjhari village under Baliaadangi upazila in Thakurgaon.

Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity took initiative to free the detainees from Indian jails contacting with the jail authorities concern, sources said.



PHOTO: STAR

Locals form a human chain in front of Natore Press Club yesterday demanding establishment of a textile institute in Natore.



PHOTO: STAR

Cricketers form a human chain in front of Shaheed Bhulu Stadium in Noakhali yesterday demanding end to leasing out of the stadium for trade fair.