



PHOTO: STAR

**POLL ENTHUSIASM:** From left, women voters stand in a long queue for their turn at Kaoakhola polling centre in Sirajganj Sadar upazila, centenarian Kadbanu walks to the polling booth of Dehatta Bhabanandapur Non-government Primary School Centre in Haripur union of Haripur upazila under Thakurgaon district, Rabeya Khatun with her two-month-old baby on arms comes to Fatehpur Shamsuddin High School polling centre that sees long queues of voters during the union parishad polls yesterday.

## 50 food poisoned in Lalmonirhat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

At least 50 people were food poisoned after having breakfast at a local restaurant at Khuniyagachh village in Sadar upazila yesterday.

The victims were admitted to Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital.

The sick people hailing from Khuniyagachh village are either farmers or day labourers, locals said.

Civil surgeon (CS) of Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital Dr Jahangir Alam said, all of them took breakfast at a local restaurant like the other days. But yesterday they fell sick 2-3 hours after the breakfast.

"I think they fell sick after having rotten potato curry at the restaurant," the CS said.

Farmer Abdul Jabbar, 55, said, "I took two parota and potato curry at Heltu Mia's restaurant this morning. I started to feel sick after three hours. I don't know how it happened because I used to take breakfast at the restaurant regularly," he said.

Another farmer Abdus Samad, 52, said that the villagers regularly take breakfast at Heltu Mia's restaurant.

"I think the source of food poisoning was potato curry. Heltu Mia cooked rotten potato curry today",

he said.

More than 50 villagers fell sick after having breakfast at the restaurant yesterday, Samad said.

Restaurant owner Heltu Miah, however, said that he cooked the curry at night and served it in the morning.

"I do it regularly. But why it happened today I can't say," he said.

Resident Medical Officer (RMO) at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital Dr Goutom Chandra Chakraborty told this correspondent that most of the patients recovered by yesterday afternoon while a few others may need some more time.



PHOTO: STAR

These two elderly men take treatment at Lalmonirhat Sadar Hospital as they along with around 50 others fell victim to food poisoning after taking breakfast at a restaurant at Kuniyagachh village in Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila yesterday morning

## Most Sylhet colleges to face dearth of students

IQBAL SIDDIQUEE, Sylhet

Although 82 percent students passed this year's SSC examinations under Sylhet Education Board, most of the colleges will face student shortage as the number of successful candidates is around 28,000 less than the institutions' total accommodation capacity in the HSC first year.

The 15 government and 148 non-government and private colleges in four districts under the division have a total of 68,000 seats for the first year intermediate classes while 39,388 SSC candidates passed under the board this year, said Professor Maniruddin Ahmed, controller of examinations of the Board of Intermediate and Secondary Education, Sylhet.

Most of the institutions are in the rural areas.

"The process for admission of the students into the class XI begun on June 1 and June 9 is the last date for submission of applications," the official told this correspondent yesterday afternoon.

However, the leading colleges will see rush of students and there will be

very little chance for admission of candidates without A-plus recipients.

Even the A-plus recipients, especially in science group, will have to face competition for getting admitted into the well-known institutions, especially in the divisional city, as 2188 students got the

HSC first year.

science, arts and business studies groups, Madan Mohan College has 1250 seats in the three groups, Sylhet Government Women's College has 850 seats in science and arts groups, and MC College, having arrangement for science students only, has 300 seats. Jalalabad Cantonment College has 150 seats.

However, some of the private institutions are hopeful of managing a good number of students. Already a few of them have given reception to the SSC passed students in a bid to persuade them for admission.

One 'commercially-run' college in the capital also held reception for the students in Sylhet city a few days ago.

As per the education ministry's admission guidelines this year, 86 per cent seats in each college will remain open for all candidates, seven percent will be reserved for mofussil students, five per cent for candidates from muktiyoddha (freedom fighter) families and two per cent for those from families of the staff working at different institutions under education ministry.

highest GPA in Sylhet Board this year.

The four leading colleges in the city have a total of 3300 seats, including 1550 for science students.

Students from other districts will also be there for admission.

Sylhet Government College has 900 seats in

**FACTS**

- ★ 15 govt, 148 non-govt and pvt colleges in 4 Sylhet division districts
- ★ 68,000 seats for first year HSC classes
- ★ 39, 388 SSC candidate passed under Sylhet Board this

## Post-poll violence in several dists, 50 including 8 policemen hurt

STAR NATIONAL DESK

At least 50 people, including eight members of law enforcement agencies, were injured in post-UP poll violence in Moulvibazar, Jamalpur, Kishoreganj and Natore districts yesterday and on Saturday night.

Our Moulvibazar correspondent reported that at least 20 people, including seven police and BGB members, were injured as the supporters of a defeated chairman candidate clashed with the law enforcers near Rokanpur Primary School centre in Dakkinbagh Union under Baralekha upazila on Saturday night.

Upazila Nirbahi Officer

(UNO) Rafiqul Alam said the incident occurred following arrest of four supporters of defeated chairman candidate Enam Uddin as they tried to snatch ballot boxes from Rokanpur centre after announcement of election results.

When a magistrate along with election officials and law enforcers were going to the UNO office in three vehicles, the supporters of Enam attacked the election officials and law enforcers, leaving at least 20 people, including four police and three BGB men, injured. They also damaged the vehicles.

Police fired 30 rounds of blank shots, dispersed the

supporters of Enam and brought the situation under control.

Amal Kumar Dhar, officer-in-charge of Baralekha Police Station told this correspondent that presiding officer of Rokanpur centre Md Moniruzzaman filed a case yesterday, accusing 250 people including defeated chairman candidate Enam Uddin.

In Jamalpur, the supporters two defeated chairman candidates clashed in Ranagachha Union under Sadar upazila yesterday noon, leaving at least 20 people from both sides injured, reports our correspondent.

Locals said defeated chairman candidate Ashraf

Hossain's supporters attacked Faruk Adam's election office at Kanil Moheshpur village in the union, alleging that Ashraf was defeated in Saturday's election due to a conspiracy hatched by Faruk Adam and his supporters.

Ashraf's men ransacked Faruk's office and set fire to a motorbike. They also attacked the house of one Mofiz Master at the village. Faruk's men made a counter attack, leading to a clash between the two sides.

Being informed, police rushed to the spot, dispersed the clashing groups and brought the situation under control.

In Kishoreganj, at least 10 people, including a police

sub-inspector, were injured in a post-poll clash in Banogram Union under Kotiadi upazila yesterday.

Locals said supporters of a defeated chairman candidate brought out a procession at the upazila headquarters, rejecting poll results in the morning, reports UNB.

As police intercepted the processionists, they attacked the law enforcers, prompting them to retaliate. At least 10 people, including Kotiadi Sub-Inspector Mizanur Rahman of Kotiadi Police Station, were injured during the clash.

Additional police and Rab personnel rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

## Polls in most unions largely peaceful

### Ballot box snatched in Nilphamari Sadar

STAR NATIONAL DESK

Barring an incident of ballot box snatching from a centre in Niphamari Sadar upazila, election to the union parishads in Nilphamari, Sirajganj, Chandpur, Naogaon, Pabna, Jhenidah and Thakurgaon districts was largely peaceful yesterday.

In Nilphamari, the incident took place at Barura Sheikh Para Primary School centre in Chapra Sharamjani Union of Sadar upazila at around 11:00am, reports our correspondent.

Police and local people said all of a sudden about 25 supporters of a chairman candidate entered a polling booth of the centre and took away a ballot box.

Police chased the snatchers and arrested three of them. The arrestees are Rabiul, 45, Ziaul Haque, 28, and Shanchal Hossain, 25. Soon after the incident, voting at the centre was declared postponed.

Law enforcers could not recover the snatched ballot box as of filing of this report at 4:00pm yesterday. Officer-in-charge of Sadar Police Station Z. M Asaduzzaman said law enforcers are raiding different areas to recover the ballot box.

Polling at other centres of Chapra Sharamjani Union and to seven union parishads in the upazila was held peacefully. Election in the rest seven unions of the upazila will be held on June 9.

According to our correspondent, peaceful UP elections were held in the following districts yesterday.

In Sirajganj, no untoward incident was reported from any of the 122 polling centres in ten unions of Sadar upazila. Voting started at 8:00am and continued till 4:00pm without any break.

In Chandpur, elections to 14 union parishads in Sadar upazila were held peacefully. As many as 64 chairman candidates, 441 member candidates and 115 women for reserved seats contested the elections.

In Jhenidah, peaceful voting took place at 112 centres in 12 unions under Moheshpur upazila.

Upazila Election officer Azizul Islam told this correspondent that 56 chairman and 395 member candidates and 122 women candidates for the reserved seats took part in the elections to 12 union parishads.

15 magistrates, two teams of Rab and 32 patrol teams of police were deployed in the unions to maintain law and order during polling.

In Naogaon, election to eight union parishads under Dhamurhat upazila was held peacefully. Male and female voters were seen standing in queues at all 74 centres in the unions to cast their votes.

In Pabna, although 37 out of 55 polling centres in six unions of Faridpur upazila were earlier identified as risky, no incident occurred at the centres during voting yesterday.

Election Office sources said 29 chairman and 195 member candidates and 64 women candidates for the reserved seats contested the election to six union parishads.

In Thakurgaon, elections to six union parishads in Haripur upazila were held peacefully.

According to District Election Office (DEO), 28 candidates contested the election for chairman posts, 233 for member posts and 18 for women reserved seats of six union parishads in the upazila.



PHOTO: STAR

Interns bring out a silent procession on the campus of Mymensingh Medical College Hospital yesterday, the second day of their indefinite strike protesting attack on their colleagues allegedly by the relatives of a patient on Friday.

## Patients suffer as MMCH interns continue strike

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Suffering of patients mounted on the second day of the indefinite strike by the interns at Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH) yesterday.

The interns went on strike on Saturday morning protesting alleged attack on their colleagues by the relatives of a patient on Friday.

Sources said, Divya Joyati Saha, 13, a class seven student of Baro Bazar area in the district town was admitted to the hospital's ward 14 on June 1 with bronco pneumonia. But the relatives of the patient took him to a paying bed at ward 19 defying the instruction of the on-duty doctors, sources said.

The patient's condition was not well and at around 5:30 pm, Divya Joyati Saha died of his complications at ward 19.

After sometime, relatives of the patient with the help of outsiders swooped on the interns and assaulted a few of them.

This correspondent yesterday visited a few wards of the hospital where the doctors were seen struggling to handle serious patients in absence of the interns.

The striking interns under the banner of Interns' Chikitsak Parishad (Ichip) yesterday formed a human chain in front of the office of MMCH director at around 11:30 pm. Later they brought out a silent procession on MMCH campus. More than 150 interns joined the programme. Dr Arman Hossain and Dr Rony Roy, president and secretary of

the parishad, among others, joined the human chain and rally.

Director of the hospital Brigadier General Dr Mohammad Shahjahan held an emergency meeting with the hospital administration yesterday noon to resolve the crisis. Dr AFM Rafiqul Alam and Dr Motiur Rahman Bhuiyan, president and secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) local unit and principal of Mymensingh Medical College Prof Dr Md Aminul Haque attended the meeting, among others.

The meeting over, the interns met the director to press home their five-point demand that included immediate arrest of the attackers and tightening of security at the hospital to prevent repeat of such untoward incidents in future.

Earlier they submitted a memorandum to the hospital authorities.

Contacted, the director told this correspondent that the authorities are trying hard to make a headway so that the interns go back to duty.

"We also asked the police authorities to deploy more force at the hospital to ensure safety of the interns", he said.

A six-member probe body headed by Dr Shafiqul Islam formed on Saturday will submit its report by Thursday, hospital sources said.

Earlier in February this year, a few interns were assaulted by the outsiders and five of them were injured. Protesting the incident, the interns went on indefinite strike which continued for six days.