

JU registered graduate election held, 83pc vote cast

JU CORRESPONDENT

The much-awaited election to choose 25 registered graduate representatives for Jahangirnagar University (JU) senate was held peacefully on the campus yesterday.

A total of 3,635 (83 percent) voters out of 4,373 cast votes at some 120 booths at the university's social science and new arts buildings from 9:00am to 4:00pm, said Rahima Kaniz, assistant returning officer of the election.

It would take some seven hours more to publish the results, sources told The Daily Star when the report was filed at 8:30pm.

A total of 119 candidates, 75 from three panels and 44 individual candidates, vied for the 25 posts.

Of the panels, two were pro-Awami League Bangabandhu Adarsha o Muktiyuddher Chetony Bishwasi Pragatishil Jote, led by Chemistry Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir; and Bangabandhu Adarsha o Muktiyuddher Chetony Pragatishil Graduate Mancho, led by a former JU VC Professor MA Matin.

The pro-BNP panel is Swadhinata, Sarabhoumatwa, Bahudaliya Ganatantra o Bangladeshi Jatiyatadey Bishwasi Panel, led by Prof Shamsul Alam Selim of government and politics department.

Meanwhile, six outsiders were held by the university authorities as they were campaigning on behalf of Ziaur Rahman, a candidate of pro-BNP panel.

The last election to choose registered graduate representatives took place 16 years ago in 1998.



When traditional dinghies are losing its appeal to the modern means of transport, the landing station at South Keraniganj shows a different scenario. Boatmen are busy renovating some dinghies whereas people keep on boarding some to go to the other side of the Buriganga river. Every day, people in their hundreds use the station to avoid a detour, saving both their time and money. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

NEWS IN brief

Freedom fighter Aminul Islam dies

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Aminul Islam, a freedom fighter hailing from Phulbari upazila in Dinajpur died of old age complications at a private hospital in Rangpur on Friday, family members said.

He left behind his wife, four sons and two daughters, relatives, friends and well-wishers to mourn his death.

Local administration paid state honour to the veteran, followed by a namaz-e-janaza.

His body was buried at Barokota Graveyard in the upazila yesterday.

Woman found dead in bathroom

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A woman was found dead yesterday, hanging from a showerhead in her Jalalabad residence in Chittagong city yesterday morning.

Yasmin Akhter Nilu, 24, wife of Anwar, of Baijid thana, was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH), said police.

Brother of the deceased, Md Faruk, claimed that it was a murder. Nilu and Anwar had frequent quarrels. Just a one month ago, the couple started staying together again following negotiation conducted by the two families, he added.

Anwar went into hiding on Friday night, said police who sent the body to CMCH morgue for an autopsy.

Two held with Yaba pills in juice bottle in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested two men after recovering 5,000 Yaba pills from a juice bottle in Amanath Shah Bridge area under Bakolia Police Station early yesterday.

On a tip-off, Bakolia police checked a Dhaka-bound bus of Ena Transport and recovered the contraband pills, worth Tk 17.50 lakh, from a mango juice bottle, said police.

Later, they arrested Md Sagor, 27, the bus driver, and his helper Ruhul Amin, 54.

One killed, 45 hurt in road accidents

STAR REPORT

A pedestrian was killed after being run over by a microbus in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong yesterday. Saiful Islam Shakil, a local resident, was declared dead at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, said police.

Meanwhile, 45 people were injured in road accidents in two districts yesterday and Friday night. At least 20 passengers were hurt when a bus flipped to one side in Birganj upazila of Dinajpur early yesterday. In Rajshahi, 25 people suffered injuries when a bus carrying them plunged into a roadside ditch in Godgari upazila yesterday, reports UNB.

2017: No good year for workers

Finds Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The outgoing year was as deadly as the previous year for the workers, as at least 1,242 workers were killed across the country in 2017 due to a lack of occupational safety in the workplace, according to a report.

Bangladesh Occupational Safety, Health and Environment Foundation (OSHE) yesterday revealed the report on causalities in the workplace at a press briefing at Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU). OSHE Chairperson Saki Rezwana disclosed the report. As per the report, this year's condition has remained almost the same as 1,240 workers were killed in 2016.

The report was prepared based on news items run by 15 newspapers as well as information gathered from spots by staff of the foundation.

The reasons behind the workers' deaths and injuries include road accidents during their ways to workplaces, electrocution, fire, lightning strikes, and boiler and cylinder explosions. In 2017, at least 679 workers either died or got injured in road accidents on their way to workplaces. The report adds that 270 workers were killed in formal sector while 972 others in informal sector in the outgoing year.

DEATH AT WORKPLACE BY SECTOR 2017

SECTOR	NUMBER OF DEATHS
Transport	488
Construction	179
Day-Labourers	103
Farming	99
Readymade Garments	52
Fishing	28
Rice Mill	24
Domestic Work	22
Shipbreaking Industry	18
Steel Mill and Re-rolling Mill	8
Others	221
Total	1,242

SOURCE: BANGLADESH OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT FOUNDATION (OSHE)

The highest 488 workers were killed in transport sector while eight in steel and re-rolling mills.

In the last 10 years, at least 12,864 workers were killed and 11,767 were injured in workplace accidents, according to the report. Of the dead

workers, maximum 1,971 were killed in garments sector. The foundation also expressed a great concern over the deaths caused by boiler blast. In 2017, a total of 97 workers were killed in boiler blast across the country.

The use of expired boiler poses a threat to the workers, the foundation observed. Thirteen workers of Multifabs Garment Factory were killed in a boiler explosion on July 3 in Gazipur's Kashimpur. Fifty-three others were also injured.

Investigators found that the boiler was being operated in over-pressure mode, despite having expired a month before the incident.

On April 19, a boiler in Jamuna Auto Rice Mill exploded in Dinajpur, taking the lives of 18 workers, and injuring 12.

One boiler inspector is in charge of checking more than 600 boilers in Rangpur, Rajshahi and Khulna regions. The foundation recommended increasing the number of boiler inspectors.

"Occupational safety is a right to the workers. But it is unfortunate and bitter truth that a large number of workers are being killed in workplaces every year in Bangladesh because of poor safety standards and lax enforcement of existing regulations," said OSHE Foundation

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Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith speaks as the chief guest at a programme on the occasion of the first NRB (non-resident Bangladeshi) Day at the Bangabandhu International Conference Center in the capital yesterday. Center for NRB Foundation and Scholars Bangladesh Foundation organised the programme. From left, ME Chowdhury Shamim, Dr Nuran Nabi, Abul Kalam Azad, Dr AK Abdul Momen, and Enam Ali, were present.

NRBs can contribute skills for country's dev

Speakers tell first 'NRB Day' programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government can utilise the knowledge and skills of non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) in the country's development, said speakers at a programme yesterday.

Besides, the interest of NRBs should be protected as they send remittance to boost the country's economy, they said.

Scholars Bangladesh Foundation (SBF), a non-profit organisation, and Center of NRB Foundation organised the programme to celebrate the first "NRB Day" in the capital's Bangabandhu International Conference Center.

Speaking as the chief guest, Finance Minister Abul Maal Abdul Muhith said remittance is a big element in the country's economy, and it is the expatriates who send the money.

However, a country cannot progress depending on remittance only, he said, adding that technological and social change is needed for its progress.

As NRBs are global citizens, they can play a vital role in bringing changes to the society

while helping the country's development, he said.

SBF Advisor Dr AK Abdul Momen said there are many NRBs who do not have adequate money for investment, but they have skills, which they acquired over a period of time while staying abroad.

"The government needs to know how to use expertise and knowledge of the NRBs," he said. He also recalled the contribution of NRBs to muster global support for Bangladesh in the 1971 Liberation War.

Giving examples of India, Taiwan and China, SBF president ME Chowdhury Shameem said expatriates of those countries brought knowledge from the country they worked in.

He also urged the government to store personal information of NRBs so that their skills can be utilised in the country's development when needed.

Enam Ali, president of British-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce, and Abul Kalam Azad, chief coordinator for SDG affairs (Prime Minister's Office), were present, among others.

'No', reiterate

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The greens activities submitted some research papers on the negative impacts of the coal-based power plant to the prime minister's office in August, but no reply is yet to be found though four months have already been passed, she said.

Bangladesh Environment Network (BEN) Coordinator Prof Nazrul Islam, Dhaka University Professor Badrul Imam, and Bangladesh Poribesh Andolon (Bapa) General Secretary Abdul Matin, also spoke, the release added.

Amid grave protest from home and abroad, the government is constructing the 1,320-megawatt power plant in Rampal upazila of Bagerhat to improve the country's power generation capacity.

Introduce electronic records of patients

Experts tell BUHS, Rockefeller Foundation seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday stressed the need for introducing electronic health records (EHR) at hospitals and clinics across the country, to help improve the healthcare sector.

They said the advanced information technology will be beneficial in reducing error in storing medical data of patients and the subject should also be included in the curriculum of health professionals.

Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS) and Rockefeller Foundation jointly arranged the seminar on "Prospects of Electronic Health Record in Bangladesh" at the BUHS campus in the capital.

Md Zahidul Islam, a medical officer at the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS) said EHR will help doctors to know complete and updated information about patients at any stage of treatment.

The government has conducted a successful pilot project in this regard at a hospital in Gazipur in 2015, he added.

However, lack of interest from hospitals and insufficiency of trained personnel

remains a challenge for implementing the EHR system in Bangladesh, he said.

Dr Ali H Rashidee, president and chief executive officer of eHealth Solutions, said as knowledge and information in the medical sector grow fast, EHR will be very beneficial to healthcare professionals.

The computerised medical records on EHR will keep doctors updated about the patient including their ailment, diagnosis, course of treatment and medication, said Dr Rashidee, also a visiting faculty at BUHS.

Advancement of information technology in medical science has become inevitable and Bangladesh should embrace its benefit, he added.

Ashish Kumar Saha, director of Management Information System and line director of Healthcare Information System and eHealth at DGHS, said the government is working to successfully implement the EHR system in Bangladesh.

Sharmin Parveen, associate professor and head of the department of Health Informatics at BUHS, and IT expert Ferdous Alam, among others, spoke at the discussion.

AL grassroots strength key to win in next polls: Quader

BSS, Dhaka

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said his party was organisationally very strong at the grassroots to win the next general election.

He was talking to reporters after visiting the BRTC bus depot at Mohammadpur in the capital.

Quader, also road transport and bridges minister, expressed his optimism that the new and women voters would cast their votes in favour of the Awami League in the next general election.

Party's organisational strength at grassroots will play a vital role in this regard, he added.

He also expressed hope that the election would be held in a free, fair and neutral manner.



Dr Ali H Rashidee, managing director and chief medical officer of eHealth Bangladesh, speaks at the 8th regional public health conference at Bangladesh University of Health Sciences (BUHS) on the university campus yesterday.