

BGB ready to tackle polls violence: DG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) is ready to tackle any situation on the election day, Director General of the paramilitary force Maj Gen Shafeenul Islam said yesterday.

"We are ready to handle any untoward incident on December 30," he said. He, however, hoped that a peaceful voting atmosphere will prevail on the day.

The BGB chief was briefing the media after visiting a makeshift BGB camp set up at Patiya High School ground.

Earlier, around 1,115 platoons from BGB have been deployed across the country following the directives of Election Commission.

Around 70 platoons of border guards have been deployed in Chattogram district ahead of election, according to the district administration officials.



POISONING OURSELVES: The dark water of Surma testifies how polluted the river that passes by Sylhet city has become over the years. Not only are residents poisoning the river, but also consuming the water, directly or indirectly. Traders regularly take water from this spot to clean fish before sale at Kazir Bazar market. While they see it as a normal practice, buyers say the water may carry germs and infect the consumers with various diseases. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR

Ctg-16 gears up for tough contest

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, Ctg

Known as the stronghold of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami, Banskhali (Chattogram-16) is likely to see a hard-fought contest this time as all four heavyweight candidates have a strong presence in election campaign.

Posters and banners of all parties flooded every important intersection or thoroughfare of the upazila alongside those of Awami League candidate Mustafizur Rahaman Chowdhury.

Gulzar Ahmed, a resident of Jaliarghat village, said historically Banskhali belongs to the anti-Awami League camp. "There is no exception this time."

He also said all parties including BNP, Jatiya Party, and Jamaat-e-Islami have a strong position in the constituency; so, AL will face strong resistance if it opts for rigging.

"This is not 2014," added grocer Jashim Uddin of Kaliur union. "Things will not be easy for the

Awami League this time."

'ATMOSPHERE OF FEAR'

The competitive atmosphere, however, raised fear of violence. Already, Awami League supporters attacked a rally of Jatiya Party candidate Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury on December 21, leaving 30 JP followers with bullet injuries.

Accusing the ruling party of creating fear, the JP leader said, "The Awami League candidate has lost his mind. Using the loudspeaker, he is asking his people in broad daylight to attack our election camp and home. But I will not bow down to any pressure."

There are also allegations of harassment by the ruling party men and police.

Talking to The Daily Star, BNP candidate Zafrul Islam Chowdhury said the Awami League men were trying to create an atmosphere of terror so that the people fear going to vote.

"They attacked me a few days

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Election fever yet to grip Ctg 14, 15 constituencies

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Ctg

With less than a week left before the December 30 national election, the polls scenario in Chattogram 14 and 15 constituencies remains dull.

While supporters of Awami League-led alliance's candidates are campaigning in full swing there is no sign of any other parties. In addition, BNP did not even nominate anyone from the party. It's supporting other candidates in the two constituencies.

Against that backdrop, voters are apprehensive that the election might be a one-sided one.

Among the heavyweights, AL candidate Nazrul Islam Chowdhury and LDP Chairman Oli Ahmed are contesting for Chattogram-14 (Chandanaish and parts of Satkania) while AL's Abul Reza Muhammad Nezamuddin and former Jamaat lawmaker and its central Nayeb-e-Ameer ANM Shamsul Islam are contesting for Chattogram-15 (Lohagara and parts of Satkania).

Shamsul, who is in jail now, filed his nomination paper as an independent candidate and later got BNP's support. He is contesting the polls with BNP's election symbol "sheaf of paddy".

This correspondent visited a number of unions under Chandanaish upazila including Barama, Kanchanabad, Barkal, Dohazari and Boitoli on Saturday and spoke to locals.

Golam Nabi, a tea-stall owner in Gachhbaria College Gate area, said he was yet to see any enthusiasm among people. "Usually before the election day, sales in my stall used to increase manifold. People used to crowd the stall. It's different now," he said.

"These days, people do not even come out of home in the evening without necessity. A tense situation is prevailing everywhere," he said.

Abdur Rahim, a pharmacy owner in Moulvibazar area, said, "We're hoping for a peaceful atmosphere on the election day, otherwise many won't exercise

their franchise."

Walking around the neighbourhoods, this correspondent saw posters and banners of the AL candidate almost everywhere, while that of BNP-led component candidate was seen only in a few places.

In some areas, Oli Ahmed has set up election camps, though no one was there.

Contacted, Mahbub Alam Chowdhury, coordinator of one such camp in Barama union, alleged that their activists do not stay at the camps, fearing police raid.

"I went there in the morning but came back after seeing a police patrol van," he said. "Police are arresting our activists after implicating them in false cases," he alleged.

LDP activist Mohammad Manjur alleged that they are not being able to campaign freely. "Our posters and banners are being removed by AL men..." he alleged.

"Oli Ahmed is a five-time

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Trees along the railway tracks in Banani, near Sainik Cinema Hall, were felled to make way for infrastructure development of Dhaka Elevated Expressway. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

RMG workers stage demos in Gazipur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Workers of several readymade garment factories in Gazipur Sadar upazila took to the streets yesterday, vandalising and setting fire to some vehicles and causing blockade on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway before law enforcers intervened.

Police lobbed tear gas canisters and charged baton to disperse the workers, who were demanding increased wage.

Traffic movement at Gorgoria Master Bari area on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway remained suspended for about one hour from 3pm due to the workers' agitation.

The workers of NAZ Composite Ltd at Rajendrapur agitated intermittently from morning till 4pm, while workers of Golden Garments Ltd at Bhabanipur, and Jaber Jobaer and Hams Industrial group at Gorgoria Master Bari also demonstrated on the streets.

Workers at NAZ factory said the government recently announced increased wage and allowances for workers, but the authorities ignored it and paid wages as per previous rate, which caused discontent among 6,000 workers for the last one week.

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Exposition of International Conference on Disaster Risk Management 2019

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET), Dhaka

BUET-JIDPUS along with the Dept. of Architecture, Dept. of URP, Institute of Water and Flood Management, BUET and Urban Resilience Project: RAJUK is going to arrange a conference titled International Conference on Disaster Risk Management 2019 from 12-14 January, 2019. On this occasion, an exposition will be held in the BUET premises. Different organisations/firms can showcase projects, products and organisational activities addressing both engineering and social aspects in the field of disaster management.

Each stall will be 10ft by 10ft in size. Each stall will cost Tk 40,000 (from 12 January 2:00pm to 14

February 5:00pm, 2019). The last date of confirmation of stalls is January 7, 2019. For further details please email at icdrm2019@gmail.com or call +880-1843195696.

GD-2894

2nd edition

NEWS IN brief

Bangabandhu corner opens at Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor AHM Khairuzzaman Liton inaugurated a Bangabandhu corner at Rajshahi Nagar Bhaban yesterday.

Books, portraits and documentaries on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's life will be available at the corner, he said.

Initiated by the local government ministry, the corner also has rare books on the lives of four national leaders and the Liberation War. It will be kept open for all, he said. RCC Chief Executive Officer Shah Momin chaired the inaugural ceremony.

Man dies in M'singh road accident

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

A man was killed instantly and three others were injured as a bus hit a CNG-run auto-rickshaw carrying them in Mymensingh yesterday.

The accident occurred on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in Bagan area of Trishal upazila, said police.

Giasuddin, 40, from Chalerghat area in Trishal, was a fish trader, said Azizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Trishal Police Station. The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

Shaikh Muzibur Rahman's death anniversary today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT



Today is the second death anniversary of Shaikh Muzibur Rahman, former additional chief engineer of Public Works Department (PWD), said a press release.

His family members requested all of his relatives, friends, well-wishers and colleagues to pray for the salvation of

Cumilla old cadets hold seminar

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Association of Comilla Old Cadets (ACOC) held "Anwar Hossain Memorial ACOC Seminar" in Dhaka yesterday.

More than 200 former cadets of ACOC took part in the programme at a restaurant in Dhanmondi.

KAM Majedur Rahman, managing director of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) and an ex-cadet from Faujdarhat Cadet College, was present as the chief guest.

ACOC President Prof Saif Ullah Munshi chaired the programme.

JU winter vacation extended

JU CORRESPONDENT

The Jahangirnagar University authorities will extend its winter vacation for six days on the occasion of the December 30 national polls.

According to the new decision made at a syndicate meeting yesterday, the university will go for the vacation from today and resume on January 7, said syndicate member Prof Hanif Ali.

Earlier, the university authorities declared the vacation for eight days from December 24 till December 31.

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e-Tender Notice No: 25/EE/EED/bog/2018-19/5974 25 Lot

Date: 23-12-2018

e-Tender Notice

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of stated below:

Tender ID	Description of work	Last selling date & time	Closing date & time	Fees for e-Tender documents
263550	Repair and renovation of Durgadaho Dakhil Madrasa Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 10.30	14.01.2019 10.00
263623	Repair and renovation of Doripara Dakhil Madrasa Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 10.45	14.01.2019 10.00
263673	Repair and renovation of Aysha Osman Girls High School Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 11.00	14.01.2019 10.30
263705	Repair and renovation of Aoulakandi EM High School Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 11.15	14.01.2019 10.30
263738	Repair and renovation of Nowkhila PN High School Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 11.30	14.01.2019 11.00
263741	Repair and renovation of Pakula High School Sonatola Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 11.45	14.01.2019 11.00
264564	Repair and renovation of Baluhat High School Sonatola Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 12.00	14.01.2019 11.30
264591	Repair and renovation of Koritola High School Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 12.15	14.01.2019 11.30
264663	Repair and renovation of Sariakandi Pilot Girls High School Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 12.30	14.01.2019 12.00
264896	Repair and renovation of Sutanara Dakhil Madrasa Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 12.45	14.01.2019 12.00
264972	Repair and renovation of Saihata Dakhil Madrasa Sariakandi Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 13.00	14.01.2019 12.30
265064	Repair and renovation of Sicharpura Bulzan High School Sonatola Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 14.00	14.01.2019 13.30
265123	Repair and renovation of Dr Enamul Haque College Sonatola Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 14.15	14.01.2019 13.30
265134	Repair and renovation of Damgara Sayad Mina High School Sibganj Bogura.	13.01.2019 15.00	14.01.2019 14.30	14.01.2019 14.00