

DEATH IN CCC ELECTION VIOLENCE

Victim's family says thugs used police's firearms in shooting

MOSTAFA YOUSUF, *Chattogram*

The family of the youth who died in gunfight between supporters of two councillor candidates alleged that the miscreants used police's firearms to shoot the victim.

Alauddin Alo (28), a construction worker, died in a clash between supporters of Awami League-backed candidate Wasim Uddin Chowdhury and opposing candidate Mahmudur Rahman yesterday morning.

Jahanara Begum, elder sister of Alauddin told The Daily Star that her brother suffered this tragic fate just after stepping out of home for work at 8.30 am in the morning.

She said her brother was not involved in any politics. He had a family dependent on him.

"The clash originated in the morning not far from our home. When my brother reached 'Ershader Dokan' area, the thugs, accompanied by police, opened fire on my brother," she said.

"The thugs took the firearms from force members of Khulsi police station and shot my brother," said Jahanara.

Alo's mother had a heart attack upon learning about her son's death.

The police who were discharging election duty were siding with Awami League supported candidate Wasim Uddin Chowdhury, claimed Jahanara.

As they [Jahanara and family] were supporters of former councillor Mohammad Hossen Hiron, police were hostile towards them since the beginning of the election, she said.

"My brother's family has been ripped apart by this killing. His wife and one-year-old child have no one to provide for them now," Jahanara said.



Alauddin Alo

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1.67cr people to get vaccine on a priority basis: PM tells House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday informed the parliament that about 1.67 crore people, from around 20 different sectors of the country, will receive Covid-19 vaccine on a priority basis.

"In the first phase, 1.50 crore people, which is 8.68 percent of the country's population, will be vaccinated. They will receive two vaccine shots in the span of two weeks," Hasina said.

All three crore doses of the vaccine manufactured by Serum Institute of India (SII) will be delivered to Bangladesh within six months, she said.

She made the comments while answering a query of a lawmaker. The PM's answer was tabled at the beginning of the day's sitting at the House.

The prime minister said the groups to be vaccinated on a priority basis were identified as per the guidelines from the World Health Organization's Scientific Advisory Group of Experts, and the situation in the country.

A total of 4,52,027 frontline government health workers will be in the priority list, she said.

Besides, a total of 6,00,000 non-government health workers, 2,10,000 freedom fighters, 5,46,620 frontline law enforcers, 3,60,913 military and civil defense forces, 50,000 government officials essential to run the administration, 50,000 frontline media workers, 178,298 elected



representatives, 150,000 staff members of city corporations and municipalities will be on the priority list.

Hasina also said that 5,41,000 religious representatives, 75,000 people involved in funeral services, 4,00,000 emergency service providers for water, electricity, fire service and others, 1,50,000 staffers of air, land and sea ports, 1,20,000 unskilled expatriate workers, 4,00,000 field level government officials, 1,97,621 bankers, 6,25,000 low immunity people (tuberculosis, AIDS and cancer patients), 1,03,26,658 people aged between 64 and 79 years, 13,12,973 people aged over 80 years, and 21,863 players of the football, cricket and hockey national teams and others, will be on the list also.

Besides vaccine will be kept for 170,000 people for buffer, emergency and outbreaks.

Bangladesh would get 6.80 crore doses of vaccine for 3.40 crore people, from the World Health Organization's COVAX facility. The vaccine will be preserved in 64 district EPI stores and 483 EPI stores of the country, said the prime minister.

Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the pilot vaccination virtually yesterday.

Bangladesh purchased 3 crore doses of Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine from Serum Institute of India (SII). The first consignment of 50 lakh arrived on January 25. Bangladesh also received 20 lakh doses of the Oxford vaccine produced in SII as gift from the Indian government on January 21.

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CCC polls stir up the political arena

STAR REPORT

The Chattogram City Corporation polls yesterday stirred up a heated debate in the country's political arena, with BNP alleging that the election was marred by "unprecedented vote robbery" and "violence".

The issue of the election was discussed during the ongoing session of the parliament, when two BNP lawmakers came down heavy on the administration for favouring ruling Awami League candidate, terming the polls a "farce".

However, ruling Awami League blamed BNP for threatening voters and creating panic, and indulging in violent and criminal activities.

During the discussion on the Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill-2021, which was passed in the parliament yesterday, a debate between treasury and opposition BNP lawmakers took place at the House.

BNP lawmaker Harunur Rashid said a "farce" was staged in the name of CCC polls.

Another BNP lawmaker Rumin Farhana alleged administration cast votes while people witnessed it.

Refuting BNP lawmakers' claim, AL lawmaker and Law Minister Anisul Huq said, "They are talking about election; we have seen Yes-No vote of Ziaur Rahman, (we have seen) February 15 election... ballot boxes could not be found at that time."

Opposition Jaiya Party took stance in favour of the ruling MPs.

Elsewhere, a BNP delegation, followed by a team of AL representatives, visited the EC in the capital's Agargaon yesterday afternoon and submitted a written complaint to the EC secretary regarding electoral irregularities.

Talking to reporters after filing the complaint, BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi yesterday alleged that the CCC election was marred by "unprecedented vote robbery" and "violence", terming the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) KM Nurul Huda as a "killer of democracy and fair elections".

He said, "This election is nothing but a farce on an unimaginable level. Fair elections remain out of reach to people during this regime," reports UNB.

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