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Eight killed in polls violence

Clashes, ballot stuffing in several districts; EC secy calls it 'model for all elections'

STAR REPORT

At least seven people were killed and several others injured as violence, mainly clashes between supporters of candidates, marred the third phase of the union parishad polls yesterday.

Of the deceased, two each were killed in Munshiganj and Thakurgaon while one each in Narsingdi, Khulna, and Lakshmipur districts.

Another person lost his life in Jashore during a clash on Saturday night, hours before the voting started yesterday morning.

Two of the victims died in clashes between supporters of contenders from the ruling Awami League and dissidents from the party, in Lakshmipur and Khulna districts. Fellow leaders and activists of the victims blamed their rivals for the killings.

Clashes between supporters of candidates were reported in a total of eight districts.

The election was also marked by attacks on polling officials and ballot-stuffing in several places.

With the eight victims, at least 53 people have been killed in polls violence over the staggered UP polls, which began in June.

Seventeen of them were killed in the third phase, 30 during the second phase, held on November 11, and six in the first phase of the elections on June 21 and September 21, according to media reports.

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Taijul Islam (L) celebrates one of seven dismissals as Bangladesh bowled out Pakistan for 286 runs to take a first-innings lead of 44 runs. However, the hosts were in a spot of bother as they lost four wickets for 39 runs when stumps were called for the third day of the first Test at the Zahur Ahmed Chowdhury Stadium in Chattogram yesterday. Story on page 12. PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

Power Div rejoinder, our reply

We are publishing in full a rejoinder sent in by the Power Division of the Ministry of Power, Energy and Mineral Resources on our report titled "Matarbari Coal Power Plant: Nature sacrificed for power" published on November 17. Given the importance of the subject, we took some time to prepare our reply.

REJOINDER

The report was not based on facts and finds. It is a misleading lead story report in a leading English daily.

Considering the fact that this fallacious report might create confusion, the power division is sending the following scientific facts to clear the erroneous reporting in The Daily Star and we request The Daily Star to publish our explanation in the next circulation.

The Bangladesh government always gives utmost priority to environmental issues while

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Khaleda has liver cirrhosis

Needs better treatment abroad, say physicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Physicians of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, who is now undergoing treatment at the capital's Evercare Hospital, said that not only was she diagnosed with liver cirrhosis, but has also started passing blood.

As the 76-year-old former premier had faced bleeding thrice, she needs TIPS (transjugular intrahepatic portosystemic shunt) technology to intervene and this is available in some specific advanced centres in the USA, UK, and Germany.

"We don't have this technology and neither is it available in Thailand and Singapore. If bleeding reoccurs, chances of death due to bleeding will increase," Professor Fakhruddin Mohammad Siddiqui, a member of Khaleda's medical board, told journalists at a briefing in front of Khaleda's house.

Siddiqui said re-bleeding for liver cirrhosis patients was inevitable and Khaleda's condition could turn critical at anytime.

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Slap travel ban, limit gatherings

Amid Omicron scare, advisory body asks govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Technical Advisory Committee on Covid-19 recommended limiting mass gatherings and travel bans on countries where the Omicron variant had spread.

Individuals who arrived in Bangladesh from any of those countries in the last 14 days should be in institutional quarantine, the committee said in a press release.

Use of face masks should be ensured everywhere, including in educational institutions, it added.

There should be better treatment arrangements at hospitals and political, social and religious mass gatherings should be limited, read the press release.

As of last night, the Civil Aviation Authority had not issued any travel ban.

"There will be an inter-ministerial meeting in this regard on Tuesday. Decisions will be

RECOMMENDATIONS

- Travel ban from countries where Omicron variant has spread
- Institutional quarantine of those who have been to those countries
- Limiting mass political, social and religious gatherings
- Arranging Covid-19 tests for free

made there," said Health Minister Zahid Maleque.

New coronavirus variant Omicron has already spread to multiple countries including the UK, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands,

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 12 SEE PAGE 5 COL 5

Ex-MP Papul's sentence final

Loses review petition at Kuwait appeals court, has to serve 7 yrs, pay Tk 76cr in fine

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Kuwait's top appeals court yesterday upheld former MP Mohammad Shahid Islam alias Kazi Papul's sentence of seven years in prison and fine of Kuwaiti Dinar 2.7 million in a sensational human trafficking case.

The Court of Cassation also ordered the defendant to be deported after he had served his time. The rulings are final, reported the Gulf News.

In the same case, the court handed down similar jail terms to Kuwaiti undersecretary of the interior ministry Maj Gen Mazen Al Jarrah and manpower director Hassan Al Khedr and ordered their sacking from their government posts on charges of bribery.

The court also sentenced former Kuwaiti MP Salah Khurshed to seven years in prison and ordered him to pay a fine of KD 740,000.

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FUTURE OF EDUCATION

The education sector experienced a transition during the pandemic, with traditional education having to adopt and adapt to online systems. As universities resume in-person classes, there are questions about where the future of education lies. Find out more in today's supplement.



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