



## VOTER LIST UPGRADATION EC targets more women enrolment

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The Election Commission yesterday launched a countrywide campaign to update the voter list when the number of women voters is decreasing due to social and religious grounds and the absence of door-to-door drive over the last two years.

The Commission this time will visit every household putting emphasis on enrolling all eligible women voters, officials said.

This would be the last registration process for prospective voters before the 12th parliamentary election.

EC data show ahead of the 2008 national elections, there were 51.88 percent female voters and 49.12 percent male voters.

In March this year, the figures stood at 49.08 percent and 50.92 percent, respectively. The total number of voters is now 11,32,870,10 -- 5,55,97,027 of them women.


Female voters made up 49.84 percent of the total voters ahead of the 2014 general election. It came down to 49.56 percent ahead of the 2018 parliamentary polls.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said the absence of door-to-door



Houses of Asrayan project are almost submerged in flood waters in Radhanagar of Sylhet's Companiganj upazila. Many residents have taken refuge at their relatives' homes far away as there is no room left at the shelter centres nearby. Around 20 lakh people have been affected by the flash floods in Sylhet and Sunamganj. The photo was taken yesterday. Story on page 12.

PHOTO: SHEIKH NASIR



**WOMEN VOTERS**

- 51.88% in 2008
- 49.84% in 2014
- 49.56% in 2018
- 49.08% until March 2022

drive for updating the voter list in the last two years and increasing number of women leaving home districts to cities seeking work are among the key reasons behind the drop in the number of women voters.

EC officials mentioned several other factors like reluctance of women to collect birth certificates by paying the prescribed fees and reluctance of unmarried Hindu women to get registered as voter at their parents' address.

Besides, unmarried women and those from poverty-prone areas and with less education lack interests to become voters.

EC officials also pointed out factors like failures to provide parents' national identity cards for the procedures and long distance of registration centres and reluctance to take pictures on religious and social grounds.

Mentioning these reasons, the EC in its May 10 order urged all elected women vice-chairmen of upazilas, union parishads and municipalities to play an active role so that the number of female voters go up during the updating process.

The EC in another order to all election officers in upazilas and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Now rice prices on the rise

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN and SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The prices of fine rice have gone up in the capital's wholesale and retail markets, aggravating the suffering of the people from middle-income families who are already struggling to meet their household expenses due to spiraling prices of essentials, including edible oil and lentil.

The prices of the staple have increased by Tk 2 to Tk 3 per kg in the last four to five days. Fine Miniket rice was sold for Tk 68 to Tk 70 a kg at the city's Karwan Bazar yesterday, up from Tk 65 to Tk 66 a week ago. The price of Najirshal soared to Tk 80 a kg from Tk 75 to Tk 76.

The price of coarse rice has soared by Tk

2 per kg as well.

Korban Sardar, manager of Rony Rice Agency at Karwan Bazar, said they usually buy rice from Mohammadpur Krishi

Market, but traders there have slowed down supplies.

"As an alternative, we contacted rice millers in Chapainawabganj where the price is also high. Yesterday, we sold each 50-kg sack of Atash rice for Tk 2,400 to retailers. Millers are now asking Tk 2,500 for the same amount of rice."

He said they will now have to sell the coarse rice to retailers at a higher price.

Traders blamed bulk buying of paddy by some major local companies and the flash floods in Sylhet and Sunamganj for the rise

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## UKRAINE WAR FALLOUT Restore global supply chains

PM urges int'l community at UN

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has urged the international community to urgently deal with the disruptions in global logistics and supply chains as Ukraine war has seriously strained the already fragile pandemic-hit global economy.

"This will help control the rising commodity prices," she said at the first high-level meeting of Global Crisis Response Group on Food, Energy and Finance (GCRG), organised by UN yesterday.

The GCRG has been established by the UN to coordinate the global response to the widespread impacts of the war in Ukraine.

The group has on board the world's six eminent

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5



## ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION 2.15 lakh lives lost in Bangladesh in 2019



### TYPE OF POLLUTION - DEATHS CAUSED

Air Pollution	173,515	Traditional pollution (household air and water pollution)	125,635
Water pollution	30,874		Modern pollution (ambient air, chemical, occupational and lead)
Occupational pollution	10,289		
Lead pollution	30,777		
<b>Total pollution</b>	<b>215,824</b>		

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

Pollution caused over 2.15 lakh premature deaths in Bangladesh in 2019, according to a new global study.

The poor air quality was the main contributor to such deaths while water and lead pollution and occupational hazards are the other causes, said the study published in medical journal The Lancet on Thursday.

Nearly 1.75 lakh people died due to air pollution alone while over 30,000 deaths occurred because of water pollution, said the study titled Pollution and Health: a Progress Update.

Pollution is directly linked to heart disease, cancer, respiratory problems, and other illnesses.

The report said at least 215,824 died in 2019 due to air, water, and lead pollution and occupational hazards.

Bangladesh ranked sixth among countries seeing premature deaths due to pollution while India topped the list with 2,357,267 deaths.

Contacted, Niaz Ahmed Khan, professor at Department of Development Studies of Dhaka University, said, "It has almost become a philosophy that things like pollution should have to be accepted as collateral damage for the greater benefit of development. The situation has reached a level where the babies are paying the price even before they are born."

The former country director of IUCN added, "Considering the intensity of the problem, we seemed to be rather inadequately prepared and concerned."

The report was based on the data from the Global Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study 2019 (GBD) which showed that pollution remained responsible for approximately nine million deaths

a year globally.

"Pollution remains the world's largest environmental risk factor for disease and premature death, especially affecting low- and middle-income countries," reads the report.

Air pollution accounts for nearly 75 percent of the nine million deaths, it adds.

The World Bank in a report published in 2018 said around 234,000 were killed in Bangladesh in 2015 due to environmental pollution and associated health risks, making it one of the worst affected countries in the world.

The poor air quality of Bangladesh often makes global headlines due to fossil fuel combustion, biomass burning, emissions from brick kilns and development works.

The World Air Quality Report 2020, released in March last year,

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



**দেশব্যাপী ১৫-২১ জুন ২০২২**

## জনশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা ২০২২

**জনশুমারি ও গৃহগণনা হচ্ছে, শুমারি মুহূর্তে (১৪ জুন ২০২২ দিবাগত রাত ১২:০০ টা) বাংলাদেশে বসবাসরত সকল ব্যক্তিকে গণনাসহ তাঁদের সম্পর্কে মৌলিক জনমিতিক, আর্থ-সামাজিক ও বাসগৃহ সংক্রান্ত তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা।**

**প্রধান উদ্দেশ্যসমূহ-**

- ✓ দেশের প্রতিটি খানা (Household) ও খানার সদস্যগণকে গণনা করে দেশের মোট জনসংখ্যার হিসাব নিরূপণ;
- ✓ দেশের সকল বসতঘর/বাসগৃহের সংখ্যা নিরূপণ;
- ✓ দেশের সার্বিক উন্নয়ন পরিকল্পনা গ্রহণের লক্ষ্যে তথ্য সংগ্রহ;
- ✓ স্থানীয় ও জাতীয় নির্বাচনে নির্বাচনী এলাকার সীমানা নির্ধারণের জন্য তথ্য সরবরাহ; এবং
- ✓ জাতীয় সম্পদের সুস্বয়ং নিশ্চিত করার লক্ষ্যে তথ্য সরবরাহ।

**তথ্য সংগ্রহ পদ্ধতি-**

- ✓ ট্যাবের মাধ্যমে Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) পদ্ধতিতে তথ্য সংগ্রহ করা হবে।

**গণনায় অগ্রদূক্ত হবেন-**

- ✓ শুমারি মুহূর্তে (১৪ জুন ২০২২ দিবাগত রাত ১২:০০ টা) বাংলাদেশে অবস্থানরত সকল দেশি ও বিদেশি নাগরিক; এবং
- ✓ ছয় মাসের কম সময়ের জন্য সাময়িকভাবে বিদেশে অবস্থানরত সকল বাংলাদেশি নাগরিক।

পরিসংখ্যান আইন, ২০১৩ অনুযায়ী বাংলাদেশে পরিসংখ্যান শুমারি ও গৃহগণনা পরিচালনা করবে

জনশুমারিতে প্রদত্ত সকল ব্যক্তির তথ্যের গোপনীয়তা নিশ্চিত করা হবে



**বাংলাদেশ পরিসংখ্যান ব্যুরো**  
পরিসংখ্যান ও তথ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা বিভাগ, পরিকল্পনা মন্ত্রণালয়

**জনশুমারিতে তথ্য দিন, পরিকল্পিত উন্নয়নে অংশ নিন**