

EVM remains a concern as Rajshahi goes to polls today

ANWAR ALI and MD ABBAS, from Rajshahi

As Rajshahi is set for the City Corporation polls today, many voters have expressed concern about casting votes using electronic voting machines (EVM) due to lack of training.

"No one taught me about EVM, I didn't even hear that EVM will be used in this election," said Md Shahabuddin, a voter of ward no. 18 of Assam Colony.

Senior citizen Md Nurul Islam from ward-3 shared similar concerns. "I peddle rickshaw all day, that's why I could not learn about EVM. None came to my vicinity to teach me the process of using EVM," he added.

These correspondents have talked to 20 individuals, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds, who have echoed the same frustrations.

While many have easily learned how to use EVM, there are still individuals who harbour apprehensions about technology, said Prof Zubaida Aysha Siddika, the principal of Rajshahi Government Women's College.

"It's undoubtedly an easy technology," she said. However, she pointed out that those voters who are not familiar with smartphones, might encounter difficulties with the EVM as well.

Jatiya Party mayoral candidate Saiful Islam Swapan has been vocal about his opposition to the use of EVM in the RCC elections from the very beginning.

He expressed concern over the reluctance of his voters to cast their votes using EVM.

Swapan cited previous experience in the Barishal and Khulna city elections, where EVM allegedly caused significant problems. He warned that similar issues might arise in the RCC polls as well.

"The EC promised to conduct extensive campaigns about the use of EVM before the election, but their campaigns were inadequate," he said.

Contacted, Delwar Hossain, the returning officer of the RCC polls, stated that they have taken adequate measures to address any potential issues with the EVM.

"We have provided one and a half times more EVM machines at each polling centres than required to account for any possible malfunctions," he said.

Hossain acknowledged that certain groups of voters, such as day labourers or the elderly may face challenges with fingerprint recognition while using the EVM. In order to mitigate this issue, the Election Commission has made additional arrangements, including providing soap, handwash, lemon, and turpentine oil at each polling centre.

Furthermore, Hossain assured that the assigned election officials would provide assistance and guidance

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Moiarchar Government Primary School, a polling centre for ward-39, went underwater following continuous downpour yesterday. To ensure a stable path for voters today, a man was seen filling sand and laying bricks in front of the school.

PHOTO: STAR

Rain dampens polls festivity in Sylhet

Downpour, fear of flood may result in low voter turnout

DWOHA CHOWDHURY, Sylhet

With no formidable opponents in sight, rain has emerged as the major hurdle for Sylhet Awami League, which may result in a low voter turnout at the city corporation polls scheduled for today.

There's a forecast of mid to heavy rainfall in Sylhet region today, according to the Met office.

With rain persisting since June 15 and the Surma flowing just below danger level, concerns are mounting over a potential interim flood situation in low-lying areas of the city.

As the rain persists, the playground of Moiarchar Government Primary School, designated as a polling centre for ward-39, has already gone underwater.

Similarly, Nasiba Khatun High School in Bhartakhala area found itself submerged for a few hours following a heavy rainfall on Monday.

The prospect of heavy rain and potential flooding may deter residents from venturing out of their homes, contributing to a potential decline in voter turnout.

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Will ensure violence-free city polls

Says EC Ahsan Habib

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Election Commissioner Brig Gen (retd) Ahsan Habib Khan yesterday said the Election Commission has instructed the authorities concerned to ensure that no polls and post polls violence can take place centring Rajshahi and Sylhet city elections.

He also said all candidates are equal to the commission.

"The administration, police, law enforcement agencies and polling officials have been given 100 percent assurance to maintain a peaceful

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Election not on advice of external power: Quader

BSS, Dhaka



Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday reiterated that the next general elections would be held in line with the provisions of the country's constitution, not on the advice of any external power.

Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, was speaking at a discussion at ISKCON Swamibag Ashram on the occasion of Sri Sri Jagannathdev's Rath Yatra festival.

The AL general secretary said their party is not going to the elections considering anyone's visa policy or sanctions as it always gives priority to the country's constitution and its people.

Terming India a time-tested friend, he said Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is going to the United States and it has no relations with the politics of Bangladesh.

"There are many issues in today's world like war, inflation and energy crisis. We have not discussed

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We may see three-peat of rigged elections: Fakhrul

UNB, Dhaka



BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged that the country's people will not be able to cast their votes in the next national election, same as the last two, if it is held under the current government.

"The government is planning to hold the election in that way again. Our people want to elect their representatives with their votes. But it'll never be possible if the present Awami League regime remains in power," he said.

Speaking at a programme at a city hotel, the BNP leader also said their party has long been demanding the national elections under a neutral and non-partisan government to enable people to elect their representatives freely by exercising their franchise.

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People of all ages, mostly school-going children, are forced to use this makeshift bamboo bridge to cross the Burir Dhan canal as the government-constructed concrete bridge remains unrepaired for over a year. The photo was taken in Bhola's Lalmohan upazila.

PHOTO: MONIR UDDIN ANIK

'Life through Rohingya eyes'

Photo exhibition launched at Liberation War Museum



PHOTO: COLLECTED

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

A photo exhibition titled "Life Through Rohingya Eyes" was inaugurated at the Liberation War Museum in the capital yesterday, marking World Refugee Day.

The exhibition, jointly organised by UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and Liberation War Museum under Rohingyaatographer Collective, a refugee-led project supported by the

agency. It features works of 19 Rohingya photographers, read a press release.

Most of the photos on display offers an intimate peek into the lives of Rohingyas living the world's largest camp for them in Cox's Bazar.

Curated by Sahat Zia Hero, the founder of the collective, its mentor David Palazón and Amena Khatun of the Liberation War Museum, the photos on display at the exhibition portrays the spirit of the deserted

community and highlights their challenges, social position and the overall environments of the camps.

Johannes van der Klaauw, the UNHCR representative in Bangladesh; Sara Zaker, trustee of the museum, and two of the featured photographers spoke at the event, which was attended by diplomats and dignitaries.

The open-for-all exhibition will end on July 10.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার					
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব) এর কার্যালয় বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম-৪০০০					
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তারিখঃ ১৮.০৬.২০২৩খ্রিঃ					
প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব), বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, সিআরবি, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক National Electronic Government Procurement Portal (https://www.eprocure.gov.bd) এ নিম্নে বর্ণিত কাজসমূহের দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হয়েছেঃ					
ক্রঃ নং	টেন্ডার রেফারেন্স নং	আইডি নং	করের ধরণ ও কাজ/সরবরাহ কাজের নাম	দরপত্র পদ্ধতি	দরপত্র দাখিলের তারিখ ও শেষ সময়
১.	CE/E/Rev/TS/69/e-Tender/2022-23	846115	Works: At SSAE/WAY/JLX Section: Through renewal of railway track by 75A rail (S/H) and steel sleeper (S/H) including supplying & spreading of Ballast at km. 403/8-412/4=8.6 Km. in between Jamalpur-Kendua Bazar section with other related works.	OTM, NCT	10-Jul-2023 at 12:10Hrs.
২.	CE/E/Rev/TS/70/e-Tender/2022-23	846123	Works: At SSAE/WAY/JLX Section: Thorough renewal of railway track by 75A rail (S/H) and steel sleeper (S/H) including supplying & spreading of Ballast at km. 412/4 to 425/5 =13.1 Km. in between Kendua Bazar-Sarishabari section with other related works.	OTM, NCT	17-Jul-2023 at 12:00Hrs.
৩.	CE/E/Rev/TS/71/e-Tender/2022-23	844982	Goods: Manufacturing & Supplying of 1 in 12 MG point & crossing and Trap point of 75 lbs A Rail with supply of all necessary accessories for regular maintenance of Railway Track under Eastern zone of Bangladesh Railway.	OTM, NCT	10-Jul-2023 at 12:30Hrs.
৪.	CE/E/Rev/TS/72/e-Tender/2022-23	846127	Works: At SSAE/WAY/KYTO Section: Thorough renewal of Points & Crossing by oil treated wooden sleeper including manufacturing & Supplying of MG point & crossing with all necessary accessories (except Rail) at Mymensingh yard with other related works.	OTM, NCT	10-Jul-2023 at 12:00Hrs.
৫.	CE/E/Rev/TS/73/e-Tender/2022-23	784659	Works: Making anchoring system of elastic rail clip with insert of existing concrete sleeper under DEN-1/CTG Jurisdiction with other related works.	OTM, NCT	10-Jul-2023 at 12:25Hrs.
৬.	CE/E/Rev/TS/74/e-Tender/2022-23	783457	Works: Making anchoring system of elastic rail clip with insert of existing concrete sleeper under DEN-2/DA Jurisdiction with other related works.	OTM, NCT	10-Jul-2023 at 12:15Hrs.
৭.	CE/E/Rev/TS/75/e-Tender/2022-23	844963	Works: At SSAE/Way/SLHR Section: Spot/Casual renewal of Bridge sleeper over of Bridge No: CN/4 (Up & Dn), CN/9 (Up & Dn), CN/11 (Up & Dn), CN/22, CN/29, CN/30, CN/31, CN/34, CN/35, CN/37, CN/40, CN/47, CN/48, CN/49, U/2, U/4, U/6, CN/53, CN/56, CN/57, CN/60, CN/65, CN/66, CN/68, CN/70, CN/72, CN/73, CN/74, CN/76, CN/78, CN/80, CN/83, CN/84, CN/87, CN/90, CN/91, CN/92, CN/94, CN/96, CN/100, CN/101, CN/102, CN/104, CN/105, CN/107, CN/110 in between Chattogram-Najirhat section with other allied works.	OTM, NCT	10-Jul-2023 at 12:20Hrs.

বিঃদ্রঃ
১. শুধুমাত্র ই-জিপি সিস্টেমে নির্ধারিত eligibility শর্তাবলী পূরণকারী দরদাতাগণ সরাসরি অংশগ্রহণ করতে পারবেন।
২. দরপত্রের অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরপত্র দলিল ক্রয় ও দরপত্র জামানত বাবদ প্রাপ্য অর্থ নির্ধারিত ব্যাংকে জমা প্রদান করতে হবে।

এস(২৩) (১৯৭)
জিডি-১০৩০

মোঃ আরিফুল ইসলাম
ট্র্যাক সাপ্লাই অফিসার (পূর্ব)
পক্ষে-প্রধান প্রকৌশলী (পূর্ব)
বাংলাদেশ রেলওয়ে, চট্টগ্রাম