

## Jubo Dal activist stabbed to death

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Thakurgaon*

A local Jubo Dal activist was stabbed to death in Joypurhat's Panchbibi upazila on Thursday night, allegedly over a dispute involving Tk 21,000 from a local mosque fund.

The deceased was identified as Yanur Hossain, 30, of Chalakhur village in the upazila.

Quoting the victim's family, Hafiz Md Raihan, officer-in-charge of Panchbibi Police Station, said Yanur and his friend Al Amin was staying in the Dhakarpara area of Shalapur Bazar that night.

"At onestage, Yanur's rivals swooped on them and stabbed both Yanur and Al Amin with sharp weapons around 10:30pm, leaving them critically injured," the OC said.

Police, with the help of locals, rushed the victims to Panchbibi Upazila Health Complex, where doctors declared Yanur dead.

Al Amin was later shifted to Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College Hospital in Bogura, where he is undergoing treatment.

Golam Rabbani Rabbi, former joint convener of district Jubo Dal, said there is currently no active Jubo Dal committee in Joypurhat, but Yanur had been a long-time active member of the organisation, according to UNB.

Family members alleged that two rivals of Yanur carried out the attack due to a dispute over Tk 21,000 belonging to a mosque. They said Yanur's brother, Abdul Momin, had filed a case with Panchbibi Police Station about a month ago over the dispute. The accused later secured bail.

Process is underway to file a murder case, the OC added.

## Worker dies from electrocution

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Jamalpur*

A mason was electrocuted to death while working at a construction site in Madarganj upazila of Jamalpur yesterday morning.

The deceased was identified as Hridoy Mia, 24, of Balijuri village under Madarganj municipality.

The incident occurred while Hridoy was working on the roof of the under-construction gate of the Madarganj municipal building.

According to police and co-workers, he accidentally came into contact with a live electric wire and was critically injured.



After fishing, a family of the Manta community heads towards their destination by boat along the Tulatti River in Bakerganj upazila of Barishal yesterday.

PHOTO: TITU DAS

# Number of voters increases by 1.28 lakh across Rangpur

S DILIP ROY

The number of voters registered for the 13th National Parliamentary Election in Rangpur district has increased significantly across its six parliamentary constituencies, with young voters emerging as a decisive force.

Compared to the 12th National Election, the district has added 1,28,639 new voters. A large share of them are youths who will be exercising their voting rights for the first time.

According to the Rangpur district election office, the total number of voters during the 12th National Election stood at 24,70,562 across the six constituencies. Of them, 12,37,310 were male, 12,33,229 female, and 23 third-gender voters.

For the 13th National Election, the total voter count has risen to 25,99,201. Among them are 12,92,841 male voters, 13,06,329 female voters, and 31 third-gender voters.

Among the six constituencies, Rangpur-1 (Gangachara and part of Rangpur City Corporation) recorded the highest increase in voters. Due to constituency boundary re-demarcation,

ward-9 of Rangpur City Corporation has been added to this seat, resulting in an increase of 42,853 voters.

Rangpur-2 (Badarganj and Taraganj) has also seen a notable rise. In Taraganj upazila, the number of male voters increased by 4,193 and female voters by 3,996. In Badarganj upazila, male voters rose by 7,635, while female voters increased by 7,323.

**Election officials say a large portion of the increase comes from young, first-time voters, a shift that could significantly influence electoral outcomes in the district.**

In contrast, Rangpur-3 (Rangpur Sadar and parts of city corporation) experienced a decline in voter numbers. During the 12th National Election, Rangpur-3 had a total of 5,29,328 voters, which has now declined to 5,08,223.

Rangpur-4 (Pirgachha-Kaunia) registered steady growth. In Pirgachha upazila, male voters increased by 8,016,

female voters by 8,173, and third gender voters by one. In Kaunia upazila, male voters rose by 6,375 and female voters by 6,919. The total number of voters in this constituency now stands at 5,09,906.

In Rangpur-5 (Mithapukur), the number of male voters increased by 13,640 and female voters by 14,898, bringing the total voter count to 4,69,189.

Rangpur-6 (Pirganj) also saw significant growth, with male voters increasing by 11,404 and female voters by 14,316. The total number of voters in this constituency now stands at 3,55,735.

Rangpur district senior election officer Abdur Rahim said the rise in voter numbers is largely due to an updated voter registration process that included door-to-door data collection as well as online registration opportunities.

Shafikul Islam, 19, a college student and first-time voter from Munshipara in Rangpur city, said, "Those elected in the past did not work sincerely for the overall development of Rangpur. I will vote for a candidate who can free Rangpur from the curse of development disparity."

## Anowara park reopens after 7yrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

After remaining closed for seven years due to metro rail construction, Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) has reopened Shaheed Anowara Udyan at Farmgate to the public.

DNCC Administrator Mohammad Azaz announced at a programme yesterday that Anowara Udyan in Farmgate has been opened for public use starting yesterday. After a long closure, city residents can once again freely use the park.

He also informed that a walkway will be constructed around the park. "We will start work very soon. We will sit and decide on keeping the field open at least until 10:00pm," he said.

Speaking at the event, Dhaka Metro Rail Managing Director Faruk Ahmed said metro rail project work in the Anowara Udyan area has been completed. He added that by the 15th of next month, all remaining structures on the field will be removed and the area will be fully cleaned.

## Five injured in Jamaat-JCD clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, *Patuakhali*

At least five people were injured in a clash between activists of Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiyatabadi Chhaura Dal (JCD) in Bauphal upazila of Patuakhali on Thursday night.

The incident took place at Charwadel Government Primary School in Chandradwip union, a riverine area of the upazila. The injured were admitted to Bauphal Upazila Health Complex.

Those injured include Sujon Khan, 25, a leader of Jamaat-e-Islami's Bauphal upazila unit; Jamaat activists Rakib Hasan and Abdul Berek Majhi; and two JCD leaders - Saidul Islam, 23, and Jahirul Islam Sohan, 22.

According to locals, a Jamaat organisational programme was underway inside a classroom of the school when several JCD leaders and activists entered the premises.

The JCD activists reportedly questioned Jamaat leaders for holding a political programme inside an educational institution without prior permission.

An argument ensued, which later escalated into a scuffle and physical clash between the two sides.

Jamaat leaders alleged that 20-25 JCD activists carried out a premeditated attack on their programme using sticks, leaving at least five of their activists injured.

However, several JCD leaders, speaking on condition of anonymity, claimed that organising a political programme inside an educational institution without permission violates the election code of conduct.

They alleged that Jamaat activists suddenly attacked them when questioned, injuring two JCD leaders.

Officer-in-Charge of Bauphal Police Station Atikul Islam said police learned of the incident through various sources, but no written complaint was filed by either side.

## Remembering Dr. Zahida Baqai



A Bangladeshi-born physician whose legacy reshaped medical education and women's healthcare in South Asia

Prof. Dr. Zahida Baqai—distinguished physician, educationist, institution builder, and philanthropist—passed away on 29 December 2025 at the age of 92, following complications related to old age. Her death marks the passing of a pioneering figure whose contributions left an enduring imprint on medical education and women's healthcare across South Asia.

Born in Faridpur in 1933, Dr. Baqai was the daughter of the late A.M. Salimullah Fahmi, a senior civil servant. She received her early education in what is now Bangladesh and earned her MBBS degree from Dhaka Medical College, belonging to one of the earliest generations of women physicians from the region. She was a contemporary of the late Dr. Suraiya Jabeen, another trailblazer in women's medical education.

Following her marriage to the renowned surgeon Prof. Dr. Fareeduddin Baqai, she relocated to Karachi, Pakistan. Although her professional life unfolded largely there, her formative years in Bangladesh shaped a lifelong commitment to public service, humility, and social responsibility.

Dr. Baqai pursued advanced postgraduate training in the United Kingdom, earning the prestigious MRCOG and later the FRCOG—testaments to her clinical excellence and leadership in obstetrics and gynaecology. She went on to establish the Baqai Institute of Reproductive and Developmental Sciences (BIRDS), introducing advanced women's healthcare and IVF services in Pakistan at a time when such facilities were virtually non-existent. Together with her late husband, she also co-founded the Baqai Foundation, Baqai Hospital, and subsequently Baqai Medical University—institutions that today stand among Pakistan's leading centres for ethical medical education and patient-centred care.

Her vision extended far beyond personal achievement to institution-building grounded in integrity, discipline, and compassion. Dr. Baqai firmly believed that healthcare must be guided by moral responsibility and that medical education should prioritise ethical practice and service over commercial considerations. She worked tirelessly to develop Baqai Medical University into a self-sustaining institution dedicated to learning, research, and community service.

Dr. Zahida Baqai came from a family distinguished by public service and leadership. Her elder sister, the late Khalida Fahmi, was the first female Deputy Director General of Bangladesh Television (BTV). Her younger sister, Sajida Humayun Kabir, is the patron of the SAJIDA Foundation, while her niece and nephew serve as the CEOs of the SAJIDA Foundation and Renata PLC respectively.

As one of the earliest practising gynaecologists in Karachi, Dr. Baqai broke professional and social barriers with quiet determination. At a time when women's presence in academic leadership was rare, she emerged as a role model for generations to come. Students, colleagues, and patients remember her not only for her achievements, but also for her humility, generosity, mentorship, and unwavering commitment to ethical medical practice.

Dr. Zahida Baqai's life exemplifies the global contributions of Bangladeshi women whose education and values enabled them to shape institutions beyond national borders. Her passing is a profound loss to the medical fraternity—particularly the gynaecological and academic communities of South Asia. Yet her legacy endures in the institutions she built, the professionals she trained, and the countless lives she touched with care and compassion.

## Pipeline leak

FROM PAGE 3

help of divers from the Coast Guard and the Fire Service," he said.

Shahnewaz Parvez admitted that the supply situation is extremely poor in some areas. He said the damaged pipeline supplies gas to key localities, including Mohammadpur, Lalmatia, Aminbazar and Dhanmondi, leaving residents there without gas.

He also said many households in those areas have complained that water is entering their pipelines.

"After we remove the water from individual connections, gas supply resumes. That is why it may take another two to three days for the situation to improve," he said.

In addition, he said a maintenance operation was recently carried out in the Uttara area.

"Taken altogether, the overall situation has become very bad," he added.

## Political killings

FROM PAGE 3

goodwill tour, noting that the BNP acting chairman would pay tribute to Shaheed Abu Sayed and other martyrs of the July uprising.

He said the visit would inspire BNP leaders and activists at the grassroots level.

Addressing the recent defeats of Jatiyatabadi Chhaura Dal in several university student body elections, Fakhrul said further analysis was needed.

He claimed that during the tenure of the previous government, Chhaura Dal and other student organisations were barred from campuses and treated as persona non grata, preventing them from carrying out organisational activities.

Drawing a parallel with national polls, he added, "University elections have never influenced national elections. I firmly believe it will not have any impact this

time either."

Responding to a question about holding the national election and referendum on the same day, Fakhrul said BNP itself had proposed the arrangement, which was eventually accepted.

He added that the proposed reforms under the referendum had earlier been outlined by the BNP through its 31-point agenda. "Reform is a continuous process. I see no reason to say no to it," he said.

## Cold grips

FROM PAGE 3

Regional Agricultural Extension Department, said intermittent sunshine has allowed farmers and agricultural labourers to resume work in the fields.

Currently, maize, potatoes, Boro seedbeds, mustard and various winter vegetables are growing in the fields, and regular care and close monitoring of these crops are extremely important during this period, he said.

[Our correspondents from Thakurgaon and Lalmonirhat contributed to this report]

## EC suspends polls



FROM PAGE 3

Meanwhile, on the last day of filing appeals against returning officers' decisions yesterday following the scrutiny of nomination papers, 141 applications were submitted to the EC, bringing the total to 610.

Hearings on the appeals

will be held from today to January 18.

On January 4, the scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates ended. Following the scrutiny, the EC declared 1,842 nomination papers valid and rejected 723 others across the country.

<p align="center">  <b>ওয়েস্ট জোন পাওয়ার ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানি লিমিটেড (ওজোপাডিকো)</b>  <b>West Zone Power Distribution Company Limited</b>          (An Enterprise of Bangladesh Power Development Board)          নিবাহী প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর, আঞ্চলিক মেরামত কারখানা, চাঁদা, যশোর-৭৪০০।          www.wzpdcl.gov.bd, e-mail: wzpdcl.zrs@gmail.com mobile-01700709820       </p>				
Ref. No. 27.22.4147.507.55.001.2026.04			Date-08.01.2026	
<b>e-Tender Notice (NCT)</b>				
e-Tender are invited through the National e-GP System Portal (w.w.w.e-procure.gov.bd) by Executive Engineer, Zonal repair Shop WZPDCL, Jashore for the execution following works, Which is available at the National e-GP System Portal website (w.w.w.e-procure.gov.bd) 08 Jan.2026 14 PM				
SL. NO..	Tender ID	Invitation Reference	Name Of work	Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01	1196808	27.22.4147.55.001.26.02 Date 08.01.26	Renovation work of office building of the Zonal repair Shop of the West Zone Power Distribution Com Ltd.	21/01/2026 14:00PM 22/01/2026, 12.00PM
This is the online tender ,where only e-Tender will be accepted in the national e-GP System portal and no of line/ Hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender Registration required in the National e-GP System portal (w.w.w.e-procure.gov.bd). The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP System portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP System portal and e-GP help desk(helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)				
<p align="right">           (Engr. Md. Rashedul Islam Chowdhury)          Executive Engineer          Zonal repair shop          WZPDCL, Jashore       </p>				