

Referendum vote count revised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In a new recount by the Election Commission, 10.74 lakh votes cast in the referendum on February 12 have been revised, leading to a correction in the total number of votes.

Yesterday, the Election Commission issued a gazette notification with the updated figures. The total number of "yes" votes has been reduced by 9.75 lakh, while "no" votes decreased by 1.11 lakh. The number of invalid votes has also dropped by 12,559.

Despite the adjustments, "yes" votes remain the clear majority. The initial gazette, issued on February 13, recorded 4,82,00,660 "yes" votes (62.74 percent) and 2,20,71,726 "no" votes (28.66 percent), with 74,22,637 invalid ballots (9.61 percent), resulting in a 60.26 percent turnout.

The revised gazette corrected these figures to 4,72,25,980 "yes" votes (61.63 percent) and 2,19,60,231 "no" votes (28.66 percent), while the number of invalid ballots increased slightly to 74,35,196 (9.70 percent). As a result, the final turnout rate was adjusted downward to 60.19 percent.

Election Commission Senior Secretary Akhtar Ahmed explained that the discrepancies were due to "clerical mistakes and the transposition of digits." He clarified that these errors occurred because the process is handled manually but assured that they have now been corrected.

The previous total number of votes cast was 7,76,95,023, which has now been updated to 7,66,21,407 votes.

Ahmed emphasised that while the figures have been adjusted, the outcome remains unchanged, with the "yes" votes still the majority.



Women farmers showcase indigenous seed varieties at the Rural Seed Fair in Khulna, highlighting the importance of preserving traditional crops for local communities.

PHOTO: STAR

Man shot dead in broad daylight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A man was shot dead by miscreants in the Afilgate area of Khulna yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Sheikh Sohel, 48.

The incident occurred around 3:05pm near a garage adjacent to a refuelling station under the jurisdiction of Khan Jahan Ali Police Station.

Confirming the incident, OC Howladar Shanower Hossain Masum said witnesses reported that several miscreants suddenly opened fire on Sohel before fleeing. "He died on the spot," the OC added.

Police said Sohel was a businessman and also a member of the Purba Banglar Communist Party, with multiple cases filed against him, including two over murder.

Investigators recovered four bullet casings from the scene.

Local seeds for local needs

Rural women showcase indigenous seeds

DIPANKAR ROY, Khulna

Karuna Mondal, a 55-year-old homemaker from Shukdara village in Batiaghata upazila of Khulna, has spent over 40 years involved in farming. For nearly all of that time, she has dedicated herself to collecting and preserving indigenous seeds, many of which have disappeared from mainstream agriculture.

Over the years, Karuna's daily work in the fields has evolved into a deep commitment to preserving traditional seeds, which she carefully dries in the sun and stores in small containers.

"I collect new seeds throughout the year. After drying them properly in sunlight, I store them in containers so that air cannot enter," she explains.

Farmers from her village and nearby areas often visit Karuna for seeds, which she shares or sells to them.

At a seed fair held yesterday at the Batiaghata Upazila Auditorium, Karuna exhibited 316 varieties of indigenous seeds, showcasing the results of decades of patient work.

"I grow crops using these seeds, exchange them with others, and

sometimes sell them. I try to understand which seeds produce better quality crops," she adds, explaining how the practice has provided both for her household and a sense of independence.

The seed fair, organised by LoCOS and Maitree Krishok Federation, served as a platform for farmers — particularly women — to exchange seeds and knowledge. The event aimed to raise awareness of the disappearing indigenous seed varieties and the need to preserve them for future generations.

Karuna was among over a hundred women farmers from 17 villages who participated in the fair, showcasing hundreds of rare and endangered varieties of rice, vegetables, pulses, and oilseeds.

The stalls displayed traditional rice varieties, such as Morichshail, Ranisyalot, Hijji, Digha, Morgoshail, and Kalamonik, along with several rare vegetable seeds.

Dipali Mondal, a homemaker from Shukdara village, brought around 50 varieties of leafy vegetables, including red amaranth and Indian spinach.

"By attending this seed fair, we learn

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Govt to recruit one lakh health workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare MA Muhit yesterday announced that the government will recruit one lakh health workers to improve healthcare services at the grassroots.

Speaking to reporters after visiting the Sirajganj 250-bed General Hospital, he said the initiative aims to enhance service quality and restore accountability in the sector.

"The health sector has long suffered from irregularities and corruption. Though we assumed office only two weeks ago, we have already taken steps to meet public expectations," he said.

He also mentioned that the government is working to increase the number of doctors and ensure an adequate supply of modern equipment and essential medicines in hospitals across the country.

Responding to a question about the shortage of rabies vaccines in government hospitals, the minister acknowledged the crisis and said steps are underway to address it following a coordination meeting.

Earlier, he attended a views exchange meeting at the deputy commissioner's office in Sirajganj.

2 die in road crashes in Thakurgaon, Panchagarh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thakurgaon

Two people were killed in separate road accidents in Thakurgaon's Baliadangi upazila and Panchagarh's Debiganj upazila on Wednesday.

The deceased were identified as Ramjan Ali, 18, son of Siranjul Islam of Bengrol Futani Bazar in Thakurgaon Sadar upazila, and Abdul Malek, 70, of Bodeshwari Bayati Para village in Boda upazila of Panchagarh.

Ramjan was killed in a collision on the Thakurgaon-Baliadangi road at Kalmegh village around 11:00pm when a Thakurgaon-bound diesel-run three-wheeler hit a potato-laden vehicle, leaving at least six people injured, said Baliadangi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Bulbul Islam.

On information, firefighters rescued the injured and took them to Baliadangi Upazila Health Complex.

Four of the injured were later transferred to Thakurgaon 250-bed General Hospital. Among them, Ramjan succumbed to his injuries on the way to the hospital.

In Panchagarh, a bicyclist, Abdul Malek, was critically injured after being hit by a speeding motorcycle coming from the opposite direction in front of Bhaolaganj Adarsha Balika High School and later succumbed to his injuries.

Quoting locals, Moniruzzaman Chowdhury, officer-in-charge of Debiganj Police Station, said that Malek died on the way while locals were taking him to a village doctor.

The motorcyclist fled the scene immediately after the accident.

Man gets life term for raping college girl

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chattogram court yesterday sentenced a man to life imprisonment and fined him for abducting and raping a college girl in 2017.

Judge SM Zillur Rahman of the Chattogram Women and Children Repression Prevention Tribunal-5 passed the verdict in the presence of the convict, Manzur Elahi Kazemi.

Public Prosecutor Md Akbar Ali said the court sentenced the man to 14 years' imprisonment and fined him Tk 3 lakh for the abduction charge; in default, he will have to serve one more year in jail.

For the rape charge, the court sentenced him to life imprisonment and fined him Tk 3 lakh; in default, he will have to serve another year in jail.

Both punishments will run concurrently.

According to the case, a second-year honours student was abducted from the port city's Chawkbazar area on her way to college and raped in the Patenga Sea Beach area on January 2, 2017.

Later, the girl was kept confined in Dampara, where police rescued her after receiving a complaint. The victim's mother subsequently filed a case with Chawkbazar Police Station.

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01	Tender ID: 1235471 Package No. e-Gp/Rev-59/EE/MRD/2025-2026 & APP ID: 215127, Publishing: 26-Feb-2026 12:35	Supplying Skilled Labour, Semi-skilled Labour & Unskilled Labour for maintenance of road under the wage programme of departmental labour at 7th(P), 8th(P), 10th(P) km of Mymensingh(Raghurampur)-Phulpur-Nakla-Sherpur Road (R-371) under Mymensingh Road Division during the year 2025-2026.	15-Mar-2026; 15:30 16-Mar-2026; 12:30

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This is an online tender, where only e-Tender will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/ hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

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K.B.M. Saddam Hossain
ID No. 602201
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Mymensingh

GD-418

Ready to take to

FROM PAGE 3
on the first day, citing constitutional constraints.

"If they do not take the oath as members of the reform council, then this national parliament is meaningless," he said.

Criticising the BNP, Nahid alleged that the party had "engineered" the election to secure two-thirds of the parliamentary seats in a bid to establish its own legal and judicial framework.

He claimed a similar pattern was seen during the 2008 Awami League government, where they deprived the opposition

and consolidated power through constitutional amendments.

"The current government's conduct reflects the same trend," he said.

Nahid alleged that the government had shown "shamelessness" in taking over Bangladesh Bank to sabotage proceedings.

He pointed to discrepancies between pre-election and post-election statements and demanded the removal of the current governor, calling for the appointment of an "honest and competent" individual.

Bangladesh sees

FROM PAGE 3
Dhaka and Myanmar's capital Naypyidaw.

The two separate messages are viewed as an indication of willingness from both the Myanmar government and the ULA to work with the newly-formed Bangladesh government to find a resolution to the Rohingya crisis.

"In your new capacity as the foreign minister of Bangladesh, I hope you will continue to work with us to find practical, sustainable and realistic solutions. Building on our existing goodwill, we now have an opportunity to chart a new course of friendship between Bangladesh and Arakan," said the foreign ministry source quoting the ULA chairman's letter to Khalilur Rahman.

The Bangladesh government has been in contact with both the Myanmar government and the ULA to find a solution

to the Rohingya crisis.

On May 6 last year, referring to engagement with the ULA, the then National Security Adviser Dr Khalilur Rahman said Bangladesh, as a sovereign state, would maintain communication with whomever it wants taking its own interest into consideration.

"We will speak to whoever we want for our own interests. It doesn't matter who said what," he had said while responding to a question about the Myanmar military government's opinion on Bangladesh's contact with the ULA.

"One thing must be kept in mind. The Arakan Army controls the other side of the Bangladesh border. Bangladesh has to manage, protect, and keep this border peaceful," Rahman said at that time, stressing that they will keep in touch with whoever is on the other side.

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বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ বিনা অনুমতিতে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিতির জন্য কারণ দর্শানো নোটিশ।

যেহেতু, আপনি জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্তকৃত), কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মুন্সিগঞ্জ। আপনি জনশক্তি কর্মসংস্থান ও প্রশিক্ষণ ব্যুরো কর্তৃক বাস্তবায়নধীন "৪০টি উপজেলায় ৪০টি কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র ও চট্রগ্রামে ০১টি ইন্সটিটিউট অব মেরিন টেকনোলজি স্থাপন" শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় নির্মাণধীন কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মুন্সিগঞ্জ সদর, মুন্সিগঞ্জ এ সংযুক্তিতে পদায়নকৃত নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল গত ২৩/০৮/২০২২খ্রিঃ তারিখ যোগদান করেন। আপনি গত ১৯/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত এবং উর্ধ্বতন কর্তৃপক্ষ কারণ দর্শালেও আপনি কোন জবাব দাখিল না করায় বিধিগত ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণের বিষয়ে অভিযোগ পাওয়া যায়:

০২। যেহেতু, আপনি জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল গত ১৯/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ ডিউটি রোস্টার অনুযায়ী ভোর ০৬:০০ ঘটিকা থেকে দুপুর ০২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত কেন্দ্রের অভ্যন্তরে নিরাপত্তা প্রহরীর দায়িত্ব পালনের নির্দেশনা থাকলেও আপনার সন্তানের অসুস্থতার কথা জানিয়ে কর্মস্থল ত্যাগের দরখাস্ত জমা দিয়ে কর্মস্থল ত্যাগ করেন এবং অদ্যাবধি কর্মস্থলে যোগদান করেননি; যা কেন্দ্রের সার্বিক নিরাপত্তার জন্য চরম হুমকিস্বরূপ। কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিতির কারণ জানতে চেয়ে আপনার নিকট ০৩ (তিন)টি কারণ দর্শানোর নোটিশ প্রেরণ করা হলেও লিখিত জবাব প্রদান করেননি, যা আপনার অসদাচরণের শামিল;

০৩। যেহেতু, আপনি মুন্সিগঞ্জ কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্রের নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল গত ১৯/০৭/২০২৩খ্রিঃ তারিখ হতে অদ্যাবধি অননুমোদিতভাবে কর্মস্থলে অনুপস্থিত রয়েছেন, যা সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ২(৮) মোতাবেক 'পলায়ন' এবং আপনাকে ০৩ (তিন)টি কারণ দর্শানো নোটিশ প্রদান করা হলেও আপনি কোন লিখিত জবাব প্রদান না করায় বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ৩ (খ) ও (গ) মোতাবেক অসদাচরণের শামিল;

০৪। যেহেতু, আপনার এহেন কার্যকলাপ সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ২(৮) মোতাবেক 'পলায়ন' এবং ৩(খ) ও (গ) ধারা মোতাবেক অসদাচরণের শামিল, যা শাস্তিযোগ্য অপরাধ;

০৫। সেহেতু, এক্ষণে (মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল, নিরাপত্তা প্রহরী (সাময়িক বরখাস্তকৃত), কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মুন্সিগঞ্জ) সরকারি কর্মচারী (শৃঙ্খলা ও আপিল) বিধিমালা ২০১৮ এর ২(৮) এবং ৩ (খ) ও (গ) ধারায় কেন আপনার বিরুদ্ধে উক্ত আচরণের কারণে একই বিধিমালায় বিধি ৪ (৩) মোতাবেক উপযুক্ত দস্ত প্রদান করা হবে না, বিধি ৭ (১) (খ) মোতাবেক আপনাকে এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ১০ (দশ) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে তার উপযুক্ত কারণ দর্শানোর জন্য নির্দেশ প্রদান করা হলো।

প্রতি
জনাব মোঃ আমিনুল ইসলাম জুয়েল
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