

Violence grips college union polls

Students clash, ballot boxes hijacked

By A Staff Correspondent

Different student organisations and political parties have alleged vote 'dacoity', intimidation and manipulation in the elections of student unions in different educational institutions of the country.

The Government ordered completion of student union elections by April 28. But excepting a handful of colleges where pro-Government student organisation is strong, elections were not held in major educational institutions like universities, medical colleges and university halls. In some cases, polls had to be postponed due to hijacking of ballot boxes and large-scale disturbances.

The election in Haraganga College at Munshiganj was postponed on Tuesday following clashes among rival student groups. Eight students were injured, four of them in bomb explosions. Ballot papers and boxes were snatched away by armed student groups.

The Central Students Action Committee leaders in a statement condemned large scale disturbances by the pro-Government student organisation in different student union elections. They also condemned hooliganism allegedly created by armed elements of Islami Chhatra Shibir in different educational institutions in Chittagong. They urged all students to resist such activities unitedly.

Bangladesh Chhatra Union claimed victory in Momennessa Government Girls College at Mymensingh, Manikganj Government Girls' College, Boalkhali College and Fatehbad College in Chittagong.

A Press release of Islami Chhatra Shibir claimed that it won student union elections at Government College, Mohsin College, Barrister Sultan Ahmed College, Satkania Government College and Chokoria College in Chittagong, Rangpur Karmaichael College, Pirganj Haragachha College, Cox's Bazar Government College and Rangpur Government College.

Narayanganj

Our Staff Correspondent adds from Narayanganj:— Seven students and three policemen were injured following a clash at Narayanganj government Tolaram College on Tuesday morning at about 11 a.m.

The clash ensued when a group of student allegedly tried to enter the

election hall where the student union election of the college was in progress.

Election at the government Tolaram College was held on Tuesday in which 12 student organisations took part. The Badal- Akhter panel belonging to Chhatra League (S-R) bagged all the 17 seats of the student union.

Seriously injured students Shafi and Sudhir were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while the rest were released after first aid. Three policemen including a sergeant were admitted to Narayanganj General Hospital.

The Islami Chhatra Shibir, Chhatra Union, Samyantantrik Chhatra Front and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal protested the terrorism and violence created by the Chhatra League (S-R) supporters.

Three cocktails were also exploded.

Narsingdi

Our Narsingdi Correspondent adds:— The panel belonging to Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal swept the polls at Narsingdi Government College on Tuesday. Earlier in the morning, six students were injured in a clash between the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and other student organisations. The Chhatra Samaj students seized the campus since Monday night and the clash ensued when other organisations jointly broke the siege on Tuesday morning.

Meanwhile, the Jatiya Chhatra Samaj in a statement demanded fresh elections in Narsingdi Government College.

Sylhet

Our Correspondent from Sylhet adds:— Ten students were injured following clashes between rival student groups during election hours of students union of M.M. College here Tuesday. Of the injured, the condition of two students is stated to

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Students

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be critical.

According to some eye witnesses, the clashes occurred when supporters of Chhatra League (Sultan-Rahman) were trying to snatch away ballot boxes. The supporters of Islami Chhatra Shibir resisted when the clashes took place.

The office of the Principal was ransacked.

Police brought the situation under control. The announcement of election result was postponed. Leaders of Islami Chhatra Shibir claimed that their candidates were leading.

The elections in Sylhet University College and M.C. Intermediate College were, however, held peacefully.