Upazila-wise Detailed Findings

<u>**Dhaka Division**</u>

Munshiganj Sadar Upazila: Munshiganj District
In Idrakpur High School polling centre, supporters of different candidates were found distributing voter slips with their own symbols 'CHATA' (umbrella), 'DOYAT-KOLOM' (inkpot-pen) and 'TALA' (lock). Polling agents of various candidates were moving around the center. The presence of voters was comparatively poor. Similarly, in P.T.I. Govt. Primary school polling centre, supporters of AL-backed Chairman candidate, Anisuzzaman, and the BNP-backed candidate distributed slips with their own symbols on them.

In Mukarpur Govt. Primary School polling centre, campaign posters with the symbol 'Rickshaw' were found within 400 yards of the center in contravention to electoral rules. Some unauthorised persons were also loitering around. There was no systematic process of voting, and large, haphazard gatherings of voters was found in all the polling booths. The Presiding officer was feeling unsafe. A window beside the polling booth was kept open, through which one could easily observe where the voters were putting the stamp on the ballot paper.

In Chardumuria Govt. Primary School, Banial High School, Munshigonj High School and Deobhog Govt. Primary School polling centres, polling agents had no voter list to check. They were seen moving in the polling booths. A local leader of the Awami League, Golam Martuza, along with five associates were found chatting with security forces in Banial High School polling centre.

Chaos broke out between the supporters of Chairman candidates with the symbol 'Inkpot-pen' and 'Wall clock' in Juginighat Govt. Primary School polling centre, which disrupted voting. A number of activists of Chairman candidate Shahjahan Shikdar, local BNP leader, were influencing voters. The situation of the polling centre became tense at that time. Additional police came to control the situation.

Gazaria Upazila: Munshiganj District
Presiding officer Nurul Islam was found stamping on ballot papers in polling booth No. 2 of Baushia M.A. Azhar High School center. Fake voters were also seen stamping the ballot papers in the presence of the Presiding Officer. Assistant presiding officers were folding and pushing the ballot papers inside the sealed ballot box.

A blind woman voter asked assistant presiding officer Zamshed Ullah to stamp on 'Inkpot-pen' symbol on behalf of her. But the officer stamped on the symbol 'Pineapple' and the polling agents protested. Due to this reason, agents of 'inkpot-pen' became angry with the officer. After sometime, the polling agents along with their associate beat the officer, snatched ballot papers and vandalised ballot box. Army personnel brought the situation under control As a result, the presiding officers suspended the polling in that centre.

A youth was arrested with a locally made firearm by the Army near Madhya Baushia Govt. Primary School polling centre.

All candidates reportedly brought the voters to polling centre by vehicles hired at their own cost, in Gazaria Pilot High School center. Polling booths were found open in the centre.

Sreenagar Upazila: Munshiganj District
Md. Billal Hossen, activist of a Chairman candidate Md. Idris Ali with the symbol 'cup and plate' was asking voters to cast votes for the symbol in Shologhar High School polling centre.

Sangbidha Akter, Shanta Aktar, Selina Akta, daughters of a Chairman candidate Shahjahan Miah were found influencing voters to cast votes in favour of their father inside the Upazila Parishad Auditorium polling center.

A women vice-Chairman candidate, Ashia Aktar's brother Asabuddin, daughter Diba Aktar, maternal uncle Swapan Miah were asking voters to vote for the 'Mango' symbol at the main gate of Sreenagar Pilot High School polling center.

In Adharipara Dighirpar Govt. Primary School polling centre, activists of a Chairman candidate, Lebu Kazi were seen campaigning. However, supporters of vice-Chairman candidates Parveen Ranu and Selina Hossain were found influencing voters to cast vote for their respective symbol in Doyhata Govt. Primary School centre. Windows of the polling booths were kept open in this centre.

Voters were given transport facility by the Chairman candidate Belayet Dhali with the symbol 'Pineapple' and vice-chairman candidate Selim Ahmed Bhuiyan with the symbol 'Aeroplane' in Uttar Kolapara Govt. Primary High School polling center. The secrecy of the polling booths were not maintained in this centre.

In Bhagyakul Horendrolal High School center Chairman candidate Belayet Hossen Dhali and vice-Chairman (woman) candidate Ashia Aktar along with their associates were found influencing voters. Their supporters were moving freely in the center.

Tongibari Upazila: Munshiganj District
Chaos broke out between the supporters of vice-Chairman candidates having the symbol 'Mango' and 'Parrot' in Dighirpar Govt. Primary High School polling centre.

Bandor Upazila: Narayanganj District
Voters were ferried to and from the polling centres in the polling areas that Odhikar observed. Madhu Miah, Ohab Miah and Saddam Hossen, all rickshaw pullers, admitted that Chairman candidate Ataur Rahman Mukul hired them to bring the voters by rickshaw at his own cost to the Kadam Rasul Degree College, B.M. Union High School center and Sonakanda Boys Govt. Primary School polling centres.

Campaign posters of Chairman candidate Ataur Rahman Mukul and vice-Chairman candidate Sanaullah Sanu were found hanging within 400 yards of Lakshmankhola Govt. Primary School polling centre.

Madhupur Upazila: Tangail District
A police officer was seen helping to fold the ballot paper of an aged male voter in the polling booth. Polling agents were angry with the officer and complained that the officer stamped on the ballot paper too. Later on they snatched the ballot papers and vandalized ballot boxes. However, the Army came to control the situation. For this reason at 12.45 pm voting was closed at the centre.

Dhanbari Upazila: Tangail District
Security forces baton charged the people gathered near the Panchishchari Shimul Register Primary school polling center. This caused panic amongst voters in queue and many voters fled from the polling centre. No voter was seen in this center after 2 pm.

Baliakandi Upazila: Rajbari District
Windows were kept opened in booth No. 35 Padamdi Govt. Primary school centre exposing the ballot marking process.

Pangsha Upazila: Rajbari District
Polling booths were not covered with cloth and windows were open in Gariana Govt. Primary School polling centre. The polling booth was so near the window, that the process was exposed to the outside in Bangladesh Hat Nesaria Madrassa center.

Chittagong Division

Brahmanbaria Sadar Upazila: Brahmanbaria District

Incidents like taking control of centres or booths, destruction of ballot boxes, beating of Presiding Officers and false voting were reported in most of the 10 polling centres Odhikar observed. Intimidation of voters with weapons and blasting bombs were also reported. Most incidents were reported to have occurred between 11am and 2:30pm. Finally, the Election Commission postponed polling in the upazila.

In the Natai Government Primary School centre, supporters of the Awami League-backed candidate were reportedly influencing the voters to vote for their candidate, which led to an argument between the supporters of the Awami League-backed candidate and the polling officers at the centre. At one point, those supporters beat and injured MK Masuk, the Presiding Officer of the centre, who had to be admitted to hospital. Polling in the centre was later suspended.

In the Bhatpara Government Primary School, supporters of the Awami League-backed candidate also reportedly tried to force voters to vote for their candidate, forcing the Presiding Officer to suspend the polling for about 20-25 minutes.

Another incident occurred in Bhadugarh Purba Government Primary School where the Awami League-backed candidate's supporters attacked the polling centre and damaged the ballot boxes. As a result, the Presiding Officers postponed the polling.

Polling was also declared postponed in the Bhadughar Hrishipara Government Primary School centre when supporters of the Awami League-backed candidate attacked the centre with knives, prompting the Presiding Officer to suspend the polling.

The Bhadughar Alia Madrasha centre witnessed incidents of bomb blasts which were also reportedly committed by the supporters of the Awami-backed candidate with a view to taking control of the polling centre. In response to the violent incidents, the Presiding Officer suspended the polling for about an hour between 11:25am and 12:15pm.

False voting has been reported in the Narsingsar Government Primary School centre, which involved supporters of the BNP-backed and Awami League-backed candidates.

Goalkhali centre reportedly witnessed violent incidents in which a supporter of a candidate was reportedly beaten and his hands broken by the supporters of a rival candidate.

In response to widespread violence across the upazila, the Election Commission shut down the polling in the upazila at around 3:30pm the election day.

Laksham Upazila: Comilla District

6 of the 10 polling centres that Odhikar observers visited saw a very low voter turnover while political party supporters reportedly forcibly took control of 3 centres and stamped ballots for their candidates and stuffed them into the ballot boxes.

The BNP supporters reportedly occupied the Saleypur Government Primary School and Manoharpur Government Primary School centres and stamped ballots for their candidate, filling in the boxes with the stamped ballots.

On the other hand, the Awami League supporters forcibly took control of the Hamira Begum Government Primary School centre and sealed ballots for their candidate.

Monoharganj Upazila: Comilla District

In one of the 10 centres that Odhikar observed, supporters of the Awami League-backed candidate were seen preventing voters from going to the polling centre.

Belkuchi Upazila: Sirajgonj District
In Belkuchi upazila, incidents of rigging and influence on voters have been reported in presence of a Cabinet Minister. The BNP-backed Chairman candidate Hafizuddin Khan alleged about the incidents of false voting and the forcible ousting of his polling agents from various polling centres. The returning officer suspended the election. Supporters of the AL-backed candidate surrounded the Upazila Parishad office and started vandalism. They vandalised a car (AMK-408) belonging to The Asia Foundation.

Feni Sadar Upazila: Feni District
Many incidents of violence were recorded in the polling centres that Odhikar observed. False voting and campaigns were reported in Feni PTI polling centre while two incidents of ballot paper snatching were reported in the Fazilpur Zinnah High School. In one of the two incidents of ballot paper snatching, 66 ballots were snatched.

Laskarhat Government Primary School centre reportedly saw another incident of ballot paper snatching in which122 ballot papers were snatched. The incident was followed by a suspension of polling for 30 minutes.

The Presiding Officer at the Pachhgachhia UP centre forced two Odhikar observers, Rajib Ranjan Nath and Md. Abdullah to leave the centre for no reason. They were asked to leave the centre by the police officers in a very indignified manner.

Noakhali Sadar Upazila: Noakhali District
At around 10am, several unruly political activists stormed into the polling centre at Ratanpur Government Primary School and got locked in an argument with the presiding officer and the assistant presiding officer, alleging that the election officials were engaged in false voting. At one point, they got hold of one or two ballot books and some of them stamped the ballots and stuffed them into the boxes. When police fired two rounds of blank shots, the miscreants escaped with 100 ballot papers. The identity of the perpetrators could not be confirmed immediately. Following the incident, polling in the centre was suspended.

In the Lalpur Ebtedayee Madrasha polling centre, seven polling booths were erected in one room. The booths were tiny and there was no privacy. The waiting voters as well as others in the room could see the voting in those booths. On the other hand, there were no arrangements for the stationary observers and the polling agents to seat and observe the polling. The presiding officer at the centre prevented Odhikar and other observers from observing the polling process. When the observers tried to take snapshots of the poor booth arrangement, the presiding officer stopped them.

Some rickshaws bearing electoral posters of an Awami League-backed candidate were seen carrying passengers to a polling centre.

Raipur Upazila: Laxmipur District
In the Model Government Primary School and Sonapur Union Parishad centres, supporters of different candidates were reportedly seen asking voters to vote for their candidates. However, the law enforcement agents did not take any action against them.

Anwara Upazila: Chittagong District
Supporters of a candidate, Rehana Ferdous with the symbol 'Mango' reportedly prevented supporters of another candidate, Shakila Ahmed with the symbol 'Duck' from casting their votes in the Burumchara Community Centre polling station. When Shakila Ahmed reached the polling centre to enquire about the matter, supporters of Rehana forced her to leave the polling centre.

Chokoria Upazila: Cox's Bazar District

Polling was reportedly held peacefully. During Odhikar's visit in the Kakara High School centre, a supporter of the Awami League-back candidate tried to force the Presiding Officer and the Assistant Presiding Officer to leave the centre. However, the Army officers on duty arrested him. Polling was suspended at the centre for around an hour following the incident.

Pekua Upazila: Cox's Bazar District

Many of the centres that Odhikar observers visited witnessed a number of violations of election Code of Conduct. At Dakkhin Magnama Government Primary School, Matkabhanga IFAD Cyclone Centre and Goakhali Government Primary School, rickshaws decorated with electoral posters of the BNP-backed candidate whose symbol was 'Rickshaw', were seen carrying voters to the polling centres.

On the other hand, a female voter was found requesting voters in the queue to vote for the candidate with the symbol 'Inkpot and Pen' while two other men were seen distributing cigarettes to the waiting voters though their identities could not be known immediately. Moreover, during the observation, indelible ink was not used for five voters at the Dakkhin Magnamara Government Primary School centre and three voters at Matkabhanga IFAD Cyclone Centre.

Rajshahi Division

Godagari Upazila: Rajshahi District

In Alipur Govt Primary School polling centre of Godagari upazila a clash took place between the supporters of both rival Chairman candidates Ataur Rahman and Hazrat Ali. The situation was resolved through intervention of the local senior citizens.

Tanore Upazila: Rajshahi District

Campaign materials such as posters of many Chairman candidates were seen inside the restricted area of 400 yards of the polling centre at Tanore Shoronjai High School. There was not sufficient privacy measures in the polling booth no. 2, 3 and 4. These booths were so near the polling officers that they could see who the voter was voting for. It was found that vehicles like vans, rickshaws, motor cars were being used to transport voters. Transportation was arranged by the Chairman candidates Emran Ali, Golam Robbani and Meshar Ali.

Chapainawabgonj Sadar Upazila: Chapainawabgonj District

Supporters of the Chairman candidates Ziaur Rahman and Rafiqul Islam were seen providing transport facilities to the voters in Toufiquddin Noor-Govt Primary School and Polash Govt Primary School polling centres respectively.

Dinajpur Sadar Upazila: Dinajpur District

The supporters of a vice-Chairman candidate Azizul Islam (voting symbol chair) in the polling centre of Dinajpur Women College were campaigning within the boundary of the polling centre.

Ghoraghat Upazila: Dinajpur District

Supporters of a vice-chairman candidate, Monwara Begum were found to be influencing voters in the queue in Raniganj Govt. Primary School polling centre. Tea and cigarettes were being offered to voters on behalf of vice-chairman candidate Monsur. Similar things were observed in Birampur College polling centre.

Aatghoria Upazila: Pabna District

A vice-Chairman candidate, Mahmuda Parveen, was asking voters to cast votes her favour in the polling centre of Aatghoria Pilot Girl's College. There was no secrecy or privacy in the polling booths in

Chandabhai Islamia Senior Madrassa polling centre. As a result, the process of putting seals on the ballot papers could be seen from outside the polling booth.

Tentulia Upazila: Panchagarh District

An unauthorised person, named Hassan, was found roaming around the Tentulia Pilot High School polling centre. When asked, he claimed to be a polling agent of a Chairman candidate Muktarul Islam but he had no valid identity card.

Naogaon Sadar Upazila: Naogaon District

In Morsala Govt. Primary School polling station, supporters of Awami League-backed chairman candidate, Abdul Malek, were found distributing voter slips with his photograph and electoral symbol 'fish'. Later they started a direct campaign. However, the supporters of a vice-chairman candidate challenged the matter, which created a clash between the two groups. The supporters of the same candidate were found influencing voters in Chak Alikha Govt. Primary School polling centre.

Sirajgonj Sadar Upazila: Sirajgonj District

The supporters of Awami League-backed Chairman candidate Golam Kibria with the symbol 'Rickshaw' and Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal-backed candidate Abdul Hye Talukdar with the symbol 'Fish' were engaged in a collision over distributing leaflets and campaigning. Due to this reason, voting remained suspended for about 15 minutes. On request of the presiding officer, the local elders were present in the polling centre till polls closed in order to avoid further occurrences of violence.

Gaibandha Sadar Upazila: Gaibandha District

In the polling centre at Laxmipur Girl's School, many people were found in the polling booths. Voters were seen casting their votes in disorder. Some voters were seen without indelible ink marks on their thumb. The presiding officer and other two polling officers were not present in the centre.

Khulna Division

Phultola Upazila: Khulna District

The presiding officer Farukul did not allow Odhikar to observe inside the polling booths of Atra Shreenath polling centre.

One supporter of Awami League-backed chairman candidate Sheikh Akram Hossain intimidated a supporter of BNP backed chairman candidate Alauddin Mithu at the Phultola Govt. Primary School centre. When the BNP supporter refused to caste vote for the AL candidate, he was abused by the supporter of the AL candidate. This caused chaos among the supporters of AL and BNP candidates in this polling centre.

Some voters, after casting their votes, tried to influence other voters within 400 yards of Dhopakhola Govt. Primary School polling centre while the security members were found to be silent on lookers.

Stationary observers were not seen in most of the polling centers in Phultola upazila that Odhikar observed.

Dumuria Upazila: Khulna District

Polling booths of most of the polling centers were not properly covered with cloth in Dumuria Upazila. The secrecy of casting votes was not maintained. No stationary observers were found in the polling centers that Odhikar observed. The presence of voters was very poor. Most of the candidates provided vans to carry voters to and from the polling centres.

Sathkhira Sadar Upazila: Sathkhira District

Polling started ten minutes late in Police Line High School polling centre. Awami League-backed chairman candidate Alhaz Nazrul Islam with 'Umbrella' symbol, vice- chairman candidate Showkat Hossain with 'Tiger' symbol and woman vice-chairman candidate Shahnaz Parvin Mili with 'Mango' symbol provided transportation to carry voters to the Sikri Govt. Primary School, Agordari Aminia Kamil Madrasa, Polashpole Adarsha High School and Foyzullahpur Govt. Primary School polling centers. Jamat-e-Islami supported chairman candidate Nurul Huda with 'Pineapple' symbol and vice-chairman candidate Altaf Hossain with 'Key' symbol provided rickshaw vans to carry voters in Komorpur Govt. Primary School polling centre.

No polling booths were covered with cloths in Town Girls High School polling centre. The polling booths were mere benches and were open, so the secrecy of casting votes was not maintained. No EWG stationary observers were found inside the booths of the centers that Odhikar observed. It was reported that stationary observers were not allowed to stay inside the polling centre.

Jessore Sadar Upazila: Jessore District

Voting started fifteen minutes later than the scheduled time in Govt. Teachers Training College center. The supporters of JSD[1]-backed chairman candidate Robiul Alom and BNP supported chairman candidate Saberul Huq were found campaigning in this center.

The supporters of Awami League-backed chairman candidate Shahin Chakladar intimidated voters into casting votes for the AL candidate in Ramnagar Namej Sardar High School centre. The secrecy of the polling booths were not maintained in this centre. AL chairman candidate provided rickshaw vans to carry voters to and from polling centres.

One 80 year old blind voter named Baburam, bearing voter no. 870 and another disable voter named Bimol Burman informed *Odhikar* that there was no special facility/arrangement for the old and the disable voters in Chachra Bhaturia Govt. Primary School centre. No person on duty in this center came to help them cast their votes. Two polling booths were made using lengths of cloth under the open sky in Kholadanga Kormojibi Sangstha Shishu Registered Primary School centre.

Many people were gathering within the 400 yards of Churamonkhati Govt. Primary School and Nurpur Munshi Belayet Ali Registred Non-Govt. Primary School centre. Polling booths were made using benches in these centres.

Most of the candidates were found to be providing transport to carry voters and campaigning in most of the centers. The presence of voters was low and no stationary observers were found in the centers that Odhikar observed.

Abhoynagar Upazila: Jessore District

It was found that the supporters of Awami League backed chairman candidate Abdul Malek intimidated and influenced voters to cast vote for the AL candidate in Prembagh Govt. Primary School, Ahmed Ali Sordar High School, Noapara Girls College, Noapara Pilot Girls School, Cholishia Govt. Primary School, Bagda Govt. Primary School, Cota Govt. Primary School, Pairahat High School, Ektarpur Adarsha High School and Soradanga Jamtola Govt. Primary School polling centers.

Polling booths of the above centers were not covered with cloth. Polling booths were made using benches and the windows beside the booths remained open. The AL-backed Chairman candidate provided rickshaw-vans to carry voters to and from polling centres.

The supporters of the AL candidate campaigned in all of the polling centers that Odhikar observed. No EWG stationary observers were present in the polling booths. There were no special facilities for the old

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[1] JSD: Jatiyo Samajtantrik Dal, a left wing political party in Bangladesh

and disable voters. Voter turnout was very poor. Only 414 votes were cast out of 3017 voters in Cota Govt. Primary School polling center by 1 PM while 985 votes out of 2391 were cast in Ektarpur Adarsha High School polling center by 3 PM.

Keshobpur Upazila: Jessore District

In Keshobpur Upazila of Jessre District *Odhikar* observed the Moddhokul Govt. Primary School, Keshobpur Pilot Girls High School, Keshobpur Model Govt. Primary School, Keshobpur Pilot School and College, Pazia Koumi Madrasa, Narayanpur Govt. Primary School, Bagdoh Govt. Primary School, Kabilpur Govt. Primary School, Sagordari MM Institute, Bhalukghor High School polling centers. No facility for the old and disable voters were available in these centers.

Polling booths were not duly covered with cloth. School benches were used as polling booths. It was seen that 2-3 voters were casting votes at a time in the booths. It was obvious that secrecy of voting was not maintained.

In Baghdoh Govt. Primary School polling center, two polling booths were in a same room, but no partition was made. The polling agents of AL supported Chairman candidate Amir Hossain with 'wheel' symbol, were found to be influencing voters to cast vote for the 'wheel' symbol.

In most of the polling centers transport had been arranged for voters on behalf of most of the candidates. Campaigning was found and no stationary observers were present in most of the polling centers that Odhikar observed.

Jhenaidah Sadar Upazila: Jhenaidah District

The supporters of the Awami League backed chairman candidate Konok Kanti Das with 'Umbrella' symbol, were found to be intimidating and influencing voters in North Durgapur Kabilpur Govt. Primary School, Raichoron Tarinichoron College and Holidhani High School polling centers.

It was alleged that the presiding officer of Ramchandrapur Kabilpur Govt. Primary School polling center ousted the polling agents of Jamaat supported chairman candidate Nur Mohammad by snatching the voters list from them. The AL and Jamaat candidates provided rickshaw-vans to carry voters. Secrecy of the booths was not properly maintained in most of the polling centers.

Shailkupa Upazilza: Jhenaidah District

Voting started 10 minutes later than the scheduled time in Chandpur Govt. Primary School and 15 minutes later in Madla Govt. Primary School polling centers. In most of the polling centers that Odhikar observed, transportation was given to carry voters to and from polling centre on behalf of two AL chairman candidates Nayeb Ali Joardar and Sona Sikdar. Moreover, the supporters of those two candidates were influencing voters.

A quarrel between the supporters of 'Wall Clock' and 'Elephant' symbol broke out in Hitampur High School polling center. However, campaigning was found in most of the polling centers. Polling booths were not duly covered with cloth or curtains. Stationary observers were not present in most of the centers.

Kushtia Sadar Upazila: Kushtia District

It was found that voters had been given money on behalf of Awami League supported chairman candidate Aminul Huq Roton with the symbol 'Wheel', Jamaat supported candidate Mosharraf Hossain with the symbol 'Inkpot pen', Jatiyo Party (Monju) backed candidate Jafarullah Khan Lahori with the symbol 'Rickshaw' in the Jhoudiabazar High School polling center. Money was also distributed in Kondorpdia High School polling center on behalf of the chairman candidates with the symbol 'Inkpot-pen' and 'Wheel'.

In Khejurtola Govt. Primary School polling center voters were found to be receiving Tk.100 per head on behalf of Jubo League[2] leader Anowar Hossain. No stationary observers were found in most of the polling centres. Moreover, campaigning and transport was provided to carry voters in most of the polling centers on behalf of almost all candidates.

Bheramara Upazila: Kushtia District
In Bahirchor Govt. Primary School polling center Odhikar's observers were obstructed from observing the polls by the presiding officer Debobroto Pal. He behaved roughly and ousted two observers from the polling booth.

In most of the polling centers of Bheramara Upazila that Odhikar observed, it was found that Jatiyo Party supported chairman candidate Abdur Razzak with the symbol 'Chair' provided rickshaw-vans to carry voters. In the majority of the polling centers, supporters with 'Chair' symbol and 'Umbrella' symbol (AL supported Neherul Islam) were seen to be influencing voters.

Barisal Division

Dumki Upazilla: Patuakhali District
In Lebukhali Secondary School polling centre, the activists of chairman candidate with the symbol 'Aeroplane' used rickshaws to carry voters. Son of a vice-Chairman candidate Chan Mia Talukdar having 'Lock' symbol were found influencing the voters. In Lebukhali Secondary School polling centre, there were 4 blank pages found in a ballot book. The number of the ballot book was 3704, 3708, 3709.

Gouranadi Upazila: Barisal District
Voters turn-out was found to be very low in Kamolapur Govt. Primary School polling centre. The Boro Koshba Govt. Primary School polling center was in control of candidate Shah Alom's (Umbrella symbol) activists and agents. Government officials as well as police allegedly helped the candidate in this regard.

Agoiljhara Upazila: Barisal District
In Sheral Secondary School polling center, supporters of candidate Rustom Serniat of 'Wheel' symbol influenced voters to vote for him. In that center, the elderly, religious minorities and disable people were forced to vote for 'Wheel' symbol. A team led by Sohel, who is a high ranking police official assisted supporters of the 'Wheel' symbol in that center.

In many centers the candidates shook hands with the voters in the queue and tried to influence them.

The supporters of 'Wheel' symbol were found to be distributing money among voters. Vans were supplied by candidates to transport voters. EWG stationary observers were not found in the centers observed.

Nolchiti Upazila: Jhalokathi District
There was not enough arrangement made for secrecy in the polling booths in the Premhar Secondary School polling centre. The supporters of 'Jackfruit' symbol were found transporting voters to the center by vans and rickshaws.

Kathalia Upazila: Jhalokathi District
There was no toilet facility or water supply in KBK Secondary School polling centre. There was no secrecy maintained in the booths. In Kathalia Pilot High School polling centre, the polling agent of a chairman candidate with the symbol 'Chair' was found influencing voters even in front of the presiding officer. Campaigns were also seen in the centres that Odhikar observed.

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[2] Youth wing of Awami League, presently the ruling party.

Nesarabad Upazilla: Pirozpur District

It was observed that the windows of the polling booth were open in Kumarkathi SK Secondary School polling centre. In Swarupkathi Pilot High School polling centre, many voters were seen entering at a time in the polling booth which makes crowded the booths.

Zianagar Upazila: Pirozpur District

It was found that secrecy was not maintained in the polling booths in Sheoti Govt. Primary School polling station. The turnout of the voters was found to be very low in Ramchandrapur Govt. Primary School polling centre.

Bhandaria Upazila: Pirozpur District

In Shialkathi High School polling centre, the supporters of all candidates were found to be supplying voters with rickshaw-vans to and from the polling station.

Pirozepur Sadar Upazila: Pirozpur District

There was no polling agent for several candidates in many polling centres that Odhikar observed. Supporters of many candidates were seen campaigning in some polling centres. In the Pollimongol polling centre, there was no secrecy at all in the polling booths.

Sylhet Division

Rajnagar Upazila: Sunamgonj District

The observation findings in the Rajnagar upazila under Sunamganj district cover ten polling stations. Almost all the windows beside the polling booths were found open. In some centres, the polling agents of the candidates were not present. It was alleged by the local voters that in some polling centres, agents of a few candidates were more than that permitted. Some unauthorised persons were found in some of the polling cnetres observed.

Outside the polling centre, campaigning was ongoing on behalf of many candidates. Supporters of almost all the candidates provided rickshaws/vans as transportation to carry voters in some polling centres.

In some polling centres, the activities of the local administration were silent. Female voters had to spend 2-3 hours in the queue before casting their votes. Due this reason, many female voters returned home without casting their votes.

The supporters of the candidates were found trying influence the voters by giving promises in exchange of casting votes in favour of their respective candidate. Many voters complained that the serial numbers were not in a chronological manner.

Chhatak Upazila: Sunamgonj District

Campaigning by hanging banners and posters in favour of the candidates were found in Madobpur Govt. Primary School polling centre. A number of tokens bearing the election symbol of different candidates were also distributed to the voters.

Supporters of the chairman candidate Abdul Quddus (Pineapple) and Abdul Mazid (Wheel) arranged transportation to carry voters to and from the polling centres.

Polling agents for all candidates were not present in the polling centres. The polling booths were found to be partly open in many polling centres. The secrecy of the polling booths was not strictly maintained. No EWG stationary observer or other observers were seen in the polling centres observed.

Some unauthorised persons were found in Koitak Govt. Primary School polling centre. Influencing voters and campaigning near the polling centres were also observed.

Dowarabazar Upazila: Sunamgonj District

Dupsipur High School polling centre observers witnessed one agent of a candidate influencing a voter to cast his vote in favour of his candidate while agents of the other candidates protested. This caused chaos in the polling centre.

Biswanath Upazila: Sylhet District

In Janaya Govt. Primary School polling centre, voters were found being transported to the polling centres by rickshaws arranged by the supporters of a chairman candidate Pankhi Khan.

An inadequate number of security personnel were found in Ramdana Govt. Prinary School polling centre even though it was identified as highly vulnerable and volatile polling centre.

Balagonj Upazila: Sylhet District

Assistant polling officer Jobair Hossain at Tajpur polling centre, was disappointing. His attitude towards observers was not proper. In this centre, the insufficiency of maintaining secrecy of the polling booth was found. This was also found in the Shah Sechendra polling centre.

Sylhet Sadar Upazila: Sylhet District

In Hazi Abdus Sattar High School polling centre, windows beside the polling booths remained open and also there was insufficient light. The absence of some polling agents caused delays in voting. Voters were also seen to cast their vote without using the irremovable ink mark.

In Gopal Govt Primary School polling centre, Kamrunnesa, a female voter, stated that she came to cast her vote in this centre by a rickshaw which was arranged by one of the chairman candidates but she did not disclose the name of the candidate.

Election campaigning was found in favour of a candidate bearing the symbol 'Wheel' at the Lalargaon Govt. Primary School polling centre.

A female voter, Morium Begum, (VS No. 333) could not vote as her vote had already been cast in Rayergaon Govt. Primary School polling centre. In this polling centre, the presiding officer Proshanto Kumar Mridha was out of the centre, which prevented the smooth running of polls.

Moulavibazar Sadar Upazila: Moulavibazar District

Ten polling centres were observed during the election. Windows located near polling booths were open in all the polling centres. Unauthorised persons were seen entering the centres frequently. Security personnel were sitting idle. Rickshaws were used for carrying voters in favour of some candidates. Polling agents of the candidates did not bear identity cards and as such could not be identified. Supporters were found to be motivating voters in front of the polling stations.

It has been alleged that the presiding officers of all the polling centres observed had acted in favour of candidates affiliated with the ruling party. More than one polling agent of a candidate were present. It was also recorded that some polling agents were forcibly ousted from some of the centres which disrupted voting for some time.

-End of Report-