

## Students of 13,583 govt primary schools elect representatives

Staff Correspondent

STUDENTS of 13,583 government primary schools across the country on Saturday elected their representatives who would be responsible for looking after the school activities.

A total of 95,081 representatives were elected from 1,62,489 candidates, with around 2.5 million students casting their votes from 8:00am to 1:00pm.

Primary education directorate officials said around 85 to 90 per cent of the voters exercised their franchise.

Students of Classes III, IV, and V hold the voting right in electing the student council and seven students' representatives are elected

from every school.

The representatives will run the student council for one year term.

'Such a system has been introduced to make school students habituated to democratic practices. It will help them acquire and improve their leadership qualities,' director Abdur Rouf Chowdhury of the primary education directorate told New Age.

He said it had been seen this system help the schools function well.

'We have a plan to make student representatives by election at all the government primary schools,' he said.

The elected representatives will select two associate

members from every class and also chalk out plans for one year.

Student representatives will be responsible for looking after the school surroundings, books and other learning materials, tree plantation and guarding, water supply system, sport and other cultural activities, and other important activities in the schools.

The government introduced the system in 2010 when students of 100 primary schools elected their representatives. In 2011, the election was held in 743 schools and 5,201 representatives were elected.

'Students cast their votes in a festive mood and the elections were held in a

peaceful manner,' deputy director Mohamud Fashiullah of the primary education directorate said.

New Age correspondent in Barisal added: The elections to the student councils were held on Saturday in 200 government primary schools in 10 upazilas of Barisal. The students cast their votes with obvious enthusiasm, which did not escape the teachers and guardians too.

New Age correspondent in Moulvibazar said: The student council election was held in five of the district's seven upazilas on Saturday.

The elections at the schools in Baralekha and Kamalganj upazilas were not held, although they were scheduled for the day.