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NEWS BRIEFS

Drizzles in  
city

By Staff Correspondent  
Off-season rains in the capital Sunday brought back the chill of the mid January, pushing mercury down by several degrees. Thick cloud cooled the city as winds began to blow in the afternoon. Drizzles accompanied by gusty winds started at 10:30 pm. The late-night commuters had difficulties as the vehicles deserted the streets. Suffering of the squatters and the pavement-dwellers soared as they had to start looking for dry refuge to pass the night.

Aminul Haque  
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State Minister for Establishment Barrister Md Aminul Haque left Dhaka for the United States Saturday night to attend the National Prayer Breakfast programme to be held at Washington, an official handout said yesterday. He is joining the 4-day programme to be started from February 1 at the invitation of congressional committee for the 'National Prayer Breakfast', reports BSS.

Truck kills one  
in Manikganj

MANIKGANJ, Jan 30: A truck knocked four rickshaws and turned turtle, killing one van puller and injuring three others at Pukuria on the Dhaka-Aricha highway this morning. The dead was identified as Hazrat Ali, 28, of Baradia village in Shibalaytha, reports UNB.

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BNP bags Khulna, Rajshahi mayorships

## AL stuns BNP in Dhaka, Ctg

Star Report

The main opposition Awami League was poised to score significant political victories in the country's two major cities as the first-ever direct city corporation polls, held simultaneously in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi, were held yesterday peacefully.

In a stunning reversal of fortunes for the ruling party, Mohammad Hanif, the AL's mayoral candidate in the capital, was leading his nearest rival former mayor Mirza Abbas of the BNP by a comfortable margin, according to preliminary reports received from the Election Commission (EC) early Monday morning. Similarly, the AL's ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury was well ahead of his BNP

rival — another ex-mayor — in the country's second city Chittagong.

In Khulna and Rajshahi, however, the BNP nominees — Shaikh Tayebur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman Minu respectively — had been declared winners, according to unofficial results released by the EC last night.

According to the unofficial results released by the EC, the AL's mayoral candidate bagged 3,00,811 votes against the BNP's 2,42,621 in the ballots of 504 out of 737 polling centres counted in Dhaka. Hanif was leading in 361 of the centres while Abbas was ahead in 143 centres.

Hanif was steadily increasing

his lead, which was over 58,000 votes at the time of going to press.

In Chittagong, the Awami League mayor candidate had won 1,44,768 votes against 1,15,036 for the BNP in counting at 248 of the total 334 polling centres.

In Khulna, in unofficial results from all 208 centres, the BNP's Sheikh Tayebur Rahman bagged 77,487 votes, AL's Mahbul Alam Hiron got 63,654 votes, the Jatiya Party's S M A Rab received 41,250 and the Jamaat's Md Golam Parwar garnered 24,703 votes.

Unofficial results of all 88 centres of Rajshahi gave the BNP's mayor nominee Mizanur Rahman Minu 58,532 votes

while his nearest rival Abdul Matin Khan of the AL bagged 23,001 votes.

Details of the ward commissioner posts in Dhaka, Chittagong and Rajshahi were not immediately available.

However, the final unofficial results of the commissioner polls in Khulna were announced by the EC office in Khulna. Out of 31 posts, the BNP had bagged nine, the JP got seven, the AL five, the Jamaat two while independent candidates secured eight posts.

At least one person was killed and another 200 injured in election related violence accompanied with gunfire, bomb blasts and forcible occupation

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Salam blames AL,  
JP for rigging,  
violence

BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, who is also Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives, in a statement last night blamed the Awami League and the Jatiya Party hoodlums for rigging and resorting to violence in a number of polling centres, as a result of which thousands of BNP supporters and common voters could not cast their votes, reported BSS.

Barrister Talukder said the Awami League and the Jatiya Party had created grounds for terrorism and rigging well ahead of the polling and such acts finally led to the postponement of polls in a number of centres in Dhaka city, the statement added.

The BNP Secretary General urged the people to remain alert about such heinous acts of the Awami League and the defeated autocratic forces and unitedly for their designs to disrupt the democratic process.

Citing instances of violence, the BNP Secretary General said his party ward commissioner candidate Amirul Millat, along with several other BNP supporters, were forcibly driven away from the Jatrabari Primary School centre under Ward No 87.

He further alleged that a good number of BNP workers were injured in different centres in Dhaka city during the

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The Awami League's man of the moment Mohammad Hanif flashes the victory sign. — Star photo

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to make N-bomb  
Compromise on final  
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City polls results at a glance

Dhaka: Unofficial results of 504 out of 737 centres announced by EC last night

Mohammad Hanif (AL)	=	3,00,811
Mirza Abbas (BNP)	=	2,42,621
Col (Rtd) Malek (JP)	=	7,767 *
ATM Azharul Islam (Jamaat)	=	5,781 *

Chittagong: Results of 248 out of 334 centres

ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury (AL)	=	1,44,768
Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin (BNP)	=	1,15,036
Mahmudul Islam Chowdhury (JP)	=	8,905 *
Afsaruddin Chowdhury (Jamaat)	=	9,718 *

Khulna: Results of all 208 centres

Sheikh Tayebur Rahman (BNP)	=	77,487
Mahbul Alam Hiran (AL)	=	63,654
S M A Rab (JP)	=	41,250
Md Golam Parwar (Jamaat)	=	24,703

Rajshahi: Results of all 88 centres

Mizanur Rahman Minu (BNP)	=	58,532
Abdul Matin Khan (AL)	=	23,001
Md Siddiqur Rahman (Jamaat)	=	17,692
Md Siddiqur Rahman (Ind)	=	10,501

Asterisk indicate results of 100 centres for Dhaka and 116 centres for Chittagong, as supplied by the EC.

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Jamaat demands  
repolling in  
25 centres

By Staff Correspondent

The Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Matur Rahim Nizami has demanded repolling in 25 centres in Dhaka alleging terrorism by the activists of the BNP and the Awami League.

Addressing a post-election press conference at the Jamaat's city office yesterday evening, Nizami said his party lodged specific complaints with the Election Commission in this connection.

The Jamaat leader viewed that the elections in the capital did not reflect public opinion as the activists of BNP and AL cast false votes, terrorised the polling centres and ousted the polling agents of his party.

According to Nizami, violence during yesterday's elections surpassed that of 1986 and 1988 polls.

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