

Municipal polls
Opposition blasts media 'for misreporting'

By Staff Correspondent
Opposition parties boycotting the municipal polls yesterday reiterated their claim that the turn out of voters in last two days didn't exceed 10 per cent and asked the government to immediately cancel the polls and accept their 4-point demand.

"Cancel the elections for the greater interest of the democracy, development and free the country from the conflicting situation that is currently prevalent," said BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan while addressing a press briefing at 29 Minto Road yesterday evening.

Leaders of the opposition alliance - Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote also spoke at the press briefing.

Replying to a question, Mannan Bhuiyan said the foreign media as well as some local newspapers broadcast and pub-

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D-8 summit: 2 heads of state due Sunday

By Staff Correspondent
Three heads of state and government scheduled to attend the D-8 Summit in Dhaka will start arriving here from February 28, according to diplomatic sources.

The first to arrive would be Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammad, heading a big delegation. He will arrive in the afternoon of February 28 and leave Dhaka on March 3.

Turkish President Suleyman Demiril will also arrive on February 28 with a 60-member team. He would leave on March 3.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is due in the morning of March 1. He will also leave on March 3.

Foreign ministers of most of the eight-nation organisation are expected to arrive on February 26 and 27. They would participate in the Council of Ministers conference of D-8 on February 27.

The two-day Summit begins on March 1.

Meeting of D-8 officials begins today

A two-day meeting of the senior officials of Developing Eight (D-8) countries begins in Dhaka today, reports AFP.

Sources at the Foreign Office told the news agency that they would discuss and draft the agenda of the two-day second summit of the new economic block that is scheduled to be held in Dhaka March 1-2.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the summit at Hotel Sheraton's Winter Garden Conference Centre.

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Prayer Timings
February 25

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:29	5:34
Zohr	12:15	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:35
Maghrib	6:00	6:03
Esha	7:25	7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Voting 'peaceful' on second day

On the second day of three-day municipal elections yesterday polling took place by and large peacefully in 30 Paurashavas in 22 districts, officials said, reports UNB.

"Alike, Tuesday, casting of votes began in time at 8 am in all 398 centres, but the authorities had to cross the 4 pm deadline due to overcrowding of voters," Election Commissioner Abidur Rahman told newsmen at a briefing at the EC office yesterday evening.

Voting in 18 centres of five municipalities was postponed following poll violence on Tuesday.

Rahman said Chief Election Commissioner Abu Hena would visit different polling centres today along with journalists. Six joint secretary-level officials also would visit election centres in six divisions to take stock of the overall situation.

A report from Sherpur says, activists of rival candidates went on fighting and looting yesterday in a string of poll violence that disrupted municipal election there.

In protest, the local Chamber of Commerce and Industry called an indefinite general strike in the district headquarters yesterday as a meeting between them and the administration at noon ended in failure.

At least 15 people were injured in the post-election sporadic clashes between the supporters of apparently defeated and winning candidates. Two shops and some 20 homes were also ransacked by the marauders, police and locals said.

They said the fighting between the supporters of Shahidur Rahman and Zulhazuddin at Chakpathak and Sherpara in the town left 15 injured, six critically.

Zulhazuddin, Tozi, Mizan, Razu, Mofazzal and Afzal were admitted to hospital.

Local people said sporadic clashes between the supporters of the candidates scattered over different areas of the town panning the townsmen.

Another report says, angry supporters of a chairman candidate of Matlab pourashava yesterday confined the local TNO in his office for five hours demanding fair elections in two centres of the municipality where voting was postponed Tuesday.

Witnesses said several hundred supporters of Dr Shamsur Rahman, one of the chairman candidates of the pourashava, gheraoed the TNO office this noon accusing the authorities of playing ducks and drakes with the election results.

Election results

Following are the names of unofficially elected chairman of different pourashavas, according to Election Commission, reports UNB.

Rangpur (Rangpur) — Kazi Mohammad Zinnun (32,031 votes); Panchagarh — Najim Uddin Ahmed (8,383 votes); Thakurgaon — Mohammad Akbar Hossain (4,857 votes); Dinajpur — Syed Mosaddeq Hossain Labu (20,301 votes); Nababganj

Mohammad Moinuddin Mandal (14,401 votes); Godagari (Rajshahi) — Mohammad Abdur Razzak (6,611 votes); Tanor (Rajshahi) — Mohammad Erman Ali Mollah (3,102 votes); Bera (Pabna) — Abdul Baten (9,396 votes); Kotchandpur — A K M Sirazul Haque (5,996 votes); Madhupur (Tangail) — Mohammad Shahidul Islam Shahid (10,601 votes); Ghatail (Tangail) — Mohammad Hasan Ali (unopposed); Dhanbari (Tangail) — Badul Alam (8,154 votes); Iswarganj (Mymensingh) — Mohammad Habibur Rahman (3,342 votes); Nandail (Mymensingh) — Mohammad Rafig Uddin Bhuiyan (3,522 votes); Kalkini — Mohammad Taufiquzzaman (4,510 votes); Gopalganj — Mohammad Ali Khan (9,023 votes); Naria — Haidar Ali (unopposed); Sunamganj — Dewan Mumunul Mojuddin (9,919 votes); Sayeshiaganj — Mohammad Abdur Razzak (1,903 votes);

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Foreign nationals denied entry, returned back from ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

'Security measures' for D-8 summit

ZIA Tuesday night.

Yesterday, 16 passengers who arrived by a Thai Airways flight from different western countries, were denied entry and returned at the lounge last night as they were refused visas after they arrived by a Biman flight from Kathmandu.

Two foreigners who arrived by a British Airways flight were allowed entry after officials from the British High Commission went to the airport and pleaded with immigration officials.

Sources at the Airport Immigration said that they had an order from the Home Ministry to stop issuing landing permit or visa to all foreigners coming with no prior visa.

The order was issued on February 18 but was imple-

mented to collect their return passage money later, he said.

Three passengers, two of them Koreans and one Nepalese, were denied entry and were staying at the lounge last night as they were refused visas after they arrived by a Biman flight from Kathmandu.

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Hajj flights: Biman lands in trouble

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Biman has landed in trouble over carrying Hajj pilgrims due to failure of 'Air Charter World', a US-based unlisted company, to provide the national airline two Boeing-777 aircraft.

Biman inaugurated Hajj flight with a DC-10 carrying 301 pilgrims, cancelling its regular flight to New York on Tuesday, jettisoning 79 other

pilgrims scheduled to travel to Jeddah by that flight.

It enraged the enlisted passengers as they were unceremoniously abandoned from the first flight and the second flight yesterday.

Biman had provided them the schedule but non-availability of the two wide-bodied Boeing-777 forced it to drop the 79 people and place them on other flights.

Based on the calculation that the two wide-bodied aircraft will carry 380 passengers per flight, Biman had made arrangements for 7224 ballotized pilgrims and 14,000 non-ballotized pilgrims.

But this put Biman into trouble to keep its schedule for 24 international destinations with four DC-10 and two Airbus A-310 aircraft.

Faced with the problem, Biman contacted Sky Jet, a Brussels-based company, to charter two DC-10 aircraft. The company was the second lowest bidder in an open tender for providing chartered wide-bodied aircraft for Hajj flights, which it did last year.

But the company's efforts to provide the aircraft remained uncertain till yesterday.

Aviation sources said unless

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Conspiracy to snatch voting rights foiled, says Zillur

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman has said people have foiled opposition leader Khaleda Zia's conspiracy to kill democracy and snatch voting rights by taking part in the municipal elections, reports UNB.

Zillur in a press statement yesterday criticised Khaleda's remarks about turnout of voters in the election.

He termed opposition leader's remarks as misleading and fabricated as independent observations of election monitoring agencies, newspapers and press claimed that people went to the polling centres to cast vote defying opposition boycott and hartal.

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Two stabbed to death in Savar

By Staff Correspondent
Two persons were stabbed to death in separate incidents in Savar thana in the last two days.

The dead were identified as Nazir Hossain, 18, son of Mohammad Shahjahan, a resident of Jhat Char and Mal Gani, 60, a resident of Manik Nagar in Aminibazar area, police and hospital sources said.

No one, however, was arrested in connection with the killing of Nazir while four persons, including a woman were arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of Gani, police said.

Savar police said a gang of

By Staff Correspondent
On the first day of the election, he said polling at only 18 centres out of 983 in 56 municipalities was postponed.

He said defying the hartal, huge voters, including a large number of women, exercised their franchise in 965 centres on Tuesday registering the turnout over 70 per cent on an average.

Polls in rest 50 municipalities today

By Staff Correspondent

On the third and final day today, election will be held in rest 50 municipalities under six administrative divisions of the country.

Polling will start at 8 am and close at 5 pm.

Polling will be held today at Pirganj, Setabganj, Parbatipur, Syedpur, Haragach, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Panchibibi, Shantahar, Naogaon, Rohnpur, Charhata, Gurudaspur, Ullapara and Pabna of Rajshahi division.

Doctors at