



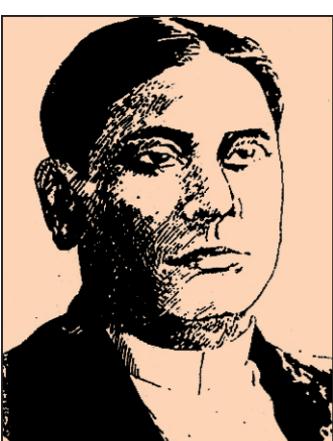
Welcome World Cup

SPORTS REPORTER

Sports in Bangladesh will walk into history today when the fairy-tale FIFA World Cup trophy reaches the capital in the morning.

The 'dream' trophy of the world's most celebrated sport, is expected to arrive by a Bangladesh Biman flight from Indian city of

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Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's death today

BSS, Dhaka

The 40th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque will be observed today across the country.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The programmes include placing wreaths and offering fete at the mazar of the great leader at Doel Chattar in Dhaka University area and holding Milad Mahfil and discussions.

President A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia gave separate messages on the eve of the anniversary yesterday, paying glowing tributes to the memory of the great leader.

Besides, leader of the opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina also

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Jenin - the 'ground zero' of Palestine
Column: Spotlight on Middle East
Muslehuddin Ahmad

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Book review: A lover and dreamer, and Attacking juvenile delinquency



See the rules and coupon of
The Daily Star
Rangs Toshiba
WORLD CUP QUIZ
Round 2 on Page 15

Khoka DCC mayor, Tayeb re-elected in Khulna

Ruling alliance also bags most posts of ward commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In an election marked with low turnout of voters and boycotted by opposition Awami League, candidates of the ruling coalition have also bagged the mayoral posts in Dhaka and Khulna.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadeq Hossain Khoka was unofficially declared elected mayor of Dhaka and incumbent mayor Tayebur Rahman re-elected in Khulna with wide margins with their nearest rivals.

The EC on Thursday night had declared incumbent Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu re-elected in Rajshahi.

Candidates of the ruling coalition also bagged most of posts of ward commissioner in the three cities, according to the EC's complete unofficial results.

Thursday's city corporation election was the first major test of popularity for the BNP-led ruling coalition, which came to power six months ago.

With two-thirds majority in parliament, the coalition has now a strong base in local governments in three out of four major cities.

According to EC, over 34 percent voters exercise their franchise in Dhaka city. The percentage in Khulna

and Rajshahi was 64.40 and 78.65 percent respectively.

Sadeq Hossain Khoka defeated his nearest rival ATM Hemayet Uddin with a big margin of 5,95,237 votes. Khoka got 6,90,008 votes out of a total of 9,86,191 cast. The Dhaka City Corporation has a total of 28,69,028 voters. Twenty candidates contested for the DCC mayoral post.

In Dhaka, the ruling BNP bagged 59 commissioner posts and its coalition partner Jamaat-e-Islami got one. Independent candidates, mostly belonging to opposition Awami League (AL) bagged the rest 30. Out of the 30 reserved seats for women commissioner, independent candidates won 11.

In Khulna, Sheikh Taibur Rahman of BNP defeated his nearest rival, independent candidate Advocate Md. Enayet Ali, with a margin of 56,451 votes. Taibur got 1,35773 votes out of a total of 2,45,407.

According to sources in Khulna, BNP candidates (both party nominees and rebels) bagged 12 ward commissioner posts and those of AL got eight. Independent candidates got the rest 11.

In Rajshahi, BNP's Mizanur Rahman Minu defeated

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Hanif's demand for metropolitan govt is logical, says Khoka

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly elected Dhaka City Corporation mayor, Sadeque Hossain Khoka, has said his first task would be to shore up confidence among city dwellers.

"With the lesson from the failures of the incumbent mayor in my mind, I will initiate a massive drive to resolve all the problems facing the people," he told reporters at his Gopibagh residence yesterday afternoon.

About the demand for the metropolitan government by outgoing Mayor Mohammad Hanif, he said Hanif made the demand from his own experience and "the demand is logical because coordination among different agencies is a must to mitigate the sufferings of the city dwellers".

"I think this concept demands active consideration...it's not the way to empower an individual but for a better coordination between the corporation and different government bodies to stave off various problems with limited resources,"

Khoka earlier told the UNB.

Khoka said he would take up the concept of the metropolitan government with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the news agency added.

The people have lost their faith in the city corporation, as they have not been relieved of mosquito, rundown roads and lanes and garbage in the last eight years, Khoka said.

Sadeque Hossain Khoka MP, who is also holding the portfolio of fisheries and livestock, said that after take-over he would first sit with the staff of the corporation and launch a drive to fight mosquito menace and repair roads, lanes and by-lanes. He also promised to launch a cleanliness drive.

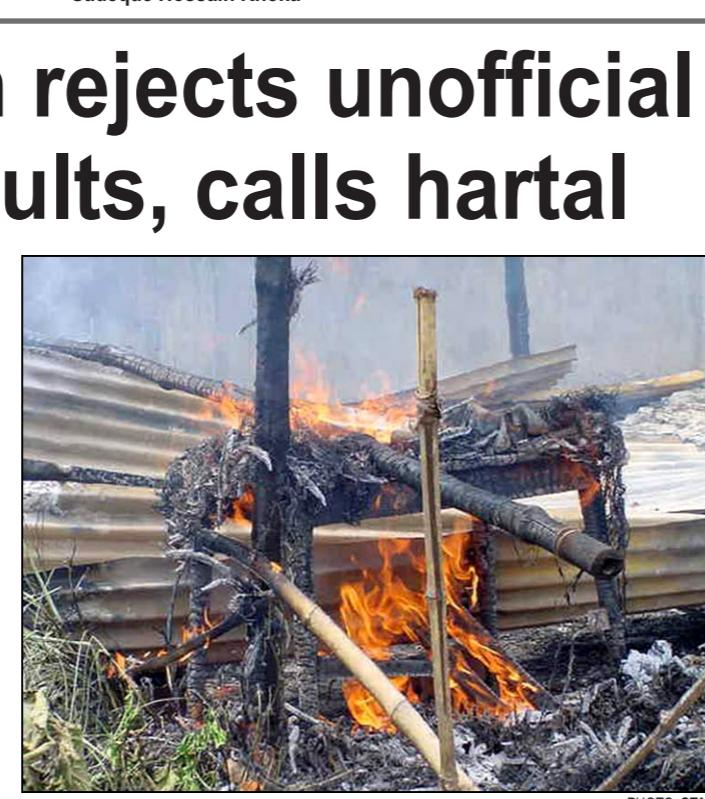
"I will definitely involve the government in mitigating the sufferings of city dwellers. I would like to make them feel that the DCC is always beside them," he affirmed.

Khoka vowed to check terrorism and bickering over tendering. "The so-called 5-star and 7-star groups will be driven away from the corporation. Rules and procedures will be enforced and nepotism be eliminated," he assured.

Khoka told the reporters that he would first perform umrah and offer fetahe at the mazaa of Hazrat Muhammad (SM) in Saudi Arabia before joining office.

He termed the Awami League's boycott of the mayoral polls very unfortunate. Although the AL boy

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



Supporters of defeated ward 17 BNP-backed candidate in RCC polls allegedly torched an AL-backed club at Baganpara, Rajshahi yesterday

Marma beauty pageant

SHAHID ISLAM, Back From Bandarban

This year's tribal beauty contest has crowned Jo Saing U, an HSC examinee, and Kay Ri Pru, a degree student, Mr Marma and Miss Marma respectively.

The beauty pageant for the year 2002 was held at the Rajbari premises in the hill district of Bandarban on Thursday midnight. The contest was introduced last year for the youths belonging to the Marma tribe.

However, the much-awaited moment came in the early hours of yesterday (at around 4.00am), when Chairman of the Chittagong Hill District Council Ma Ma Ching, who attended the event as chief guest, announced the winners' names amid thunderous ovation from nearly three thousand people.

The chief guest also declared the names of first and second runners-up from the groups of both boys and girls. From the boys group, Pu Lu Pru was declared the first runner-up and Nu Thui the second runner-up, while U Nu Sing and Ki Ki Saing won those prizes respectively from the girls group.

Ho Sei Nu and Tu Lu Sey, champi

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Miss Marma-2002 champion Kay Ri Pru (middle) and first runner-up U Nu Sing and second runner-up Ki Ki Saing in the tribal beauty contest at the Rajbari premises in Bandarban on Thursday midnight.

Hold fresh polls under a new CEC: ALCWC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Anwar in ward 40, Salimullah Salu in ward 42, Md. KM Ahmed Rezu in ward 44, Abu Syed Bepari in ward 46, Atiqul Islam Motin in ward 45, Jasim Uddin Ahmed in ward 47, Md. Sirajul Islam in ward 50, Md. Abdul Latif in

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Adopting a resolution in this regard, the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) in an emergency meeting also decided to stage demonstrations across the country on May 2 demanding annulment of the polls.

Acting AL president Abdus Samad Azad chaired the ALCWC meeting held at the party's Dhanmondi office in the city yesterday.

The meeting over, AL leaders told the newsmen that there was unprecedented low turnout of voters in Thursday's polls to the three city

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Khoka's tasks ahead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sadeq Hossain Khoka's ascent to the mayoral seat through the April 25 polls will not offer him a bed of roses. For the messy situation in almost all the departments of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) is unlikely to give Khoka any chance to repose. The new city father therefore needs to chalk out his priorities fast and restore confidence of the city-dwellers in the municipal services.

Some of the basic services offered by the DCC badly need to be improved and made efficient by introducing a more workable system. As Khoka walks into the office, he will not only find empty insecticide barrels in the DCC warehouses but also a frightful menace of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases to deal with. One of the immediate priorities should go to the mosquito eradication programme and its proper management.

Waste management in the city has remained rudimentary for years. Over the years DCC has hungered

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32 'criminals' elected DCC commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite widespread outcry and apprehension by people, at least 32 'listed' or 'identified' criminals have been elected ward commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC).

The ruling BNP's pre-election pledge to prevent criminals from participating in the DCC polls now stands flouted as these 'criminals' are poised to rule in their areas with virtual immunity to law.

These criminals were either wanted by police at different times or their names were published in newspapers in connection with crimes.

They are Kazi Ali Imam Asad in ward 3, Saidur Rahman Neoton in ward 8, Monwar Hossain Dipjal in ward 9, Md. Shamim Parvej in ward 11, ABM Mostafa Badsha in ward 30, Md. Harunur Rashid in ward 33, Mirza Khokon in ward 34, Shamim Hasan in ward 39, Anwaruzzaman

Badshah rejects unofficial polls results, calls hartal

ANWAR ALI, from Rajshahi

Mayoral candidate Fazle Hossain Badshah yesterday rejected the unofficial result of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) polls terming it 'fabricated' and 'prepared' and demanded re-election.

He called a dawn to dusk hartal in the city on Sunday to protest the 'blueprint election'.

He alleged 'massive fake voting' during the election and claimed that the election authorities did very little to check it.

"The result does not reflect people's verdict... It was prepared in a planned way by the deputy election commission's office here," he said.

"We want peace. Hartal is our democratic right to peacefully protest the forgery by the ruling alliance", he told a press conference

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Supporters of defeated ward 17 BNP-backed candidate in RCC polls allegedly torched an AL-backed club at Baganpara, Rajshahi yesterday

CEC didn't turn up at office

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed did not turn up at his office on the Election Day Thursday as well as yesterday when the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat announced the unofficial results of Thursday's city polls.

The CEC's absence from his office on the crucial Election Day raised questions among many quarters including the officials of the EC Secretariat.

While briefing newsmen Wednesday afternoon on the EC's preparation for Thursday's polls, the CEC had informed that after casting his vote he was going to be at his office and would pay surprise visits to some polling stations later.

However, after casting his vote the CEC did not go to the Election Commission on that day and the following day yesterday.

Journalists assembled at the EC

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Hazra crowned Round One king

SPORTS REPORTER

The afternoon belonged to Dhirendranath Hazra of Shantinagar, Dhaka, who won the first prize in the draw of The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002 Round One.

Hazra's was the first name to be picked at a colourful draw held at the Aswini Kumar Hall in Barisal yesterday in presence of a packed audience that included local sports buffs and distinguished guests. The first prize was a 21" Toshiba Flat

Winners list and correct answers on page 13

color Television M Shah Alam of Ansar-VDP Academy in Shafipur, Gazipur, won the second prize-- a 8.5 CFT Toshiba refrigerator. There was delight for the locals when Mohammad Firoz Khan, the Associate Editor of The Daily Star. The lucky coupons were picked by Sheikh Abdul Kalam, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, Prof. M Nurul Anwar, Principal of

Mohammad Jashimuddin of Fazlul Haque Hall of Dhaka University was the lucky winner of the fourth prize, a Toshiba rice cooker while the fifth and last prize of the round, a Toshiba dry iron, went to Dr. M A Muquith of Monipur in Dhaka's Mirpur area.

The exciting draw programme was chaired by Shah Husain Imam, the Associate Editor of The Daily Star. The lucky coupons were picked by Sheikh Abdul Kalam, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal, Prof. M Nurul Anwar, Principal of

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The Daily Star - Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz 2002

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