

# Khoka DCC mayor

**FROM PAGE 1**  
his nearest rival Fazle Hossain Badsha of 11-Party alliance with a margin of 14,398 votes. Badsha, however, rejected the election result and called a dawn to dusk hartal in the city on Sunday protesting alleged vote rigging.

Out of 30 ward commissioner posts in

Rajshahi, BNP got 21, Jamaat three, Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) one and independent candidates got eight.

The mayoral elections were held after eight years, three years behind schedule. The elections were held almost peacefully amid unprecedented security measures. But the turnout was remarkably low, reflecting voters' confidence in candidates and fear of violence.

In the capital, lack of enthusiasm

## Rickshaw passengers mugged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers robbed valuables from passengers of several rickshaws in front of the Jute Research Institute at Manik Miah Avenue last night.

Witnesses said a gang of seven muggers stopped several rickshaws within a period of over 30 minutes and took away the valuables of passengers at gunpoint. They also beat up some passengers.

During the whole time, no police came forward to help the victims.

The duty officer of Tejgaon Police Station expressed ignorance about the matter when contacted at about 10:15pm yesterday.

The area near the Jute Research Institute is a favorite spot for muggers and other criminals in the area.

Earlier on March 4, masked armed bandits looted money and prize bonds from a Sonali Bank branch in the area.

## Saifur's reception

**FROM PAGE 12**  
BNP president Syed Matiuur Rahman Peyara tried to get up on the dais as the minister was addressing the reception organised by former BNP lawmaker Sheikh Sujat Miah and his supporters at Natun Bazar crossing.

Saifur along with State Minister for Commerce Barkat Ullah Bulu, State Minister for Relief Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury and IGP Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury left the reception venue instantly amid a chaotic scene at about 6pm.

Of the injured, Thana BNP general secretary Sarfaraj Chowdhury was admitted to Nabiganj Thana Health Complex.

Earlier, the finance and planning minister inaugurated a newly built thana-cum-barrack complex in the upazila head-quarters.

A tense situation was prevailing in the area following the clash. A contingent of police was deployed there to avert further trouble.

# Khoka: Hanif's demand

**FROM PAGE 1**  
cotted the mayoral polls, they entered the fray indirectly for ward commissioner posts, he said.

"There was no such situation in the country that can force them to boycott the polls. People would not have blown the chance of electing right persons if the Awami League had been in the fray. Their participation would also get the democratic process ahead."

About the low turnout, he said the DCC election was rather peaceful and fair with the exception of some minor untoward incidents. The media predicted violence and conflict, however.

People thinned out of the city taking the polling day as a holiday in addition to the weekend the following day -- all together led to the low

# Khoka's tasks ahead

**FROM PAGE 1**  
for ideas as to how the second phase of waste disposal at the neighbourhood dumping sites could be managed without exposing the citizens to health hazards or nuisance. Huge metal containers were placed haphazardly, encroaching busy roads, cutting off pedestrian walkways and sprawling litter all over due to lack of timely removal.

Khoka needs to involve professionals to find a scientific solution to the city's waste management problem. With around 6,000 men and women, a fleet of nearly 200 vehicles, communication devices and a huge sum of money at the disposal of the conservancy department, the city-dwellers would expect the DCC to fare a lot better in order to create a livable environment.

The Estate Department of the corporation, responsible for city parks, open spaces and other DCC land properties, invariably incurs the blame for engineering most of the land grabbing in the city. For instance, the Estate Department officials recently fathered an 'official file' to 'lease out on daily basis' a major thoroughfare in Karwan Bazaar, which some local hoodlums had illegally taken over. The file swiftly crept into the highest office of the Nagar Bhaban and got the mayoral nod. When genuine businessmen in Karwan Bazaar strongly protested the move in writing, the 'file' was put on a halt. There are dozen other instances of dubious deals carried out by the same department over the years. This has

among voters was due to apprehension of violence, participation of candidates with criminal background in the race for ward commissioner posts and boycott of the polls by AL.

AL has rejected the polls and demanded fresh election to ensure participation of all parties in a congenial atmosphere.

The party's acting chief Abdus Samad Azad said, "In fact, no election was held. Voters did not turn up to polling stations protesting misrule and terrorism by the ruling coalition".

He said city corporation is an important local body and the government should make the election acceptable to all with participation of all political parties.

Outgoing mayor Mohammad Hanif said that Dhaka City Corporation would not have a representative character in the next term as most of the voters refrained from casting vote.

This time, nearly 300 people having criminal records contested for ward commissioner posts in the three cities, many of them wanted in murder, rape, mugging, extortion and land-grab cases.

Police failed to nab any of these candidates and said only 50 and not 300 of them were on their list of wanted criminals.

## Post-poll violence

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Police arrested two persons -- Nurul Islam and Abdul Kuddus -- in connection with the attack.

Police have been deployed in front of Azam's house.

Supporters of the ruling party's Matin group in the ward no. 17 attacked the supporters of AL leader Shahadat Hossain Shahu in Boro Bogram Baganpara and Naadapara areas yesterday. Shahu was re-elected RCC commissioner yesterday.

They entered the houses of two AL workers, Zillur and Titu, by breaking open the doors and looted valuables. They also set fire to a club.

Nargis Begum, wife of Zillur, Shirin, his daughter and two others - Jostna and Shiuli -- were injured during the attack.

## Shooting rampage

**FROM PAGE 12**  
school. One of the policemen was among those killed.

Ambulances and police cars massed in front of the school, where several hundred children in grades five through 12 were in classes when the shooting began.

Sixth-grade Martin Streng said he was in math class when he heard gunfire coming from a classroom down the hall. As he and other students filed into the hallway to flee the building, they saw a man with a gun down the corridor behind them, Streng said.

It was Germany's second school shooting in two months. In February, a 22-year-old German who recently lost his job shot and killed two former bosses and his old high school's principal in a rampage outside Munich.

turnout, he reasoned. The comments by the incumbent mayor before the polls also sent chill among the voters. But turnout in the second half of the day was satisfactory, he said.

About the identified terrorists elected ward commissioners, he has said he has nothing to do with this because they have already been elected. All ward commissioners will enjoy equal rights and nobody will be favoured, he assured.

He called upon city dwellers to extend their all-out cooperation in resolving the problems. "It would not be possible for me alone to fight all problems and crises...I need supports of all people, the government, donors and the ministries and agencies concerned."

## PM to inaugurate Pekua upazila in Cox's Bazar today

UNB, Cox's Bazar

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia is scheduled to inaugurate Pekua upazila in Cox's Bazar today.

Special programmes have been taken up on the occasion.

The programmes include "Mejban" a traditional grand feast and cultural function. Some 170 cattle will be slaughtered for the feast, the organisers said.

A committee headed by State Minister for Communications and minister in-charge of Cox's Bazar district Salahuddin Ahmed and 17 sub-committees have been formed to arrange the inaugural function.

## CEC

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Secretariat Thursday night to pick up the election results were told by the acting secretary to the Election Commission SM Zakaria that the CEC might come by any time. He said he had talked to Syed at around 2.30pm.

"There might have been some misunderstanding between the government and the CEC over the latter's remarks on the existing law and order only a day ahead of the election," said an official preferring anonymity. "And this may have annoyed the CEC," he added.

Syed was not available for comment despite repeated attempts for the last two days.

## Sher-e-Bangla

**FROM PAGE 1**  
gave a message on the occasion.

In his message President Badruddoza Chowdhury recalled the contribution of the great leader for socio-economic development of the working class people, including the rural farmers of the country.

He said Sher-e-Bangla's sincere contribution to the development of the socio-economic condition of the rural farmers and working people would be long remembered.

The president said the formation of "Rin Shalishi Board" at the initiative of the Sher-e-Bangla had freed the oppressed class and farmers from the clutches of the traditional money lenders.

In her message, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia said the welfare of the common people was the main philosophy of the politics of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haque. He would be remembered by the people of the country for long for his fondness and sympathy for them, she said.

Paying glowing tributes to the memory of the late leader, Khaleda Zia said he (Sher-e-Bangla) played a pioneering role in the anti-British movements and the struggles for realising the demand of the oppressed class of people in the then East Bengal.

The prime minister also recalled the contribution of Sher-e-Bangla in expansion of education in the country.

In her message, opposition leader Sheikh Hasina said Sher-e-Bangla had established the tenancy rights and removed lending (Mohajoni) system, which ultimately led to the collapse of feudalism.

"He was an excellent orator, eminent politician and a living symbol of communal harmony," she added.

Sheikh Hasina said he was also the initiator of historic Lahore Resolution, framer of 21-point demand and one of the proponents of Bengali nationalism. "His ideology would inspire the nation for building an oppression free society," she added.

## Hazra

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the six-round quiz competition.

While the lottery for the five winners generated excitement, the main attraction of the show however proved to be the special draw for the audience.

13 attractive prizes -- four rice cookers and nine electric irons were handed over to the fortunate few chosen through a lively raffle draw. The winners were: Rice Cookers- Shiplu, Rahat Hossain, Tapan Kumar Shaha and Mainuddin Khan; Electric Iron - Nasimul Alam, Athar Ali, Badruzzaman, Mesbahul Islam, Harunur Rashid, Syed Samiul Haque, Kamrul Islam, Mainul Haque and Rana.

Speaking on the occasion, Sheikh Abdul Kalam, the DC of Barisal observed that the media was playing a prominent role in making sports popular in the country and called The Daily Star the pioneers in this regard.

He also thanked The Daily Star for arranging the unique event and appreciated the English daily's team, which had traveled all the way to Barisal for the draw.

Prof. M Nurul Anwar, Principal of BM College, lauded the Daily Star for its dedication in establishing the concept of 'people's right to know'.

The Daily Star later hosted a reception for its valued readers and the elite at a local community centre in the evening.

Meanwhile, Round Two of The Daily Star Rangs Toshiba World Cup Quiz kicked off yesterday. The draw of this round will held in Khulna on May 10.



PHOTO: AFP

Residents of Manak Nagar Colony block the main railway track in Lucknow yesterday protesting water scarcity due to the hot season. India, having 16 per cent of the world's population, is now facing serious water crisis in its 15 states as the ground water levels have been falling almost five per cent a year.

# Tk 750cr to be spent annually for families of poor students

UNB, Dhaka

Some Tk 750 crore will be spent annually starting from the upcoming financial year for providing cash incentives to poor families for sending their wards to schools and checking dropouts under a comprehensive schooling campaign.

Keeping the spirit of the previous 'Food for Education' programme intact, the government is introducing the monetary assistance for the families of the poor students across the country under the drive for freeing the country from illiteracy.

In place of 'Food for Education,' but keeping the spirit of the programme as it is, the government is going to implement the new decision, she told newsmen.

According to the new decision, one family having one school-going child will get Tk 100 per month while with two children Tk 125.

The government is now implementing 26 projects for the development of primary and non-formal education while 4,000 satellite schools were established experimentally in the country that brought

Education, at a press conference in the PID Conference Room yesterday at the tag end of the 'Education for All Week 2002'. The weeklong campaign started on April 22.

Explaining the new move, she said the government's aim is to increase presence of children in primary schools and prevent drop-outs.

"Overall literacy movement is not only a development programme but also a social movement," she said urging all to join the campaign for achieving the goal, irrespective of party affiliation and opinion.

Secretary to the Primary and Mass Education Division Dr Tahmania Hossain, Suryakanto Das, Kazi Farid Ahmed, AKM Delwar Hossain and Habibur Rahman were also present in the conference.

primary education to the doorsteps of rural masses.

To provide training facilities for the teachers, the government has taken various training programmes and established Upazila Resource Centres in 95 upazilas to preserve primary education-related information. Upazila Resource Centre would be established in all the upazilas in phases, Prof Jahanara informed.

"Only a development programme but also a social movement," she said urging all to join the campaign for achieving the goal, irrespective of party affiliation and opinion.

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# Welcome World Cup

**FROM PAGE 1**  
of Kolkata at around 10.30am.

State Minister for Youth and Sport Fazlur Rahman, Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) president SA Sultan, BFF general secretary Harun-ul Rashid and national football captain Alfaz Ahmed will receive the Cup, which is now on a global tour to selected countries ahead of the World Cup finals that kicks in Seoul, South Korea on May 31.

The Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF) has drawn up an extensive programme to commemorate the unique occasion.

The glittering piece of glory will be on display at the Bangabandhu National Stadium for the soccer-crazy fans of the country who can have a once in a life-time at the 35,000 capacity 'big bowl'.

Tickets have been fixed at; Taka 20 Galleries, Taka 200-VIP Gates 1 and 3, Taka 100 VIP Gate 2.

The BFF has also arranged a football match involving the former

stars of the two traditional local giantsMohammedan Sporting Club and Abahani Kirira Chakra. The friendly match will be followed by a pop concert where popular band LRB and another pop favourite Baby Naznin will perform.

LRB lead vocalist Ayub Bachchu has reportedly composed a special song for the World Cup.

Meanwhile, the government has beefed up security for the smooth transit of the Cup in Dhaka. A contingent of Army personnel will take over the responsibility from a G-4 security man who has escorted the Cup all the way from the FIFA headquarters in Zurich.

Upon arriving at the Zia International Airport, the coveted trophy will travel on a horse-driven carriage to the Prime Minister's office where head of government Khaleda Zia and her cabinet members will greet it.

Once the government programme is over, the Cup will begin its journey towards the BNS.

About twelve thousand school-children, players and of course, members of the general public, will cheer the Cup as it moves through the main city streets before entering the 'big bowl' at around 3.30pm.

Gillette, one of the major sponsors of the 2002 World Cup, to be hosted jointly by South Korea and Japan, has arranged the trip of Cup in Bangladesh. The world-renowned brand has also painted the city streets with colourful festoons and banners to make the event a memorable one.

The World Cup will be kept at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel before it heads back to Kolkata tomorrow morning.

Bangladesh is one of the twelve lucky nations where the Cup will tour before it is put up for grabs among the 32 contestants in the Korea-Japan finals.

# Ward commissioners

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Rahman Maju (ward-58), Md Humayun Kabir (ward-59), Haji Md Mosharrar Hossain (ward-60), Haji Altaf Hossain (ward-61), Mir Ashraf Ali Azam (ward-62), Golam Morshed (ward-63), Md Anwar Parvez (Badal) (ward-64), Haji Md Shahidul Islam (ward-65), Haji Md Humayun Kabir (ward-66), Md Aziz Ullah (ward-67), Md Rafique (ward-68), Md Mohan (ward-69), Haji Ahmed Hossain (ward-70), Alhaj Md Hossain Mollah (ward-71), Binoy Krishna Sarkar (ward-72), Md A Samad (ward-73), Kazi Abul Bashar (ward-74), Md Mozammel Haq (ward-75), Makbul Islam Khan Tipu (ward-76), Liakat Ali (ward-77), Haji Md Selim (ward-78), Md Shahid (ward-79), Md Abdus Shahed Mantu (ward-80), Haji Md Liakat Ali (ward-81), Md Shahid Ullah Minu (ward-82), Md Saidur Rahman Shaheed (ward-83), Atiqullah (ward-84), Alhaj Badal Sardar (ward-85), Amir Hossain (ward-86), Md Mobarak Hossain (ward-87), Haji Abdul Rashid (ward-88), Mir Hossain Miru (ward-89), Md Shahadat Hossain (ward-90).

The unofficially elected female ward commissioners in the reserved seats of DCC are : Rabeya Alam (ward-1), Mahmuda Begum (ward-2), Meherunnessa Hoq (ward-3), Shahida Tarek Dipti (ward-4), Nargis Begum Baby (ward-5), Shirin Rokshana (ward-6), Peyara (ward-7), Rokeya Sultana (ward-8), Rina Nasir (ward-9), Raushan Ara (ward-10), Nasima Mannan (ward-11), Shirin Jahan (ward-12), Mahmuda Islam (ward-13), Shajeda Ali (ward-14), Tahmida Chowdhury (ward-15).

Rajeya Dalim (ward-22), Suriya Begum (ward-23), Momtaz Chowdhury Tutu (ward no-24), Lovely Chowdhury (ward-25), Hosne Ara Chowdhury (ward-26), Nasrin Akhtar (ward-27), Mosammat Moni (ward-28), Asma Afrin (ward-29), Sanjida Khan (ward-30).

**Rajshahi city corp**

The unofficial results of ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation elections are as follows: Ward Commissioners (general): Munsur Rahman (ward no 1), Nazrul Islam (ward no 2), Kamal Hossain (ward no 3), Sajjad Hossain (ward no 4), Abul Hashem (ward no 5), Abul Hasnat (ward no 6), Rezaul Karim Nanu (ward no 7), Abdul Hamid (ward no 8), Rezaul Nabi Dudu (ward no 9), Sirajuddin Manik (ward no 10), Zahidul Islam Zahid (ward no 11), Shafiqul Islam Babu (ward no 12), Rabiul Alam Milu (ward no 13), Murad Ali (ward no 14), Rezaul Nabi-Ali Mamun (ward no 15), Belal Ahmed (ward no 16), Shahdat Ali Shah (ward no 17), Mohammad Masud (ward no 18), Moniruzzaman Sharif (ward no 19), Mustaque Hossain Ratan (ward no 20), Nizam-ul-Azim (ward no 21), Abdul Hamid Sarkar (ward no 22), Mohammad Saiduzzaman (ward no 23), Jahangir Alam Alamgir (ward no 24), Tariqul Alam Palto (ward no 25), Golam Kuddus (ward no 26), Anwarul Amin (ward no 27), Monwara Begum (ward no 28), Giasuddin (ward no 29) and Abdus Samad (ward no 30).

Female ward commissioners in reserved seats:

Razia Sultana Bijli (ward no 1), Rehena Zaman (ward no 2), Rozina Begum (ward no 3), Bilkis Banu (ward no 4), Syeda Pervin (ward no 5), Anju Ahmed (ward no 6), Nazma Khatun (ward no 7), Shahnaz Begum Shikha (ward no 8),

Nurunnahar Begum (ward no 9) and Nazma Begum (ward no 10).

**Khulna city corp**

The unofficial results of major commissioners of Khulna City Corporation elections held Thursday are as follows:

Ward (general) commissioners are: Moniruzzaman Khan Khokon (ward no 1), Sheikh Yunus Ali (ward no 2), Abdus Salam (ward no 3), Sheikh Moznun (ward no 4), SM Ruhul Amin (ward no 5), SM Abdul Haque (ward no 6), Sheikh Shahidul Islam ward no7), Shah Alam (ward no 8), Kazi Sarwar-ul-Alam (ward no 9), Mohammad Khairuzzaman, (ward no 10), Abul Kashem (ward no 11), HM Abu Malek (ward no 12), Sheikh Mosadddek Hossain (ward no 13), Sheikh Abul Kalam (ward no 14), Taslimuddin Khan Babul (ward 15), SM Anisur Rahman (ward no 16), Sheikh Hafizur Rahman Hafiz (ward no 17), Sheikh Anwarul Quadir (ward no 18), SM Nurul Islam (ward no 19), Sheikh Gausul Azam (ward no 20), Shah Alam (ward no 21), SM Shafiqul Alam Mona (ward no 22), Imam Hasan Chowdhury Moina (ward no 23), Sheikh Asaduzzaman Litu (ward no 24), Kazi Mohammad Rashed (ward no 25), Golam Mowla Shanu (ward no 26), Moniruzzaman Mamun (ward no 27), Azmal Ahmed (ward no 28), Moniruzzaman Moni (ward no 29), Amanullah Aman (ward no 30), and Md Hossain Mukta (ward no 31).

Female ward commissioners for reserved seats are: Nahid Sultana (ward no 1), Sehel Sayeed (ward no 2), Shamima Sultana Sima (ward no 3), Delwara Begum (ward no 4), Memori Sufia Rahman Munu (ward no 5), Sheikh Amena Halim Baby (ward no 6), Mamunura Zakir Khukumoni (ward no 7), Konika Rani Saha (ward no 8), Ruma Khatun (ward no 9) and Hasina Akram (ward no 10).

# 32 'criminals' elected

**FROM PAGE 1**  
ward 51, Khaja Habibullah in ward 57, Haji M Mojibur Rahman Maju in ward 58, Haji Md. Mosharrar Hossain in ward 60, Mir Ashraf Ali in ward 62, Md. Anwar Parvej Badal in ward 64, Mohammad Mohan in ward 69, Haji Ahmad Hossain in ward 70, Alhaj Md. Hossain Mollah in ward 71, Binoy Krisna Sarkar Bina in ward 72, Liakat Ali in ward 77, Mokbul Islam Khan Tipu in ward 76, Md. Abdus Shshed Montu in ward 80, Saidur Rahman Shahid in ward 83, Mohammad Atiqullah Atique in ward 84, Alhaj Badal Sardar in ward 85 and Md. Shahadat Hossain in ward 90.

Of them, Shamim Hasan of ward 39, Salimullah Salu of ward 42, Mir Ashraf Ali of ward 62, Saidur Rahman Shahid of ward 83 and Md. Shahadat Hossain of ward 90 have been elected as independent candidates and the rest are four-party nominees.

Shahidur Rahman Shahid, Shahid Salimullah Salu, Monwar Hossain Dipjal, Mirza Khokon, KM Ahmad Razu, Atiqui Islam Motin, Hossain Mollah, and Badal Sardar were identified as the 'notorious criminals'.

In Sutrapur, Saidur Rahman Shahid became a 'godfather' of criminals, having access to wealth and power over the last eight years. Shahid, who was arrested from his Satish Sarkar Road residence on February 13, is now in Dhaka Central Jail, awaiting trial. He contested the DCC polls as an independent candidate.

He is facing charges for murder of Azizur Rahman Khokon in Sutrapur on January 25 and BNP leader Habibur Rahman Mandal at Chandra Mahan Bashak Lane on August 20, 2000.

Police are also investigating whether he had hands in the sensational double murder at Gandaria Rifle Club on June 19 last year. Shahid might face charges for 'masterminding' the killing of another local youth, Ahmed Hossain Suman, on February 9, 2000.

Salimullah Salu is the principal accused in the murder of

## Beauty pageant

**FROM PAGE 1**  
ons of last year's competition, handed over the crowns to this year's champions.

The four runners-up were also given crests. The rest of the contenders in the final round were awarded certificates and prize-money.

Eighteen competitors, nine from each group, participated in the final round of the competition, with a panel of seven judges deciding on the basis of four criteria set by the organiser and the sponsor. The contest was organised by Marma Shilpi Goshthi.

## Jamaat candidates

**FROM PAGE 12**  
Eleven new faces have been elected ward commissioners. They are SM Ruhul Amin in ward no. 5, SM Abdul Huq in ward no. 11, Md Abul Kasham in ward no. 6, HM Abu Salek in ward no. 12, Mosaddak Hossain Babul in ward no. 13, Anisur Rahman Biswas in ward no. 16, Md Shah Alam in ward no. 21, Imam Hasan Chowdhury in ward no. 23, Golam Mawla Shanu in ward no. 26, Ajmal Hossain Tapan in ward no. 28 and Amanullah Aman in ward no. 30.

Two sitting ward commissioners did not contest. They are Shaikh Abdul Karim of ward no. 16 and Ershad Ali Shikder of ward no. 21. Ershad Shikder is now in Khulna district jail with death sentence in seven murder cases.

# ALCWC: Fresh polls

**FROM PAGE 1**  
corporations and thanked the people for what they said boycotting the polls.

Leaders of the main opposition observed that the large-scale absence of voters was a manifestation of people's rejection of the ruling alliance. People have expressed their 'silent protest' against the repression let loose by the government, the AL leaders noted.

In demand for revoking the polls and holding fresh polls, AL would stage demonstrations across the country on May 2. As part of that programme, the party would hold a rally in the city's Paltan Maidan in the afternoon on the same day.

The Paltan rally would also protest the killing of meritorious student Jamal at Kapasia, Gazipur, murder of a Buddhist monk and repression on party activists across the country.

Dubbing the April 25 polls as 'more farcical' than those held in February 15, 1996 and October 1, 2001, the ALCWC claimed that hardly 10 to 15 per cent of the voters cast their votes while others did not turn up as the "people knew the results were pre-fixed."

The foreigners to be repatriated are staying in several jails, including those in Dhaka, Chittagong, Noakhali, Rangamati, Bandarban and Cox's Bazar.

# Badshah calls hartal

**FROM PAGE 1**  
at his election office at Malopara.

The 11-party league was a candidate of the Rajshahi Citizens' Committee, formed before the election.

Badsha called upon the city dwellers to launch movement in every ward to reject the polls result.

"The citizens' committee which was formed for the election will continue its activities as our partners belonging to opposition parties have extended their support to the forum...A large faction of ruling BNP led by its expelled leader Advocate Quamrul Monir told me to be with us", he claimed.

He also questioned the 78.65 per cent turnout of voters, declared by the election commission. "We did not find any rush of voters. Even the DEC (deputy election commissioner) had said that usual large queues of voters could not be seen (at polling centres)... Then how it is possible to have 78.65 per cent turnout?"

Convener of the Citizen's Committee Advocate Golam Arif Tipu, Rajshahi BAR Association President Advocate Sayed Ekramur Rasul, Rajshahi Town Protection Movement President Jamat Khan, Mossarrar Hossain, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Ziaul Haque, Prof. Fazlul haque, Dr. Sayed Shafiqul Alam were also present at the conference.

"Declared at midnight, the polls result was the outcome of a blueprint prepared by the ruling alliance," he said.

Wahiduzzaman, a ward commissioner candidate, Salu reportedly killed Wahid to confirm his victory in ward No. 42 as he refused to withdraw his candidature. Hired goons of Salu shot Wahid dead at Tajmahal Road on March 26. Wahid was the general secretary of Jubo Dal unit in Ward 42.

According to police, Salu has long been leading a gang of more than 30 criminals in Mohamadpur area, and is named in many criminal cases filed with Mohamadpur police. He was arrested few months back in connection with the Sajal Murder case, but was released on bail. Salu is also accused of land-grabbing, extortion