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Coalition wins by-polls

Khadija Amin declared winner; AL alleges intimidation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Netrakona

The four-party alliance candidate, Khadija Amin, was declared winner of Netrakona-3 by-polls yesterday as she took the lead with 95,251 votes in the 124 centres over her rival candidate with 69,966.

The main opposition party Awami League candidate, Jubed Ali, fell behind by 25,285 votes in the

second position of the seven-candidate foray, said the Election Commission in a late night press release.

Syed Abu Zafar Sabat of Krishak Sramik Janata League bagged 3,424 votes, followed by Abdul Wahab, an independent, with 890 votes. Ali Osman Khan from the Jatiya Party (Ershad) polled 869 votes; Mohammad Sadek from Krishak

Sramik Mukti Andolon 201 votes; and Abdul Ali Rumal from the Jatiya Party (Monju) 104 votes.

The election in which 1,71,948 votes were cast and 1,243 out of them cancelled took place from 8:00am to 4:00pm in the presence of about 4,000 security personnel and several thousand government officials without any untoward

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Life stops briefly in Ctg to protest crime spate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Life in the port city stopped for 10 minutes yesterday noon as the city dwellers, particularly businessmen and professionals, observed a token strike to protest the slide in the law and order.

The strike aimed to press for immediate rescue of abducted magnate and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury and arrest of the killers of another magnate, Reazur Rahman Zakir.

Chattogram Nagorik Forum (CNF), a citizen's body, enforced the token strike with the support of

Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) and other business organisations.

Public resentment has mounted in the port city as Jamal Uddin is yet to be rescued, 28 days after his abduction on July 24, and the probe into the August 11 abduction and murder of Zakir has made no headway.

The token strike began with the blowing of sirens exactly at noon and people came out on the streets. Business establishments downed their shutters and all modes of transport screeched to a halt for 10

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PHOTO: STAR

With hundreds taking to the streets in Chittagong, the port city including the busy New Market area came to a standstill yesterday because of a ten-minute shutdown of businesses.



PHOTO: STAR

Women queue up yesterday to cast votes in a by-election in Netrakona-3 constituency that fell vacant at the death of a ruling BNP lawmaker about three months ago.

Girls now to get under-grad education free

PM reveals at Bogra

UNB, Bogra

The government plans to extend its free education programme for girls from HSC to degree level, aiming to empower women.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia declared this while addressing a function marking the foundation laying of BIAM Bogra unit and Bogra

Model School at Nisindara on the outskirts of the district town yesterday.

Education Minister Dr Osman Faruq and high officials concerned were present.

"The government has presently made education free for girls up to the 12th class and is providing sti

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

'Chemical Ali' caught

Baghdad blast kills Marine, hurts 2

REUTERS/ AFP, Tampal Baghdad

Ali Hassan al-Majid, a feared cousin of Saddam Hussein nicknamed 'Chemical Ali' for his use of poison gas in attacks, has been captured by US forces in Iraq, the US military says.

"We do have him and he was captured alive," US Central Command spokesman Lt. Ryan Fitzgerald told Reuters.

Fitzgerald said no details were available on the arrest, where it took place, or whether Majid was injured.

Majid was No. 5 on a U.S. list of the 55 most-wanted Iraqis and the "king of spades" in a U.S. Army deck

of cards depicting fugitive members of Saddam's government.

Meanwhile, a US soldier was killed and two wounded by an improvised explosive device in Baghdad on Wednesday night, the US army said yesterday.

"A 1st Armored Division soldier was killed and two were wounded by an improvised explosive device in the Karlik district of Baghdad at 11 pm (1900 GMT) on August 20," Central Command said in a statement.

"The soldiers were evacuated to the 47th Forward Support Battalion for treatment. One soldier was

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Chemical Ali

Israel missiles Gaza, Hamas cancels truce

3 including top militant leader dead

AFP, Gaza City

A senior leader of the Palestinian militant group Hamas was killed in an air strike in Gaza City Thursday as Israel exacted revenge for a massive suicide bomb, hammering the final nail into the coffin of a floundering truce.

Ismail Abu Shanab, often described as the group's third-in-command, died when an F-16 plane targeted his car in an attack which claimed the lives of at least two other people, Hamas officials and witnesses said.

Hamas promptly announced that it was calling off its three-month

ceasefire announced on June 29 which had been effectively shattered by the Jerusalem attack.

"The assassination of Abu Shanab is also the assassination of the ceasefire," senior Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh told AFP.

Palestinian culture minister Ziad

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Jama'atul thrived as law enforcers turned blind eye

ANWAR ALLI, Joypurhat

Militants of Jama'atul Mujahidin Bangladesh, accused of spearheading an armed Islamist revolution, have sprouted over the last two and a half years taking advantage of a laid-back approach of law enforcers, said investigators in Joypurhat.

The blame on the law enforcers came after the outlawed Islamist outfit engaged in the August 14 firefight with police in the border district of Joypurhat, which led to arrest of two dozen militants in its wake.

The group has been spreading its

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Hosts ride on debutant ton

HASAN MASOOD from Karachi

A century on debut by Yasir Hameed helped hosts Pakistan to take a 13-run lead over Bangladesh on the second day of the first Test at the Karachi National Stadium yesterday.

Hameed scored a brilliant 170 as Pakistan responding to Bangladesh's first innings total of 288 reached 301 for five at stumps. Captain Rashid Latif was batting on a fluently stroked 27 with Misbah-ul Haq on 12.

Coming in to bat at number three

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