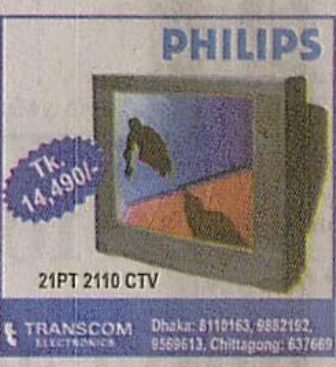




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Mohiuddin heads for win

Results declaration resumes after thousands of his supporters lay siege to RO's office; Circuit House attacked

CEC terms it fair, top rivals claim rigging

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Syed yesterday said that Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls were fair while both the opposition and ruling alliance camps complained of electoral irregularities.

After the polling ended, the opposition-backed Nagorik Committee brought allegations of vote rigging in at least 84 polling centres while BNP-led four-party alliance's mayoral candidate in 71 centres. The EC however expressed satisfaction with the overall polling.

"Voting was not suspended at any of the centres and it proves that the polls were held peacefully," the CEC told journalists after completion of the polling yesterday afternoon.

Election Commissioner AK Mohammad Ali described the elections as acceptable.

"Experienced election observers were there and so far they have not filed any complaint," he told reporters at his office.

Leaders of the mainstream opposition parties met the CEC at noon and lodged complaints of irregularities at different polling stations.

The Nagorik Committee-backed

mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury by fax lodged complaints of electoral irregularities with the EC at noon. He alleged that the ruling alliance men captured 36 polling centres shortly after the voting had kicked off.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain and Awami League (AL) General Secretary Abdul Jalil in the meeting with MA Syed complained that ruling alliance men seized a number of polling centres across the port city and cast fake votes.

Local police administration did not discharge their duties, and thus failed to contain irregularities during the polls. Minority voters were intimidated while a large number of outsiders cast fake votes in favour of the ruling alliance candidate, they added.

Dr Kamal at the meeting demanded the EC immediately redress those complaints of irregularities.

Prior to meeting the CEC, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil told reporters that ministers positioned at different polling centres were using walkie-talkies to co-ordinate the 'vote rigging'. "Such activities could easily change the polling results," he observed.

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STAR REPORT

Opposition-backed mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury is set for a third term in office in yesterday's Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls, leading by a wide margin against his main challenger Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin.

Mohiuddin was leading with 204,437 votes in 338 out of the 577 centres, with his nearest rival ruling alliance-supported candidate Mir Nasir trailing with 142,491 votes when the last report came at 3:00am.

Thousands of enthusiastic people took to the streets to celebrate what appeared like a certain victory for Mohiuddin. They danced, honked horns, hugged each other, chanted slogans and flashed V-signs in raucous celebrations.

"People have foiled all conspiracies to snatch the election results," said Nagorik Committee candidate Mohiuddin late last night, referring to the initial delay in the announcement of the election results.

Earlier, thousands of opposition

Awami League (AL) supporters thronged the office of the Returning Officer (RO) in the port city after announcement of election results suddenly stopped at around 9:30pm. The results announcement stopped as Mir Nasir's polling agents refused to sign result sheets.

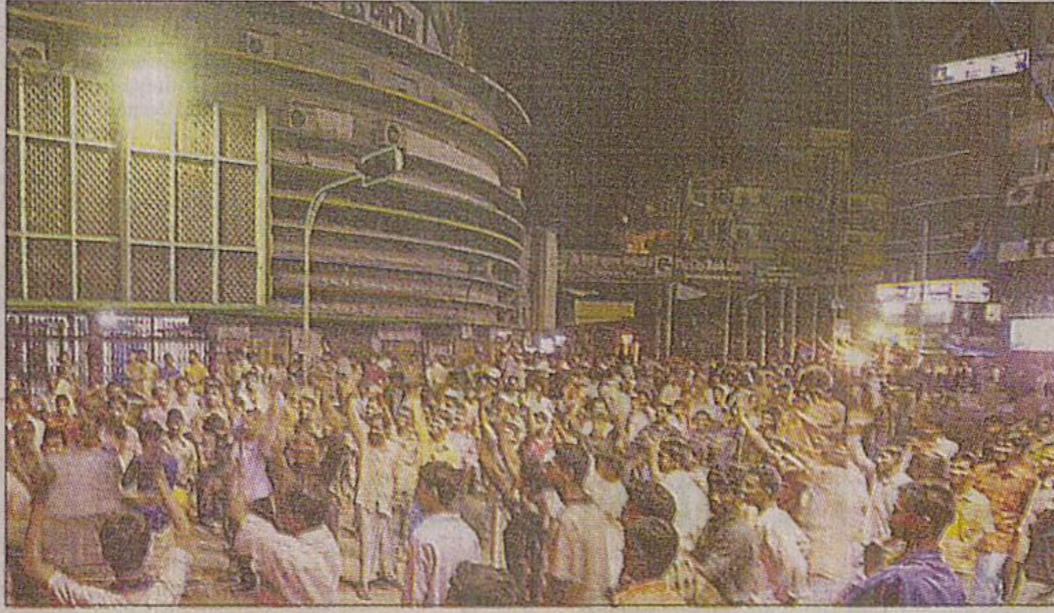
The RO's office resumed announcing the results at 10:30pm following tremendous pressure from the AL leaders and supporters who laid siege to the office. Mohiuddin himself headed the protest.

Mohiuddin's supporters vandalised Chittagong Circuit House, said sources in the police who were standing helplessly.

The Election Commission (EC) was clearly annoyed with the pause in the results announcement. EC officials in Dhaka repeatedly phoned the RO to know the reason for the silence.

After the mostly peaceful elections, Mohiuddin's supporters brought out victory processions at

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Hundreds, top, take to the street in front of the Chittagong New Market celebrating the apparent victory of ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury; the mayor hopeful for a third term, middle, share moments of joy on declaration of results in 100 centres; and Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin and his family flash V-signs after casting their votes.

PHOTO: STARFOCUSBANGLA

All's not well on quiet fronts

STAR REPORT, Ctg

Everything looked calm and quiet in front of Haji Mohsin College polling centre. It was in the morning, early hours of voting.

Male and female voters were waiting in separate but long queues, most of them for over one and half

an hours, at the centre with a total number of 3,945 votes. Voter turnout was good at this centre and Chittagong Government High School and Kajem Ali High School centres nearby. Enthusiastic voters queued up at the polling stations as voting began at 8:00am.

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Mohiuddin fans start partying

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Thousands took to streets in the port city last night celebrating the 'apparent' victory of ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury in the Chittagong City Corporation mayoral race for the third consecutive term.

Since early evening, supporters

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

SB man caught for relaying Nasir's lead info

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Awami League leaders caught an intelligence official in the early hours today while he was supplying

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CCC POLLS RESULT	
Total Centres : 577 Results Available : 338	
Candidate	Vote
ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury	204,437
Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin	142,491

STAR GRAPHICS

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