

'Democracy upheld, people the ultimate winners'

CCC polls a lesson for our politicians: Fema

SHAHIDUL ISLAM

The much-talked-about Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) election has set an extraordinary stage and example, though with many raised eyebrows, for the next general elections, people of the port city opined.

"The election is unique in many ways. The most salient feature is democracy was upheld despite few attempts of unfair

means. The people's desire and the verdict weren't defeated as well," said poet Quamrul Hassan Badal.

He finds people as the ultimate winners in this 'historic' election as they overcame all kinds of pressures and lures.

Member of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (Fema) Md Imam Hossain Chowdhury discovers laudable roles of the Chief Election Commissioner, local

political leaders, the army and police.

Imam is little doubtful whether the positive features of CCC polls will have any impact in the next parliamentary elections. "Yet, this particular election has delivered many lessons for our politicians," he observes.

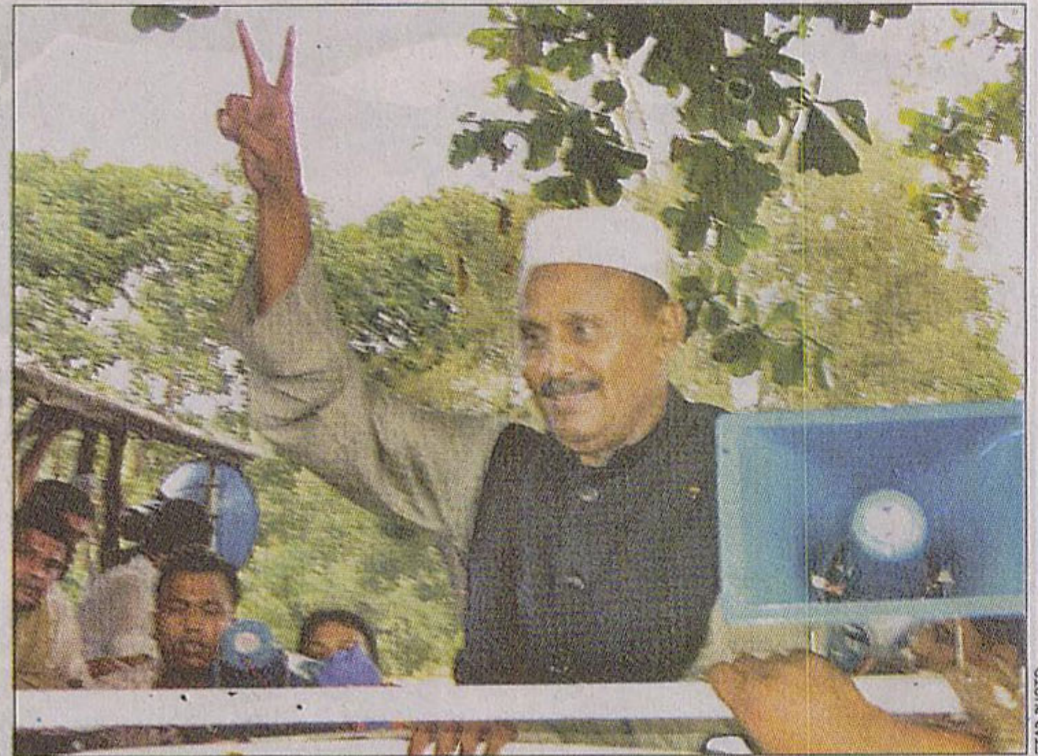
AKM Jashim Uddin, AVP and Manager of Mutual Trust Bank CDA Avenue Branch, thinks the CCC election has many reasons

to be an exemplary one.

"First of all, it established once again that people are the rightful owners of their votes. Secondly, the voters weren't worried at all about the reports on manipulation, rumours or other indications and exercised their franchise freely. Thirdly, it gave stunning impressions that an election can be won without terrorism and criminals' help," he sums up.

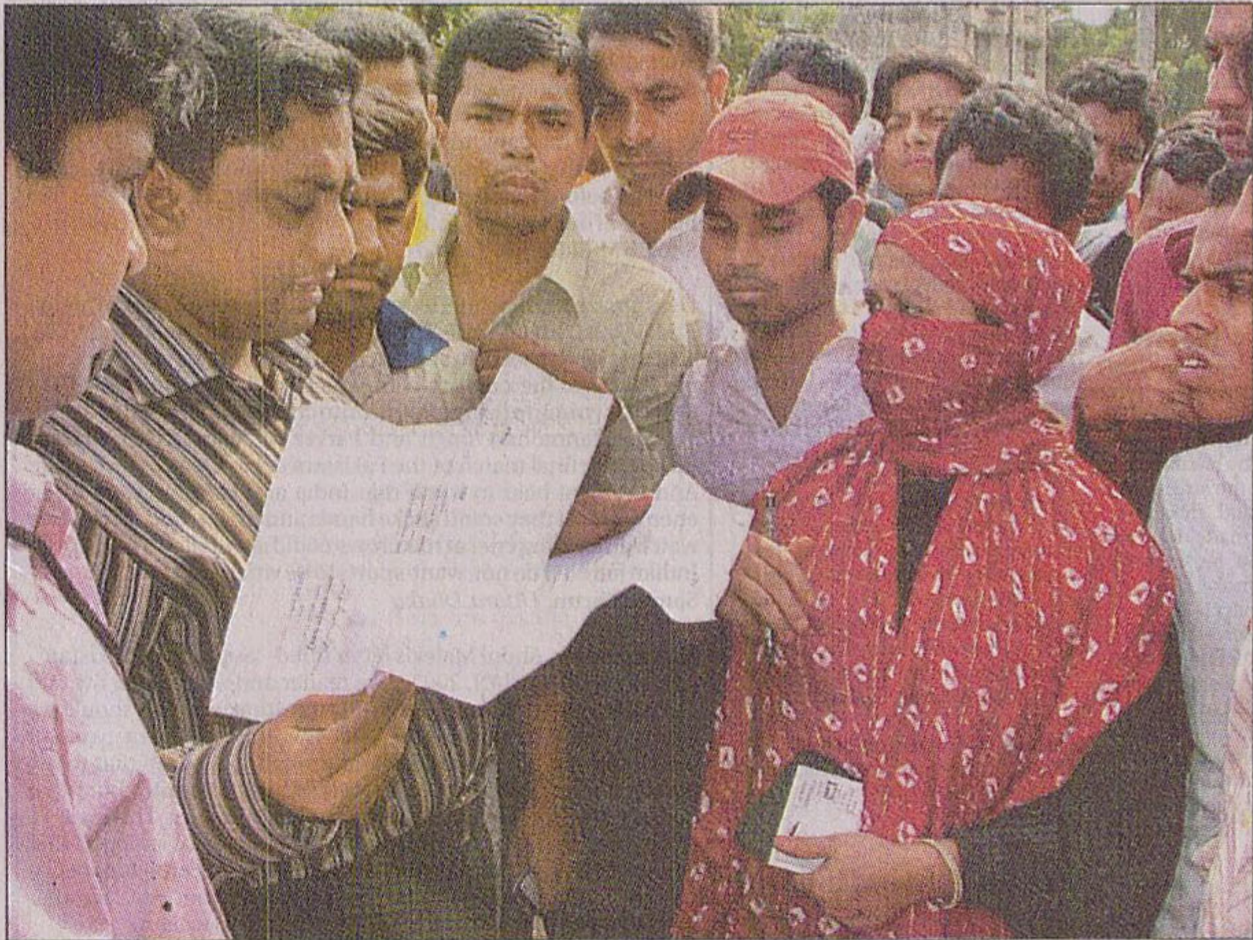
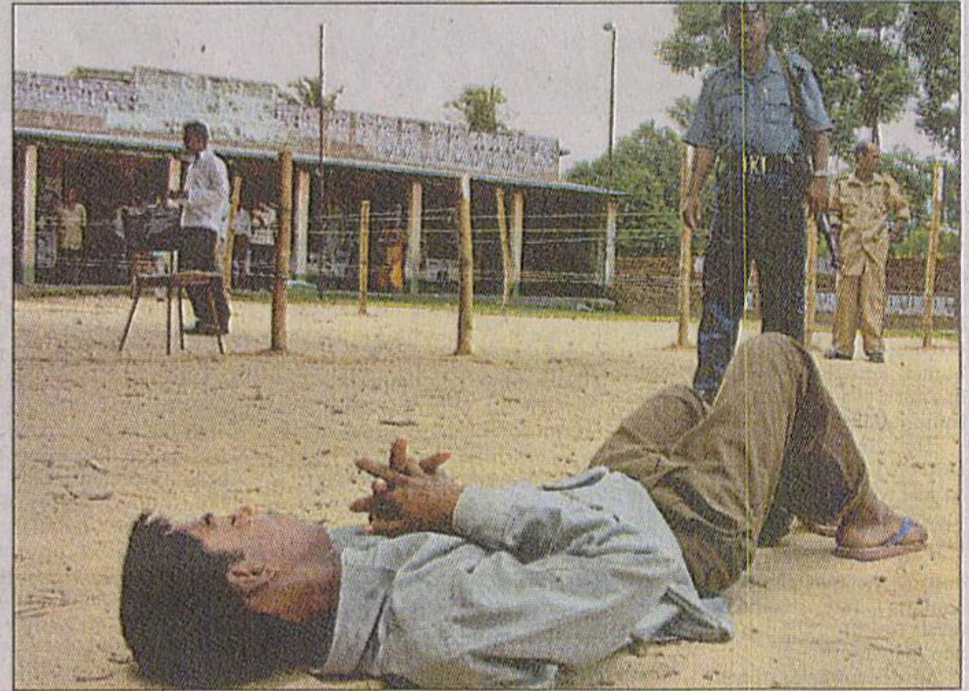
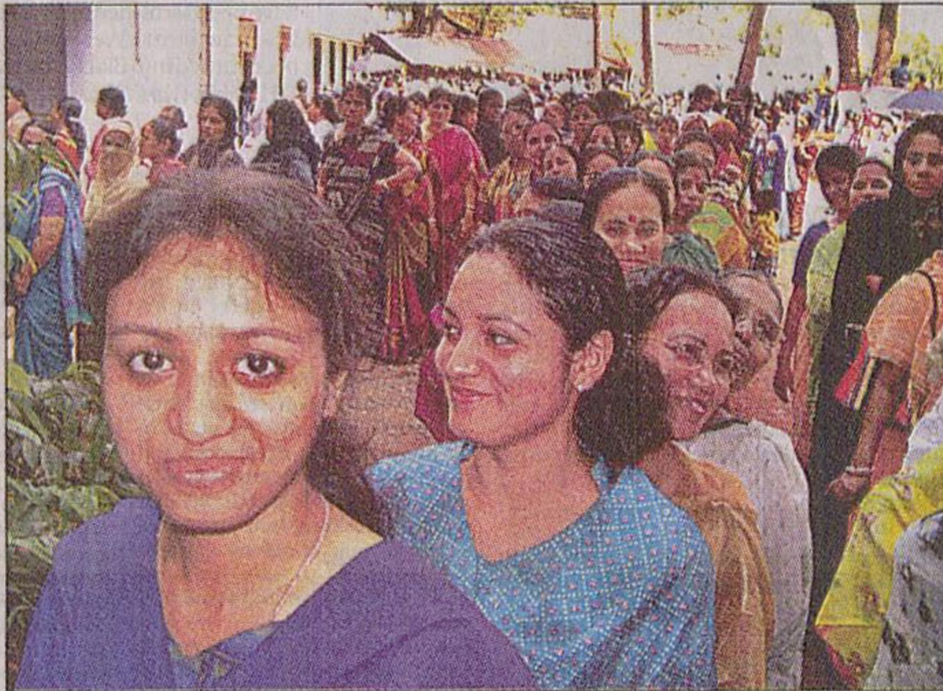
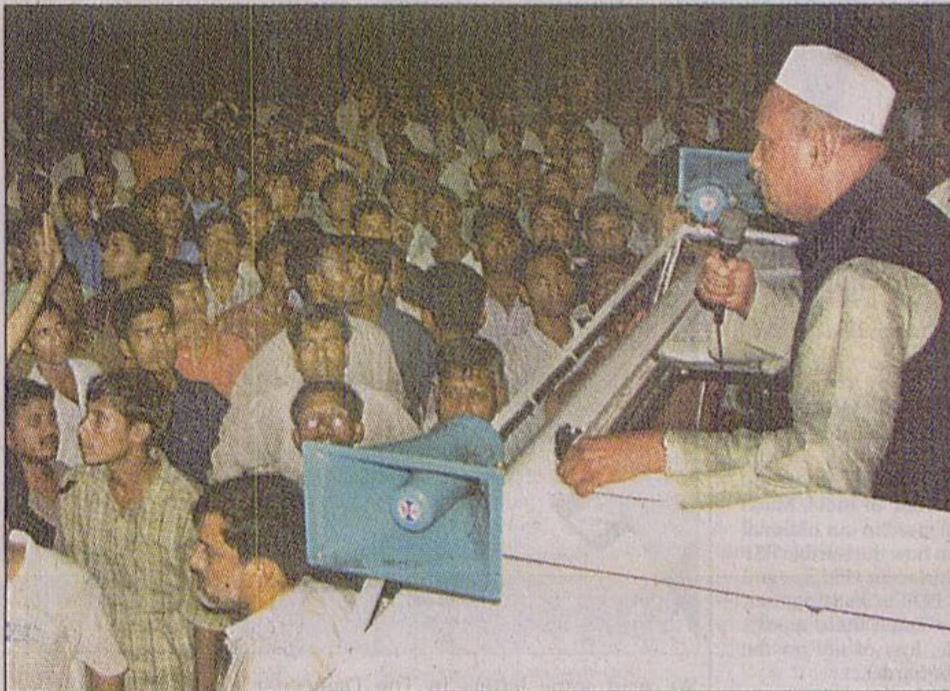
Mohammad Hossain, a computer engineer, believes Mohiuddin Chowdhury's personal image has earned victory for him.

"It is his personal image, not partisan identity that made the win so easy. The election proved another fact -- the candidate has got to be honest and pro-people to win any election," Hossain said adding that the CCC polls was held in a free and fair manner.



Mayor elect ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury hopeful for a third term.

CHITTAGONG CITY CORPORATION ELECTION IN PICTURE



Clockwise from top left: Nagorik Committee mayoral candidate ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury speaks in front of the returning officer's office at midnight on Monday, women wait in queue to cast their votes, punishment for casting false votes, Awami League lawmaker Shahjahan Khan shakes hands with Jamaat lawmaker Shahjahan Chowdhury in front of a polling centre and a woman polling agent of Mohiuddin Chowdhury complains to a magistrate as she was not allowed to enter Polytechnic polling centre.

Photos: ZOAER HOSSAIN SIKDER



theweekthatwas

Free books for street urchins

Bangladesh Muslim Welfare Society, a voluntary organisation, on Thursday distributed books to 100 street urchins as part of its weeklong programme to bring the poor children under literacy. Secretary general of the organisation, M Nazimuddin Chowdhury Anel inaugurated the programme. Society's former chairman Muhammad Mohsin Chowdhury, programme coordinator M Haider Ali, city unit president Advocate Harun Bin Rashid and Maulana Muhammad Waib addressed the function. The speakers at the book distribution ceremony said "Education is not a facility but a right. The book distribution programme will help enlighten the have-not children and guide them towards a new life," they added. "About 25,000 children of the city will be

Free medical service for pregnant mothers

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) on Thursday launched free home delivery medical service for pregnant mothers living in slums. Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated the service by providing an ambulance equipped with modern and required medical facilities to the authorities of Memon Maternity Hospital. "The launching of this service is indeed a remarkable step in the healthcare sector in Chittagong and it will provide services to the poor and distressed pregnant mothers at their homes free of cost," he said. He said if any difficulty or emergency arises during the service, CCC will bear

Save USTC

The teachers, students, officials and employees of the University of Science and Technology, Chittagong (USTC) here on Wednesday criticised the undesired intervention of some BMA leaders into its internal affairs. At a press conference at Chittagong Press Club, they said that a section of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) leaders intervened into the internal affairs of the university and hampered its activities frequently. They called upon the people of Chittagong to come forward to resist the

Canada to promote export of dev countries

Canada has taken up a project titled "Export Development Corporation (EDC)" to promote export of developing countries. Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh David Sprawl said this at a courtesy meeting with Chittagong

"narrow politics" of a vested interest quarter with the university and save it. USTC Students' Welfare Council Vice President Kamanashish Barua (BBA) read out the written statement at the press conference where Internee Doctors Association President Dr. Sheikh Mirajul Islam, Dr. Masudul Hasan Ali, Dr. Sahad Kashem, Suprateem Barua, Soumen Palit, Nobel Barua and Abdullah Saki were present. Sprawl said that there was a remarkable Canadian investment in gas exploration and power sector in Bangladesh and he will take initiatives to encourage Canadian entrepreneurs to invest more in Bangladesh. Earlier, the CCCI President Saifuzzaman Chowdhury Javed in his address of welcome called for Canadian assistance in developing road infrastructures as well as in construction of express highway and toll highway. CCCI Senior Vice President SM Nurul Haq, Vice President MA Latif and Canadian high commission official Mortaza R Tarafdar also attended the meeting.

Mimi Super Market Assoc executives

Md Abdul Matin and AKM Abdul Hannan Akber were re-elected president and general secretary of the Mimi Super Market Businessmen Association on Wednesday. Other office-bearers are Senior Vice president: M Shafiqul Alam Subhani, Vice president: Zainal Abedin (Kanchan), Joint secretaries: Kazol Banik and Md Kutub Uddin (Babul), Organising Secretary: Md. Zakir Hossain Chowdhury, Publication and Office Secretary: Md. Shahjahan Siddique, Literature and Social Welfare Secretary: Md Lutfur Rahman and Treasurer: Mohammad Ali. Executive Committee members are M Idris Mia, Md Monir Hossain, Biplam Basak, Swapan Kanti Dharr and Md Golam Rahman.

Emphasis on medicine export

The speakers at a seminar on Thursday stressed the need for manufacturing medicine of international standard to boost export. The Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) organised the seminar titled "Acceptable Strategies for the Export of Pharmaceutical Products in Asian and African Countries" under the National Export Training Programme 2004-2005. The seminar was held in collaboration with Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at the BGMEA Bhaban at Agrabad. BGMEA First Vice President MA Salam addressed the seminar as chief guest while BGMEA, Chittagong director SM Abu Tayab was the special guest. With Chittagong regional office director of EPB Monzoor E Elahi in the

Red Crescent Day observed

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chittagong district unit observed the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day on Sunday. On the occasion, a colourful procession was brought out along with a rally. Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-AJ Noman was the chief guest in the function. Hasna Moudud, Dr Kamrun Nahar Dastagir, Dr Shahadat Hossain, Abdul Awal Chowdhury, Syed Abu Taleb, Golam Baki Masud and Humayun Kabir Chowdhury also addressed the rally. Noman in his speech lauded the Red Crescent for its service to the distressed humanity.

STAR PHOTO