

New Ctg mayor

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put his best efforts to solve the civic problems of the city, attaching topmost priority to getting rid of waterlogging.

He thanked the city residents for choosing him as their mayor, and trusting him with the city's development. He also said he will run CCC in consultation with the former mayor.

Asked to evaluate the polling, Amir Khasru said, "There were few flaws in the polling, and I had to point out, as the election agent of the candidate, that something unusual was feared to be taking place during the counting of votes. Other than that, the election was smooth."

Neither Mohiuddin, who got 3,83,617 votes, nor his election agent was present during the announcement of the result.

On Thursday night tension ran high with Manjur's supporters setting fire to three motorcycles, and smashing empty ballot boxes and several makeshift shops, protesting delays in arrival of ballot boxes from polling stations, and the announcement of the result.

They calmed down at the Election Commission's control room as late counts started showing Manjur leading in almost every centre.

Maj (ret'd) Emdad, member secretary of Nagorik Committee which campaigned for Mohiuddin, however said, "The election was held in a smooth and fair way, for which the Election Commission should be thanked. We have accepted the election result."

But he brought an allegation that Mohiuddin's rival camp distributed money among voters in slums. He urged the EC to remain alert

against such practices to make future elections more successful.

"I have heard that a reaction might come from the central leadership of Awami League on the election and the overall situation," Emdad told The Daily Star in the afternoon.

O u t g o i n g m a y o r Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the existing president of AL's Chittagong City unit, became the first elected mayor of the city defeating BNP nominated Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin by some 17,000 votes in the first CCC election in 1994.

He was elected the mayor for the second time in 2000 amid a boycott by BNP, and for the third consecutive time defeating Mir Nasir again by a margin of 91,480 votes in 2005 during the last BNP regime.

MAYORAL CONTESTANTS WHO WILL LOSE DEPOSITS
As the five other mayoral candidates failed to get even one eighth of the total vote cast, they will lose their deposits, according to the law.

A total of 8,85,064 voters cast their votes in the poll, out of total 16,88,677 registered voters, while 35,506 votes were cancelled. The voter turn out was 54.50 percent.

To get a refund of the deposit, a candidate must have gotten 1,10,633 votes.

Independent candidate Syed Shamsuzzoha got the lowest 667 votes. Mofazzal Hossain Bhuiyan got 8,813, Rafiqul Islam of Islamic Andolon 6,521, Md Ibrahim 2,267, Jane Alam 1,951, and Jatiya Party backed Solaiman Alam Sheth got 2,083 votes despite dropping out of the race.

The CCC poll marked the beginning of a new chapter in the country's election history

as well, by introducing e-voting. Electronic voting machines were used at 14 polling centres in a ward with 25,230 voters.

Talking about the election that turned out to be the most peaceful and fair under any political government, Returning Officer Jesmine Tuli told reporters that she expects a change among politicians of the country.

"I expect that the standard of politics in our country will improve. It's not only me, I think all the people have an expectation for a standard of politics from politicians," said the RO adding, "Holding of a smooth and fair polling, and acceptance of the result by the candidates, is a forward step towards improving the political culture."

She said making candidates respectful to electoral code of conduct is a difficult and important task.

WARD COUNCILLORS-ELECT

The EC took all out measures to ensure free and fair balloting in the CCC poll in which 55 councillors including 14 female councillors were also elected to 41 city wards.

Ruling Awami League backed candidates dominate the ward councils including the councillors elected in female quota.

AL backed candidates won 31 posts of councillors including 11 in female quota, BNP backed candidates won 19 including 2 in female quota.

Two Jamaat backed, and two independent candidates were also elected councillors, while one post of a female councillor went to a candidate backed by Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD).



PHOTO: STAR

Mokaddes Ali of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat in front of his vandalised house.

Ahmadiyyas

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Ahmadiyyas non-Muslim.

They also submitted a memorandum to the Ghatail Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) urging the local administration to stop the construction of the mosque. Besides, they threatened of a tougher programme if the construction work is not stopped by June 24.

Imam Mufti Nasiruddin and Maulana Rezaul Karim, local leader of Islami Andolan Bangladesh, spoke at the rally, among others.

After the rally, a group of people rushed to the mosque construction site at Akandapara in the village and destroyed construction materials and launched an attack on Mokaddes' house.

The attackers left the place when Ghatail police reached there, said locals and police.

Officer-in-charge of Ghatail Police Station Mominur Rahman said police arrested three youths from the spot but released them later as they were not involved in the violence.

Police had been deployed in the village to avert further violence in the area.

"I have not filed any case in this connection considering safety of my family and the community," said Mokaddes Ali.

Abu Taher Akanda, another Ahmadiyya, alleged that although the demonstration had been announced over loudspeaker for two days, the local administration did not take any preventive measures.

Ghatail UNO Mohammad Nurul Alam told The Daily Star that he did not give any permission to hold a rally. He, however, said that the protestors including the Imam assured him of not going past the Chandtara School.

After the rally, Mufti Nasiruddin told The Daily Star that the local administration had assured them of not allowing any Ahmadiyya mosque in the village and that the construction materials for the mosque would be removed immediately.

60 workers

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embassy sources said they are in touch with the UAE authorities for more information about the case.

A Bangladeshi diplomat, who asked not to be named, said sometimes it happens that Bangladeshi workers are found without proper documents. These mainly occur due to non-payment or irregular salary payment or very low salaries given by their employers.

He said basically these employers are not under the present wage protection system. But when such people get arrested, they will be repatriated by the embassy in cooperation with the UAE government.

FBCCI polls

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been nominated--eight each by eight chambers and eight associations.

The elected and nominated directors will then elect the president, first vice president and vice president on June 21.

This time the FBCCI president and the vice president will be elected from the chamber group while the first vice president from the association group.

Former president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries AK Azad, also the chairman of Hameem Group, has conducted strong campaign as the president candidate.

The four panels for the FBCCI polls are AK Azad and M Jasim Uddin panel, Dewan Sultan Ahmed-led Ganotantrik panel, Abu Alam Chowdhury-led Ganotantrik Parishad and Delwar Hossain-led Ganotantrik Baboshayee Oikya Parishad.

Of the four panels, only AK Azad-Jasim panel is vying for the 28 posts of directors, both from chamber group and association group.

Meanwhile, the election board, headed by its chairman, Prof Ali Ashraf forbade all kinds of campaign from Thursday midnight.

Security measures have been beefed up with four close circuit cameras set up in the Federation building apart from strong vigilance from the law enforcing and intelligence agencies.

Nimtoli blaze

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engagement ceremony of Runa was going on that night, sofas, almirah, wardrobes, beds, cots and other furniture were in almost perfect shape. Only, the door and window curtains were burnt. All 16 people who were inside the flat during the fire died, said Qamruzzaman Sumon, uncle of Runa, who was married off recently at Gonobhaban.

The ground floor of the building was rented out and it was used for storing flammable chemicals, which basically intensified the blaze. Five tenant families and three families of the owners used to live in the upper floors of the building.

Furniture and other goods in the flats of the building are yet to be removed.

Abdur Rashid, a deputy director of the Fire Brigade and Civil Defence, said, "The flames went upwards as they came in contact with the flammable chemicals. But the flames had not entered most of the flats and that is why the furniture were not burnt."

Rashid said many died in the building due to poisonous gas inhalation and the extreme heat of the flames.

PM greets Manjur

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administration and democracy-loving people of all walks of life of the port city for holding the election in a free, fair, neutral and acceptable manner.

The PM said the Thursday's city corporation election is a bright example of the government's strong commitment to hold free and fair elections.

She also said the election has also proved the government's sincerity and commitment to ensure an independent and strong Election Commission.

In this regard, Hasina said that during the last BNP-Jamaat alliance government the people of Chittagong city had to remain alert and on guard whole night to protect people's verdict in a city corporation election.

"But the present govern-

Jurain suicide

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buying of 10 strips of sedative pills for Rita and fleeing the house with their microbus.

"We have also arrested Abdul Jobber, an employee of Mohammadia Pharmacy at Dayaganj, for selling the sleeping pills to Al Amin," he added.

According to Al Amin, Rita mixed all the 100 pills in water and shared it with her children and lay on the bed in his presence, said the additional DC, adding that the driver also said that he went into hiding with the vehicle as Rita awarded him with the microbus for providing her with the pills.

DC of Wari division Towifq Mahbub Chowdhury said after the arrest of the driver, DB and Wari police visited the spot along with Al Amin and Abdul Jobber.

The DC said Al Amin also provided Farzana with the paint for the "suicide notes" on the walls two days prior to the incident.

According to the DC, the incident took place on June 9.

After the recovery of the bodies, Rita's mother Mazeda Begum filed a case with Kadomtoli Police Station against Rita's husband Rashedul Kabir, Rasdhed's second wife Razia Sultana Smriti, parents-in-law Shafiqul Kabir and Nur Banu and four other in-laws.

Mohiuddin

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complaints he had lodged with them and the Election Commission.

He demanded punishment of those who were involved in criminal activities like setting fire to vehicles and creating an anarchic situation in front of the makeshift control room of the Election Commission Thursday night.

In the early hours yesterday, Mohiuddin at a gathering of his supporters near the control room alleged that a conspiracy was afoot to snatch his victory.

He had urged his supporters to protect the victory of people even at the cost of life.

Meanwhile, a close aide of Mohiuddin said their leader remained inside his Chashma hill home until Juma prayers yesterday.

"Most of the time he was in the drawing room, gloom and hardly talked to his supporters," said the aide wishing anonymity.

He was also seen shushing some of his aides when they were talking about the election, trying to find the reasons for the defeat and putting blames on different individuals.

Newsman went to his home since the morning to get his reaction but they were not allowed inside until noon.

Mahmudur's

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June 2. But on Tuesday, it was 63 kg, Asim added. "We are worried about his health."

The lawyer also demanded that Mahmudur be sent to LabAid Hospital for better treatment.

An application was sent to the jail authorities in this connection, he said.

Talking to The Daily Star, Dhaka Central Jail Hospital Assistant Surgeon Mohammad Shamsuddin last night denied the allegation of the lawyers.

"Till tonight last night his physical condition is quite normal and there is no necessity of admitting him to any hospital out of the jail," the doctor said.

"The allegation of improper treatment of Mahmudur Rahman is not true," he said.

Mahmudur Rahman only suffers from a minor pain in his shoulder. It was his old pain, the doctors said.

"As his condition is not serious, he has not been admitted to the jail hospital", Shamsuddin added.

Two other lawyers--Gazi Kamrul Islam Sajal and Kaiser Kaman--were also present at the press conference.

Mahmudur has been detained on several charges including links with militancy.

ment is people's government. People have voted us to power. That's why we're fully committed to establish people's rights and uphold people's verdicts in the elections," she said.

Remembering the tough times before the general election of December 29, 2008, the premier said the foundation of the hard-earned democracy and the democratic institutions of the country will have to be further strengthened for maximum welfare of the mass people.

"We'll continue to give our best to establish people's rights," she said.

The PM in her message also expressed strong commitment to continue the present government's development projects across the country for balanced development and prosperity of the people.

Mentioning the introduction of electronic voting system in the elections, she said this is another step towards turning Bangladesh into a modern digital country.

2 Americans, 1 Brit killed in southern Afghanistan

KABUL, Afghanistan

Two Americans died in fighting yesterday in southern Afghanistan, raising to 33 the number of US troops killed in the war so far this month. A British soldier was also killed.

Nato said yesterday that the two Americans died in an insurgent attack but did not provide further details. The US command confirmed their nationalities but did not specify where they died.

In London, the British Defence Ministry said one of its soldiers was killed by an explosion in Helmand province.

June is shaping up to be one of the deadliest months for US troops in the nearly 9-year-old Afghan war, as insurgents have stepped up attacks in response to a Nato push into Taliban strongholds in the south. The deadliest month for US troops in Afghanistan was October 2009, when 59 Americans died.

Khulna AL

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activities suspended until the extended meeting is held," Hanif told The Daily Star last night.

He said the decision has been made so that no untoward incident takes place before the extended meeting.

"We will resolve the existing problem at the extended meeting," he said.

Khaleda

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people of Chittagong city for electing M Manjur Alam as their mayor.

She conveyed her deep sympathy to polling agents of Manjur, BNP activists and the voters, who were harassed and tortured on the polling day.

The BNP chief thanked all officials concerned, media men and members of the law enforcing agencies for properly performing their duties.

In another message, Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami greeted the newly elected mayor for his victory in the CCC polls.

It is the victory of the valiant people of Chittagong as well as democracy, said Nizami, adding that it was possible to achieve the victory due to untiring efforts made by all.

He hoped that the new mayor would turn Chittagong city into a modern one as per his election commitment and engage himself for providing services to people with honesty and dedication.

Manjur

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Manjur said the results have "brought in a surge of change" and promised various social services for the well being of the citizens.

He said eradication of the waterlogging problem in the city would get priority.

He thanked the port city dwellers for choosing him as the mayor and trusting him with the development of the city.

Villagers torch

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Following the death, villagers torched at least five houses of the gang members.

Police could not bring the situation under control immediately though a huge number of them were deployed in the area.

COUNCILLORS-ELECT		
NAMES	AFFILIATIONS	WARDS
Farid Ahmad Chowdhury	AL	2(Jalalabad)
Md Shafiqul Islam	AL	3(Panchlaish)
Nasiruddin Ahmed	AL	10(North Kattoli)
Morshed Akhter Chowdhury	AL	11(South Kattoli)
Md Giasuddin	AL	15(Bagmonirum)
Syed Golam Haider Mintu	AL	16(Chawk Bazar)
Hasan Mahmud Hasni	AL	20(Dewan Bazar)
Chowdhury Bijoy Kumar Chowdhury	AL	21(Jamal Khan)
Sirajul Islam	AL	24
Abdus Sabur Liton	AL	25(Rampur)
Md Hossain	AL	26(North Halishahar)
Nazrul Islam Bahadur	AL	28(Pathantuli)
Zahir Ahmed Chowdhury	AL	30(East Madarbari)
Zahar Lal Hazari	AL	32(Anderkilla)
Zahirul Alam Dobhash	AL	33(Firingee Bazar)
Nurul Haq	AL	35(Baxmirhat)
Md Jahangir Alam	AL	36(Goshaildanga)
Hasan Murad	AL	37(North Middle Halishahar)
Golam Mohammad Chowdhury	AL	38(South Middle Halishahar)
Abdul Barek	AL	40(North Patenga)
Mohammad Shahjahan	BNP	1(South Pahartali)
Mahbubul Alam	BNP	4(Chandgaon)
Md Azam	BNP	5(Mohora)
Muhammad Hasan Liton	BNP	6(East Sholoshahar)
SM Iqbal Hossain	BNP	7(West Sholoshahar)
Abdus Satter Salim	BNP	9(North Pahartali)
Babul Haque	BNP	12(Saraipara)
AKM Jafrul Islam	BNP	17 (West Bakolia)
Md Tayab	BNP	18(East Bakolia)
Md Yasin Chowdhury	BNP	19(South Bakolia)
MA Malek	BNP	22(Enayet Bazar)
Neaz Mohammad Khan	BNP	23(North Pathantuli)
Mohammad Sikander	BNP	27(South Agrabad)
Didarur Rahman	BNP	31(Alkaran)
Mohammad Ismail	BNP	34(Patharghata)
Sarfraz Quader	BNP	39(South Halishahar)
Md Nurul Abser	BNP	41(South Patenga)
Shamsuzzaman Helali	Jamaat	8(Shulakbahar)
Mahfuzul Alam	Jamaat	13(Pahartali)
Abul Fazal Kabir Ahmed	Independent	14(Lalkhanbazar)
Md Shahidul Islam	Independent	29(West Madarbari)
Ferdous Begum Munni (Female quota)	AL	1, 2 & 3
Zobaira Nargis Khan (Female quota)	AL	4, 5 & 6
Jahanara Begum (Female quota)	AL	7 & 8
Shaheda Kashem (Female quota)	AL	17, 18 & 19
Anjuman Ara Begum (Female quota)	AL	16, 20 & 32
Rekha Alam Chowdhury (Female quota)	AL	22, 30 & 31
Rehena Kabir Ranu (Female quota)	AL	12, 23 & 24
Ferdous Ara Taher (Female quota)	AL	11, 25 & 26
Afroza Kalam (Female quota)z	AL	27, 37 & 38
Lutfennesa Dovash Baby (Female quota)	AL	33, 34 & 35
Shahanur Begum (Female quota)	AL	39, 40 & 41
Arju Shahabuddin (Female quota)	BNP	9, 10 & 13
Monwara Begum Moni (Female quota)	BNP	14, 15 & 21
Jannatul Ferdous Poppy (Female quota)	BSD	28, 29 & 37

Serbia stun Germany

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Milos Krasic, the latter a menacing threat to Germany down the right wing.

Germany came out for the second half full of intent and Serbia keeper Vladimir Stojkovic was kept busy as the three time champions peppered his goal.

Undiano must have thought it was Christmas as he handed out yet another card to Serbia's Neven Subotic.

The game's eighth booking for a handball by Vidic in the box, led to Germany being awarded a penalty on the hour.

Podolski stepped up but his spot kick into the left hand corner lacked inspiration and Wigan's Stojkovic comfortably saved.

Jovanovic then hit the woodwork down at the other end.

With quarter of an hour

on the clock Joachim Loew made a double switch of personnel - Marko Marin and Cacau coming on for Mesut Ozil and Thomas Mueller.

The Germany manager then had his arms raised in frustration as Bastian Schweinsteiger got yellow card number nine.

Hard as Germany tried Serbia duly held on for a memorable World Cup win.

Lifestyle gets better

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But despite improvement of the living standard, 61 percent borrow to meet food expenditure, portraying a still dismal scenario of poverty.

Director General of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) MK Mujeri said the government helps the poor through its safety net programmes, especially when the country faces natural disasters or other big crises.

Although the overall quality of life has improved for the poor, if their incomes do not increase through the changes, they will ultimately not be benefited, he cautioned.

World Bank's Senior Economist Zahid Hussain said, "The 2009 Welfare Monitoring Survey's self assessment of poverty gives us some confidence that poverty may in fact have declined since 2005."

But he also expressed concerns about the survey's findings that around 34 percent received credit during the last one year, mostly from NGOs or relatives and friends; nearly 46 percent feel credit is increasing; and 61 percent take credit to meet food expenditure.

"We know that the Americans developed an addic-

tion to consumption and debt, and how that became a quicksand for the great American dream. I hope the same is not happening in Bangladesh," he said.

"When faced with income shocks, drawing down savings or property sales are not options for most households. They adjust either by borrowing or by starving," he noted.

"Human development and vulnerability indicators also have come out poorer than we would like," he added. According to the report only 36.4 percent completed primary education, only 1.9 percent own computers, 78.1 percent mothers delivered babies at home, and mid-wives continue to be the dominant source of delivery assistance.

Bangladesh Bank (BB) Governor Dr Atiur Rahman said, "Constitutionally the people are the owner of the country. The survey showed that the government was standing by their side at times of their need."

It is a matter of optimism that although many people are still poor, the condition is improving, and the government and central bank are working to that end, he added.