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Ana Ivanovic first high profile casualty of Australian Open
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BNP favourites upset AL

Poll results of 236 municipalities show; AL has more rebel winners

STAR REPORT

The main opposition BNP-blessed candidates have finally won the battle of ballots in municipalities, edging past the ones from archrival Awami League.

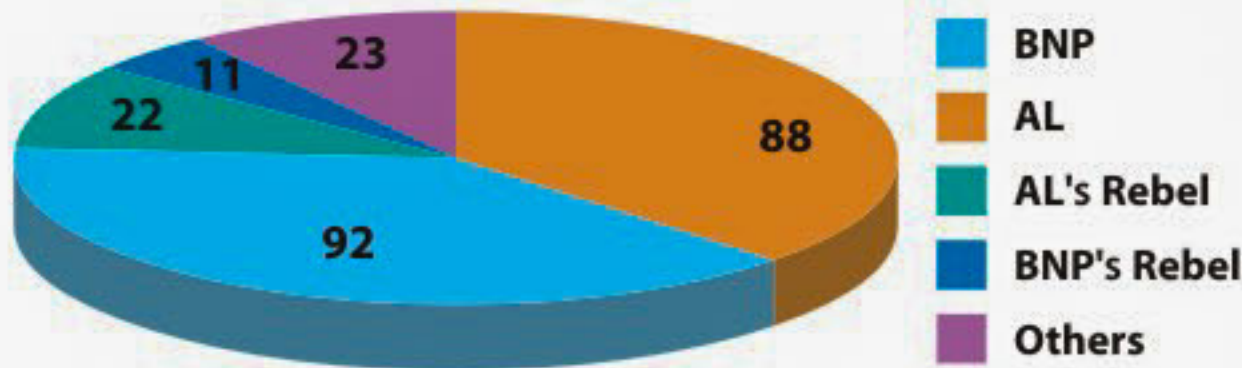
The polls spread over four days ended yesterday with voting in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions marked by violence and irregularities in several municipalities.

In the final count, BNP-backed candidates won 92 out of 26 mayoral posts in the seven divisions of the country and AL-blessed contestants bagged 88.

Rebel candidates from AL won 22 and those from BNP 11. Jamaat-e-Islami-backed aspirants got five mayoral posts in Rajshahi and Rangpur divisions, and Jatiya Party only one in Rangpur.

In the last day's polls in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions, BNP-backed favourites again upset their archrivals. Results were decided in 54 out of 58

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Calm broken

Violence mars voting at some places; Hartal in Laxmipur, Noakhali today

STAR REPORT

Violence and ballot stuffing by ruling party men in several municipalities in Chittagong and Sylhet divisions yesterday blemished the otherwise fair and peaceful municipal polls staggered over four days.

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A group of youths, reportedly all Awami League supporters, destroy ballot papers after snatching from Noakhali Primary School polling station during the municipal elections yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



A plume of smoke billows from a vessel at a ship-breaking yard of Sitakunda in Chittagong following an explosion that killed four workers yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

TRAGEDY AT SHIP-BREAKING YARD AGAIN Blast kills 4 workers

Scrap ship brought in ignoring HC directives; ship-breaker among 20 companies operating with govt's controversial conditional permission

STAR REPORT

Four workers died and another suffered critical burns in an explosion yesterday at a ship-breaking yard in Sitakunda during scrapping a tanker that entered the country violating the High Court's directive.

The cause of the explosion at Mak Corporation Ship-Breaking Yard could not be known immediately.

The owner of the MAK Corporation expressed his surprise over the explosion saying "there was no scrapping going on at the yard".

However, a worker who was near the scene said the explosion occurred while dismantling a fuel tank.

According to newspaper reports, as many as 30 workers died and 16 others were maimed in last 21 months in 16 explosions in 16 ship-

breaking yards. Besides, many others escaped with minor injuries and their number was not recorded by anyone.

Accidents continue hitting the industry as the government did not properly comply with the HC order and let the owners operate without equipping their workers with necessary safety measures.

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6 killed in gang fight

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Noakhali

Six people were killed and two others injured in a gunfight between two gangs of robbers in a remote area of Hatiya upazila in Noakhali early yesterday, police said.

Four of the deceased were identified as dacoit leader Giasuddin Sardar, 48, his son Raihan, 14, and gang members Noor Islam Bhutto and Liton. The rest two could not be immediately identified.

Harunur Rashid, police superintendent of Noakhali, said they recovered six bodies riddled with bullets and sent them to Noakhali General Hospital for autopsy. The two injured gang members were admitted to a local hospital.

"Locals said there was a gunfight between two rival gangs of robbers," he said.

Assistant Police Superintendent (sadar

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

4 die taking toxic liquor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bogra

Four people including a liquor seller died on Monday night and early yesterday after drinking toxic alcohol in Mohasthangarh under Shibganj upazila of the district.

The deceased were identified as liquor seller

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

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