

Akramuddin's panel leads

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association group continued hours past midnight.

Vote counting in the biennial election to the nation's apex trade body started at 7:00pm yesterday, less than two hours after the polls were closed.

A total of 1,816 votes were cast in the election, Awami League lawmaker Ali Ashraf, chairman of the election board, told reporters.

The voters went to the polls to elect 30 directors who -- along with 18 nominated directors (nine each from chamber and association groups) -- will choose a president for the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry tomorrow for a two-year term.

Of 1,611 voters in the association group, 1,433 cast their votes; and 383 ballots -- out of 390 -- were cast in the

chamber group.

The voting began at 9:26am at the Federation Bhaban in Motijheel and the three-member election board announced the closure of the polls at 5:20pm yesterday.

The election, however, had been scheduled to begin at 9:00am and end at 4:30pm.

"Since we started the election late, we also closed it late," Ashraf said.

"The election was held peacefully as no major untoward incident took place. I was not under pressure from any quarter during the election."

A total of 63 candidates contested for the posts of 30 directors -- 15 each from chamber and association groups -- under the banner of two panels.

Kazi Akramuddin

Ahmed, chairman of Standard Bank, and a member of the ruling Awami League's advisory council, won clear backing from the government for his panel.

On the other hand, Annisul Huq, a former FBCCI president and a popular face in the business community, threw his weight behind the Ganatantrik Parishad, but did not contest the election.

In the Ganatantrik Parishad panel, Abu Alam Chowdhury was the leader of the association group and Dewan Sultan Ahmed headed the chamber group.

According to rules, this year's FBCCI president will be chosen from the association group as the incumbent president was selected from the chamber group two years ago.

"The election is being held peacefully. Everyone is

voting spontaneously," Akram said after casting his vote at 4:20pm.

After the primary results of the chamber group, a jubilant Monowara Hakim Ali, who represented Chittagong Women Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the election, said: "I am very happy to be elected."

"Now I will be able to complete my unfinished tasks."

Also the president of the chamber, Monowara Ali said she came to know about the problems of different chambers in the country during her election campaign. "I know not only their problems, but also their potential."

"I may not be able to solve all their problems, but I would be happy if I could solve at least some of them."

Egypt judges slam

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Egyptian justice," Club chief Ahmed al-Zind told the club's general assembly, as furious judges chanted "The people want the downfall of the regime."

Protesters tried to storm the High Court where the judges were meeting but were dispersed when police fired tear gas.

Earlier, anti-riot police fired tear gas to disperse anti-Morsi protesters camped out in Cairo's Tahrir Square as Western governments voiced growing concern over the political crisis.

The Supreme Judicial Council denounced Morsi's constitutional declaration

as "an unprecedented attack on the independence of the judiciary and its rulings," while the Judges Club of Alexandria announced "the suspension of work in all courts and prosecution administrations in the provinces of Alexandria and Beheira."

And they "will accept nothing less than the cancellation of (Morsi's decree)," which violates the principle of separation of powers, club chief Mohammed Ezzat al-Agwa said.

The president already held both the executive and legislative powers, and his Thursday decree puts him beyond judicial oversight

until a new constitution has been ratified in a referendum.

The measures are valid only until the new constitution now being drafted is adopted, and supporters argue they will hasten what has been a turbulent and seemingly endless transition to democracy.

In Cairo, a statement by some 20 "independent judges" said that while some of the decisions taken by the president were a response to popular demands, they were issued "at the expense of freedom and democracy."

Morsi has ordered the reopening of investigations

into the deaths of some 850 protesters during the 2011 uprising, and hundreds more since.

New prosecutor general Talaat Ibrahim Abdallah said new "revolutionary courts" would be set up and could see former president Hosni Mubarak, his sons and his top security chiefs retried "should there be new evidence."

Mubarak and his interior minister were sentenced to life over the killing of protesters in last year's popular uprising against him, but six security chiefs were acquitted in the same case sparking nationwide outrage.

All changed with a shot

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dominance as captain Sammy declared with a lead of 261, not insurmountable on a bat-friendly track.

But the top-order batsmen repeated their first innings ineptness, crashing to 82 for five -- losing all wickets in the afternoon session, culminating in captain Mushfiqur Rahim's most uncharacteristic slog to be bowled by Permaul. At that stage Shakib, so often the saviour, stepped in with what was one of his better innings. He constructed a 144-run sixth wicket partnership with Nasir Hossain and had carried the team to within 35 runs of clearing the deficit but that is when the harsh lesson was handed out.

The lesson is that in Test cricket a batsman's job is never really done until a team is safe, and safety in a Test match is not an easily won position. Shakib, batting on 97 and undoubtedly anxious to get his third hundred to cap a perfect day from an individual view-

point, stepped out to Permaul in the first ball of the penultimate over the day and tried to hit the ball miles, but it only went the thirty metres or so to the mid-off fielder. A century may have been the icing on a perfect day for him, but it would still not have gotten the Tigers out of the woods.

Getting out at that stage, when the West Indians were on the ropes after a fighting stand from the home team and a session in which not a wicket had fallen after the five scalps in the previous one, spells certain doom for the team as the visitors will be rejuvenated in the morning today knowing that their opponents' main weapon has been neutralised.

It may seem unfair to dwell on Shakib's dismissal when his top order teammates just did not turn up and were reckless, but it's the manner of dismissal which finds the near-saviour especially culpable. He could just as easily have picked three singles to get to

his hundred, or even stopped bothering about the milestone knowing fully well that he could come back tomorrow and reach it in good time.

A 144-run stand is not enough to save a match, especially when the opposition had recorded a partnership of more than 300 and another worth more than 150. Neither was a 117-ball 97 an innings that could change the momentum decisively. Perhaps it was the knowledge that his shot erased the considerable good work he had done for his team that kept him from appearing at the post-day press conference, even though he was the best performer of the day.

Instead of enduring a wicketless session and being confronted with two set batsmen in the morning, Shakib's shot has ensured that the visitors will come out all guns blazing, with only four wickets to go and 35 runs to guard for an innings victory.

The reasons for the plunge in well-being in middle age, when suicides and use of anti-depressants both peak, are murkier. In recent years researchers have emphasized sociological and economic factors, from the accountant's recognition that she will never realize her dream of starring on Broadway to the middle manager's fear of being downsized, not to mention failing marriages and financial woes.

In what Oswald, 58, calls "a burst of madness," since no such study had ever been attempted, he and his colleagues decided to see whether creatures that don't have career regrets or underwater mortgages might nevertheless suffer a well-being plunge in middle age.

They enlisted colleagues to assess the well-being of 155 chimps in Japanese zoos, 181 in US and Australian zoos and 172 orangs in zoos in the United States, Canada, Australia and Singapore.

Keepers, volunteers, researchers and caretakers who knew the apes well used a four-item questionnaire to assess the level of contentment in the animals, said psychologist Alex Weiss of Scotland's University of Edinburgh. One question, for instance, asked how

much pleasure the animals

which ranged from infants to graybeards - get from social interactions.

All three groups of apes experienced mid-life malaise: a U-shaped contentment curve with the nadir at ages 28, 27 and 35, respectively, comparable to human ages of 45 to 50.

Why would chimps and orangs have a mid-life crisis? It could be that their societies are similar enough to the human variety that social, and not only biological, factors are at work, Oswald said. Perhaps apes feel existential despair, too, when they realize they'll never be the alpha male or female.

An evolutionary explanation is even more intriguing. "Maybe nature doesn't want us to be content in middle age, doesn't want us sitting around contentedly with our feet up in a tree," he said.

"Maybe discontent lights a fire under people, causing them to achieve more" for themselves and their family.

"By knowing our results,

9 workers killed

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Centre for Women and Child Health, said they received the bodies of four female workers. They were identified as Moriyum, 25, Morshed, 26, Mousumi, 26 and Nurunnisa, 30.

A male worker, identified as Maruf, 22, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 10:00pm.

The identity of the four other dead could not be known immediately as relatives took away their bodies from the spot, said OC Badrul.

Eight other workers with head, hand and leg injuries were undergoing treatment at DMCH.

The injured were first rushed to the Centre for Women and Child Health for treatment. "We treated 53 while 10 were referred to different hospitals in Dhaka as their condition was critical," said Harunur Rashid.

Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence Abu Naim Mohammad Shahidullah, told reporters at the spot that the fire might have originated from an electrical short circuit.

He said some workers managed to come out but many got trapped inside as the fire quickly spread. "I saw many of my fellow workers jumping from the ground floor."

He said some workers were an emergency exit at the building but they could not use it, as they were not trained to do that.

About 200-250 workers were on over-time duty on several floors when the fire started at the cotton godown on the ground floor," said Monsur Khaled, chief of crisis management of BGMEA.

Three fire-fighting units from EPZ rushed there at 7:15pm. They tried to douse the fire with the help of locals. Twelve more units joined them later.

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