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Stuck in Moscow, Snowden gets marriage offer from an ex-spy
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Ajmat, or Mannan?

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A win for Ajmat Ullah Khan in today's balloting would consolidate further his record on polls performance.

A mayoral hopeful in Gazipur City Corporation polls, he had contested three consecutive elections to Tongi Municipality in 1995, 2000 and 2006 and was elected every time. Tongi is now a major part
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All eyes on Gazipur

Govt, opposition face off in crucial polls today

SHAKHAWAT LITON and WASIM BIN HABIB

In a crucial battle of pride for the Awami League and the BNP, Gazipur city goes to polls to pick its mayor and councillors today, just a few months ahead of the general election.

Although non-partisan in nature, today's city election has already influenced the national politics as archrivals AL and BNP have been campaigning hard to secure the mayoral office.

In the campaign trails, the two parties

employed their full strength engaging their central leaders, MPs and even ministers.

Winning the polls will boost the winning camp and help challenge its rival in the coming days.

For the mayoral office, Ajmat Ullah Khan is running with AL support and MA Mannan with BNP backing. Five other candidates are also vying for the post but they are not seen as frontrunners.

But whoever of the two frontrunners comes out champion, it is ultimately the
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Ballot boxes kept in rows in the returning officer's office at Bangataj auditorium in Gazipur yesterday. Presiding officers are waiting beside to take the boxes and ballot papers to their centres.
PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

11,000-strong law enforcers to maintain peace in polls

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

More than 11,000 law enforcers including members of Border Guard Bangladesh and Rab have been deployed to ensure safe and peaceful conduct of voting in the first Gazipur City Corporation election today.

The mayoral election in Gazipur, the biggest city corporation in size, came to greater focus after all the pro-government candidates had miserably lost to their opposition-backed rivals in the last month's polls in Barisal, Khulna, Rajshahi
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IN NUMBERS



Voters	10.26 lakh
Polling stations	392
Wards	57
Wards (reserved)	19
Mayoral candidates	7
Councillor candidates	456
Councillor candidates (reserved)	128
Polling hours	8:00am to 4:00pm



Campaign, informally

HASAN JAHID TUSHER, PANKAJ KARMAKAR and ABU BAKAR SIDDIQUE, from Gazipur

Mosques and garment factories became the unofficial campaign centres of mayoral candidates of Gazipur City Corporation elections yesterday even though electioneering for today's polls officially ended midnight Thursday.

The ruling Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan and opposition BNP-blessed mayoral aspirant MA Mannan yesterday took the opportunity of Juma prayers to seek votes.

According to sources, officials of garment factories owned by pro-BNP and pro-Awami League businessmen in Gazipur asked their
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AL, BNP leaders in war of words

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As the main opposition BNP keeps accusing the government of plotting to rig tomorrow's Gazipur city polls, the ruling Awami League insists the party will do nothing to mar the successes of elections held during its tenure.

BNP acting secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir yesterday alleged the government, apart from dishing out crores of black money, had assembled listed criminals in Gazipur from outside the country and as it has a "blueprint to rig the voting".

"The government is planning to rob votes [in Gazipur] and that's why it doesn't want army deployment," he said at a discussion organised by Swadhinata Forum at the capital's
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Morsi backers protest ouster

Clashes kill 3; US asks Cairo to avoid arbitrary arrests

AFP, Cairo

A defiant supreme guide of the Muslim Brotherhood yesterday vowed his movement would stay on Egypt's streets in their millions until Mohamed Morsi is restored as president, after his ouster by the army.

Following the declaration by Mohammed Badie, thousands of Brotherhood supporters marched on the state television building, even after three Islamist protesters were
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