



Guaranteed fat content

# The Daily Star

THIRD EDITION

www.thedailystar.net

Your Right to Know

20 PAGES PRICE : Tk 10.00



## ROYAL BABY SURPRISE

Experts look into the family tree even before its birth to William and Kate

PAGE 7



## CHILD RIGHTS

Discrimination impedes the development of challenged kids

PAGE 8-9

## BARTOLI WIMBLEDON'S QUEEN

Marion Bartoli wins first Grand Slam title by beating Sabine Lisicki in final

PAGE 14

# AL bastion falls

BNP's Mannan triumphs in Gazipur

STAR REPORT

The opposition BNP has finally stormed the citadel of the ruling Awami League through a decisive victory for its candidate at the Gazipur City Corporation mayoral ballot.

The BNP-supported MA Mannan clinched a resounding victory over the ruling Awami League-backed candidate in yesterday's peaceful election to Gazipur City Corporation.

With the support of the BNP-led 18-party alliance, Mannan's win by a wide margin shattered the AL's hope of making a comeback after a humiliating defeat at the June 15 elections to the four city corporations of Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal and Sylhet.

The victory just a few months ahead of the next parliamentary election will boost the spirits of the opposition camp, observe political analysts.

The AL high command desperately tried to secure a win in Gazipur to revitalise its grassroots leaders and workers, who had been demoralised over the defeat of the AL-backed mayoral aspirants in the four city corporations.

The party had hoped to secure a victory at the Gazipur polls and give a strong response to the BNP.

And there was reason for such hope. AL candidates have done well in all parliamen-

MA MANNAN



AJMAT ULLAH KHAN



Results declared

336

centres as of 3:45am

tary polls in Gazipur district since 1991.

At the 2008 national election, the AL secured all five seats in the district, defeating the opposition candidates by big margins. At the 1996 elections, the AL won all four seats.

The BNP had managed to win two seats in 1991 and one seat at the 2001 polls, while the AL won two and three seats in the two elections.

In the local bodies' polls, AL leaders have traditionally had a record of doing well. The polls performance record of Ajmat is also better than that his rival Mannan. Ajmat contested three consecutive polls to the Tongi municipality, which is now a major part of the city corporation, and was elected every time.

The situation in former Gazipur municipality, which is another major part of the city corporation, was almost the same.

Awami League leader AKM Mozammel Huq had served as mayor of the municipality for more than three decades before getting elected as a lawmaker from a Gazipur constituency in 2008.

The win in Gazipur yesterday brought Mannan back as a public representative after more than 20 years after he had been elected lawmaker in Gazipur Sadar constituency at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5  
MORE ON PAGE 5

Total voters	Turnout	Polling centres	Wards
10.26 lakh	60-65%	392	57



She had mehendi put on her hand and coupled with the bangle it made her hand look all pretty. But yesterday was the day she took charge, as evident with the ink on her thumb, a tell tale sign that she has voted. Cynthia exercised her right of franchise for the first time in her life at the West Joydevpur Primary School polling centre.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

## Vote rigging no longer possible

CEC says after Gazipur polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polling now is as transparent as the ballot boxes are and so "vote dacoity," capturing polling centres or rigging polls is not possible, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said yesterday.

He urged all the candidates of Gazipur City Corporation (GCC) polls to accept the results showing respect to voters' choices.

Speaking to newsmen at a press briefing at the Election Commission secretariat, he requested people to refrain from bringing out any post-election victory procession or staging showdown and

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4

# Free, festive, fair

First ever Gazipur city polls remarkably peaceful

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The peaceful and festive voting in the Gazipur City Corporation polls ended yesterday with a lot of people waiting to see if the BNP siege had made the Awami League fortress crumble.

Despite the election being non-partisan in nature, the mayoral race, grabbing all the attention, was basically between the BNP-blessed MA Mannan and the Awami League-backed Ajmat Ullah Khan.

Braving the scorching heat and brief afternoon showers, men, women and the elderly queued up at polling centres to elect a mayor and 76 councillors to run their city. Some voters even had their children accompanying them.

Enthusiastic voters gathered at the 392 polling centres before voting began at 8:00am. A huge number of law enforcers had been deployed to maintain security. Within hours, the centres turned into places

## STRICT WATCH

Journalists

938

International observers

94

Local observers

231

SOURCES: EC SECRETARIAT

bustling with voters.

The Daily Star teams, covering the election, talked to many presiding officers, polling agents and voters at nearly 100 centres. All were happy with the election atmosphere, saying that voting had taken place in a free and fair manner.

None said anything about vote rigging or casting false votes but there were complaints about slow moving queues.

At Mariali Govt Primary School in Salna around 9:00am, polling agent Nur-A Alam of BNP-backed mayoral candidate MA Mannan complained about slow voting but he was happy with the atmosphere.

Ruling party-backed Ajmat Ullah Khan's agent Akhter Hossain had nothing to be unhappy about.

"Voting is going on in a very fair and nice manner," Mannan's polling agent Sukur Ali said at Rover Palli Govt High School. Sitting

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

## Turnout not as expected

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first-ever Gazipur City Corporation election yesterday saw voter turnout lower than expected, despite all the media hype and vigorous campaigns by the two major political parties for their favourites.

An estimated 60 to 65 percent of 10.26 lakh voters had cast their ballots by 4:00pm as the polls closed in the industrial city, the returning officer told journalists.

The figure was higher in the June 15 elections to four city corporations -- around 73 percent in Barisal, 69 percent in Khulna, 76 percent in Rajshahi and around 73 percent in Sylhet.

At the 2008 parliamentary election, 82.70 to 90.13 percent voters participated in the polling of all the five Gazipur constituencies.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Victory 'boosts BNP's anti-govt movement'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The victory of the BNP-backed mayoral candidate in the maiden polls to Gazipur City Corporation will boost the morale of leaders and activists of the party, which will now use it to intensify the anti-government movement, party leaders said early today.

Talking to The Daily Star, they noted that they have shattered the traditional stronghold of the ruling Awami League in the largest city corporation of the country.

"We will now intensify our ongoing movement against the government as we think voters have given their verdict in favour of our candidate not because of our candidate's image or acceptability but because of this government's misrule and corruption," BNP Joint Secretary General Barkatullah Bulu told journalists at the Election Commission.

Tariqul Islam, standing committee member of the party, said their victory in the Gazipur polls shows people's

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

## AL leaders stunned

STAR REPORT

The defeat of the Awami League-backed mayoral candidate Ajmat Ullah Khan at yesterday's Gazipur City Corporation polls has left the ruling party leaders stunned into silence.

This is in contrast to their earlier expressions of optimism about the outcome of the election. They had been enthusiastic throughout -- from the beginning of the campaign to the end of the voting -- but the enthusiasm began to wane as the results started pouring in.

Following its humiliating defeat at the June 15 elections to four city corporations, the Awami League wanted to come up with a strong response in the Gazipur polls. It needed to win the battle here to reclaim some of the ground it had lost. It left no stone unturned to ensure a victory.

It compelled its rebel candidate Jahangir Alam, who had emerged as a factor in the polls, to quit the race in favour of Ajmat. The party tried to portray its leaders as pro-Islamic and its leaders in Gazipur tried to counter the religious propaganda against them.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

যে হাত পথ দেখায়, অর্জনের নেশায় হয় উদ্যত  
বিজয় এগিয়ে আসে যে হাতে হাত মেলাতে  
যে হাতের নান্দনিক পরশে সেজে ওঠে সৃষ্টি  
যে হাতের সুকোমল ছোঁয়ায় বর্ষিত হয় আশীর্বাদ  
আস্থা যোগায়, ভরসা জাগায় যে হাত -

সে হাতের মুঠোতেই ধরা দেয় স্বাধীনতা

স্বাধীনতা বেছে নেবার, স্বাধীনতা ইচ্ছেপূরণের, স্বাধীনতা স্বপ্নপূরণের...

MyChoice

হাতের মুঠোয় স্বাধীনতা



Myone Energy Limited

112, Airport Road (2nd Floor), Bijoy Shwarani, Tejgaon, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Hotline: 0088-02-8125715

BrandEdge/My Choice/2013