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THE GREAT SUMMER DELIGHT

Boatloads of watermelons arrive in the capital from several districts of Barisal division. Left, workers carrying watermelons from boats to nearby retailer shops. Due to the ongoing countrywide blockade and shut-down, growers and traders prefer to ship the popular summer fruit through waterways. The photo was taken from Sadarghat yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



7 more mayor aspirants collect forms

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League-blessed mayoral aspirant Annisul Huq, jailed former BNP lawmaker Nasir Uddin Ahmed Pintu and five others yesterday collected nomination papers to contest the Dhaka city corporations polls.

Huq, former president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FCCI), took the form from Returning Officer (RO) of Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) Shah Alam at the latter's Agargaon office.

Pintu collected the nomination form through one Rafiqul Islam from RO of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mihir Sarwar Morshed at his Gulistan office.

The polls to the bifurcated Dhaka city corporations and Chittagong City Corporation are scheduled to be held on April 28.

With yesterday's seven mayoral aspirants, 22 people have so far collected nomination forms for the polls. Besides, 985 councillor aspirants have also collected nomination forms as of yesterday.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 5

Tough time awaits Nasir in CCC polls

Mohiuddin's supporters irked

ARUN BIKASH DEY, Chittagong

Disgruntled supporters of ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury might negatively impact the electioneering of AZM Nasir Uddin, the Awami League-backed Chittagong mayor hopeful.

Former three-time mayor Mohiuddin yesterday said the AL men were disappointed with his departure from the polls race.

He was in a views-exchange meeting of Chittagong north and south district AL with reporters. Nasir was present at the meeting at the city's Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh.

Mohiuddin said the discontent would go away over time and the party men would work unitedly to ensure win for Nasir.

General secretary of city AL, Nasir collected his nomination paper yesterday for the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) polls slated for April 28.

Local BNP leaders, who have been waiting for the party's decision on contesting the election, said the polls would give the party an opportunity to revamp itself. Party grassroots are also confident that their favourites would come out successful.

Returning from Dhaka on Saturday, Mohiuddin announced that he quit the polls race and would work to ensure win of Nasir. But several hundred supporters of the ex-mayor gathered in front of his house in Sholoshahar for two days and demanded he contest the polls.

Followers of Mohiuddin blamed intra-party feud for his defeat in the last CCC polls in 2010 when he lost to BNP favourite M Manjur Alam by around 96,000 votes. Nasir was in the anti-Mohiuddin camp then.

Iftakher Saimul Chowdhury, a close associate of Mohiuddin and law affairs secretary of city AL, said the current political situation was not like

SEE PAGE 8 COL 1

Bus torched in city; blast on DU campus

STAR REPORT

The country remained relatively calm without a major incident of violence on the second day of the BNP-led alliance's fresh spell of shutdown yesterday, a day after four people died in arson attacks.

A housewife, Rehana Akter, and a private university student, Sabbir Ahmed, sustained splinter injuries from a crude bomb blast at TSC on Dhaka University Campus around 7:30pm.

They took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Alleged blockaders torched a bus in the capital's Shahbagh yesterday evening. Three firefighting units rushed to the spot and doused the blaze. No one was injured.

Meanwhile, police detained eight BNP-Jamaat activists from different parts of the capital in last 24 hours till 9:00am yesterday for their alleged involvement in subversive acts.

Members of Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) in an overnight drive detained two persons with arms and bullets in Chittagong early yesterday.

SEE PAGE 8 COL 4

Return of woolly mammoth?

MAIL ONLINE

A huge step towards recreating the woolly mammoth has been taken by scientists who inserted more than a dozen of its genes into the live DNA of an elephant.

Researchers studied the structure of DNA from mammoths preserved in the Arctic to reproduce exact copies of 14 of the extinct animal's genes.

These were then integrated by experts at Harvard University in Massachusetts into the elephant genome - and functioned as normal DNA.

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The Daily Star

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ONLINE POLL
Do you agree with IGP Shahidul Hoque that violence in the country is decreasing due to police actions?

Yes (23%)
No (77%)

TOTAL VOTES: 119

TODAY'S POLL
Do you think there will be a level-playing field in the upcoming mayoral polls?

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PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 24
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-55 12-45 4-45 6-16 7-45
JAMAAT 5-30 1-15 5-00 6-20 8-15
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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With seven wins out of seven games in the World Cup so far, New Zealand cricket team is certainly enjoying every bit of it. Will they be able to beat South Africa in today's semifinal in Auckland to end a long-standing jinx, a jinx of not making it to the final in their previous six attempts?

War at the Eden

First semifinal between New Zealand and South Africa today

AFP, Auckland

Four years after it was meant to happen, two of the world's most bitter sporting rivals -- New Zealand and South Africa -- will face off in a World Cup semifinal at Eden Park.

"When South Africa plays New Zealand, consider your country at war," legendary Springbok Boy Louw once said.

His focus was rugby, but the passion will be no less in Tuesday's cricket showdown at Eden Park which serves as New Zealand's rugby and cricket fortress.

During the Rugby World Cup in 2011, the All Blacks and Springboks were expected to meet in a semifinal at Eden Park, but Australia did not follow the script and knocked the South Africans out in the quarters.

But there is no spoiler in the Cricket World Cup and the battle for a place in the final is set.

Eden Park has been the scene of some magnificent battles between New Zealand and South Africa over the years but rarely has one intoxicated the nation with such magnitude as this semifinal.

There have been calls in the news media for a public holiday so the nation can stop and watch.

Although New Zealand and South Africa have both held rugby's ultimate trophy neither has made a cricket World Cup final, further spicing up a match already fuelled by

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