

Polling agents hard to assign

Most mayoral aspirants won't have agents in all voting booths; campaign ends, voting tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unlike the six candidates backed by the two major parties, 42 other mayoral hopefuls will not have polling agents in all the election booths to detect voting fraud in the city corporation elections tomorrow.

A total of 48 aspirants are running for mayor of Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC), Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) and Chittagong City Corporation (CCC).

The ruling Awami League has picked Annisul Huq for DNCC, Sayeed Khokon for DSCC and AJM Nasir Uddin for CCC while the BNP's favourites are Tabitha Awal for



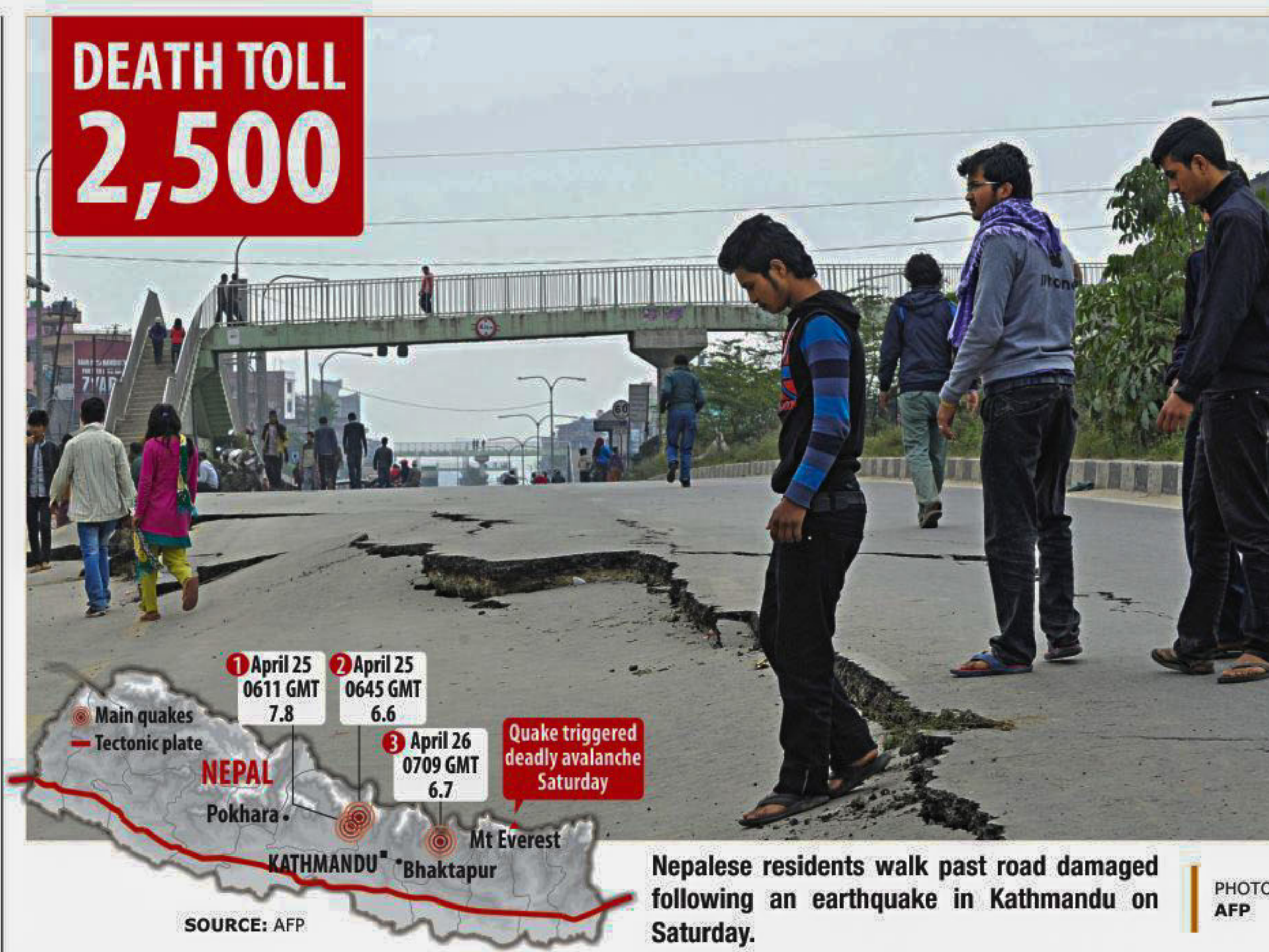
DNCC, Mirza Abbas for DSCC and Manjur Alam for CCC.

With the blessings of the country's biggest political parties, the six will have polling agents in all the polling booths while a number of other candidates say they don't have that capacity.

However, candidates, high-profile or not, were busy throughout the day, going door to door to woo voters, bringing out processions and holding roadside rallies. All campaigns closed at midnight.

According to the electoral laws, a contestant can appoint only one agent at a polling booth to watch out for personation during the voting.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



DEATH TOLL 2,500



Nepalese residents walk past road damaged following an earthquake in Kathmandu on Saturday.

Standing by the quake victims

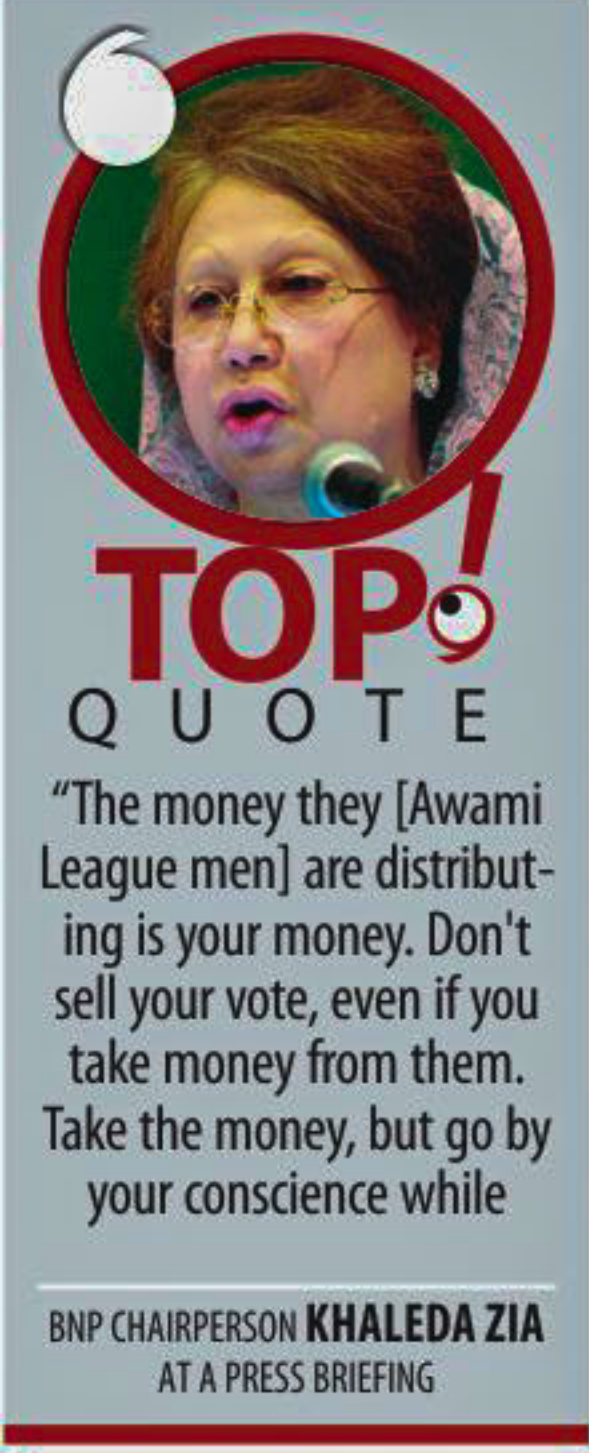
Nepalese students in Bangladesh collecting funds for survivors at home

TAMANNA KHAN

Miles away from their home, when the ground beneath their feet started to shake on Saturday afternoon, little did the Nepalese students in Bangladesh imagine what was happening back in their country.

"I was in the class when the tremor struck. Initially, I thought I was feeling dizzy," said Sneha Khanal, a fourth-year Nepalese student at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



NEWS ANALYSIS

A lot depends on fair polling

SYED ASHEAQL HAQUE

"Vote we want from voters, blessings from all."

Voices from rallies and loudspeakers reverberated in every lane and by-lanes of Dhaka and Chittagong. One could only see hugging, handshaking or exchange of greetings on the roads, decorated with countless posters. People have suddenly become the centre of politics as Dhaka and Chittagong gear up for city corporation elections tomorrow. Every candidate went for extra drive to make the most of the last few hours before the campaign deadline ended at the stroke of midnight.

True it is city election, but it has gone on to completely change the mood of the entire country, which was blighted by destructive politics for over three months: blockade every

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

AGAIN!

Third quake hits Nepal

Electricity cut off, communication systems jammed; hospitals crowded with injured

AFP, Kathmandu

Powerful aftershocks rocked Nepal yesterday, panicking survivors of a quake that killed more than 2,500 and triggering new avalanches at Everest base camp, as mass cremations were held in the devastated capital Kathmandu.

Terrified residents, many forced to camp out in the capital after Saturday's 7.8-

magnitude quake reduced buildings to rubble, were jolted by a 6.7-magnitude aftershock that compounded the worst disaster to hit the impoverished Himalayan nation in more than 80 years.

At overstretched hospitals, where medics were also treating patients in hastily erected tents, staff were forced to flee buildings for fear of further collapses.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Wake-up call

Experts point out potential danger as new aftershock creates panic in Bangladesh for second day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Nepal earthquake and subsequent major aftershocks are a wakeup call for Bangladesh, which is close to the edge of a tectonic plate that slipped causing the devastating tremor on Saturday, said experts.

Meanwhile, aftershocks of Saturday's massive earthquake in Nepal panicked people in Bangladesh for the second day yesterday. So far, three people have been killed in Bangladesh.

"The recent earthquake and aftershocks are definitely a wakeup call for us, as the epicentre is gradually moving towards the Northeast of India, within 350km from

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

PM terms Khaleda killer, oppressor

Says people won't respond to BNP chief's call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said people would not respond to Khaleda Zia's call for casting votes for BNP-backed candidates in tomorrow's city polls.

"Where would Khaleda Zia go if people take revenge on her for so many misdeeds she had committed? Khaleda should think about it," said Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League.

She made the comment referring to Khaleda's appeal to voters to take "silent revenge" on the government for its "misdeeds" by casting ballots for BNP-endorsed candidates. Hasina described Khaleda's statement as a pack of lies.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Khaleda calls for 'silent revenge'

Urges voters to ensure victory of BNP hopefuls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Zia yesterday urged voters in Dhaka and Chittagong to take "silent revenge" against all the government "misdeeds" by voting the opposition-backed candidates in tomorrow's city elections.

"I call on the city residents [of Dhaka and Chittagong] -- please cast your votes for the mayor and councillor candidates we supported. Take silent revenge on the government for its misdeeds. Make a silent revolution," the BNP chief told a press conference at her Gulshan office in the capital.

Flanked by leaders of her party and the 20-party alliance, Khaleda also urged all to accept the election results

SEE PAGE 11 COL 5

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