



FALL OF SAIGON
 Vietnam PM attacks "barbarous US crimes" during Vietnam War
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HAFEEZ'S DOUBLE TON
 Pakistan pile massive 537/5 at the end of third day in Khulna Test
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It's official

EC rushes to publish gazette on city polls results; hasn't yet looked at complaints of irregularities

SHAKHAWAT LITON and PANKAJ KARMAKAR

The Election Commission published the city polls results in official gazette yesterday, shelving all complaints about ballot stuffing and ousting of polling agents of rival candidates by Awami League men during Tuesday's voting.

The gazette cleared the way for the three newly elected mayors and most councillors in the three city corporations to take oath and enter office.

Any aggrieved party has now only one option to seek redress: to go to the election tribunal.

The immediate past EC led by ATM Shamsul Huda in 2009 kept the results of 33 upazila polls withheld over allegations of anomalies.

Brig Gen (retd) M Sakhawat Hussein, an election commissioner between 2007 and 2012, said the then EC held back the results of about a dozen upazilas for over three months. During the period, the EC probed allegations of vote rigging and other irregularities in those upazilas.

But despite numerous reports of widespread anomalies, including ballot stuffing in Tuesday's polls, the current commission has chosen not to investigate those and instead published the results.

This EC, led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad, did the same in case of last year's upazila and general elections, both of which were marred by irregularities.

In the face of huge criticism following last year's upazila polls, the commission had ordered the returning officers to investigate allegations of ballot stuffing in about 80 upazilas. Some returning officers did the investigation, but found "no foul play" while others did not carry out the



Teenager Sarbat Ali with no safety gear on makes cast-iron pipes and taps at a factory of Jatrabari in the capital yesterday. He has no idea what May Day is for. More photos on 16. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

HOLIDAY
 The office of The Daily Star will remain closed today, the May Day. Therefore, no issue of this newspaper will be published tomorrow. However, The Daily Star will continue to serve the readers through its online edition and SMS service.

'Nobody cares about them'

With labour law largely ignored, workers continue to face abuse; May Day today

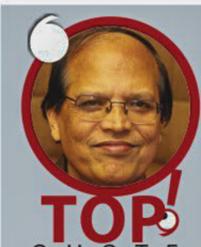
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Except for a handful few, most of the country's workers do not enjoy the rights as per the labour law. Even those who are claimed to be covered by the law see only partial implementation of their rights, according to labour rights experts.

There are 5.76 crore workers in Bangladesh as per the latest official statistics. Hardly 20 percent of them enjoy privileges stipulated in the law, said Syed Sultan Uddin Ahmed, assistant executive director of Bangladesh Institute of Labour Studies.

"The rights of even the workers covered by the law are not fully implemented," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

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TOP QUOTE

"Bank officials and employees, even the female staff, are unnecessarily told to stay in office on the pretext of work even after the close of office hours at 6:00pm. This is not

Are we doomed to flawed polls?

MAHFUZ ANAM

Three conclusions can be drawn from the just concluded city polls in Dhaka and Chittagong:

1. Our Election Commission is far from gaining public confidence that it can be trusted with holding free and fair elections. The tragedy is that it is not even trying;

COMMENTARY

2. The ruling Awami League was never keen on a free and fair polls and it used the state machinery, especially the police, ansars, and its considerable muscle power to sway, if not the voters then at least the results, of the election in its favour; and

3. BNP was insincere about fighting seriously for its candidates and its decision to boycott the polls mid-stream was knee-jerk and immature if not predetermined. BNP seemed more interested to prove their point that no credible election was possible under Sheikh Hasina's government than to win a mayoral post or two. They could

Body blow to the election process, again

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

Chaos over mobile court

15 injured as cops open fire

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 15 traders were injured, eight with shotgun pellets, after police opened fire and charged truncheons on a group of traders during a mobile court drive inside Banani Super Market in the capital.

Traders claimed that the mobile court was fining them for silly and outlandish reasons.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

Cry for food, shelter

Nepal in need of tents; quake death toll above 5,500

CNN ONLINE

Half a million tents are urgently needed for the huge number of people forced from their homes by Nepal's devastating earthquake, a government minister has said.

Minendra Rijal, Nepal's minister of information and communications, said relief operations were underway but that much more needs to be done.

"Life is returning to normal, but it will be some time to be completely normal," he said on Wednesday. "We have still not been able to properly manage to provide relief."

Rijal wasn't able to put a precise number on those made homeless by

Saturday's devastating quake, but he said the government had so far provided more than 4,700 tents and 22,000 tarpaulins to those in need of shelter.

The sprawling tent city in Kathmandu's Ratna Park feels less like a temporary solution and more like a permanent residence with each passing day.

Days after the earthquake struck Nepal, SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

ICC ODI Ranking Bangladesh 8th, above Pakistan

SPORTS REPORTER

The Bangladesh cricket fraternity suddenly embraced the good news yesterday that Bangladesh had jumped above Pakistan to the eighth position as per the International Cricket Council's (ICC) latest ODI rankings following their 3-0 white-wash against Pakistan at home.

The new rankings, which have

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New LUX Star Collection created by Deepika Padukone

Deepika Padukone

Just a little LUX

