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US PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION FIGHT Super Tuesday voting begins

Trump, Clinton lock in tight duel as they are poised for big wins

Americans yesterday voted in what is deemed the most pivotal day of the White House primaries, with frontrunners Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump hoping to wipe out all rivals for their party nominations.

Millions of people are taking part in Super Tuesday -- a series of primary votes and caucuses in a dozen states stretching from Virginia on the east coast all the way to Alaska.

If Democrat Clinton and Republican Trump -- an outspoken billionaire political neophyte who has unexpectedly tapped into a vein of conservative rage at conventional politics -- win big, it could spell doom for their challengers.

Hours before polls opened, the duo made last-ditch appeals to supporters ahead of a day like few others on the calendar leading up to the November election for the White House.

Trump's Republican rivals, Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, were frantically trying to halt the real estate magnate's march toward nomination, seeking to unite the party against the man they see as a non-conservative political interloper.

Clinton is riding high after thrashing rival Bernie Sanders in South Carolina over the weekend, securing an astronomical 86 percent of the African-American vote in her third win in four contests.

Should she win black voters by similar margins in places such as Alabama, Georgia and Virginia, she should dominate there to become once again the inevitable candidate.

That was her status at the start of the campaign -- before the rise of Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist.

She was leaving nothing to chance, travelling to multiple states on Monday to urge a strong turnout.

Clinton also took aim at the increasingly hostile campaign rhetoric on the Republican side led by Trump.

SCAPEGOATING, FINGER-POINTING
"I really regret the language being used by Republicans. Scapegoating people, finger-pointing, blaming. That is not how we should behave toward one another," she told hundreds gathered at a university in Fairfax, Virginia.

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With all 25 beds taken up by patients, many lay on the floor of the children's ward of Patuakhali General Hospital on Monday. The hospital received around 80 patients that day as the eight upazila government hospitals of the district do not have any child specialists.



PHOTO: STAR

Arrest '1/11 architects', show sincerity

Khaleda to govt, says AL 'colluded with the regime' to go to power

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said if the government was sincere about trying the "architects" of the 1/11 changeover, it should arrest and put them behind bars.

She said, "Masud [Lieutenant General Masud Uddin Chowdhury] was in Australia. Who gave him extensions [as high commissioner]? This government. He's in the country now. Why is he not being caught?"

Khaleda added that she has heard Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury (former Anti-Corruption Commission

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Rebel candidates vex AL in many UPs

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Like the elections to other local government bodies, the upcoming union parishad polls will see rebel candidates of the ruling Awami League in many UPs, including those in the constituencies of the party president and general secretary.

Five UPs in Tungipara, which is in the constituency of AL President Sheikh Hasina, will go to polls in the first phase on March

22, but each of the UPs have two AL rebels vying for the chairman post.

Out of 10 UPs in Kishoreganj Sadar, which is in the constituency of AL General Secretary Syed Ashrafur Islam, rebel candidates are still in the race in seven UPs.

As of yesterday, AL rebels in most of the unions are likely to contest the first phase of the elections, ignoring warnings of tough actions against them.

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UNION PARISHAD POLLS EC yet to act against 'muscle power'

Filing of nominations for second phase of election ends today

PANKAG KARMAKAR

The Election Commission is yet to take any action over allegations that many union parishad chairman hopefuls were barred from filing nominations for the March 22 polls.

Many BNP candidates and Awami League rebels faced threats, intimidation and physical assault from ruling AL

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PRAYER TIMING

MARCH 2

Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
5-15	12-45	4-30	6-05	7-30

JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



Saying no to begging

EAM ASADUZZAMAN, Nilphamari

Physically challenged Parvez Hossein Bhuttu can be an inspiration to many as he has come a long way from once begging in the streets to becoming self-employed.

The 25-year-old of Jora Pukur slum under Saidpur municipality of Nilphamari is now a goods supplier for the grocery stores in his area and earns enough to feed himself and his family.

He moves around in a tricycle given to him by the upazila social welfare office and collects the goods from the local wholesale market before sending those to the shops.

Parvez has no use of his legs since his birth. He is

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Once a beggar, physically challenged Parvez Hossein Bhuttu now delivers groceries to stores on his tricycle in Saidpur of Nilphamari. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: EAM ASADUZZAMAN

2-month ban on fishing in five rivers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A two-month ban on netting in a 340-kilometre fish sanctuary in five rivers took effect yesterday.

The ban on fishing in the river waters of several districts aims at facilitating safe spawning and saving fishes, including *jatka* (hilsa fries), said Bimal Chandra Das, district fisheries officer in Barisal.

Since 2006, the fishing restrictions have been in place in the Ilisha, Meghna, Tentulia, Bishkhali and Padma rivers, going through Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Barguna, Madaripur, Munshiganj, Chandpur, and Laxmipur districts.

The two-month period from March 1 is considered a breeding season for fishes.

Wahiduzzaman, district fisheries officer in Barisal, said they had sent letters to the law enforcement agencies and local administrators, asking them to take initiatives to encourage people not to fish in the sanctuary during the ban.

Scientists find best way to destroy asteroids



INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Russian scientists have used a supercomputer to discover the best way to destroy an asteroid with a nuclear bomb.

The team of researchers at Tomsk State University in Siberia ran a number of tests to figure out how to blow up 200-metre-wide asteroid with a nuclear weapon without causing the radioactive fragments to fall to Earth, using the 99942 Apophis asteroid as their model.

With the help of the university's SKIF Cyberia supercomputer, the team found that a powerful warhead with a yield of 1 megaton

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