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2 more killed in UP polls violence

84 killed so far
STAR REPORT

Two more people, who were critically injured in violence over the fourth phase of the union parishad polls held on Saturday, died yesterday.

Around 26 people were also hurt in post-polls violence in Tangail and Jamalpur yesterday.

At least 71 people were killed and some 6,000 others injured in violence over UP polls until May 4, according to Shushashoner Jannoy Nagorik (Shujan), a citizens' platform for good governance.

Thirteen more were killed in violence as of yesterday, according to The Daily Star findings.

In Rajshahi, Zahid Hasan, 34, of Konda village in Bagmara upazila, died from his injuries at a local clinic early yesterday, said Motiar Rahman, officer-in-charge of Bagmara Police Station.

With Zahid, three people were killed there in violence over the polls. On Saturday, two people were

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A female supporter of a defeated independent chairman candidate trying to hit a cop with her sandal near Delduar upazila parishad complex in Tangail. Supporters of the candidate yesterday tried to lay siege to the UNO office, demanding a vote recount. Inset, a motorcycle in flames inside the office building.

PHOTO: MIRZA SHAKIL



NEWS ANALYSIS

Ominous sign

Ongoing UP polls turn out to be the bloodiest

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The ongoing Union Parishad polls have become the bloodiest election in Bangladesh history.

This level of intense local violence was never seen in any previous elections -- parliamentary or local -- since the independence of the country.

Widespread violence has already left 84 dead and more than 6,000 persons injured since the beginning of the polls in last March.

At least 71 persons were killed till May 4, according to Shujan, a citizen platform for good governance.

Thirteen more were killed in violence as of yesterday.

In some areas, houses of rivals were also attacked and set on fire.

The violence shows an alarming rise in enmity among people based solely on political identity and it might appear as a major threat to peace in the country.

If this streak of violence continues, the death toll might rise further as two more phases of polls to 1,457 UPs are scheduled for May 28 and June 4 respectively.

In the last UP elections held in 2011, at least 27 persons were killed and 3,136 were injured in election related violence, according to Democracy Watch, a non-profit that works on democratic reforms. Its numbers are based on reports published in different newspapers.

Earlier, in 2003 UP polls, 80 persons were killed and 7,209 were injured, Democracy Watch says.

Reactions of the then EC-led by MA Sayed in 2003 and the current one-led by Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad are opposite.

CEC Sayed-led EC had struggled for deployment of army to ensure security of the polls. But the then BNP government

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Political storm rages on over Modi's degrees

BJP releases certificates, AAP calls them fake

THE INDIAN EXPRESS

The political firestorm over Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualifications intensified yesterday with the BJP producing what it said were copies of his graduate and post-graduate degrees, and Arvind Kejriwal's party describing them as "forged".

The latest war of words over the issue was triggered by BJP president Amit Shah and Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley, who said at a press conference that AAP leader and Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal had lowered the level of public discourse by

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Australia relaxes ban on freight

Cargo security at Shahjalal airport improved, claims minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four and a half months after imposing a ban on freight to Australia from Bangladesh, the country of the southern hemisphere has relaxed the ban, allowing Bangladeshi freight to be re-screened in a third country before reaching Australia.

In a letter to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism on May 5, the Australian High Commission in Dhaka informed the government about the relaxation of the ban that was imposed on December 19 last year, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon said at a briefing yesterday.

"The Australian government's move came as a result of overall improvement of cargo security at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport," the minister said, citing the letter.

Last fiscal year, Bangladesh exported products worth \$606.88 million to Australia, with apparel items accounting for \$533.62 million, according to data from the Export Promotion Bureau.

There is no direct cargo flight between Bangladesh and Australia. Meanwhile, Bangladesh is still banned by the UK from sending cargo directly to the island nation. The ban was imposed in March.

However, the UK validation team, working in Shahjalal International Airport, on May 5 allowed three airlines to carry cargo to the UK and the EU countries from Bangladesh.

The upgraded security at the cargo village does not mean that the ban on direct cargo flight from Dhaka to London has been withdrawn. The freight

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EC seeks more action to check polls violence

PANKAG KARMAKAR

As violence continued with each phase of the Union Parishad polls gone by, the Election Commission has asked the home ministry to ensure a congenial atmosphere for the next phases.

"Maintaining law and order as well as ensuring voters' security, especially minorities", are the prime pre-requisites for free, fair, impartial and peaceful elections," said the EC in a letter to the home secretary on Sunday.

"The letter has been sent to remind them [ministry officials] of their duties during elections. Their cooperation is very crucial for fair polls," said EC Secretary Sirazul Islam.

The EC wrote the letter against the backdrop of violence and irregularities that took place centering on the four phases of UP elections between March 22 and May 7.

Arresting criminals, recovering arms, curbing violence, increasing police patrol and ensuring voters' security are necessary for ensuring a congenial atmosphere for the next phases, it said.

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Is this the future private jet?



MAIL ONLINE

Private jet flying could change forever as the world's first electric vertical takeoff and landing aircraft is about to hit the market.

The egg-shaped plane, called Lilium, has been heralded as high up as the European Space Agency (ESA), who highlight its environmental benefits as well as not needing to land at an airport.

The plane takes off and lands vertically, meaning it can use helipads. The aircraft, designed in Germany, has a top speed of 250mph and a range of 300 miles.

In a release sent out from the ESA, Lilium co-owner Daniel Wiegand said: "Our goal is to develop an aircraft for use in everyday life. We are

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Toxic gas kills 3 workers

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narayanganj

Three workers of a salt industry died and seven others were injured after inhaling toxic gas inside a septic tank at Fatullah in Narayanganj Sadar upazila yesterday.

The dead are Shahabuddin, 38, and Almas, 28, of Patuakhali and Ibrahim, the details of whom could not be known immediately.

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PRAYER TIMING MAY 10

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4-10 12-45 5-00 6-36 8-00
JAMAAT 4-45 1-15 5-15 6-40 8-30
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

RACE FOR WHITE HOUSE

Republican civil war deepens

CNN, Washington

Donald Trump is poised to breeze through another round of primary contests this week -- while the Republican Party splinters around him.

Trump's ascent to the top of the GOP, which was capped last week with Ted Cruz's devastating loss in the Indiana primary, happened so fast that even the billionaire himself was surprised. And the whipsawed party establishment now faces immediate choices -- none of which particularly appeal to them.

Will they unite behind their party's standard-bearer? Will they sit out the 2016 campaign? Or will they fight on, in a quixotic quest to undermine Trump?

Trump's opponents are still sorting through the wreckage of the GOP primary season for a path forward. But it has become painfully clear over the past five days that party unification will be tough to come by, if it happens at all.

Past presidents, party leaders and prominent Republicans are all choosing sides, from unenthusiastic acceptance (Bob Dole) to pledges not to vote for either party in November (former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Sen. Lindsey Graham) to musings about a third-party bid (Bill Kristol).

Trump himself enters his first full week as the presumptive nominee by signalling that he has limited patience for or interest in the establishment's rebellion.

He'll meet Paul Ryan on Thursday, after the House speaker's extraordinary announcement to CNN's Jake Tapper that he's "just not ready" to support Trump.

But Trump has also made quite clear he doesn't intend to cast off the provocative style on the campaign trail that alarmed the Republican establishment and resonated so deeply with primary voters.

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Members of Rab-10, led by Executive Magistrate Sarwar Alam, seize adulterated powdered drink "Jank" during a raid on a factory in the capital's Shanir Akhra yesterday. The team fined the factory owner Tk 5 lakh for using industrial dye and other harmful chemicals in their products.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

UP NOMINATIONS

BNP leaders irate over 'underhand dealings'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many BNP policymakers last night expressed resentment about the alleged underhand financial dealings in picking union parishad chairman candidates and forming some new committees of the party.

The BNP leaders were in a meeting of the party standing committee, with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Gulshan office in the city.

They said such incidents tainted the party's image at home and abroad, according to meeting sources.

The leaders suggested that the BNP chief should look into the matter and take actions against those involved in such corrupt activities.

However, Khaleda and BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir dismissed the allegations as propaganda by

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