



ELECTIONS IN 3 CITIES

AL wins 2 Irregularities rule

AL takes Barisal, Rajshahi mayoral posts, BNP leads in Sylhet; BNP's Sarwar boycotts Barisal polls; in Rajshahi, Bulbul refuses to vote



Mosaddek Hossain Bulbul, BNP mayoral candidate in Rajshahi, stages a sit-in in front of Islamia College polling centre, alleging that his polling agents were driven out of many voting centres across the city yesterday.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League's mayoral candidates won big in two city corporations and the BNP contender was leading in one in yesterday's battle of ballots, marred by widespread electoral irregularities.

In Barisal, the BNP and four other parties boycotted the polls, alleging ballot

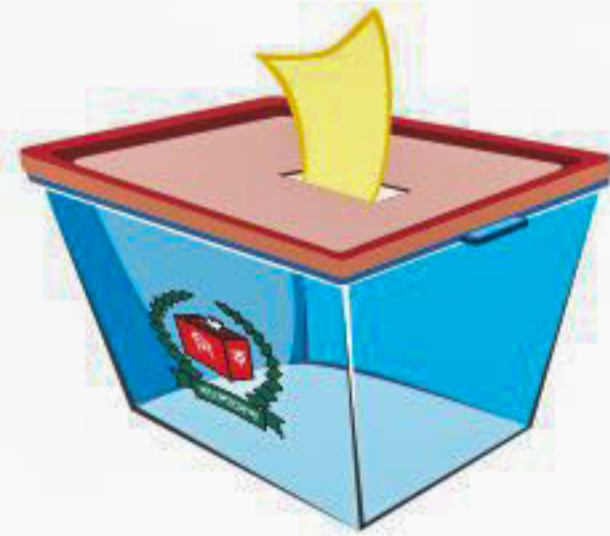
stuffing and ousting of their polling agents by the ruling party men.

The polls in Sylhet were rejected by the BNP and two other parties on the same grounds. They demanded a re-election.

In Rajshahi, the BNP mayoral candidate refused to cast his vote citing his frustration.

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85,870	SYLHET	90,496
165,096	RAJSHAHI	77,700
107,353	BARISAL	13,135

AL, BCL men, cops attack journalists

4 injured in Sylhet

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Three journalists were assaulted by activists of Awami League and its student wing BCL yesterday and another one was allegedly beaten up by police, while they were covering the city corporation polls in Sylhet.

Masuk Hridoy and Dwoha Chowdhury from The Daily Star were assaulted at Jamia

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"It was a free and festive election. People did not see such an election since the country's independence."
AL MAYORAL CANDIDATE AHM KHAIRUZZAMAN LITON IN RAJSHAHI

"It was not a theft of votes; it was a robbery in broad daylight in the presence of law enforcers."
BNP MAYORAL CANDIDATE ARIFUL HAQUE CHOWDHURY IN SYLHET

"This is the victory of boat. This is the victory of Jononetri Sheikh Hasina."
AL MAYORAL CANDIDATE SADIK ABDULLAH IN BARISAL

"I did not cast vote. I am concerned over democracy that is now in jeopardy... Who would I fight? Law enforcement agencies, presiding officers, polling officers -- everyone is involved."
BNP MAYORAL CANDIDATE MOSADDEK HOSSAIN BULBUL IN RAJSHAHI

"I was elected MP four times and mayor once. But I never saw such an election during any government's tenure. This government could just announce and take it all without holding such a farcical election."
BNP MAYORAL CANDIDATE MUJIBUR RAHMAN SARWAR IN BARISAL

AIRPORT ROAD ACCIDENT Protest rages, commuters bear brunt

Bus that killed 2 students had no route permit

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students outraged by the death of two of their peers on Airport Road on Sunday brought Dhaka's traffic system to its knees by blocking thoroughfares yesterday. The traffic chaos inflicted immense suffering on people.

For the second consecutive day, students of several educational institutions blocked Airport Road where a bus ploughed into a crowd killing two college students and injuring at least nine others.

The protesters demanded punishment of the drivers and apology from Shipping Minister Shahjahan Khan for his comments over the matter.

They kept the road blocked for around six hours. Many of them demanded resignation of the minister.

There were demonstrations at Science Laboratory, Mirpur-10 and Pragati Sarani. Dhaka's rail link with the rest of the country was snapped for an hour as demonstrators blocked rail lines near Cantonment Railway Station.

Meanwhile, Rab detained three drivers, including the two involved in the "race" moments before the crash, and two bus assistants after the father of one of the victims filed a case on Sunday night.

Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) has suspended registration of both the vehicles.

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40 lakh left off Assam citizen list

Deportation fear grows in the Indian state; uproar in Lok Sabha; Mamata asks if it's an oust-Bangalee campaign



PHOTO: ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA

Central Reserve Police Force personnel patrol Assam's Juria village as the Indian state was put on high alert yesterday.

STAR REPORT

India has stripped 40 lakh people in Assam of citizenship, sparking fears of mass deportations of Muslims from the north-eastern state.

A new draft register of citizens includes only those able to prove they were in Assam before 1971, when millions fled Bangladesh's Liberation War into the state, and their descendants, reports AFP.

Critics say it is the latest move by the right-wing government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to bolster India's Hindu majority at the expense of minorities, including Assam's Muslim population, on the pretext of weeding out Bangladeshi migrants. India will hold a national election next year.

The draft of Assam's National Registration of Citizens (NRC) was released amid tight security in Guwahati yesterday, incorporating 2.89 crore people out of 3.29 crore applicants.

It provoked anger among opposition parties.

Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee accused the ruling BJP of trying

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