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Your Right to Know

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Rab officials with sticks chasing crowds of Awami League supporters who turned on each other over supporting a rebel councillor hopeful in Tigerpass, Chattogram, yesterday morning. The city corporation election was marred by violent clashes, gun fires and allegations of voter fraud.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

CTG CITY POLLS 2021



Winner Rezaul Karim

Intra-party rivalry results in violence

RASHIDUL HASAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY from Ctg

From the very beginning of the campaigns for Chattogram City Corporation polls, the rebel candidates have been a big headache for the Awami League high-ups as a number of party men went against the central decision to run for councillor in the high-voltage local body election.

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A historic day

Says PM inaugurating the pilot vaccination, hopes inoculation will end Covid-19 scourge

MOUJID AHMED SUJAN

Runu Veronica Costa, a senior nurse of Kurmitola General Hospital, yesterday received the first vaccine shot as Bangladesh joined the world in the Covid-19 vaccination campaign.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina termed the vaccination rollout a historic event.

"Many countries are yet to start vaccination. But we have started it despite being a country with a vast population and limited resources," she said while formally inaugurating the vaccination campaign at Kurmitola General Hospital through video conferencing from the Gono Bhaban.

At the inaugural event, five people were vaccinated in virtual presence of the PM. Later, 21 others were also vaccinated.

The countrywide mass vaccination drive is scheduled to start on February 7. The government has planned to vaccinate 60 lakh people in the first month and another 50 lakh the following month.

Online registration for mass vaccination also opened yesterday. People can register for vaccination through Shurokha.gov.bd or using



Shurokha mobile app.

"I hope the people of the country will get rid of coronavirus through this [vaccination campaign]," Hasina said in her speech.

She also thanked those who paid heed to the government's call for maintaining health guidelines.

The pilot vaccination will take place at five hospitals in Dhaka where around 500 health staffers of those hospitals will take the vaccine shots and then be observed for the next seven days, officials said.

Around 42,000 workers will be involved in the countrywide inoculation

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

AL wins big amid big irregularities

Ruling party's mayoral candidate Rezaul bags 369,248 votes, BNP's Shahadat 52,489; turnout low in polls marred by violence; 1 killed in clashes

RASHIDUL HASAN, MOHAMMAD SUMAN and ARUN BIKASH DEY from Ctg

Awami League mayoral candidate Rezaul Karim Chowdhury has won by a landslide in the Chattogram City Corporation polls marked by violence, low voter turnout and the capture of scores of polling centres by ruling party men.

Rezaul bagged 369,248 votes while his nearest rival, BNP mayoral candidate Shahadat Hossain, got only 52,489 votes as per the results of 733 of the 735 polling centres.

Voting at two centres was suspended following clashes between supporters of AL-backed councillor contenders and those of AL rebel candidates yesterday morning.

Voter turnout was 22.52 percent.

Talking to The Daily Star, Shahadat alleged that police and those in the



PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Achia Khatun waiting at her home after learning that her 28-year-old son Alauddin was shot dead during a clash between two groups of Awami League supporters at a polling centre in Ambagan during yesterday's election.

local administration "acted as AL activists".

"Police and the administration, not the AL candidate, were my rivals."

Alleging massive vote rigging and irregularities in yesterday's polls, local BNP leaders said Shahadat got only one vote each at several polling centres which is a clear example of a

farfetched election.

They said it is not believable that the BNP mayoral candidate would get one vote at any centre.

While announcing the results last night, Returning Officer Mohammad Hasanuzzaman said the polls were held in a peaceful manner.

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They resorted to violence, intimidation

RASHIDUL HASAN, DWAIIPAN BARUA and MOSTAFA YOUSUF

Three The Daily Star correspondents visited six centres of the Chattogram City Corporation (CCC) polls, housed in two schools in the port city.

Two were stationed at two centres in Shahidnagar City Corporation Girls' High School from 8:00am to 3:15pm while the other journalist visited four centres at Bakalia Government High School between 8:00am and 3:30pm. The voting ended at 4:00pm.

While on duty, the three DS reporters saw how the polling was marred by sporadic incidents of violence, intimidation and "capture" of centres by ruling Awami League men.

Polling at the Shahidnagar school's two centres in Lalkhan Bazar progressed amid sporadic incidents of violence and chaos.

Besides, widespread irregularities in the voting and gathering by ruling party men in a show of strength cast a sense of intimidation and panic in voters' minds.

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PHOTO: COLLECTED

Senior Nurse Runu Veronica Costa gets the first coronavirus vaccine shot in the country at her workplace in the capital's Kurmitola General Hospital during an event inaugurated virtually by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday.

Pleasant experience, nothing to fear

Says Runu Veronica Costa, the first one to get the Covid-19 vaccine in the country

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA

It was a fulfilling experience for those who got the first jabs of the Covid-19 vaccine in the country yesterday.

"Feeling good. I am not facing any problem. I am not scared," Runu Veronica Costa, a senior nurse, told The

Daily Star after receiving the first vaccine shot administered in the country at the Kurmitola General Hospital.

While Runu was getting the vaccine, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who was connected with the auspicious occasion via video conference from the Gono

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Temperature likely to drop further

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The weather office forecast that the mercury may fall further for a few days and the cold spell might last until the first week of February.

The forecast comes when fog has been disrupting ferry services and causing long tailbacks on the highways.

The weathermen, however, said this spell could be the last of this winter.

"The temperature may fall in a day or two and last till the first week of February," said Bazlur Rashid, meteorologist of Dhaka Met office.

Dhaka city's lowest temperature this winter was recorded at 11.8 degrees Celsius yesterday, while the country's lowest temperature was recorded at 9.7 degrees Celsius in Sreemangal, he said.

In this winter, the country's lowest temperature was recorded at 6.3 degrees Celsius in Tentulia of Panchagarh.

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Beauty Akhter, mother of Nodi Akhter, inset, who died in Saudi Arabia last year, participating in a human chain yesterday in front of the Jatiya Press Club, demanding to know the findings of the postmortem and DNA tests. The protest was organised by Nari Mukti kendro.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Shahnaz Rahman, late Latifur Rahman top taxpayers

Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman also make the NBR list again

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Once again, founder and former chairman of Transcom Group late Latifur Rahman has been named as one of the top taxpayers for exemplary compliance in tax payment.

Transcom Chairman Shahnaz Rahman also makes the list of the 76 highest tax paying individuals who deposited the highest amounts in taxes to the state coffers for the fiscal year 2019-20.

Latifur topped the list of the biggest taxpayers in the senior citizen category in the fiscal year 2015-16. Shahnaz was recognised as the highest taxpayer among women in Dhaka city earlier.

Apart from making the list of top taxpayers, Transcom Group Founder Latifur Rahman's family also got the title of "Kar Bahadur" or tax icons family along with 83 other families from across the country in 2017.

And for the fifth straight year, The Daily Star Editor and Publisher Mahfuz Anam, Prothom Alo Editor Matiur Rahman has been named as the highest taxpayers in

ANOTHER STORY ON B1

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Latifur Rahman

Shahnaz Rahman