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5TH PHASE MUNICIPALITY POLLS Irregularities widespread

Men in booths cast vote instead of voters; 'wind moves EVM outside booth' in B'baria; EC claims polls festive

STAR REPORT

Municipal polls in many places were marked by widespread allegations of voter fraud, flouting of laws and violence that left one man dead and several others injured.

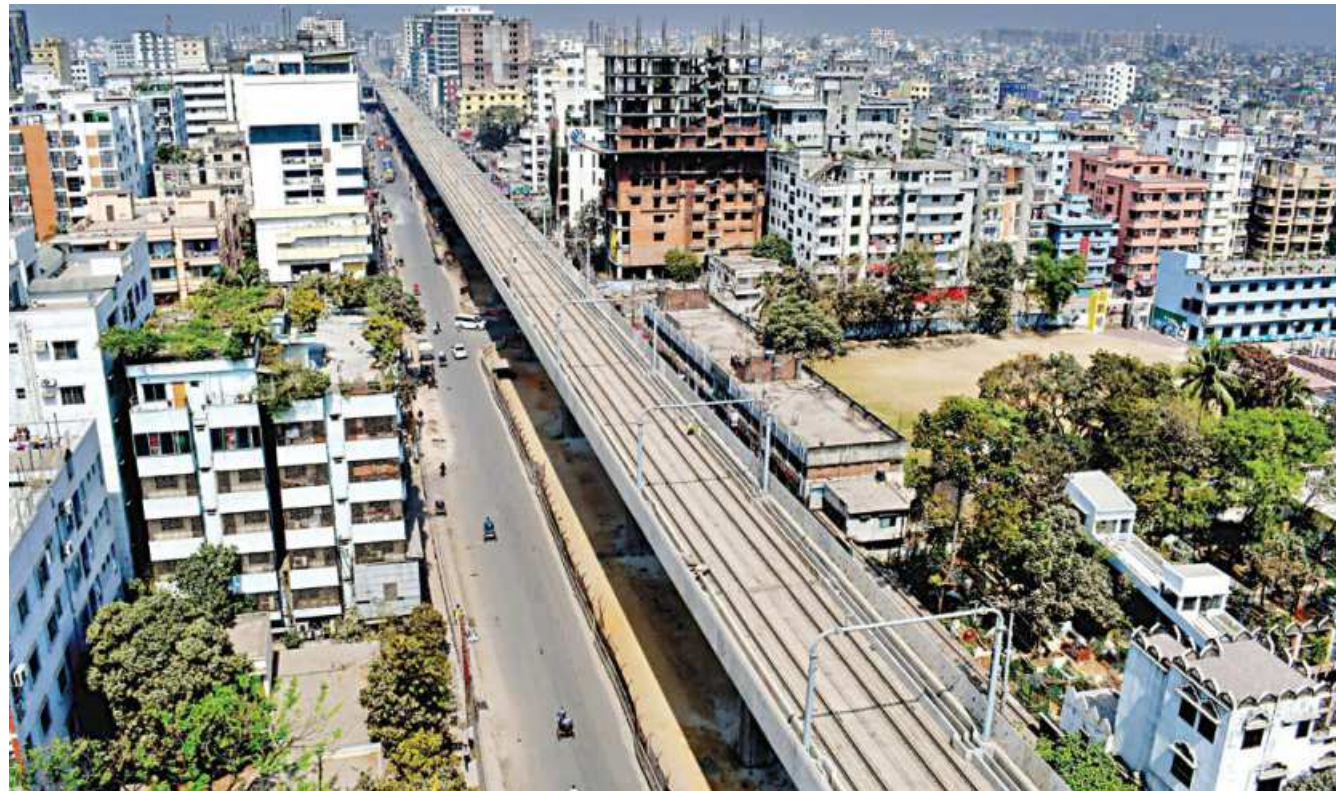
Many voters alleged that they had confirmed their identities by showing their ID cards to election officials for casting their votes through electronic voting machines (EVMs) but someone in the voting booths pressed the button on the ruling Awami League symbol "boat" for the mayoral post.

Political parties are nominating mayor candidates, but not councillor ones. Several BNP mayoral nominees and independent contenders boycotted the polls, alleging blatant violation of rules by AL activists.

Elections were held in 29 municipalities in 20 districts yesterday.

In Nilphamari's Saidpur municipality polls, Chhoton Adhikari, 54, a supporter of councillor candidate Nazrul Islam Royal, was killed in a clash with supporters of rival candidates at Mohila College centre in ward-5.

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The completed first phase of Bangladesh's first metro rail project -- Uttara to Agargaon -- is now visible as the last viaduct of this part was installed yesterday. The photo was taken near Mirpur 11 yesterday.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Entire phase-1 of MRT-6 now visible

Final viaduct placed yesterday

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first phase of Bangladesh's first metro rail project is now visible as the last viaduct of this part was installed yesterday.

The last viaduct was installed in between pier numbers 375 and 376, connecting Uttara with Agargaon by the 11.73km elevated structure.

"This is a very pleasant day for us," MAN Siddique, managing director of Dhaka Mass Transit Company Limited (DMTCL), the implementing agency of the project, told reporters.

Mass Rapid Transit Line-6, also known as MRT-6 is being implemented to build the 20.10km elevated metro rail from Uttara third phase to Motijheel at the cost of Tk 22,000 crore.

Authorities have a plan for early commissioning of the total line in December this year.

Planning Minister MA Mannan recently, however, said the first phase -- from

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Coal-laden vessel sinks in the Passur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Bagerhat

A vessel carrying 848 tonnes of coal capsized in the Passur river near Mongla port in Bagerhat on Saturday night.

Twelve sailors were rescued from the bulk carrier, our Bagerhat correspondent reports.

The ship, MV BB-1147, sank at Banishanta area in the Passur river, one kilometre south of Mongla port, around 11:00pm, said Sheikh Fakhar Uddin, harbour master of the port authority.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya suspends national assembly's inaugural session

MAY 1, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

President Yahya announced the postponement of the opening of the National Assembly for an indefinite period (1.05 pm). Yahya's voice was absent. Instead, a radio announcer read out the text of the statement ascribed



to the President. Two major reasons were cited behind this decision: major party of West Pakistan namely Pakistan People's Party, led by Bhutto, as well as certain other political parties have declared their intention not to attend the National Assembly session

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MUSHTAQ'S DEATH

Launch a judicial probe

51 noted citizens demand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Fifty-one noted citizens yesterday demanded a judicial probe into writer Mushtaq Ahmed's death in prison and to make the probe report public.

Issuing a joint statement yesterday, the citizens said there is an allegation that

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MONEY LAUNDERERS

Give their details by March 30

HC asks ACC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday wanted to know the names, addresses and current status of Bangladeshis who deposited laundered money to overseas banks and enquired what steps had been taken against them.

The court asked the authorities and the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) to provide by March 30 the details of such individuals and organisations and a report on what actions they had faced.

In response to a writ petition, the HC issued a rule,

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 1

Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5-15 12-45 4-30 6-05 7-30
JAMAAT 5-50 1-15 4-45 6-10 8-00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

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