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POLLS TO 230 MUNICIPALITIES

AL wins 80pc mayor posts

Voter turnout lowest in 5th phase

MOHIUDDIN ALAMGIR

The ruling Awami League has won 80 percent mayoral posts in 230 municipality polls held so far in five phases.

Candidates of the AL's arch-rival BNP won less than five percent mayoral posts and independent mayoral hopefuls won 14 percent posts.

However, the voter turnout in Sunday's fifth phase of the municipality polls was the lowest among the five phases.

According to Election Commission statistics, the AL won in 185 mayoral positions, BNP 11 and independent candidates 32. Besides, one candidate each from Jatiya Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal became victorious.

AL leader said most of the independent candidates, who won the mayor elections, are rebels of the ruling party.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar yesterday said, "Such results have proved that elections have become a one-party affair."

The EC is holding municipality elections in six phases. Five phases have already been completed on December 28, January 16 and 30, February 14 and 28 respectively.

The sixth and final phase of the polls is likely to be held on April 11.

A total of 24 municipalities went to polls in the first phase, with all polling centres using Electronic Voting Machine (EVM). Polls were held in 60 municipalities in the second phase, including 26 using EVMs.

Sixty-three municipalities went to elections in the third phase with all of them using ballot papers. In the fourth

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The progressive students' alliance at a rally on the capital's Abdul Gani road, after holding one in front of the Home Ministry, to protest the death of writer Mushtaque Ahmed, who was in jail under the Digital Security Act.

PHOTO: STAR

CLASH WITH COPS

300 BNP men sued, 13 placed on remand

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police yesterday filed a case against nearly 300 leaders and activists of BNP and its associated bodies over Sunday's clash in front of Jatiya Press Club during a protest rally demanding justice for the death of writer Mushtaque Ahmed in prison custody.

Sub-Inspector Palash Saha filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station naming 48 leaders and activists on charges of attempted murder of policemen, assault on police and carrying out vandalism, said Harunur Rashid, additional deputy commissioner (Ramna Zone) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police.

Among the accused are 200-250 more unidentified leaders and activists.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed 12 Chhatra Dal men on five-day remand each

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PK Halder beat them by an hour

Immigration cops at Benapole got his travel ban notice after his departure

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former NRB Global Bank managing director Proshanta Kumar Halder fled the country through Jashore's Benapole land port less than an hour before immigration police received his travel ban notice, Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik said yesterday.

"Officials from immigration department of special branch of police said PK Halder crossed the Benapole border at 3:38pm on October 23 in 2019," he told The Daily Star.

The Anti-Corruption Commission issued a travel ban on PK Halder on October 22, 2019 and sent the notice to immigration police by post, which the officials received at 4:30pm the next day, he added quoting immigration officials.

The DAG said Halder possessed two passports -- one Bangladeshi and the other Canadian -- and used his Bangladeshi passport to go to India.

Halder, now in Toronto, is the director of P&L Hal Holding Inc., a Canadian

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ROAD TO FREEDOM
THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Bangladesh flag hoisted at Dhaka University

MARCH 2, 1971
SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

BANGLADESH FLAG HOISTED In a historic student rally held at Dhaka University premises, the first Bangladesh flag was hoisted. The flag was dark green with a red sphere in the centre on which the outline of East Pakistan map was superimposed. It was unfurled by student leader ASM Abdur Rab on the rooftop of the Arts Faculty of Dhaka University in front of hundreds of students and people. Saluting the flag, they all expressed their solidarity with the movement for liberation.

In the afternoon, the Pakistani flag was pulled down and the new flag was hoisted at Dhaka University and on the secretariat premises.

"IF BANGLADESH IS A FIRE ... THEY WILL NOT BE ABLE TO ESCAPE THE FLAMES"

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in a press statement issued in the evening of March 2, 1971, strongly condemned the killing of unarmed persons at Farmgate and urged the government to desist forthwith from this reckless course. He reminded that Bangladesh could not be suppressed anymore and they would no longer tolerate exploitation as a colony or as a market.

"They should be reminded that firing upon unarmed masses amounts to genocide and is a crime against humanity. They should know that if Bangladesh is a fire, as it will be

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COUP IN MYANMAR

Suu Kyi hit with two new charges

Army chief vows to punish 'instigators' as protests continue

AGENCIES

Myanmar's ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi appeared at a court hearing via video conferencing yesterday as supporters marched in several towns and cities in defiance of a crackdown after the bloodiest day since the February 1 military coup.

Police fired tear gas and stun grenades to disperse hundreds of protesters in the main city of Yangon yesterday, witnesses said. They later combed through side streets firing rubber bullets and at least one person was hurt, media reported.

In an evening address on state television army chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said protest leaders

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Argentine titanosaur may be oldest yet

AFP, Buenos Aires

A colossal dinosaur dug up in Argentina could be the oldest titanosaur ever found, having roamed what is now Patagonia some 140 million years ago at the beginning of the Cretaceous period, scientists said Sunday.

The 65-foot (20-metre) lizard, *Ninjatitan zapatai*, was discovered in 2014 in the Neuquen province of southwest Argentina, the La Matanza University reported on its analysis.

"The main importance of this fossil, apart

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4 arrested for raping teenager in Thakurgaon

Madrasa teacher held for raping student in Lalmonirhat

STAR REPORT

Police arrested four young men Saturday night on charges of gang-raping a 17-year-old girl in Thakurgaon while a madrasa teacher was arrested for raping a student in Lalmonirhat.

In Thakurgaon, police arrested Babul alias Babu, 19, Sohel, 20, Poidul, 22, and Ramjan, 19, of the town and Ranisankail upazila.

The victim was strolling on a bridge with a 12-year-old girl when Babu, who was an acquaintance, came to the scene with the three others and forced her to go to a secluded orchard, police said, adding that they kept the 12-year-old girl confined to an empty

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People collecting plastic bottles from the Buriganga to sell and make a living as the river has now become much too polluted to earn from fishing only. The photo was taken at Waisghat near the Buriganga recently.

PHOTO: FIROZ AHMED

GRAFT IN FRANCE

Ex-president Sarkozy gets 3yrs in jail

AFP, Paris

Former French president Nicolas Sarkozy was found guilty of corruption yesterday and handed a three-year prison sentence after a court in Paris convicted him for trying to illegally influence a judge during his time in office.

The sentence includes two years suspended, which means it is unlikely Sarkozy will physically go to prison.

He is almost certain to

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 2

Fajr	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

THE NEWLY ELECTED EXECUTIVE BODY OF BANGLADESH INLAND CONTAINER DEPOTS ASSOCIATION FOR 2021-2022

President
Mr. Nurul Quayyum Khan
(Chairman, QNS Container Services Ltd.)

First Vice President
Mr. Jowher Rizvi
(Managing Director, Summit Alliance Port Ltd. (North))

Vice President
Alhaj Khalilur Rahman
(Chairman, KDS Logistics Ltd.)

Vice President
Mr. Imran Fahim Noor
(Managing Director, Vertex Off-Dock Logistic Services Ltd.)

Vice President
Mr. Mostafizur Rahman
(Managing Director, BM Container Depot Ltd.)

Vice President
Mr. Anis Ahmed
(Managing Director, Portlink Logistic Centre Ltd.)

Director
Mr. Be-Nazir Chowdhury Nishan
(Director, Golden Containers Ltd.)

Director
Mr. Syed Md. Fazlul Hoque
(Managing Director, Shafi Motors Ltd.)

Director
Mr. Yasser Rizvi
(Managing Director, Ipsahani Summit Alliance Terminals Ltd.)

Director
Haji Mohammad Hossain
(Managing Director, Esack Brothers Ind. Ltd.)

Director
Captain Kamrul Islam Mazumder
(Director, Summit Alliance Port Ltd. (East & West))