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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.

Mayoral nominees of the AL's archrival BNP won less than five percent posts and independent mayoral candidates won 14 percent posts.

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

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

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

Sunday's fifth phase elections to 30 municipalities saw 28 AL mayoral nominees become winners, while one from BNP and one independent candidate came out victorious.

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

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

Elections in the sixth and final phase are likely to be held on April 11.

A total of 24 municipalities went to polls in the first

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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 BNP leaders and activists of BNP and its associated bodies over Sunday's clashes in front of the Jatiya Press Club during a protest over the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in custody.

Sub-Inspector Palash Saha filed the case with Shabbagh Police Station 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.

The SI named 48 leaders and activists as accused in the case. Also, there are 200-250 more accused who are unidentified leaders and activists.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday placed 12 Chhatra Dal men on

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Stop giving publicity to 'nuisance'

Momen tells media about foreign missions' concern over internal matters

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen advised the media not to provide publicity to foreign missions' statements expressing concern over Bangladesh's internal issues and termed it a nuisance.

"Bangladesh never expresses concern over something in the US or elsewhere... this should be boycotted. You should stop giving publicity to this sort of nuisance," he told reporters at his office at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

He referred to a statement by 13 heads of foreign missions in Bangladesh on Friday, expressing concern over the death of writer Mushtaq Ahmed in Kashimpur jail and urging the government to launch a swift, transparent, and independent investigation into the circumstances of his death.

Mushtaq had been held in pre-trial detention since May 5, 2020, under the Digital Security Act (DSA). He was denied

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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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KISHORE'S BAIL PLEA HC to pass its order tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court set tomorrow to pass order on cartoonist Ahmed Kabir Kishore's bail petition in connection with a case under the Digital Security Act.

The court also directed the petitioner's lawyer, Jyotirmoy Barua, to inform it through an affidavit about the death of Mushtaq Ahmed, another accused in the case. Mushtaq died in custody last Thursday.

The HC bench of Justice M Enayetur Rahim and Justice Md Mostafizur Rahman set the date yesterday and gave the directive after Jyotirmoy Barua moved the petition virtually.

Eleven Kishore, Mushtaq including Kishore, Mushtaq

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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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Lily Chy no more

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre activist Lily Chowdhury, wife of martyred intellectual Munier Chowdhury, passed away today at her Banani residence.

She was 93. She died around 5:30pm, Hasan Aref, general secretary of Sarmalito Sangskritik Jote, told The Daily Star.

At 7:15pm today, her son Asif Munier posted on Facebook saying "Could not hold on to mother any more. Lily Chowdhury. 1928-2021."

Her body will be kept at her residence till 10:30am today for relatives and near ones to pay their last respects, he said.

Later, the body will be taken to Central Shaheed Minar for people from all walks of life to pay their tributes between 11:30am and 12:30pm, Aref said.

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A man 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: FROZO AHMED

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

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PRAYER TIMING MARCH 2

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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