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Ebadot Hossain celebrated each scalp against New Zealand yesterday with his trademark salute. And after his six-for ensured Bangladesh's greatest ever triumph in their cricketing history -- an eight-wicket win over New Zealand in a Test on Kiwi soil -- it was time for all the members of the Bangladesh side to return the favour. PHOTO: COLLECTED

A win for the ages

AL-AMIN

It still seems unreal.

Bangladesh beat New Zealand by eight wickets at Mount Manganui, earning their first Test win against the Black Caps and a first win across the formats on NZ soil after 32 unsuccessful attempts.

While the cricketing world hailed the victory as one of the biggest upsets in Test cricket history, for Bangladesh it was a rare demonstration of their sheer willpower and ability over the course of five gruelling days that scripted a poem of a success.

It was a victory for the ages amidst the bitter backdrop of a chaotic board that has repeatedly failed to provide fast bowlers with a platform to hone their skills and a poor run of form since the T20 World Cup.

The Tigers were dismissed as no-hopers when they set off for the assignment after a demoralising home series defeat against Pakistan that included a capitulation on the fifth day of the rain-hit second Test.

The two-Test series against Bangladesh was widely considered a stroll in the park for the Black Caps, with their lofty reputation as an almost invincible team at home and their crowning achievement as World Test champions.

But after an extended quarantine period due to the strict Covid-19 protocols in New Zealand, the Tigers emerged with something extraordinary, something the vaunted home side were unprepared for.

If Test matches are more about how many sessions you have won, the Tigers claimed at least 10 out of 13 played. If it's about putting a price tag on your wicket and bowling as a unit, they did that with great authority and

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assurance.

Pace bowler Ebadot Hossain was certainly the star performer with his six-wicket burst in New Zealand's second innings, which saw the hosts fold for 169 to set Bangladesh a 40-run target for a famous victory.

But there were 12 heroes in the Tigers' historic win, including 12th man Taijul Islam, who took a stunning catch at mid-wicket to end New Zealand's second essay on the fifth

morning.

Young openers Mahmudul Hasan Joy (78) and Shadman Islam (22) set the tone for an impressive Bangladesh first-innings total of 458, which was built around the flair of Nazmul Hossain Shanto (64), the grit of Mominul Haque (88) and the class of Liton Das (86).

Mushfiqur Rahim might have missed out in terms of runs, but the experienced batsman performed the crucial task of taking the shine off the second new ball with a 53-ball 12.

A crucial 75-run seventh-wicket stand between Mehedi Hasan Miraz (47) and Yasir Ali (26) not only averted a typical late-order collapse but also gave Bangladesh a healthy 130-run first-innings lead.

The young side, without experienced opener Tamim Iqbal and champion all-rounder Shakib Al Hasan, hardly put a foot wrong throughout five captivating days.

The pace trio of Taskin Ahmed, Shoriful Islam and Ebadot combined for 13 wickets, outperforming four of the best seamers in the world in such conditions in Trent Boulton, Tim Southee, Neil Wagner, Kyle Jamieson.

Left-armed Shoriful hogged the limelight with three wickets in the first innings. Taskin

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FIFTH-PHASE UP POLLS

10 lives lost to violence

Law enforcers open fire in Bogura

STAR REPORT

At least 10 people were killed in the fifth phase of the union parishad polls yesterday as the voting was marred by violence in several districts.

Clashes took place when supporters of rival candidates tried to capture centres and snatch ballot papers. Journalists came under attack in one union in Chattogram while a building of a polling centre in Shariatpur was set on fire.

Election Commission Secretary Humayun Kabir Khandaker, however, said apart from some stray incidents, the polling was largely peaceful. He estimated the voter turnout at 70 percent.

Voting was suspended at nine centres, he said, adding that 707 unions in 48 districts went to polls yesterday.

With the fresh casualties, at least 86 people have been killed in election violence after the staggered UP polls began in mid-June last year, according to media reports.

Of the 10 dead, five were killed in Bogura, two in Chandpur while one

each in Chattogram, Gaibandha and Manikganj districts, reported our correspondents there.

Four people were killed as law enforcers opened fire after they came under attack inside the Kalaihatta High School polling centre in Baliadighi union in Bogura's Gabtali upazila, said Ali Haider Chowdhury, additional superintendent of police in the district.

Contacted, on duty magistrate Asif Ahmed told The Daily Star, "We were attacked by supporters of a chairman candidate when we were counting votes at the centre. The presiding officer, Ansar members and other law enforcers were attacked, leaving at least 17 injured. They broke my leg. I ordered law enforcers to open fire to protect our lives."

The four deceased were identified as Mohammad Alamgir, Abdul Rashied, Korshed Akadna and Kulshum, said police.

Zakir Hossain, 30, a house painter, was stabbed to death during a clash between supporters of two member candidates in

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Money can open every DoE door

TIB study finds graft, inefficiency rampant at the department

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Instead of offering services as per the relevant law, the Department of Environment has been taking bribes to issue necessary certificates to factory owners, said Transparency International Bangladesh.

In a study published yesterday, TIB revealed irregularities, corruption and inefficiency in the country's lone regulatory body to monitor, supervise and protect the environment.

Service recipients had to pay DoE officials hefty bribes, ranging from Tk 1,08,000 to Tk 1,66,000, to obtain site clearance and environmental clearance in the lead-up to establishing factories.

It is mandatory to obtain such certificates under the Environment Conservation Act-1995.

According to the Environment Conservation Rules-1997, fees for site

clearance and environmental clearance vary depending on investment. The fee is Tk 5,000 for investments up to Tk 50 lakh, Tk 10,000 for investments between Tk 50 lakh and Tk 1 crore and Tk 20,000 for investments between Tk 1 and 5 crores.

The same fees apply for environmental clearance.

The study conducted from April, 2019 to December, 2021 was based on information from DoE officials, stakeholders, service recipients, consultants and environmentalist.

Dr Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of TIB, said in the press conference launching the study that on one hand there are loopholes in the law and on the other the jurisdiction given by the law is not properly applied by DoE.

"The pollution multiplied in the country due to the DoE's failure.

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NCC POLLS: IVY VS TAIMUR

Their parties not entirely with them

MOHAMMAD AL-MASUM MOLLA AND SANAD SAHA

The streets were still quite empty and the sun was up trying to chase away the winter chill. Some friends, all in their 60s, were sipping tea at the Bose Cabin in Narayanganj city.

Tarikat Hossain, Anwar Hossain and the others meet every morning at the historic restaurant and have a lively *adda* while enjoying their favourite hot beverage.

As these correspondents approached them yesterday asking who they thought have more chances of winning in the upcoming mayor elections, they decided Tarikat should be their "spokesperson".

"I believe both the heavyweights -- Awami League's Selina Hayat Ivy and independent Taimur Khandakar -- have their own limitations," said Tarikat, clearing his throat.

"Ivy is not getting a section of Awami League leaders

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Locals survey the damage sustained by a locomotive in Parbatipur upazila of Dinajpur yesterday. In foggy conditions at dawn, the empty intercity train consisting of four compartments rammed into a sand-laden truck which had stalled on the tracks. Three staffers of the train were injured.

PHOTO: KONGKON KARMAKER