

IVY WINS AGAIN

in polls hailed fair

MAHUBUR RAHMAN KHAN, ASIFUR RAHMAN AND SANAD SAHA

Selina Hayat Ivy won a straight third term as the Narayanganj mayor as she defeated her rival by a big margin in yesterday's city corporation polls, which was largely festive and peaceful.

The Awami League candidate bagged 1,59,097 votes while independent contender Taimur Alam Khandakar got 92,166 votes, according to the unofficial results announced by Returning Officer Mahfuza Akhter.

Ivy became the first mayor to hold office for three consecutive terms.

In recent years, almost all the local government polls were tainted by violence and allegations of ballot stuffing, use of muscle power and other forms of election anomalies. Scores of people were killed in violence even during the ongoing union parishad polls.

But the NCC polls yesterday came as a welcome exception for the nation.

There were no reports of irregularities or violence anywhere in Narayanganj city. Voters turned up in good numbers amid a festive atmosphere.

The turnout was 56.25 percent, the RO said while announcing the results at her office last night.

But a section of the constituents, especially elderly people and female voters, had issues with fingerprints while using the EVMs, which were used in all voting centres for the first time in any election in the country.

Glitches and people's inexperience with the electronic voting machines slowed down the polling at many centres, causing voters' lines outside the booths to grow longer.

However, most people were able to cast votes.

This was found by four correspondents and three photographers of The Daily Star who visited 45 out of the 192 polling centres during the voting hours between 8:00am and 4:00pm.

They saw Ivy's polling agents and supporters in most centres. Taimur's agents and followers were absent in a few.

Although traffic restrictions were imposed, voters were allowed to go to the centres by rickshaws and auto-rickshaws.

SELINA HAYAT IVY

1,59,097 VOTES

TAIMUR ALAM KHANDAKAR

92,166 VOTES

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HAT-TRICK ... Selina Hayat Ivy and her supporters show V-sign after unofficial results confirm her win in Narayanganj mayoral polls for the third straight term. The photo was taken at her residence in Deobhag area of the city last night.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Fingerprint hassles slow down voting

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

People's lack of experience with Electronic Voting Machines and the mismatching of fingerprints slowed down voting in several polling centres yesterday during the much-talked-about Narayanganj city corporation election.

Many voters had to try several times to cast their votes after washing their hands, wiping their fingers or using petroleum jelly to match their fingerprints, which caused the lines of voters inside centres to get longer, delaying the entire voting process.

In most cases, fingerprints of women and elderly voters

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"I want to work tirelessly for the people of Narayanganj for the next five years."

Selina Hayat Ivy



"I did not lose the election ... it is a defeat for the government."

Taimur Alam Khandakar

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President's dialogues end today

7 parties boycott, terming talks meaningless

RASHIDUL HASAN

The president's dialogue on the formation of the next Election Commission has become almost insignificant and lost its importance as multiple major political parties boycotted it one after another, said political analysts and parties.

Amid this situation, President Abdul Hamid is scheduled to wrap up his dialogue session today, after holding talks with the Awami League at the Bangabhaban.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will lead a 10-member party delegation to hold the dialogue with the president at 4:00pm.

Of 32 registered political parties, seven -- including BNP, Communist Party Bangladesh, Islamic Andolon Bangladesh, Liberal Democratic Party -- have boycotted the dialogue terming it "meaningless".

They said that the dialogue would not bring any fruitful results as the president had no power to go beyond the prime minister's advice as per the constitution.

According to the parties that boycotted the dialogue, none of the



PREMIER CEMENT



The preferred supplier for Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway Project



A signing ceremony was held between Premier Cement Mills Ltd. and JTEG (A Chinese Organization) for the upcoming Dhaka-Ashulia Elevated Expressway. Premier Cement has been selected as a preferred supplier for this long-awaited project.

The ceremony was held at a five-star hotel in Dhaka. Among the dignitaries were- Director Samir Mohammad Haque, COO Tarique Kamal, CFO Selim Reza, Company Secretary Kazi Shafiq and Senior Manager Ahsan Habib.