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# Cumilla city polls will be an example

Says CEC as new commission prepares for its first test

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Cumilla

There is no scope for using muscle power during voting if Electronic Voting Machines are used, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Habibul Awal said yesterday.

He also said the commission wants the June 15 Cumilla City Corporation polls, the first under the new Election Commission, to be a model election.

He made the comments at a views exchange meeting with mayor and ward councillor candidates at the Cumilla Shilpakala Auditorium.

At the programme, Habibul told Cumilla's deputy commissioner and superintendent of police that actions will be taken against them if the law and order is not maintained. On the other hand, he said, they would be praised if the election is successful.

To the candidates, Habibul said, "Trust us, we will set an example with the Cumilla city elections ... The Commission will be strict in enforcing the code of conduct."

"Elections are not wars or conflicts, and there will be no space to use muscle power in the EVM system ... Besides, CCTVs will be installed in every booth.

"There will be no gangs wearing helmets during the

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A photo taken on Saturday with a drone shows a shelled area in Vilkhivka in the outskirts of Kharkiv, Ukraine. The Russians attempted to storm the country's second city in the early days of the war and, as in the capital, faced unexpectedly strong resistance. They were stalled on the outskirts and then pushed back into positions surrounding the city.

PHOTO: REUTERS



## Zia's 41st death anniversary today

UNB, Dhaka

BNP is observing the 41st death anniversary of its founder and former president Ziaur Rahman today.

The party and its different associated bodies have drawn up a 10-day programme to observe the death anniversary across the country.

The observance of Zia's death anniversary programmes began yesterday through holding a discussion at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh, in the capital.

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## Gujarat win IPL title on debut

REUTERS, New Delhi

Debutants Gujarat Titans were crowned the Indian Premier League (IPL) champions on Sunday after they beat Rajasthan Royals by seven wickets in the final in Ahmedabad.

Opting to bat first, 2008 champions Rajasthan never got going and posted a below-par 130-9 with Jos Buttler, this IPL's leading scorer, topscoring for them with a rather subdued 39.

Gujarat captain Hardik Pandya (3-17) led by example with the ball, dismissing counterpart Sanju Samson, opener Buttler and Rajasthan's middle-order lynchpin Shimron Hetmyer.

Pandya shone with the bat too, scoring 34 and forging a 63-run stand with Shubman Gill to help Gujarat overcome a slow start to their chase.

Opener Gill remained unbeaten on 45, sealing Gujarat's victory with a six and with 11 balls to spare.

South African David Miller made a quickfire 32 not out for Gujarat in the low-scoring final.



## BATTLE FOR KEY CITY IN DONBAS

# Ukraine holds out assault

Pleads for weapons as Russian onslaught threatens to turn the tide

REUTERS, Kyiv

Ukrainian forces endured heavy artillery barrages yesterday as they held off Russian attempts to capture Severodonetsk, the largest city Kyiv still controls in the Luhansk region of the Donbas, Ukrainian officials said.

The shelling was so intense it was not possible to assess casualties and damage, Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai said. Dozens of buildings have been destroyed in the past few days.

"The situation has extremely escalated," Gaidai said.

The Ukrainian government meanwhile urged the West to provide it with more longer-range weapons in order to turn the tide in the war, now in its fourth month.

The battle for Severodonetsk, which lies on the eastern bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, is in the spotlight as Russia ekes out slow but solid gains in the Donbas, comprising of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.

Having failed to take the capital Kyiv in the early phase of the war, Russia is seeking to consolidate its grip on the Donbas, large parts of which are already controlled by Moscow-backed separatists.

It has concentrated huge firepower on a small area - a contrast to earlier phases of the conflict when its forces were often spread thinly - bludgeoning towns and cities with artillery and air strikes.

Governor Gaidai yesterday said that Russian forces had dug in at the Myr hotel on Severodonetsk's northern edge.

"They cannot advance further into the city and are taking casualties, but we are not able right now to push them out of the hotel," he said on Telegram.

Analysts at the Institute for the Study of War in Washington said the Russians had still not managed to encircle the city and the Ukrainian defenders have inflicted "fearful casualties" on them.

The Ukrainians were taking serious losses themselves, civilians as well as combatants, they said in a briefing paper.

Russia's fixation on Severodonetsk had drawn resources from other battlefronts and as result they had made little progress

**The battle for Severodonetsk, which lies on the eastern bank of the Siverskyi Donets River, is in the spotlight as Russia ekes out slow but solid gains in the Donbas, comprising of the Luhansk and Donetsk regions.**

elsewhere, the analysts said.

"The Russian invasion of Ukraine that aimed to seize and occupy the entire country has become a desperate and bloody offensive to capture a single city in the east while defending important but limited gains in the south and east," they said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky - who has won widespread admiration in the West for his leadership in the conflict - visited Ukrainian troops on the frontlines in northeastern Kharkiv

region yesterday.

The trip marked his first official appearance outside Kyiv region since Russian President Vladimir Putin launched the invasion on Feb. 24.

"You risk your lives for us all and for our country," the president's office quoted him as telling soldiers as he handed out commendations and gifts.

Ukrainian troops pushed Russian forces back from around Kharkiv earlier this month but the city has come under renewed artillery fire this week.

Earlier, Zelensky voiced hopes Ukraine's allies would provide much-needed weapons and said he expected "good news" in the coming days.

Ukraine has started receiving Harpoon anti-ship missiles from Denmark and US self-propelled howitzers, his defence minister said on Saturday.

Presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak repeated a call for US-made long-range multiple-rocket launchers. US officials have told Reuters such systems are actively being considered, with a decision possible in coming days.

Zelensky said in a television interview on Saturday he believed Russia would agree to talks if Ukraine could recapture all the territory it has lost since the invasion.

But he ruled out the idea of using force to win back all the land Ukraine has lost to Russia since 2014, which includes the southern peninsula of Crimea, annexed by Moscow that year.

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## Plane missing in Nepal with 22 on board

### Poor weather hampers search operation

AFP, Pokhara

Nepali rescuers called off their hunt for a missing passenger plane with 22 people on board late yesterday, planning to resume search operations at first light.

The Tara Air plane had taken off from the western town of Pokhara yesterday morning but lost control with air traffic after 15 minutes, the airline said.

Nepal's air industry has boomed in recent years, carrying goods and people between hard-to-reach areas as well as foreign trekkers and climbers, but it has a poor safety record.

Rescuers unsuccessfully scoured a remote mountainous area in western Nepal by helicopter and on foot all day yesterday, as weather hampered search flights.

Nepal Army official Baburam Shrestha told AFP that ground troops would stop at a local school for the night and be joined by additional forces in the morning.

"We will also resume the search operation from our helicopter tomorrow morning once the weather is clear," he said.

Dev Raj Subedi, a spokesman for Pokhara Airport, told AFP that three helicopters had had to turn back.

"Right now we cannot say where exactly the aircraft is and in what condition," he said.

"There has not been any reporting or information from locals about a big fire or any other such indications."

There were 19 passengers and three crew

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## JCD leader sues BCL men over attack

DU CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-two leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League were accused in a case of attacking Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists in the High Court area on Thursday.

The accused include BCL Vice-president Tilottama Sikder, and leaders of different BCL units Al Amin Rahman, Samad Azad Zulfikar, Enayet H Monon, Imdadul Hasan Sohag, Munim Shahriar and Syed Imam Baker.

The case was filed by Mansura Alam, member of DU JCD Convening Committee with the court of Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shanto Islam Mallik.

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Security has been beefed up in the High Court area after activists of Chhatra Dal and Chhatra League clashed there on Thursday. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

## COPS IN HOLLAND Both contact families; one won't return

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

One of the two Chattogram Metropolitan Police constables, who had gone missing in the Netherlands during an official training, contacted his family and said that he would not return home.

Constable Rasel Chandra Dey said this while speaking to his brother Subhas Chandra Dey, who lives in Dubai, over phone after a couple days of his going traceless.

The two constables have been missing since May 22, the day before they were supposed to fly back home.

They were in an eight-member police team that

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## Dolphins have regional accents!

MAIL ONLINE

Dolphins' signature whistles are influenced by where they live - just like regional accents in humans, a new study has found.

Bottlenose dolphins have signature whistles that they use to identify each other. These noises are unique to each animal.

However, the new study found that the acoustic features of each dolphin's whistles are influenced by its local habitat and community.

The team say the local ocean environment - such as areas with seagrass or muddy sea bottoms - had a much bigger part to play on these whistles than genetics.

It was already known that different groups of dolphins tend to develop different styles of signature whistles that they use like a name, but the factors that influenced them were a mystery.

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