

## DELHI ASSEMBLY POLLS Nearly 60pc voter turnout recorded

Exit polls show BJP ahead of AAP in terms of total number of seats

OUR CORRESPONDENT, New Delhi

Nearly 60 percent turnout was recorded yesterday in the high-stakes assembly elections in Delhi, where the ruling Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) led by Arvind Kejriwal is eyeing a third straight term in power in a triangular contest against the main challengers, BJP and Congress.

An estimated 1.56 million people were eligible to exercise their franchise to decide fate of 699 candidates spread across 70 constituencies. The counting of votes is scheduled for Saturday.

Two separate exit polls showed BJP ahead of AAP in terms of the total number of seats. While ABP-Matric exit poll projects BJP to get 39-45 seats against AAP's tally of 32 to 37, the JVC exit poll gives 39-45 seats to BJP and 22-31 to AAP.

## USAID places global staff on leave

AFP, Washington

The US government's giant humanitarian agency USAID on Tuesday announced it was placing its staff in the United States and around the world on administrative leave as it moved to recall employees from overseas postings.

The agency said in a statement on its website – which reappeared Tuesday after going dark over the weekend – that the staff leave will begin shortly before midnight on February 7. The administrative leave will hit “all USAID direct hire personnel...with the exception of designated personnel responsible for mission-critical functions, core leadership and specially designated programs.”



Ukrainian firefighters attempt to extinguish a fire in a building following a Russian drone strike in Kharkiv, Ukraine, yesterday. The Kremlin yesterday dismissed Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky saying he was ready for direct talks with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin as “empty words”.

PHOTO: AFP

## UN has to ‘get its act together’: Trump

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump criticised the United Nations on Tuesday as “not being well run,” although he said it has potential, while he stopped US engagement with the UN Human Rights Council, extended a halt to funding for the Palestinian relief agency UNRWA and ordered a review of the UN cultural agency Unesco.

“It’s got great potential and based on the potential we’ll continue to go along with it, but they got to get their act together,” Trump told reporters. “It’s not being well run, to be honest and they’re not doing the job.”

“A lot of these conflicts that we’re working



on should be settled, or at least we should have some help in settling them. We never seem to get help. That should be the primary purpose of the United Nations,” Trump said.

The UN pushed back against Trump’s remarks. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres “has worked tirelessly to implement many reforms ... to increase efficiency and innovation,” UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric said.

“US support for the United Nations has saved countless lives and advanced global security,” Guterres said. “The Secretary-General looks forward to continuing his productive relationship with President Trump ... in today’s turbulent world.”

“We support the United Nations and its work to protect the world and its people,”

## GOVT DEVICES Australia bans DeepSeek AI programme

AFP, Sydney

Australia has banned DeepSeek from all government devices on the advice of security agencies, a top official said yesterday, citing privacy and malware risks posed by China’s breakout AI program.

“This is an action the government has taken on the advice of security agencies.... We don’t want to expose government systems to these applications,” said government cyber security envoy Andrew Charlton.

## Hasina must be brought

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If justice is not done, the murderers and abductors will be further emboldened, he said.

Rahman has raised concerns over whether the continued emphasis on reforms is being used as a pretext to delay the establishment of a democratically elected government that reflects the people’s will.

“We notice that some people are prolonging all kinds of processes by harping on reforms. Today, we have to see whether this is a conspiracy. If this process is prolonged on the plea of reforms, the country’s problems will multiply.”

The people’s government must be established to address various existing problems like commodity price spiral, unemployment, poor education system and poor law and order situation – in line with the public’s expectation.

“The sooner we can establish a people’s government, the sooner we will be able to lead Bangladesh on the path to prosperity. Our movement will continue until that democracy is established,” he said.

Over at another event in Dhaka, BNP senior leader Salahuddin Ahmed said the Awami League can no longer participate in politics under its existing name as the people of Bangladesh have rejected its “fascist” rule through the mass uprising in July last year, reports UNB.

Some suggest that the ICT may give an observation regarding the AL’s politics during the trial proceedings against the party leaders.

“That would be a very weak observation. Even then, you will have to issue an administrative order and make laws based on that observation. But you can take that step now through an ordinance.”

Salahuddin’s comments came yesterday at an event styled “National Unity and Current Reality” organised by Anchalik Sampadak Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club.

The judicial process should

## CHROME ELECTRO PLATERS

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## M23, Rwanda troops launch fresh east DR Congo offensive

AFP, Bukavu

The M23 and Rwandan forces yesterday launched a new offensive in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, seizing a mining town in South Kivu province, as they resumed their advance towards the regional capital Bukavu.

Just days after capturing the strategic city of Goma in neighbouring North Kivu, the M23 armed group had declared a unilateral humanitarian “ceasefire” to take effect from Tuesday.

The anti-government group announced at the same time it also had “no intention of taking control of Bukavu or other localities”.

But intense clashes broke out at dawn on Wednesday between the M23 with its Rwandan allies and Congolese armed forces, security and humanitarian sources told AFP.

The M23 fighters and Rwandan forces seized the mining town of Nyabibwe.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

### কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর

প্রোগ্রাম অন এগ্রিকালচারাল এ্যান্ড রুরাল ট্রান্সফরমেশন ফর নিউট্রিশন, এন্টিপ্রিনিউরশিপ এ্যান্ড রেজিলিয়েশন ইন বাংলাদেশ (পার্টনার-ডিএম অংগ)

দীপনগর, গাবতলী, মিরপুর, ঢাকা।

## সতর্কীকরণ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদুরা আগ্রহী কৃষি উদ্যোগাদের জনানো যাচ্ছে যে, কৃষি মন্ত্রণালয়ের আওতায় ২০,০০০ জন (১২,০০০ নারী এবং ৮,০০০ তরুণ) তরুণ প্রয়োজন কর্তৃপক্ষে ৩০টি কৃষিপথ প্রতিয়াজাতকরী এবং অন্যান্য সেবা প্রদানকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে দেশের ৬৪টি জেলার নির্বাচিত ২০৮টি উপজেলার কৃষি বাসায়ে আগ্রহী সম্পত্তি উদ্যোগাদের সরকারি অর্থায়নে সম্পূর্ণ বিবাহুয়ে ১ দিনব্যাপি অন-দ্য-জব (হাতে কলমে) প্রশিক্ষণ ২০২৪-২৫ অর্থবছর হতে শুরু হয়েছে যা জুন, ২০২৪ পর্যন্ত চলমান থাকবে। উদ্যোগাদ বাছাই গাইত্তেলাইন ২০২৪ অনুসরণপূর্বক সকল জেলা কৃষি বিপণন কার্যালয়ে খাদ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ, খাদ্য বহির্ভূত পণ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ (পাটজাত পণ্য), দুষ্পাত্র পণ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ, মাশরূম, মসলা জাতীয় পণ্য প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এবং কৃষি উপকরণ (নার্সারী, ভার্মি কম্পোষ্ট, সার, বীজ, কীটনাশক), কৃষি যন্ত্রপাতি মেকানিজ্য এবং কৃষি যন্ত্রপাতি ব্যবসায় আগ্রহী তরুণ এবং নারী উদ্যোগাদের আবেদন প্রযোজন বাছাই প্রক্রিয়াকরণ রয়েছে। আগ্রহী উদ্যোগাদের অবশ্যই নূনতম ৫ম মে মেলি পাস হতে হবে এবং বয়সসীমা তরুণ যুবকের ক্ষেত্রে ১৮-৩৫ বছর এবং নারীদের ক্ষেত্রে ১৮-৫০ বছর হতে হবে। অন-দ্য-জব প্রশিক্ষণে আগ্রহী সম্পত্তি তরুণ এবং নারী উদ্যোগাদের শুধুমাত্র কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তরের জেলা কার্যালয় থেকে আবেদন ফর্ম বিবাহুয়ে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন। আবেদন ফর্ম এবং প্রশিক্ষণে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন ফি পরিশোধ করতে হবে না। আবেদন ফর্ম অথবা প্রশিক্ষণে অংশগ্রহণের জন্য কোন প্রকার অর্থিক লেনদেন না করার জন্য সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে অনুরোধ করা হলো।

(ড. মুহাম্মদ আবদুল্লাহ আল-ফারুক)  
(উপসচিব)

এজেন্সি প্রোগ্রাম ডিরেক্টর  
পার্টনার (ডিএম অংগ) প্রোগ্রাম  
কৃষি বিপণন অধিদপ্তর, ঢাকা।