

## MUNICIPALITY POLLS TODAY

# Credibility test for EC, govt

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Elections are test times. Today, it's a crucial credibility and popularity test for the major political players.

People, who are usually ignored over the years, will cast their votes today in 234 municipalities deciding the fate of Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and other parties contesting the mayoral battle of ballots.

The daylong polling environment will also show if the efforts of the AL-led government and the Election Commission have restored people's confidence in them in being able and willing to ensure a free and fair election.

Their credibility took hits due to the last faulty parliamentary election and the widespread anomalies in the polls to upazila parishads in 2014 and three city corporations in 2015.

This time around, their role is already being questioned. In the last one month, after the announcement of the poll schedule, field level government administration officials engaged in electoral duties could not take effective measures in most cases to prevent electoral anomalies and

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## MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS 2015

Total Municipalities	323
Voting at	234
Mayoral Aspirants	945
Councillor Aspirants	12,171
Polling Centres	3,555
Voters	70,72,511
Polling Officials	66,768
Law Enforcers	1,17,304