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The Daily Star

Congratulations to the people, the interim government, the Election Commission and all the political parties for holding a free and fair election.

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65 parties fail to win any seats : Repolling in 4 constituencies Mar 9

BNP emerges victorious

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) headed by Begum Khaleda Zia emerged as the single largest party in the parliament. It secured 140 seats out of 294 according to results announced till Thursday evening.

Bangladesh Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina stood second in the electoral race. The party won 84 seats.

Jatiya Party (JP) won 35 seats and emerged as the third largest party.

A total of 76 political parties took part in the parliamentary polls. Of them, 65 failed to win any seats.

Prominent among the losers was JSD of ASM Abdur Rab, who was leader of the loyal opposition in the last parliament.

Others who failed to secure any seats were Freedom Party, Zaker Party and Communist League.

The Five-Party Alliance succeeded in bagging only one seat.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia contested in five constituencies, two in Dhaka and one each in Chittagong, Bogra and Feni. She captured all the seats.

Awami League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina ran for three seats two from Dhaka city and one in her home town Gopalganj. She bagged Gopalganj seat but lost one Dhaka seat (Tejgaon-Ramna) to BNP candidate Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan and another seat (Sutrapur-Kotwali) to BNP nominee Sadek Hossain Khoka.

Former president H M Ershad contested in five seats at his home district Rangpur and won all the seats. He is now in detention at a Gulshan



Begum Khaleda Zia, accompanied by party leaders and workers, offering 'fateha' after placing wreaths at the Mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on Thursday.

—Star Photo

villa facing criminal charges for possessing illegal arms and corruption.

Contrary to popular belief that Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) was sure to secure third position in election battle with BNP and AL, the party was placed at the fourth position. The JI secured 18 seats. The party chief Maulana Abbas Ali Khan who contested from two seats in Dhaka and Joypurhat lost both to BNP candidates. In Dhaka city, the maulana had the third position. BNP candidate Mirza Abbas won the seat and AL candidate Muzzafar Hossain Paltu had the second position. In Joypurhat, the JI chief lost to another BNP candidate Abbas Ali Mondal.

Wednesday's parliamentary elections were held in 298 seats out of 300. Elections to two seats, one at Munshiganj and the other in Kushtia, will be held later on. Two candidates in these seats died ear-

lier. One had a natural death while another was killed by miscreants.

Out of 298 seats, repolling will take place in four constituencies on March 9. The decision for repolling was taken by the Election Commission following disturbances in some centres.

In all, 76 political parties put up 2350 candidates for 298 seats. The number of independent candidates was 424.

This was for the first time in Bangladesh that the parliamentary elections had been held under a neutral caretaker government headed by Mr. Justice Sahabuddin Ahmed. Foreign observer teams from the Commonwealth and SAARC countries, Japan and the Washington-based National Democratic Institute monitored the polls across the country. Besides, some other local observer teams including those from bar associations of Bangladesh extensively toured different parts to oversee the conduct of polls. Both the local and foreign observers were deeply impressed to see the holding of elections in an atmosphere of cordiality and peace and in a free and fair manner. The two-member SAARC Secretariat team consisting of Mr. Nikhil Chakravarty from India and Mr. Neaz Naik from Pakistan asserted that the example set by Bangladesh in holding free and fair elections should be followed as a model in the SAARC countries.

Meanwhile, the smaller parties contesting the polls cut a sorry figure. The available unofficial results show the position of the parties as follows: Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) — five, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik

Party position

Breakdown of the seats won by parties is as follows:

BNP	140
AL	84
JP	35
Jamaat	18
CPB	5
BKSAL	4
IOJ	1
NAP	1
(Mozaffar)	
JSD(Siraj)	1
Ganatantri	1
Party	
Workers	1
Party	
Independent	3



Sheikh Hasina answering questions in her post-election press conference at her Dhanmondi house on Thursday.

—Star photo

I am not defeated, says Sheikh Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and leader of the Eight-Party Alliance Sheikh Hasina brought charges of rigging against BNP in February 27 elections and said the results of the elections would never be good for the nation. She apprehended that people's rights might be mortgaged to the unholy forces

again like in the past 15 years. Sheikh Hasina said this at her post-election press briefing Thursday evening at the Bangabandhu Bhaban.

In a written statement she alleged the beneficiaries of the autocratic regime, that ruled the country for a long time and

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Stalwarts lose to obscure candidates

By Staff Correspondent

Stalwarts of various political parties were defeated in the parliamentary elections held in an unprecedented peaceful atmosphere on Wednesday. Many of them lost to obscure candidates.

Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, General Secretary of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) lost to Salahuddin Ahmed of BNP in Dhaka-4 constituency. Manik polled 41,499 votes against 54,783 by Salahuddin.

Dr. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin of Awami League lost to Lt. General (Retd) Mir Showkat Ali of BNP from Dhaka-8 seat. Votes polled by Showkat Ali and Jalal Mohiuddin were 52,739 and 34,276 respectively.

Dr. Kamal Hossain, a presidential member of Awami League conceded defeat to Harun Mollah of BNP from Dhaka (Mirpur) constituency by a wide margin of votes.

Syed Zohra Tajuddin of AL lost her election battle to

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Hasina loses both Dhaka seats

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina, chief of Awami League and leader of the 8-party alliance conceded defeat in two seats of the city but won in her home constituency in Gopalganj district in Wednesday's parliamentary elections. She, however, alleged widespread rigging in

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No intention to conquer Iraq



"We were 150 miles from Baghdad and there was nothing between US and Baghdad", said Schwarzkopf.

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Bush's ceasefire order in response to Allied defeat, says Iraq

Guns silent in Gulf



KUWAIT CITY: Kuwaiti women parade their flag past Saudi armoured vehicles Wednesday after Allied forces entered the city. People lined the streets to welcome the liberating army.

—AFP Photo.

Two killed, 50 injured in post-election violence

By Staff Correspondent

Killings of two political activists, observance of hartal and allegation of poll rigging followed Wednesday's parliamentary elections at different parts of the country on Thursday.

The two activists—one of Awami League and the other of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were killed and 50 others injured in post-election clashes at Mymensingh, Bhola, Narshingdi and Munshiganj districts.

Hartal was observed at Cox's Bazar at the calls of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP in protest against alleged poll rigging and

in demand for repolling in four centres of the district's constituency Number 3. Besides, two BNP candidates—one from Chittagong-12 and the other from Fatikchhari constituencies complained of terrorism and vote dacoity by their rivals.

In Mymensingh, Yaqub Ali (42), said to be a BNP supporter, was killed by his political opponents while he was going to the aid of the sister who was injured by the assailants, at Brahmapalli of Mymensingh district.

A UNB report said: The clash was believed to be a se-

quel to Wednesday's brawl at a polling centre in the town between the two groups.

Since early this morning, both the groups equipped with lethal weapons searched for each other.

According to witnesses, a group of Awami League activists attacked a house at Brahmapalli at 10 am and injured the house wife, Meharunnessa (35). She was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

On receipt of the information, Yaqub Ali rushed towards his sister's house. On the way, See Page 12 Col. 6

Spontaneous celebrations

By Staff Correspondent

Jubilant BNP workers and supporters Thursday took to streets in the capital and elsewhere in the country chanting slogans, bursting crackers and splashing coloured water to celebrate the victory in the Jatiya Sangsad election held Wednesday.

The victory celebration started as the BNP lead in the elections because evident from the results announced. The BNP supporters also brought out a number of processions in the city to celebrate the victory. Some of the processions also went to the tomb of late president Ziaur Rahman to place wreaths.

In Narayanganj BNP supporters and workers burst into See Page 12 Col. 6

Polls free and fair: C'wealth observers

By Staff Correspondent

The Commonwealth observer group has described Wednesday's parliamentary elections as free and fair saying in its initial assessment that the election is a historic milestone in nation building and creation of democratic institutions.

Chairman of the Group Dato K. Pathmanaban told a news conference at Dhaka Sheraton on Thursday that the election was not only an outstanding achievement of the Acting President, the Election Commission and all others responsible, but also a triumph of the people.

Another group of election observers from the Japanese

NICOSIA, Feb 28: The guns fell silent in the Gulf on Thursday after US President George Bush announced Wednesday night that Kuwait is free and Iraq defeated. He declared Allied forces would suspend fighting at midnight (0500 GMT Thursday), report agencies.

"This war is now behind us," the President said. "Ahead of us is the difficult task of securing a potentially historic peace."

He said the suspension of combat operations was dependent upon Iraqi forces not firing upon coalition troops or launching more Scud missile attacks.

He also said Baghdad must comply with all United Nations resolutions.

"At every opportunity, I have said to the people of Iraq that our quarrel was not with them but instead with their leadership," Bush said. "This remains the case. You the people of Iraq are not the enemy. We do not seek your destruction. We have treated your POWs with kindness."

President Bush said, coalition political and military terms for a formal cease-fire include the following requirements: Iraq must release immediately all coalition prisoners of war, third country nationals and the remains of all who have fallen. Iraq must release all Kuwaiti detainees. Iraq also must inform Kuwaiti authorities of the location and nature of all land and sea mines. Iraq must comply fully with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions. This includes a resending of Iraq's August decision to annex Kuwait and acceptance in principle of Iraq's responsibility to pay compensation for the loss, damage and injury its aggression has caused.

The coalition calls upon the Iraqi government to designate military commanders to meet within 48 hours with their coalition counterparts at a place in the theater of operations to be specified to arrange for military aspects of the cease-fire.

Further, I have asked Sec-

See Page 12 Col. 2

Only one top student leader wins polls

One of the top seven student leaders of the democratic movement 1990 who contested elections came out successful in the 5th Parliamentary polls held Wednesday, reports UNB.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) nominated DUCSU Vice President Amanullah Aman was leading by over 31 thousand votes over his nearest rival Awami Jubo League Chairman Mostafa Mohsin Montu in Dhaka 3 (Keraniganj) constituency.

Although the Election Commission is yet to announce the final results because polling had to be postponed in one polling centre at Chundkhutia of Shuvaddya union, See Page 12 Col. 5