

## Metropolitan

# Hasina pledges to work for establishing accountable govt

Awami League chief and Eight-Party Alliance leader Sheikh Hasina on Friday gave a clarion call to the people to seek blessings of the Almighty Allah at the holy night of Shab-e-Barat to give the nation courage and strength to fight against hunger, poverty and injustice, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of the holy Shab-e-Barat Sheikh Hasina said, the holy occasion came before us opening an opportunity to seek unitedly the blessings of Allah for peace, progress and prosperity of the nation. She also prayed for the unity and integrity of the Islamic Ummah and prosperity of the Muslim world.

She said, on this holy occasion we would take renewed pledge to fight against oppres-

sion and exploitation and solicit strength and confidence from Allah to be guided to the path of "Seratul Mustakeem".

She observed, Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune and self-purification, had again come before us and let us seek blessings for the future.

She said, the holy occasion not only helps one to attain self-perfection but also prepares one for self-restraint by heralding the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan. This holy night is an occasion for directing our lives towards the path of justice and truth being imbibed with the spirit of religion.

Soliciting lasting peace and progress of the country Sheikh Hasina pledged to continue her thrust for building a free and bright future for the posterity through fighting against

all kinds of ills, corruption and mismanagement of social and national life. She also expressed her pledge for establishing an accountable government overcoming all sorts of conspiracies.

Expressing her satisfaction at the end of Gulf war she conveyed good-wishes to the Kuwaiti people. She demanded withdrawal of Zionist forces from Arab soil and establishment of the homeland of the Palestinian people.

## Samajbadi Dal congratulates Shahabuddin

The central committee of Samik Krishak Samajbadi Dal (SKSD) Friday congratulated the caretaker government of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmad and the Election Commission for holding the February 27 parliamentary polls in a free and fair atmosphere, reports BSS.

In a statement, the committee said that they had fulfilled the hopes and aspirations of the people by holding the elections as per the framework fixed by the three main political alliances.

For the first time in independent Bangladesh, it said, an election was held in a free, peaceful and impartial manner for which the caretaker government, Election Commission and the struggling nation deserve thanks. The good beginning set by the elections in the hour of transition to democracy will also continue in future, it hoped.

The SKSD statement also termed as worrisome the use of "black money" during the election campaign and said it had obstructed the innocent people in taking right decisions as to whom they should vote for.

The committee demanded of the government to take action as per election rules against the black money holders who took part in this year's parliamentary elections.

### Hasina

The Acting First Secretary of Samik Krishak Samajbadi Dal (SKSD), Nirmal Sen, Friday congratulated the Awami League Chief, Sheikh Hasina, on her winning the Gopalganj-3 parliamentary seat in the recent election.

In a statement, Mr. Sen said Sheikh Hasina would do the necessary for the poor people of this underdeveloped area of the country.



The Commonwealth poll monitors addressing a Press conference at a local hotel in city on Friday.

## 'Ershad didn't follow rule to cast vote'

A news item has been published in a section of the press Friday that ex-President H M Ershad and his wife could not cast their votes because the Election Commission did not give them permission in time an official handout said, reports BSS.

For the purpose of clarification, it is stated that no permission of the Election Commission is necessary for a person under detention to cast his or her vote nor is he or she permitted by law to go to any polling station to cast his or her vote, the handout said.

For a person under detention the specific provision of the law is that he may cast his vote by 'postal ballot' only. For that purpose, he shall apply through proper channel to the Returning

Officer of the appropriate constituency at least 15 days prior to the date of poll.

On such application, the Returning Officer shall send a ballot paper to him and he then by indicating his

### JP thanks Rangpur people

Jatiya Party and its front organisations have expressed their heartfelt congratulation to the nation for helping the peaceful holding of the election to the fifth Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

In a statement in Dhaka Thursday, the party also congratulated the people of Rangpur for electing former President and Chairman of the Jatiya Party Hussain Mohammad Ershad in five parliamentary seats of the district. The party leaders welcomed the newly-elected parliament members of other political parties and called for release of H. M. Ershad and other political detainees.

The leaders of JP and its fronts included Ismail Hossain Bengal, Advocate Shafiqul Kabir, Shamsuzzaman Mintu, Abdus Salam, M. A. Gafur, Azad Sultan, Begum Mariam Hashimuddin, Toufiq Karim and Munshi Abdul Latif.

choice of candidate in the ballot paper shall send it by registered post to the Returning Officer, the handout said, adding no such step was taken by the ex-President or his wife. Instead, on the day of polling he sent an application to the Election Commission for permission to cast his vote.

The Election Commission however, sent a letter to the ex-President through the Ministry of Home Affairs expressing their regrets, the handout added.

### Release of Ershad demanded

Jatiya Samik Party Friday demanded immediate and unconditional release of former President and Chairman of Jatiya Party Ershad and other JP leaders, reports UNB.

In a joint statement to the press, President and the General Secretary of the JP's labour front also called upon the interim government to lift warrant orders on JP leaders.

The statement noted that the sweeping success of the JP leaders, despite being interned, proved people's love to the Jatiya Party.

### Repolling in Ctg 6 Constituency demanded

CHITTAGONG, Mar 1: Former Minister Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and Jatiya Party candidate for Chittagong six Razzan constituency today demanded re-election in 30 out of 71 centres of the constituency as election at those centres were allegedly rigged, reports BSS.

The former minister who was still hiding made this demand through his chief election agent, Mr. Rashedul Alam, at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club Thursday evening.

Mr. Rashedul Alam in an oblique reference to National Democratic Party leader Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury alleged that his militant workers occupied the centres at gun point and forcibly stuffed the ballots into the boxes in presence of the polling officials who were inactive and indifferent to the complaints repeatedly lodged by the polling agents of Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu. The inadequate number of forces deployed at the centre failed to contain the terrorism and rigging by militant youths.

Mr. Rashedul Alam alleged that their rival violated the code of conduct by influencing voters through various means. A section of voters were given lift in vehicles from their homes to cast votes in favour of NDP.

their whole-hearted cooperation to local government parishad in implementing massive uplift programmes in the hill tract areas. He said, the government would also help tribal people to get improved education and develop qualities of life in keeping with their culture and heritage.

Local tribal leaders Milam Karbari, Jugendra Karbari and Ms. Onima Chakma also addressed the meeting.

## Dateline Chittagong

# Death of 4 in Raozan poll violence alleged

CHITTAGONG, Mar 1: Abdullah Al-Haroon, Awami League candidate for Chittagong-six (Raozan) constituency, today demanded re-election in his constituency where polling was suspended in seven centres during the election on February 27, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Press Club here, he alleged that terrorism intimidation of voters and rigging were perpetrated in elec-

tion by the militant workers of his opponent at 50 per cent of the 71 centres of the constituency.

Blaming local upazila administration for siding with the National Democratic Party candidate, Salahuddin Kader Chowdhury, Haroon also alleged that respective Presiding Officers of seventeen centres declared suspension of polling, but again resumed the same hours later on the pressure of local upazila administration.

The voters, who were eager to cast their votes by that time left the centres and the militant workers of NDP occupied the booths when polling resumed and they resorted to massive rigging.

Four persons were killed and ten others injured in pre-polls violence in Raozan constituency.

Unofficial results of the election of the constituency were yet to be declared.

# Freedom of Kuwait a matter of joy

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Thursday felicitated the Amir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah, on resumption of the freedom and sovereignty of that country, reports BSS.

In a message of felicitation, the Acting President said, "for Bangladesh which has steadfastly supported your just cause it is a matter of particular joy that after six months of illegal occupation, untold sacrifice and suffering Kuwait has resumed its freedom and sovereignty in compliance with

the United Nations Security Council resolutions." Justice Shahabuddin expressed the confidence that the spirit of determination, patriotism and resilience that the people of Kuwait had demonstrated during the period of travail would enable them to overcome the challenges that they faced in this regard.

The Acting President pledged continuing support and cooperation of Bangladesh to Kuwait.

### EC, govt felicitated

By Staff Correspondent Advocate Ruhul Amin Patwari, Chairman of Bangladesh Gono Adhikar Parishad has felicitated the interim government, and Election Commission for holding a free, fair and peaceful election for the first time in the history of the country.

Mr. Patwari in a statement on Friday said the people had given their verdict for establishing a sovereign parliament and an accountable government. He urged all parties to give democracy an institutional shape.

### Post office holiday

All post offices of the country will remain closed tomorrow (March 3) on the occasion of the holy Shab-e-Barat, an official handout said in Dhaka, reports BSS.

### Zaker Party felicitates Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent Jaker Party president member Pirjada Mostafa Amir Faisal felicitated Begum Khaleda Zia and her party for achieving peoples' verdict on February 27 parliamentary election.

The people of the country used their political prudence and supported Islamic and nationalist forces in this election, the president member said in a press release, on Friday.

He hope that, respecting this verdict, the nationalist forces will engage themselves in building the economy and restoring peace and prosperity in the country.

He also said Zaker Party will always keep upheld the people's cause and the flag of nationalists' politics.

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