

## Ties with Dhaka to expand: Pak PM

Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday extended "warmest" felicitations to BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia on her party's victory in the February 27 parliamentary polls, reports UNB.

"The success of BNP and your won election from five seats bear eloquent testimony to your personal popularity as well as to the wide acceptance of your party manifesto," Sharif said in a message to Begum Zia.

Sharif said "on behalf of the people and the government of Pakistan and on my own behalf, it gives me great pleasure to extend to you my warmest felicitations on your party's victory in the Bangladesh parliamentary elections."

BNP has emerged the single largest party with 140 seats in the Jatiya Sangsad.

"At this historic moment, our sincerest good wishes and prayers are for the progress and prosperity of the people of Bangladesh," Nawaz Sharif said.

"Pakistan and Bangladesh enjoys closer and brotherly relations, rooted in abiding links of history and Islam."

The Pakistani Premier expressed the hope the fraternal feelings which bind the two nations, the ties between the two countries would continue to be expanded and fortified in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the two peoples.

"May Allah's blessings be bestowed on you for the success of your mission," he wished to Begum Zia.

"Please accept, excellency, my best wishes for your health and happiness and for the success of your noble mission."

## Shifting of exam date demanded

By BUET Correspondent

The All Party Students Unity (APSU) BUET Unit and Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) demanded shifting of the date of second phase of the second semester examination.

In a joint statement on Monday, APSU BUET Unit and EUCSU said that the students were not prepared enough to appear at the examination shortly due to their active involvement in recent elections.

The second semester examination began on February 2 and were postponed on February 18 due to the fifth parliamentary polls on February 27.

The second phase of the examination is scheduled to commence from March 9.

## Cultural function March 11

By Staff Correspondent

The three voluntary organisations, "We are for children", UNICEF and Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) will jointly hold a cultural function in collaboration with the Shilpakala Academy at the academy's auditorium in the Dhaka city on March 11.

The function will be arranged with a view to establishing the promises of the UN-declared year of the girl child '90.

The girl child festival '90 will also hold a press conference today (Monday) at 4 pm at the conference room of the National Press Club to chalk out the programmes of the March 11 function and discuss the significance of the girl child year.

## 'Flag Day' celebrated

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rob) celebrated 'Flag Day' through holding discussions in Dhaka on Saturday, reports BSS.

Speakers at the discussion said the basis for Liberation War started with the hoisting of flag at Battala of Dhaka University campus.

Presided over by Vice President of the City JSD Mujibur Rahman, the discussion was participated by Zafar Sajjad, Mrs. Tania Rob, Kamal Uddin Ahmed, Shahidul Islam and Abul Kalam Azad.

They underscored the need or compiling true history of independence of the country.



Sheraton Hotel accorded a hearty sendoff to celebrated Indian actress and Editor, Sananda, Aparana Sen who was a member of the SAARC poll observer team, on Saturday.

## 'It's worth emulating'

# Fair polls impress Japan, SAARC states

The outgoing Japanese Ambassador, Mr Takeo Iguchi, on Saturday said his country was interested in the socio-political stability of Bangladesh and hoped that February 27 election would strengthen relations between the two countries, reports BSS.

The Japanese envoy said this when he paid a farewell call on the Acting President, Mr Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at the President's Secretariat on Saturday morning.

Mr Iguchi said the Japanese Parliamentary team which had observed the polls was very impressed in the manner the elections were held. He said the team appreciated that the elections held by the interim government were "indeed free, fair and impartial".

Mr Iguchi thanked the government for the friendship and cooperation he had received during his tenure in Bangladesh. He hoped the ties between the two countries

would become increasingly strong.

The Acting President expressed his appreciation at the continued Japanese economic assistance to Bangladesh and Tokyo's growing interest in the country's socio-economic development.

Ambassador Takeo Iguchi served in Bangladesh for a period of two and a half years.

Meanwhile, the resolve and commitment of the people Bangladesh and of the administration to a free and fair elections established standards which other SAARC countries could emulate.

This observation was made in an interim assessment by the non-governmental observer group from four SAARC countries which observed the Parliamentary elections, held on February 27.

The 30-member group visited 288 polling centres in 77

constituencies under 19 districts of the four divisions. Besides calling on the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Election Commission, Eight and Seven party Alliances and principal political party leaders, the group also met representatives of more than 100 non-governmental organisations during their visit.

The group would issue a comprehensive report including recommendations shortly.

However, in its interim assessment, the SAARC group said the participation of the people in the electorate process was manifested in the high voter turnout including women and minority groups reflected the commitment of all elements within the

Bangladesh polity to the democratic process. This attributed to the fact that the elections were conducted in an atmosphere free of general intimidation, the group observed.

Regarding concern related to the possession of unauthorised arms, the group said despite such concern there were no incidents of violence observed by them on the day preceding the election or on the election day. The elections were reportedly suspended in only 34 out of the 24,000 polling centres in the country, it added.

The group said they had received complaints regarding electoral rolls and election expenditure.

## 31 candidates of JS election lose security money in Pabna

## Kibria calls on Shahabuddin

The visiting ESCAP Executive Secretary, SAMS Kibria, called on the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at president's secretariat in Dhaka on Saturday morning, reports BSS.

The ESCAP chief executive expressed his appreciation at the manner in which the February 27 parliamentary polls were held and the democratic process restored.

He also discussed the possibility of further ESCAP assistance to Bangladesh and the holding of a seminar on industrialization in Dhaka, some time in April next.

The Acting President lauded ESCAP's continued interest in Bangladesh's socio-economic development and hoped the trend would continue.

IRD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury was present.

PABNA, Mar 3: Of the total 44 candidates of the district who contested the last fifth Jatiya Sangsad elections, 31 have lost their security deposit, reports UNB.

According to unofficial sources, the prominent persons who lost their security money are former State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Major (Rtd) Manzoor Kader (JP) in Pabna-1, former Chairman of the District Council, Makhbul Hossain Chantui (JP) in Pabna-2, Barrister Korban Ali (Islami Oikya Jote) in Pabna-3 constituencies.

In constituency-4, Panjab Biswas of JSD (Rab) and in constituency-5 Tipu Biswas of United Communist League failed to retain their security deposit.

## Kuwaiti envoy praises people

By Staff Correspondent

The Embassy of the State of Kuwait on Sunday expressed its profound appreciation to the brotherly people and the government of Bangladesh for extending bold stand and the unstinted support given to Kuwait and its people in their critical hour of life during the war.

The embassy, in its statement, conveyed its deep gratitude to all those individuals, who stood by Kuwait in its difficulties during occupation of Kuwait by Iraq.

The embassy strongly felt that such expression of solidarity with the just cause of the Kuwaiti people, would go a long way in consolidating the strong bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two fraternal countries.

## Dateline Chittagong

# Defeated candidates allege rigging, terrorism in polls

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3: Alhaj Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury, Awami League candidate for Chittagong-13 constituency today demanded an inquiry into alleged rigging and re-election in the constituency, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Press Club this afternoon Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury said that militant workers in connivance with members of law enforcing agencies forced out all polling agents from 32 centres out of total 61.

On the night preceding the election, law enforcing men arrested his chief polling agent Wahiduzzaman and several other polling agents and workers from their homes without any formal charges, he claimed.

Jafar Ahmed Chowdhury also claimed that even after the announcement of unofficial results, BNP workers resorted to terrorism in the name of celebrating victory.

Another report adds: National Democratic Party

conducting committee (NDP) Razan Chapter election Chairman A. K. M. Abu Bakar Chowdhury alleged Sunday that Awami League candidate for Chittagong-6 (Razan) constituency resorted to widespread terrorism in the constituency sensing his defeat in February 27 Jatiya Sangsad elections.

Election was suspended in seven out of a total of 71 polling centres of the constituency following clashes between Awami League and NDP workers. Both parties blamed each other for the clash.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel, Mr. Chowdhury also alleged that Awami League candidate Abdullah Al-Harun hired several dozen terrorists and mas- ters and engaged them for terrorising voters in those centres where he apprehended his defeat. The presiding officers of seven centres were compelled to suspend election in their centres because of armed terrorism created by Mr. Harun's hoodlums, he claimed.

Mr. Chowdhury called upon the authorities to take adequate security measures including posting of army personnel at the seven centres on the re-polling day.

## Interim govt congratulated

Another message adds: Bangladesh Sammabadi Dal General Secretary and candidate for Chittagong-1 constituency Mr. Dilip Barua, congratulated the interim government on Sunday for holding a free, fair and peaceful election on February 27.

In a statement he said, the fair and peaceful parliamentary elections on February 27 heralded a new chapter in the political arena of the country for smooth transition to democracy.

He called upon all concerned to show due respect and to accept the verdict of the people. All efforts should be directed to realisation of the declaration of the three political alliances made during the mass movement of December last, he said.

## People greeted for electing nationalists

Ex-Minister and chief patron of Bangladesh-China Cultural and Mass Communication Centre (BCCMCC) Atauluddin Khan, Senior Vice President and former High Commissioner Tahmina Khan Doly, Secretary General Engr FR Siddiqui and Asstt. Secretary General Md Ali Akbar Babul in a joint statement expressed their heartfelt congratulation to the people for their verdict in favour of the patriotic and nationalist forces led by Begum Khaleda Zia, during the Jatiya Sangsad election held on February 27, says a press release.

They stated that the people of Bangladesh never found such a neutral, free and fair election since independence.

They added that the people once again proved that they were united for cause of independence and sovereignty by voting in favour of patriotic and nationalist forces.

## Lions

Meanwhile, Lt Governor of Lions District 315A Humayun Zahir thanked the people for holding national election peacefully. In a statement, Humayun Kabir also urged all to be united on all important national issues, says a press release.

The Lions District Governor said only the parliament can solve the constitutional problems and the Acting President should convene the session of Parliament and transfer power immediately.

## Dhaka relieved at liberation of Kuwait

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed on Saturday expressed Bangladesh's sense of relief and happiness at the liberation of Kuwait, reports BSS.

In a message to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the Acting President extended his warm felicitations on the role played by Saudi Arabia in this regard.

## Anniversary of Justice Sattar's birth observed

The 85th birth anniversary of late President and Founder-Convenor of Jatiotabadi Ganotantrik Dal (JAGODAL) Justice Abdus Sattar was observed in Dhaka on Sunday, reports BSS.

According to a Press release, JAGODAL arranged a mild mahfil and discussion at its office and offered fatha at the mazar of the former President.

Presided over by its Chairman, Pirzada Shah Deen Moammad, the discussion was participated, among others, by its Secretary General Mohammad Jabbar Hossain.

## Hunger strike

CHITTAGONG, Mar 3: The Hunger strike by Ershad Mukti Parishad which was to begin in front of Chittagong Press Club here early this morning to press home release of ousted President Ershad was postponed following the arrest of Parishad leader Alhaj Dastagir Chowdhury, a Parishad press release said tonight.

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YEARLY : Taka - 1000.00 (Including Postage)  
HALF YEARLY : Taka - 525.00  
QUARTERLY : Taka - 265.00

Please Contact :  
Circulation Manager  
The Daily Star

28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Motijheel, Dhaka-1000  
G.P.O. Box No. 3257

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