

More areas go under water

From Page 1 Col. 4

remained missing. 13 rifles, one smg and 142 round of ammunitions could not be recovered from the river.

An embankment in Gangachara upazila has been washed away by flood which may inundate a large area of the Rangpur town. The low lying area of the town is already under flood water.

Flood took a serious turn in Dinajpur Wednesday. District administration sources told the Daily Star last night that 95 percent houses in Dinajpur town were inundated by flood water. Four deaths were reported from the flood affected areas of the district.

A total of 70 unions in 13 upazilas of the district have so far been affected by the flood. Railway communication between Dinajpur and Pabna remains suspended as the rail line has gone under water. Road link from Dinajpur to Saidpur and Fulbari has been snapped as a bridge on the road was damaged by flood.

According to report available from Panchagarh, six people died in the flood affected areas.

In Chapainawabganj 315 square km in the district was inundated by flood till Wednesday affecting nearly two lakh people, damaging standing crops on about 30 thousand acres of land about 20 thousand dwelling houses. 25 shelters were opened at different places in the district.

In Rajshahi, flood situation worsened and parts of the city were inundated seventy thousand people in four upazilas and in the city areas have been affected besides damage of five thousand acres of crop land.

In Kushtia district more areas in Daulatpur, Mirpur, Bheramara and Sadar upazilas were inundated.

Flood protection embankments in Mirpur and Bheramara were damaged and five hundred acres of crop land were submerged.

In the municipal area, three hundred houses have been affected by the flood.

Three people died of diarrhoea in the affected area of Bera upazila of Pabna.

Wednesday as flood deteriorated.

The Padma was flowing 32 cm above danger mark near Hardinge Bridge while the Jamuna flowing 22 cm above danger level at Mathura point.

About 60,000 people have been marooned and standing crops on 16,000 acres washed away, officials here said.

The Jamuna rose sharply and crossed danger mark amid rains and onrush of waters, further aggravating flood situation in Pabna.

Rivers Bangali, Ichhamati and Fuljhar have also been flowing above respective danger levels, officials said.

According to sources, about 175 villages in 45 unions of nine upazilas of the district have been affected by the floods.

Meanwhile, diarrhoea has broken out in an epidemic form in many parts of flood-hit areas.

In Kishoreganj ten out of the thirteen upazilas have been inundated affecting over 35,000 acres of transplanted aman land.

Seven upazilas of the district are affected in the flood. These are: Sadar, Shibganj, Sherpur, Jhunot, Sariakandi, Gabtali and Sonatola. In Sariakandi, 40,000 people have been marooned and one lakh people took shelter on the flood control embankment.

Shahabuddin

From Page 1 Col. 8

He enquired about the turnout of voters in those centres in the morning.

The Acting President saw both the male and female voters standing in the queue in those centres while in some centres he was told that the rush of women voters was expected in the afternoon.

Justice Shahabuddin was happy to see that the polling was being held in a peaceful atmosphere in those centres. The presiding officers told the Acting President that they had been requesting the voters to turn up for participating in the forthcoming referendum to be held on September 15.



Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed visiting a polling centre in Dhaka on Wednesday's by-elections to the Jatiya Sangsad. — PID photo

Soviet troops withdrawal

From Page 1 Col. 4

the conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) which the Kremlin leader used as a platform from which to appeal for foreign aid to help the Soviet Union's beleaguered economy.

The Bush Administration has warned that its ability to assist the Soviet Union financially during these tough economic times would in part depend on Moscow's willingness to cut its economic and military ties to Cuba.

The United States has long viewed Fidel Castro's regime in Cuba, 90 miles from Florida, as an irritant and a potential subversive influence in Latin America.

Baker said the gesture over Cuba underscored what both he and Gorbachev agreed were "new opportunities" created by the new political situation in which Soviet reformers are in ascendancy.

Baker did not actually promise any new US aid to Moscow. But he noted that Washington drew a clear distinction between humanitarian aid and technical assistance on the one hand, and other types of aid that may be tied to progress on a Soviet economic reform plan.

He said the two men spent a great deal of time on the importance of quickly producing a "credible" economic reform plan for the Soviet Union that could be discussed with world financial institutions such as

the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

Gorbachev pledged his intention of moving towards a market economy, including the development of a plan to move rapidly toward the convertibility of the rouble.

He assured Baker that "we remain committed to the foreign policy course of recent years which we pursued in co-operation with the United States" and predicted this co-operation would expand in the future.

He specifically cited his intention to co-sponsor a Middle East peace conference with the United States and to work with Washington to resolve the Afghan conflict.

Earlier, Soviet Foreign

Minister Boris Pankin rejected US as a potential venue for the conference and raised the possibility that the Czechoslovak capital Prague may be on appropriate location.

French President Francois Mitterrand called today for a meeting of the four nuclear powers in Europe to discuss the safety of atomic arms following the failed coup in the Soviet Union.

"A meeting of the four powers with nuclear weapons in Europe seems to me indispensable, as soon as possible," he told a news conference.

Results

From Page 1 Col. 7

Alhaj Karimuddin Bhana	JP	36,065
Mujibur Rahman Pramanik	AL	11,721
Shah Rukhul Islam	Jamaat	10,011
Rangpur-2		
M Anisul Haq Chowdhury	AL	25,509
M Ilyas Ali	BNP	3,202
Sri Periooth Chakravarti	JP	28,864
Shah Muhammad Nur Hossain	Jamaat	2,341
Rangpur-5		
IM Abisnu Rahman	AL	20,917
Maulana Abu Bakr Wahedi	Jamaat	9,236
Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury	JP	52,421
Md Nurul Huda	BNP	7,179
Rangpur-6		
Advocate Salam Pradhan	Jamaat	2,078
M Matiar Rahman	AL	20,447
Shah Mohammad Salek	BNP	2,065
Shah Moazzem Hossain	JP	30,985
Chittagong-8		
Amir Khasru	BNP	68,686
Mohammad Abdul Mannan	AL	51,864
Bogra-7		
Amruti Islam	Ind	13,929
Ali Azam Khan	AL	11,045
Holauzzaman Talukder	BNP	47,839
Lalu		

CEC visits polling centres

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf visited some of the polling stations of constituency numbers 184 Dhaka-5 and 188 Dhaka-9 Wednesday morning, reports BSS.

During his visit the Chief Election Commissioner observed congenial and peaceful atmosphere in the polling stations.

He also talked with the voters, who expressed their satisfaction at the arrangements for taking the polls smoothly. The Chief Election Commissioner also talked with the polling personnel.

75 injured in poll violence

From Page 1 Col. 7

Wednesday. Of the injured four were admitted to hospital in Dhaka and five others in Chittagong, according to reports till the filing of this report.

The by-elections in the rest of the eleven constituencies were by and large peaceful. A total of 34 people were arrested in Dhaka city in connection with election-related offences.

The turnout of voters was poor compared to the February 27 elections. In Dhaka city there was hardly any queue of voters in any polling station in the Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur and Cantonment Gulshan constituencies.

Women voters were rarely seen, possibly fearing violence as supporters of rival candidates had exploded crackers in different areas the night before. Polling started amid tight security. Besides Police and Ansars, BDR personnel were also deployed to ensure peace and discipline.

Senior officials of Dhaka Metropolitan Police moved from centre to centre supervising the maintenance of law and order.

Afzal Hossain Khan, a polling agent of the BNP and Md. Salamat Ullah a polling agent of the AL at the Dhaka City College polling centre said that from 8 am to 9 am only one or two voters had come to cast votes.

From 9 am onwards the turnout started increasing, but no queue was necessary till 11 am when only about 100 votes out of about 2400 were cast.

Similar was the situation at Dhanmondi No.15 Community Centre polling station. AL worker Shahiduzzaman Babu said women voters were unwilling to cast votes. BNP worker Mionul Islam gave a similar opinion.

At the BAF Shaheen School polling station workers of both the AL and the BNP and the voters themselves complained about problems in the voters list.

They said that names of some voters who had voted at the centre in February were missing from the new voters list released recently.

One of them said names of some voters have been transferred to the Kurmitola centre.

The voters, however, were not informed and this caused

great inconvenience to many of them.

The polling atmosphere was good from the morning, even though there were incidents of chase and counter-chase here and there. In some places supporters of AL and BNP were making conflicting claims about attempts to cast false votes. They also accused each other of blocking the movement of their voters to polling stations.

At least 25 people were injured, four with bullets, in a number of clashes during the by-elections in two constituencies in Dhaka city.



Two of the injured in poll violence under treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital. — Star photo

According to witnesses, the clashes took place at several polling centres under the Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur and Gulshan Cantonment constituencies between the activists of the ruling BNP and Opposition Awami League.

The Awami League identified the bullet injured persons as its workers and blamed the BNP for the attacks.

Two AL activists were shot and injured during the clash in Mohammadpur Central College at about 12.30 pm while two others receive bullet wounds in firing at Family Planning Centre of Green Road.

Besides, chase and counter-chase, scuffles also took place between the rival groups in several other places under the two constituencies.

One of the injured, Raja Mia

(32) of 227 Green Road, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with head injuries. His condition was stated as critical.

Besides, Badial Alam Miton (23), a student of Tejaonur College and Syeda Kohinur (25), a student of Dhaka Law College were given first aid at the DMCH. Another injured Selim was treated at a clinic.

According to witnesses, a group of youths turned up at the Mohammadpur central college centre in a car at around 12.30 pm. As the locals chased the armed youths, they blasted several bombs and fired shots while fleeing.

Kohinur and Miton were injured in the firing. Awami League workers on the spot alleged that the attackers belonged to the BNP.

Prime Minister Khakda Zia visited the centre soon after the incident. Police caught one of the attackers red-handed but he was later released.

Police also resorted to lathi charge when the workers of the BNP and the AL were engaged in a chase and counter-chase during the period.

AL workers alleged that the attack followed a visit by Mir Shaukat Ali MP of the BNP who they said threatened the AL workers.

At about 3 pm, another group of youths fired several blank shots soon after Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina entered the Family Planning Centre at Green Road.

In the incident, Raju and Selim were injured. Hasina went to visit the centre on hearing that her party workers were being obstructed from polling duties allegedly by workers of the BNP.

AL workers handed over one Wahidur Rahman to police in connection with the incident.

Awami League termed the firing as an 'attempt' on Sheikh Hasina.

Police later chased the attackers out of the area.

At the Shahjadpur Primary School centre of North Badda under Gulshan thana, tension prevailed during the whole of the voting period following scuffles, chase and counter-chase between the workers of the BNP and the AL. Police had to resort to a baton charge on them. Voting at the centre was suspended for an hour from 1.15 pm.

Clashes between the BNP

Li for improved Sino-Indian ties

BEIJING, Sept 11: Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng said here today that in the current international situation China and India should further improve bilateral relations and strengthen contacts in the fields of politics, economy, trade and culture, reports Xinhua.

Li made the remark during a meeting with a delegation from the Press Trust of India news agency headed by its Chairman, A K Sarkar. The delegation is here on a visit to China at the invitation of the Xingua news agency.

China and India which have the largest populations in the world, are neighbours, Li said, adding that the two countries have no reason not to get along well with each other.

For quite a long period of time in the past Sino-Indian relations were abnormal," he said. "But former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's successful visit to China in 1988 led to a great improvement in bilateral relations, which left us with a deep impression."

He pointed out that China and India are the countries which initiated the five principles of peaceful coexistence and also the largest developing countries.

On the establishment of a new world order, Li said the two countries should frequently exchange views and reach common ground so as to make the five principles of peaceful coexistence become the basis of the new world order.

On international situation, Li said, we need to strengthen South-South (among developing countries) co-operation and promote the North-South dialogue on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

Yugoslav army no longer under High Command

ZAGREB, Sept 11: The Yugoslav army has carried out an effective military coup, federal President Stipe Mesic said today, reports AFP and Reuters.

The army "is now acting outside of an institutional framework, which constitutes a military coup," he said quoted by the Croatian news agency IINA.

"Several senior officers are no longer under the control of the High Command," he said. He accused the army of going to the aid of "Serbian rebels" in Croatia.

The Midnight File

Kremlin's plea for food aid

MOSCOW, Sept 11: The Soviet Union has requested an urgent package of food aid from the European Community, including 5.5 million tonnes of grain, 800,000 tonnes of meat and 900,000 tonnes of sugar, an EC Commission statement said today. The request was addressed to European Commission President Jacques Delors, reports Reuters.

Israel frees 51 Lebanese prisoners

ROSH HANIKRA, Sept 11: Israel freed 51 Lebanese prisoners on Wednesday and repatriated the bodies of nine slain guerrillas. The army said the prisoner release and return of bodies took place after it received "irrefutable evidence" that one of seven Israeli servicemen missing in southern Lebanon was dead, report AP.

Egypt, Jordan patch up differences

CAIRO, Sept 11: Egypt and Jordan patched up their differences today as Arab League Foreign Ministers meeting here debated a resolution to define a common position on Palestinian representation at a Middle East peace conference. Before the foreign ministers began a second day of discussions here, President Hosni Mubarak received Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdallah Nasour and decided to freeze all the measures recently taken by Egypt against Jordanian nationals, report AFP.

Pak pullout from S Arabia begins

ISLAMAHAD, Sept 11: Pakistan began withdrawing today nearly 12,000 troops deployed in Saudi Arabia before the Gulf war with the return of a first batch of 320 officers and men, the military headquarters said, reports AFP.

Talukder's allegation

From Page 1 Col. 8

bombs, stabbed BNP workers and ransacked election camps of BNP to scare away voters and realise their motive, he added.

State Minister for Labour and Manpower Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka, President of Dhaka City BNP Mir Shaukat Ali MP, Joint Secretary General of BNP Abdul Matin Chowdhury MP, and BNP candidate in the Dhaka-9 constituency Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Whip Fazlur Rahman Pitol and Amanullah Aman, MP, among others, were present at the press conference.

Barrister Salam Talukder regretted that violence and terror during the polling belied our hopes and expectations of press and fair by-elections that was demonstrated by all political parties in the February 27 parliamentary elections. The competing political parties in the last parliamentary elections created an unparalleled history by adhering to the code of election conduct and observing rules and regulations. But violence, terror and rigging in different polling centres in Wednesday's by-elections had dashed our high hopes, he said.

He pointed out that the BNP had formed the government by securing majority seats in the last elections. The BNP government, he said, would not face any awkward situation even if it failed to bag a single seat in by-election. It was unfortunate that some unleashed terror to foil the by-elections, he added.

Barrister Salam Talukder charged Awami League activists with letting loose a reign of terror at different centres including Jigatola Primary School, Green Road Family Planning Training Institute, Mohammadpur Central College, Hazaribagh, Kishalay School, and Amtoli in Dhaka city. The polling agents of BNP were turned away from the polling centres at Jigatola, Amtoli and Mohammadpur Kishalay School, he charged.

The BNP Secretary General said Milton, a leader of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, received bullet injury in his head.

Explaining the situation in Dhaka-9 constituency, he said barring a few minor incidents here and there, the overall atmosphere at Dhanmondi and Mohammadpur was peaceful till 12 noon. But tension built up when Awami League chief entered the Green Road Family Planning Centre with about 300 people. At that time bombs were exploded and there was chase and counter-chase. The Awami League activists ransacked BNP camps, he said alleging that the Awami League chief ordered the police and the presiding officer of that polling centre to demolish BNP camps.

He also charged the Awami League activists with attacking the house of four BNP workers. Even attempt was made to heckle Mir Shaukat Ali MP, chief co-ordinator of the election, when he went to visit several polling centres, he said.

Barrister Talukder said AL activists indulged in damaging cars, looting shops and attacking BNP workers. The orgy of terror and violence was still continuing at different places at Kalabagan, Kathalbag and Dhanmondi, he said.

He further said Sheikh Hasina stayed for about two hours at Green Road polling centre and many cast their

votes at her behest. When a reporter wanted to know whether false votes were cast at the directive of Sheikh Hasina at that polling centre, Barrister Talukder said "apparently it was so."

Barrister Salam Talukder dismissed Awami League chief's charge of resorting to terror tactics by BNP workers as false and unfounded. On the contrary, the Awami League activists indulged in acts of terror, intimidation and violence, he added.

He said BNP polling agents were not allowed to enter 12 polling centres in five unions of Madaripur Sadar Upazila. A written complaint was lodged with the Returning Officer of Madaripur, he added.

At Chittagong, he said, BNP polling agents were denied entry into three polling centres. The Awami League activists exploded bombs there.

In Bhola, one BNP worker was stabbed last night, he said.

Barrister Talukder told newsmen that he went to Shibchar on September 6 to address a referendum and by-election meeting. But the Awami League activists damaged the dais of the meeting and injured four BNP workers, one of them seriously. The Awami League brought out a procession armed with lethal weapons the following day, he said.

In response to a question, he said they had lodged complaints with the concerned authorities including police administration about these acts of violence at different places.

Witness Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Sept 11: President Mikhail S Gorbachev will be called as a witness in the trials of 14 people charged with leading the hard-line coup, a spokesman for the Russian Prosecutor's Office said Wednesday, reports AP.

PM

From Page 1 Col. 3

last parliamentary polls.

The same thing happened with the Prime Minister's sister-in-law, Begum Saeed Iskandar, who also did not find her name in the voters' list.

Begum Zia asked the officials present at the centre to take up the matter with the Election Commission.

Many people also complained to reporters at different polling centres that their names had been missing from the voters' list.

They were, however, able to exercise their right to franchise in the afternoon when the Election Commission instructed the presiding officers to allow them cast their votes as per the voters list of February 27 polls.

The Prime Minister later went round different centres of the two constituencies in the capital city, where by-elections are being held along with nine other constituencies in the country.

The centres she visited include Ramtuzuddin High School in the Cantonment area, Nawab Habibullah College at Uttara, Civil Aviation High School at Uttara Khan, Shaheed Titumir College at Mohakhali, Mohammadpur Girls' High School and Dhanmondi High School.

On her way to different centres, the Prime Minister stopped at Badda, talked with the Home Secretary and senior police officials who were also on a round and also enquired about the situation in different polling centres across the country.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toyne Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: Editorial & News: 863036. Commercial: 863035. PABX-246023-4. Fax No. 86-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257 GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.