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# The Daily Star

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## Polls Result on Internet

The Daily Star Worldwide Web page on Internet will provide live coverage of the polls results for expatriate Bangla-deshis, other media bodies and the worldwide members of the Internet.

The Daily Star will use on-line connection to Internet by ISN and provide simultaneous coverage to Internet readers of The Daily Star following announcement of results by the EC.

The coverage will start at 10 pm today and continue till the end.

It may be recalled that The Daily Star is the first and only Bangladeshi newspaper available on Internet. Our weekly Internet edition is prepared at Austin, Texas and published every Monday.

## Inside Today

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### DSE MARKET

DSE price index	904.39 (+0.24%)
Market capital Tk	6140.21
Transactions in volume	117191
Transactions in value Tk	3.58cr

### Metropolitan

### Dhaka Day by Day



Election's Selections  
Page 3

# People give verdict today

Star Report

**The nation today crosses another milestone in its march towards democracy as it goes to polls to elect 300 legislators to the seventh Jatiya Sangsad. Polling begins at 8 this morning and will continue till 4 pm without any break. The government earlier declared the day a public holiday.**

A total of 5 crore 67 lakh 16 thousand and 935 voters have registered for exercising their right to franchise in this elections, a figure which is about 55 lakh (5.5 million) less than that of 1991 elections due to what the Election Commission said elimination of double registrations and fake registrations and other omissions.

A total of 2574 candidates including nominees of 81 political parties and 281 independent candidates are participating in the fray.

However, only three political parties — the Awami League, the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — have fielded 300 candidates each. Jatiya Party, another major party has fielded 293 candidates while 33 smaller parties are in the race with only one candidate each.

This is the seventh elections in the country's 25-year history. This election is also

the second one within a span of only four months. The previous polls, held on February 15 wrote the obituary of — its only noteworthy record was the incorporation of the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution providing for holding of all future elections under a caretaker government.

The Chief Adviser of the caretaker government, former Chief Justice Habibur Rahman, was sworn in on March 31. He later inducted ten advisers.

A new Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) was appointed on April 9 with the agreement of all major political parties following the resignation of the incumbent CEC.

The caretaker government and the Election Commission, within a span of only two months completed the massive task of preparations for holding the polls in a free, transparent and orderly manner.

In one of the largest deployments of government

manpower, nearly four lakh officials would be acting as polls officials headed by 67 Returning Officers. There would be 25,957 polling stations and 1,14,749 polling booths.

After completion of the elections to 300 seats, the parliament will elect the members to the 30 reserve seats for women.

The administration and the Election Commission (EC) have made elaborate arrangements to hold the elections in a peaceful way. Security arrangements have been tightened with the deployment of about 400,000 members of different security agencies including 40,000 members of the armed forces.

The government banned plying of five categories of vehicles including motor cycles, microbus and jeeps from 6 pm yesterday. The ban would continue till 6 am on June 13.

A total of 268 foreign ob-

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AL president Sheikh Hasina



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia

## Chief Adviser's appeal to countrymen Exercise right to franchise

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman yesterday appealed to the countrymen to go to the polling centres today with their family members and neighbours to exercise the right to franchise without any fear or hesitation, reports UNB.

In his address to the nation over radio and television on the eve of national election today he said people must demonstrate on whom they would like to repose their confidence in running the affairs of the country for next five years.

Habibur Rahman said: "We pray that through this election we may lay foundation of a new life, a peaceful and prosperous life for us."

Referring to the competi-

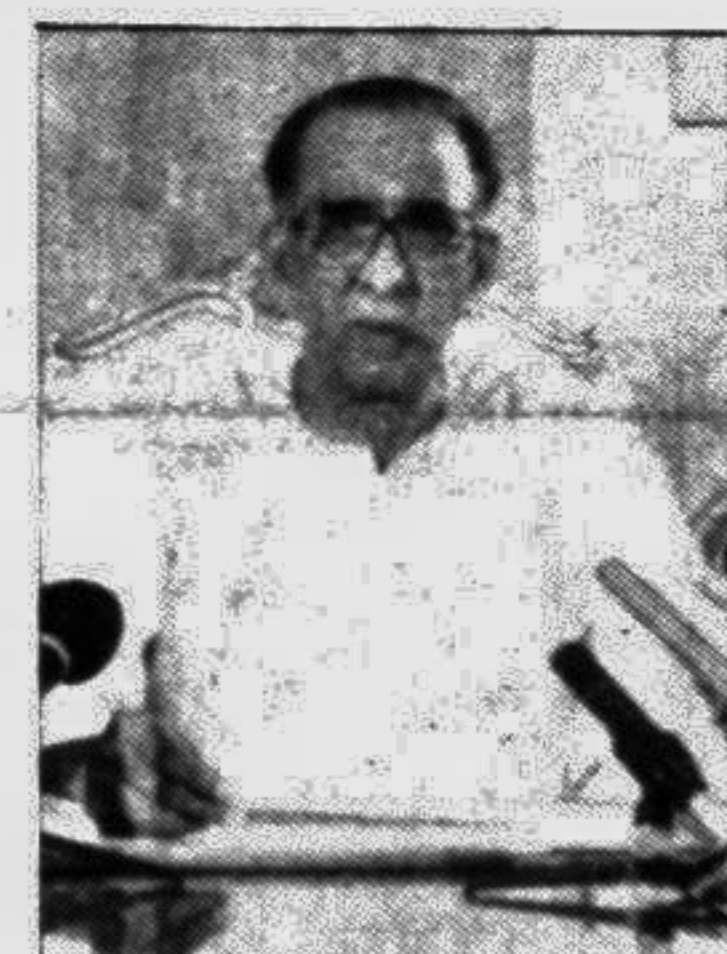
tive nature of election, the Chief Adviser urged all concerned to accept the verdict of election by renouncing heat generated during the polls and by abandoning hostility and spirit of retaliation.

Quoting from a verse of the holy Qur'an, Habibur Rahman said Allah rewards those who settle disputes through compromise and reconciliation.

He congratulated in advance those who would be elected in the election. Those who will not win may seek to return to parliament in future, he said adding: "At any rate they have always the scope to serve people."

The Chief Adviser made a fervent appeal to all to refrain from doing anything that

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Habibur Rahman addressing over Radio and TV yesterday.

## Complete polls results by tomorrow afternoon

By Staff Correspondent

Announcement of the election results will be completed by June 13 (Thursday) afternoon, Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena said yesterday.

The CEC was talking to reporters at the NEC conference hall in the city.

"We hope to complete the result announcement by the afternoon of June 13," he said. The CEC said he was also hopeful that today's elections would be held peacefully. The EC has taken all necessary preparations for conducting the elections in a free and fair manner, he added.

"I do not rule out violence during the election, there may

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## Voters expect peaceful polls

By Reaz Ahmad and Masud Arif

The residents of Dhaka city overwhelmingly expect that today's parliamentary election will be held in a peaceful manner and that all the political parties and candidates will accept the people's mandate gracefully.

The Daily Star correspondents talked to a good number of people of different social strata and professions in different areas of the city yesterday.

The city was relatively calm with less traffic on the streets as the authorities banned plying of certain types of vehicles for 36 hours from 6 pm yesterday and a good number of city dwellers, registered as voters in their home districts, left the city for casting vote.

Most of the people talked to expressed their hopes that no violent incidents would mar the elections for which the whole nation has been waiting for long. No post-poll law and

order situation will be created to spoil the congenial and peaceful atmosphere, they hoped.

A few however expressed their guarded fear that the defeated parties or candidates may resort to violence out of frustration. But they will face people's wrath because people are very conscious, they said.

Md Alamgir, a salesman of a flower shop in the city's Elephant Road area said: "I have full confidence that the polls will be held in a free and fair manner and I also believe that the defeated parties and candidates will accept the people's verdict in good spirit."

Alamgir, a voter in Pirojpur district, was sorry that he could not go home to cast vote as his employer did not give him leave.

Grocer Alauddin, a voter in Demra area said: "If any party, being frustrated with the polls results, tries to create a law

and order situation, it would definitely face people's tough resistance. People are much more conscious now than ever before."

Ms Lata, a housewife, was shopping in the New Market when these correspondents approached her for comments. She apprehended that there might be violence. Asked to explain, the woman voter in the old part of the city could not say anything.

Rickshawpuller Abdus Sattar had, however, a different

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## 169 foreign observers

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 169 foreign observers representing 14 different groups will monitor the parliamentary election today. Foreign Secretary Faruque Sobhan said here yesterday.

In addition, 99 ambassadors, high commissioners and diplomats representing different missions accredited to Bangladesh will also monitor the polls. The number of foreign observers may increase in the last minute," he said at a press conference at the NEC auditorium.

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Khaleda visits Nat'l Press Club

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia visited the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening. Begum Zia exchanged pleasantries with the journalists present there. BNP leaders Anwar Zahid and Goyeswar Chandra Roy accompanied the party chief, reports UNB.

### Hasina visits Noor Uddin

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited former Army Chief Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan at his Old DOHS residence at Banani in the city, reports UNB.

### Former navy chief joins AL

Two senior retired Army officers yesterday joined Awami League expressing their allegiance to the leadership of party chief Sheikh Hasina. They are former Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral (ret'd) Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam and former Director General of Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies Brig (ret'd) M Abdul Halim, said a party press release, reports UNB.

## Some facts about today's polls

1. Date of election	: Wednesday, the 12th June, 1996
2. Polling hour	: 8.00 a.m. to 4 p.m. without break
3. Population as on January, 1996	: 11,99,57,313
4. Number of constituencies	: 300
5. Number of reserved seats for women	: 30*
6. Number of polling stations	: 25,957
7. Number of polling booths	: 1,14,749
8. Total number of voters	: 5,67,16,935
a. Male voters	: 2,87,59,994
b. Female voters	: 2,79,56,941
9. Number of Returning Officers	: 67
10. Number of Assistant Returning Officers	: 566
11. Number of Presiding Officers	: 25,957
12. Number of Assistant Presiding Officers	: 1,14,749
13. Number of polling officers	: 2,29,498
14. Total number of polling officials	: 3,70,204
15. Number of divisions	: 6
16. Number of districts	: 64
17. Number of police stations	: 491
18. Number of contesting political parties	: 81
19. Total number of contesting candidates	: 2,574
20. Total number of female contesting candidates (36 candidates in 44 constituencies)	: 48
21. Number of candidates nominated by political parties:	
a) Bangladesh Awami League	: 300
b) Bangladesh Nationalist Party	: 300
c) Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh	: 300
d) Jatiya Party	: 293
e) Zakar Party	: 241
f) Islami Oikya Jote	: 165
g) Gono Forum	: 104
h) Other parties	: 589
22. Independent candidates	: 281

\* To be elected by the Members of Parliament. This will raise the total number of MPs to 330.

— Courtesy: EC

## Where VVIPs will cast vote

President, Chief Advice and the chiefs of leading political parties will cast their vote in today's parliamentary elections at different polling centres in the city, reports UNB.

Official sources said President Abdur Rahman Biswas will cast his vote at the Bangabhaban Primary School at 10 am.

Chief Adviser Justice Habibur Rahman will vote at the Vigarunissa Noon School centre at 8.45 am.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena is expected to cast his vote in Pangsha of Rajbari district.

Former prime minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will go to the Adamjee Cantonment College centre at 11 am to exercise her right to franchise.

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina will cast her vote at the City College polling centre in the morning.

Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami

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## What Khaleda & Hasina said during campaign

By Nazmul Ashraf

Chiefs of the two major political parties — Sheikh Hasina of Awami League and Begum Khaleda Zia of BNP — in their last three-week hectic electioneering across the country addressed some 250 rallies each.

This makes for an average of 83 rallies a week, or nearly 12 rallies a day, excluding the unscheduled wayside rallies that both of them addressed.

The two leaders spent more time and energy to discredit

each other's party than on the programmes of their respective parties and the tasks they would do if voted to power.

Their pledges varied from resolving local problems to the protection of the country's very existence while the charges were from misconduct to intrigue to 'sell out' of the country.

In their speeches, they made some common pledges like safeguarding democracy, independence and sovereignty, non-renewal of the 25-year treaty with India, getting country's due share of the Ganges water, electing local government bodies at the thana and district levels and eradicating illiteracy, unemployment and terrorism.

Apart from these common issues, Begum Zia pledged to introduce a pension scheme for elderly citizens, free education for girls up to intermediate class, give Islam top priority and re-introduce the Gram Sarkar system.

Sheikh Hasina's pledges, different from Khaleda's, in-

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Ershad had cast his vote under the Jail Code after the approval of the Election Commission (EC).

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**ভোটারদের প্রতি নিবেদন**

**আজ ১২ই জুন সংসদ নির্বাচন।**

আপনার পছন্দমত প্রার্থীকে আজ ভোট দিয়ে সংসদ সদস্য নির্বাচিত করুন। আজ সকাল ৮টা থেকে বিকেল ৪টা মধ্যে যে কোন সময় আপনার নির্দিষ্ট ভোট কেন্দ্রে গিয়ে আপনি ভোট দিতে পারবেন। ভোট দিতে আপনার ভোটার নম্বর ছাড়া আর কোন কাগজপত্রের দরকার হবে না।

**বাংলাদেশ নির্বাচন কমিশন**