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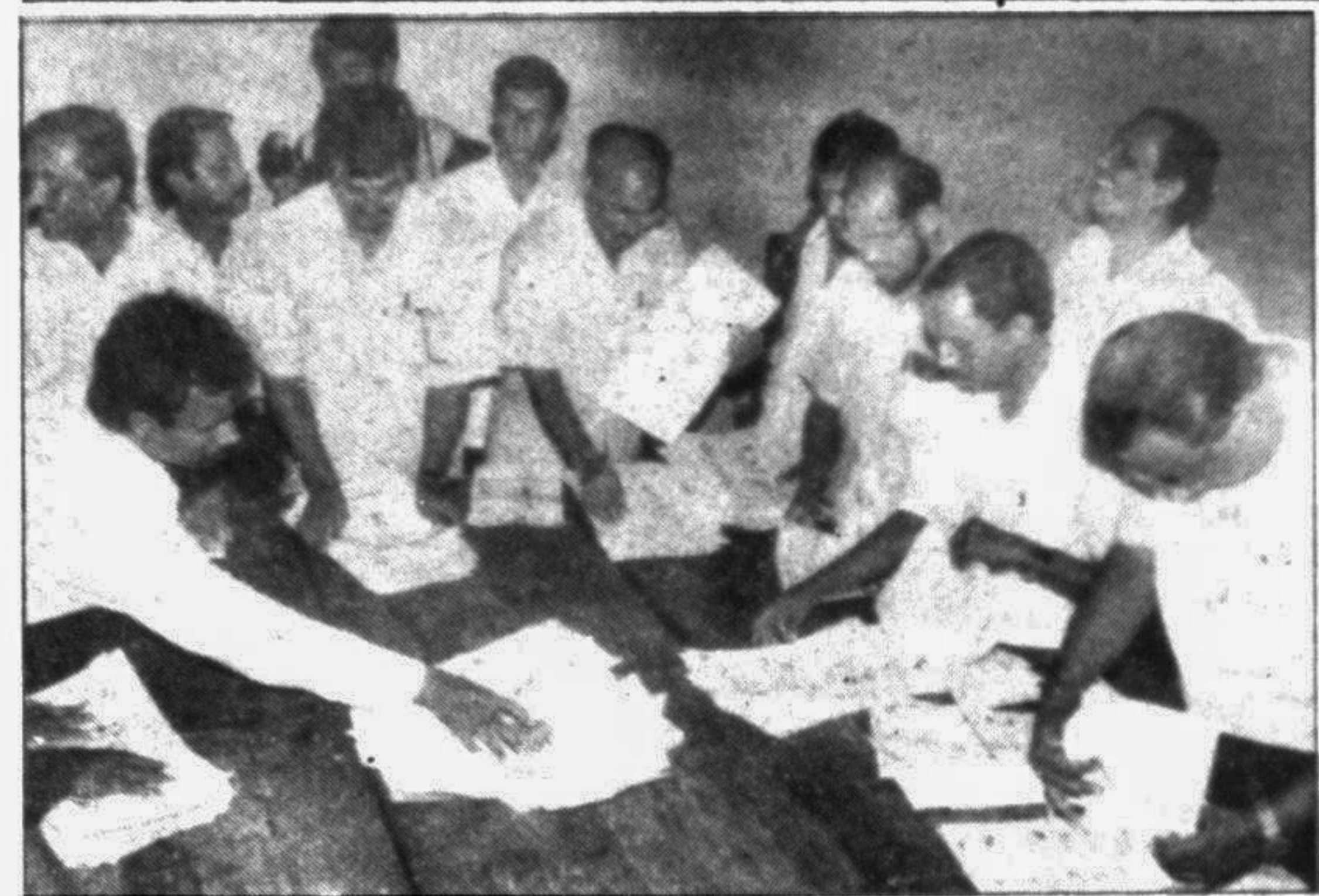
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Federal Express

## The World On Time



Counting of votes at Segunbagicha School polling centre in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## I never saw such polls

From page 1

The three-member team from The Daily Star while visiting a number of polling centres in Gazipur and Narasingdi districts, found that polling was progressing in a completely free and fair manner and the turnout of voters was quite high.

Women voters of various age groups were also seen waiting in long queues at the polling centres.

Shafali Akhter Shiuli, a housewife in her twenties, talking to these correspondents while waiting in a queue, said, "No matter how long it takes, I will cast my vote."

Shiuli, who hails from Dakkhin Shalna, Gazipur, further said all four female members of her joint family were casting their votes this time.

Out of 1590 voters at Rajabari High School polling centre in Gazipur, 1050 were cast by 12 noon, said Md Zahurul Islam, Presiding Officer of the centre.

At Phoolkali Kinder Garten centre near Joidevpur intersection, Shahna Begum, Assistant Presiding Officer, said she was impressed at the way voters were exercising their franchise peacefully with great enthusiasm.

A polls observer group of The Population Council was also visiting the centre at the same time. Ms Nancy of the group told The Daily Star, "Very orderly the polling is advancing."

Md Kawser, a representative of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) said, "Everybody is satisfied at the way things are moving."

The Presiding Officer (PO) of Chandanbari Pilot Girls' High School centre at Monohordi in Narasingdi said that for all this enthusiasm and festivity, the Election Commission, the media and the parties in the electoral race deserved thanks.

Enthusiasm among the voters was so much that at many centres they started forming queues even an hour before casting of votes began at eight in the morning.

These correspondents reached Kauriapara Government

## AL wins 87 seats

From page 1

headquarters. Leaders of the two major parties — the Awami League and the BNP — within two and four hours respectively of the closing of polls, alleged rigging blaming each other.

The Daily Star correspondents from across the country reported that there long queues of enthusiastic voters in front of the polling centres even before polling began at 8 am. The turnout of female voters was also quite high and almost comparable to the male voters' turnout. Although EC figures were not available, initial estimates showed that the turnout is likely to have crossed 55 per cent as was recorded in the 1991 elections.

An initial report from the EC showed that the highest turnout recorded was 90 per cent and the lowest was 62.88 per cent at the polling centres this time.

The results of not even a single polling centre in at least 23 constituencies were announced while that of only one each in 49 constituencies were announced till 4:15 am today.

Asked about the matter, an official of the EC said that they would announce these results after compilation. He, however, declined to give the reason behind this.

A total of 5 crore 67 lakh 16 thousand and 935 voters were registered for exercising their franchise in yesterday's polls. This figure is about 35 lakh less than that of the 1991 elections.

A total of 2,574 candidates including nominees of 81 political parties and 281 independent candidates participated in the elections.

The major parties in the fray with candidates in all the 300 seats are the BNP led by former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the Awami League led by Sheikh Hasina and Jamaat-e-Islami. Jatiya Party led by jailed former president H M Ershad fielded 293 candidates.

## Hasina

From page 1

voters and waited till her turn came.

When newsmen asked why she had taken the trouble of standing in the long queue despite having special arrangement for her as VIP voter, Sheikh Hasina said, "I am always with the people — all voters are alike and have equal rights and privileges. Why should I avail myself of the special treatment?"

Sheikh Hasina started for the polling centre from her Dhanmondi residence together with her daughter Saima Wazed at 10.35 am and left the centre at around 11.30 am.

While replying to various queries of newsmen Sheikh Hasina expressed her optimism over the outcome of the polls results. "I depend on almighty Allah for the outcome," she said. She also expressed her anxiety and concern saying that the President is a BNP man while his son is also contesting the polls on BNP ticket. Conspiracy is going on to manipulate and rig the poll, she added.

Sheikh Hasina said that complaints had already come from various areas of the city including Kotwali, Sutrapur and Sabujbagh that the minority voters were being threatened not to go to the polling centres and in other ways obstacles were being created. Besides information was received from different areas including Mirpur that ballot papers were taken away.

When asked about her feeling immediately after coming out from the polling booth, Sheikh Hasina said, "I am very much happy to have the opportunity to hold such an election after the farcical polls of February 15."

## Voters want new ties

From Page 1

we would like to pose at this early stage of the new parliament is, will these two leaders co-operate with one another and give the country a chance to solve its huge economic and social problems?

The lesson of the Fifth parliament was that no one party, with however large a majority it forms, the government, can run the affairs of the country all by itself. There will have to be co-operation between the government and the opposition, both inside and outside the parliament. The lack of such a co-operation cost us enormously during the last five years.

The time to give the nation a new start is now, at the beginning of our new democratic journey. We would like to suggest that the first act of the majority seat winner in this election should be to extend a hand of cooperation to the winners second and third highest number of seats. Even at the risk of being personally snubbed, the winner should personally establish direct contact with the runner up, so to speak, and extend an open invitation for co-operation. There should not be any feeling that one has won, and the other has lost. The only losers are those who did not think that we could hold free fair and peaceful elections. The way we should think, and that is the only way to think in democracy, is that one party got more seats in the parliament than the other, and that the party which got more seats

## AL briefing

From page 1

Mirza Abbas let loose a reign of terror at a number of polling centres including Motijheel Ideal School centre, Mahub Ali Institute centre, Shahjapur Railway Colony School Centre, Young Mariners Club School Centres. Khokan forced out Awami League agents from these centres and his party members stamped the ballot papers.

He said that at Tejgaon Staff Welfare College, the BNP activist immediately after the visit of the centre by their party leader Begum Khaleda Zia started applying force on Awami League agents and drove them away from the centre and rigged the polls forcibly. In Motijheel Model High School and Arambagh Model High School, Fulu, nephew of Mirza Abbas, created terrorism and stamped the ballot papers there.

Besides, Kibria said in Manikda Senior Ali Madrasah, the principal of the madrasah took away the ballot boxes at his own residence. Polls riggings were also reported from Banani Biddya Niketon, Motijheel Government High School, Sonali Bank Staff College centre and other parts of the city, Kibria claimed.

## CEC satisfied

From page 1

votes. If the people can be inspired, nothing is impossible."

A large number of female voters turned up this year which is very significant, he mentioned. Turn out of female voters was more because their security was ensured. Abu Hena said adding, "I did not see any violence or show of muscle power anywhere," he pointed out.

This correspondent, while accompanying the CEC during his visit to some polling centres in the city also saw enthusiasm among the people in casting votes.

Abu Hena was asked about the allegation by BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia that ballot papers in some centres in Mirpur area in the city did not contain symbol of her party. The CEC said, "I was told by the EC Secretary that she had made a telephone call and alleged that ballot papers in some centres in Mirpur did not contain any symbol of her party. The Secretary immediately despatched an EC official to the area but found no such ballot paper without BNP's election symbol."

## Unofficial results of JS polls

From Page 1

from Panchagar-2 (Boda-Debaganj-Sadar) seat, securing 48,532 votes. His nearest rival, Sirajul Haq advocate of Awami League got 46,815 votes.

Awami League candidate MS Akbar has been unofficially declared elected from Magura-1 (Sadar-Sreepur) constituency. He secured 73,461 votes against 49,557 polled by his nearest rival, Iqbal Akhtar Khan of Jatiya Party.

Biren Sikder of Awami League has been unofficially declared elected from Magura-2 (Mohammadpur-Shalikhah) constituency, securing 43,608 votes. His nearest rival, Kazi Salimul Huq of BNP polled 36,614 votes.

Dr. Mohammad Rustam Ali Faraj of Jatiya Party has been unofficially declared elected from Pirojpur-3 (Mathbaria) constituency. He secured 29,839 votes against 24,269 secured by Awami League candidate Mohiuddin Ahmed. EC sources said, BNP candidate M. Jabbar Engineer got 20,328 votes.

Azfar H Khan of BNP has been unofficially declared elected from Mymensingh-1 (Haluaghat) seat. He polled 42,328 votes against 30,345 secured by his nearest rival, Promod Mankin of AL.

BNP candidate Prof Sahidul Islam has been unofficially declared elected from Kustia-2 constituency (Bheramara-Mirpur). Prof Sahidul Islam secured 64,387 votes while his nearest rival Jatiya Party candidate M Ahsan Habib Linkon polled 40,101 votes, EC sources said.

Awami League candidate Nur-e-Alam Chowdhury Liton has been unofficially declared elected from Madaripur-1 (Shibchar) constituency. He polled 61,013 votes against 29,315 secured by his nearest rival, BNP candidate Abul Khair Chowdhury, EC sources said.

Mahabubur Rahman of BNP has been unofficially declared elected from Noakhali-3 (Chakhlil) constituency, securing 25,568 votes. His nearest rival, Mahmudur Rahman Belayet of Awami League got 16,456 votes.

BNP candidate Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman has been unofficially declared elected from Joypurhat-2 (Akkelpur-Khatlal-Kalai) seat. He secured 76,854 votes against 39,252 polled by Mir Jalalur Rahman of Awami League.

Mohammad Rafiqul Islam Bakul of BNP has been unofficially declared elected from Pabna-5 (Sadar) seat. He secured 78,155 votes against 69,064 bagged by nearest rival Air Vice-Marshal (ret'd) A

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**PHILIPS**

## Deve Gowda govt wins vote of confidence

NEW DELHI, June 12: Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda sailed through a vote of confidence in parliament today, ending six weeks of political tumult in the world's most populous democracy, reports Reuters.

The government won by voice vote after a 12-hour debate over two days.

The Prime Minister's centre-left government had the support of some 332 lawmakers in the 545-member house and had been expected to breeze through the vote.

Deve Gowda's United Front Alliance has some 190 members and had been promised the support of former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress Party, which finished a humiliating second in the general elections in April and May with 140 seats.

Today's vote appeared to have sharply divided the Congress, with a majority of its deputies looking ready to join the coalition government, senior politicians said.

"A majority of Congress Party MPs are in favour of joining the government," former Congress minister Kamaluddin, Ahmed told Reuters.

## Position of 3 party chiefs

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina won in all the three Jatiya Sangsad constituencies she contested from in yesterday's general elections.

Sheikh Hasina declared elected from Bagerhat-1 (Fakirhat-Mollarhat-Chitalmar) constituency. The Awami League President secured 77,337 votes against 77,302 polled by her nearest rival, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman of BNP, EC sources said.

BNP candidate Nizamuddin Khan has been unofficially declared elected from Manikganj-3 (Saturia-Sadar) constituency, securing 64,672 votes. His nearest rival, Col (ret'd) M A Malek of Jatiya Party got 41,385 votes, EC sources said.

Former president H M Ershad of Jatiya Party has been unofficially declared elected from Kurigram-3 (Ulupur) constituency, securing 66,966 votes. His nearest rival, Amjad Hossain Talukdar of Awami League got 20,292 votes, EC sources said.

Col (ret'd) Showkat Ali of Awami League has been unofficially declared elected from Shariatpur-2 (Naria) seat, securing 48,751 votes. His nearest rival, T M Giasuddin Ahmed of BNP got 20,874 votes.

Kalparanjan Chakma of Awami League has been unofficially declared elected from Khagrachhari seat, securing 63,917 votes. His nearest rival, A Wadud Bhuiyan Odud of BNP got 51,746 votes, EC sources said.

Abdul Latif Siddiqui of Awami League has been unofficially declared elected from Tangail-4 (Kalihati) constituency, securing 75,377 votes. His nearest rival, Shahjahan Siraj of BNP got 63,610 votes, EC sources said.

BNP candidate Goutam Chakravorty has been unofficially declared elected from Tangail-6 (Nagarpur) constituency, securing 34,274 votes. His nearest rival, Khandaker Abdul Baten of Awami League got 32,309 votes.

M Shamsul Islam of BNP has been unofficially declared elected from Munshiganj-3 (Sadar-Tungibari) constituency, securing 68,356 votes.

His nearest rival, Lutfar Rahman of Awami League polled 34,636 votes, EC sources said. (Incomplete)

## The Midnight File

### Turkish troops kill 72 Kurds

ANKARA, June 12: A total of 72 Kurdish rebels and six Turkish soldiers were killed in Turkish army sweeps in the east and southeast of the country, the Anatolia news agency reported, reports AFP.

### 5 killed in polls violence

From page 1

to local thana health complex where doctors declared him dead, police said.

At least 20 people were injured in a clash between the activists of AL and JP in the Mollapur Nidonpur Government Primary School centre in Baranabazar.

Polling in at least 8 centres were suspended in the district, officials said.

**Narayanganj**

At least 70 people were injured in sporadic clashes in two constituencies in Narayanganj during and after polls.

Ten people were injured, four of them critically, when a group of terrorists attacked a Hindu temple and 20 houses belonging to the same community at Ramsita Akhra of Daobhog area at about 10:30pm, witnesses and police said.

About 300 people later brought out a procession after the attack and met the district administrator demanding punishment to the terrorists.

At Shahi Moholla Primary School centre of Constituency-4, 20 persons were injured including three with bullet in clashes between BNP and AL supporters, witnesses said.

Another 30 people were injured in clashes between AL and BNP workers at the Adarsha School and Islamia Madrasah centres.

In Narayanganj-2, 10 people were injured in clashes between AL and BNP at Ujan Govindi Primary School centre. Voting was closed for about half an hour and later resumed again, officials said.

In Narayanganj-2, two women were roughed up by some youths for allegedly campaigning at a polling centre. Polling was postponed in 5 centres.

**Netrokona**

Clashes between BNP and JP took place at two centres in Netrokona-1 and 2.

According to witnesses, cocktails were blasted in Katinogua Primary School centre under Netrokona-2 constituency. Police arrested one person from the spot.

Polling at Langura High School centre under Netrokona-1 was postponed, officials said.

**Mymensingh**

Incidents of violence were reported from Muktagachha Ml Girls School, Haluaghat Kerapur, Khagati and Magura centres of Trishal.

Pollings at Gouripur and Gargaon centres were disrupted for a while following a clash between the supporters of AL and Jamaat, officials said.

Six persons were arrested on charge of false voting from two constituencies of the district during election day, police said.

**Brahmanbaria**

About 15 persons were injured in clashes in Brahmanbaria-2 and 3 constituencies.

A group of youths snatched ballot boxes at Syed Tolla Dakkhin Govt Primary High School under constituency-2 following which polling was cancelled, witnesses said.

Election at five centres of three constituencies in the district were postponed, according to polling officials.

**Bhola**

One policeman was injured when a group of terrorists seized Shyamoli polling centre of Rajapur union under Bhola Sadar-1 constituency at 10 am, police said. Polling was cancelled in the centre.

**Barisal**

Voting in two centres, Krishnakathi under Barisal-6 and Shalok under Barisal-2 were cancelled following chase and counter chase between two rival groups at around 12:40 pm, officials said.

The incident occurred when a number of voters were caught by polling agents at the centres who allegedly were trying to cast false votes, witnesses said.

**Bogra**

Voting at Kamolpur centre of Bogra-1 was postponed due to violence, officials said. Police said the polling in the centre was postponed after a group of terrorists snatched ballot papers.

**Sherpur**

Five persons were injured, one of them seriously, when about two thousand supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami attacked a polling centre at Bajitkhila in Sadar thana of Sherpur and tried to take control of it at about 10:30 am yesterday, witnesses said.

Army took control of the centre and voting continued without any further disturbance, official sources said.

The injured persons — Mojibur Rahman, 40, Dr Golam Mostafa, 35, Dr Akhtar Hossain, 80, Benajir Ahmed, 25, and an unidentified man were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

**Chandpur**

At least ten people were injured, one seriously when supporters of Awami League and BNP clashed at Kalibazar centre in Chandpur-6 constituency under Faridganj thana.

Among the injured, Taher Patwari, 30, was admitted to hospital.

**Faridpur**

Violence left six persons injured at Monin Khar Hat centre under Char Madhabdia union in Faridpur-3 constituency. Five of the injured persons were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital, according to district control room.

**Pirojpur**

BNP candidate from Pirojpur-2 constituency, Nural Islam Manji received minor injuries when a group of people, allegedly supporters of Jatiya Party attacked and stoned his car near South-west Bhandaria High School.

**Sirajganj**

Nine people were injured when some young men attacked the Raipur Primary School centre in Sirajganj-2 constituency. Two policemen were injured when some alleged Awami League activists attacked the polling centre at Kachuahta Primary School in the same constituency. Polling however continued uninterrupted, officials said.

**Jhenidah**

At least five persons were injured in a clash between activists of AL and BNP near Hasanahati polling centre in Jhenidah-4 constituency. Police fired seven rounds to quell the violence. It was alleged that one of five was injured in the firing.

**Cox's Bazar**

At least 10 people were injured when supporters of BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami clashed near Kurushkul Union Parishad centre in Cox's Bazar. Voting at the centre was interrupted for about an hour following the incident. Army patrol team rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

**Comilla**

UNB adds from Comilla, polling at 45 centres in different constituencies of the district were postponed following sporadic clashes between the activists of rival parties that left at least 28 people, including a minor boy, injured yesterday.

Officials said the polling was postponed at two centres in Comilla-1 (Homna), three in Comilla-2 (Daudkanai), eight in Comilla-3 (Muradnagar), three in Comilla-4 (Debidur), five in Comilla-6 (Chandina), two in Comilla-7 (Barura), five in Comilla-8 (Sadar), nine in Comilla-10 (Laksham), two in Comilla-11 (Langalkot) and six in Comilla-12 (Chaudagram).

**Sunamganj**

Five people, including two women, were injured as police charged baton on angry voters at Narayantala Mission High School centre in Sunamganj-4 constituency during the election.

## BNP briefing

From page 1

leashing terrorism and attacking his supporters and said: "I narrowly escaped attack by Maya's terrorist group and have fled to the capital with my family members."

The constituencies where BNP alleged that rigging and other malpractices took place are: Panchagar-2, Thakurgaon-2, 3, Dinajpur-1, 2, 3 and 4, Nilphamari-1, 2 and 3, Lalmonirhat-1, Rangpur-1, 2, 3, 4 and 5, Kurigram-3 and 4, Gaibandha-1, Chapainawabganj-3, Rajshahi-4, Natore-3 and 4, Sirajganj-1 and 4, Pabna-5, Meherpur-2, Kushtia-4, Jessore-2 and 4, Narail-1, Bagerhat-4, Khulna-1, 5 and 6, Sakthari-1, 2 and 5, Barguna-3, Patuakhali-3, Bhola-1 and 2, Bakerganj-6, Pirojpur-1 and 2, Tangail-1, 6 and 8, Jamalpur-1 and 2, Sherpur-1 and 2, Mymensingh-6 and 9, Kishoreganj-1, 3, 4 and 6, Dhaka-9, Gazipur-3, Narayanganj-4 and 5, Rajbari-1, Faridpur-3 and 4, Gopalganj-1, 2 and 3, Madaripur-1, and 3, Shariatpur-1, 2 and 3, Sylhet-5, Moulvibazar-2 and 4, Habiganj-3, Comilla-1, 3, 9 and 12, Chandpur-2, Noakhali-5, Laxmipur-1 and 3, Chittagong-3, 7, 9 and 10, Cox's Bazar-1, Khagrachhari and Rangamati.