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Magazine

Serious doubts about our national higher education system and the craze for going abroad to study have given rise to the growth of private universities. Boasting impressive affiliations with well-known foreign universities accompanied by high tuition fees, these universities claim to offer quality education at international standards. The question is how far are their claims justified? Read the Star Magazine's cover story today that discusses the *New Options in Education?*

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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda's press confce today

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address a press conference at Hotel Sheraton at 5 pm today, reports BSS.

CA hosts reception for polls observers

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman hosted a reception for the international polls observers in Dhaka yesterday afternoon. The reception was attended by advisers, secretaries of different ministries, Chiefs of Three Services and diplomats, reports BSS.

Japanese observers meet Hasina

The Japanese election observation team called on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday. During the meeting, the team members discussed with Hasina the issues relating to Wednesday's election and bilateral matters of the two countries.

Repolling in 27 constituencies on June 19

Star Report

Repolling in 116 polling centres of 27 constituencies where elections were postponed for "untoward incidents" on Wednesday will be held on June 19, Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena announced here yesterday.

Results of two other constituencies - Brahmanbaria-1 and Satkhira-2, yet to be announced due to "legal barriers", are expected to be announced today or tomorrow, he said at a post-election press conference at the EC office.

Sources in the Election Commission said that among the 27 constituencies, Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was leading in 13, Awami League (AL) in 12 and Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami each in one constituency.

Meanwhile recounting in Satkhira-2 was continuing following an appeal by the Jamaat candidate, the district Returning Officer (RO) said when contacted over telephone yesterday. The JP candidate was leading over the Jamaat candidate by a margin of 319 votes.

In Brahmanbaria-1, the Awami League candidate was leading by a margin of 4,838 votes.

When contacted over telephone, returning officers of most of the districts said that elections were postponed in these centres due to "hooliganism by some miscreants and violation of electoral procedure."

According to Election Commission sources here yesterday, repolling will be held in one centre each in Patu-

akhali-2, Sylhet-1, Sylhet-5, Sylhet-3, Comilla-12, Barisal-2 and Narasingdi-4, two centres each in Sylhet-4, Feni-2, Chandpur-2 and Faridpur-2, three centres each in Comilla-7, B'Baria-1, and Sirajganj-7, four centres each in Comilla-8, Chittagong-11, Chittagong-15, B'Baria-3, five centres each in Chandpur-1, Comilla-4, Comilla-6, six centres each in Comilla-9 and Narayanganj-2, seven centres each in Chittagong-6, and Jamalpur-2, ten centres each in Comilla-2 and 3 and 15 centres in Comilla-

10.

UNB adds: The turnout in Wednesday's pollings set a new record in the history of country's parliamentary elections with 73 per cent voters having exercised their franchise, the CEC said at the press conference.

Khulna division experienced the highest voter turnout of 83 per cent, followed by Rajshahi's 78 per cent, Sylhet and Dhaka 74 per cent each, Barisal 66 per cent and Chittagong 64 per cent, he added.

"Our aim was to increase voter participation in the polls, and we have succeeded in it creating a peaceful atmosphere in the polling centres," the CEC said.

The constituencies where elections in some centres were postponed are: 1. Comilla-2: Total centre: 97, result available 87, postponed: 10. Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain of BNP: 61,442 votes Hasan Jamil Sattar of Jatiya Party: 58,097 votes.

2. Comilla-3: Total centre: See Page 12 Col 4

Depression over Bay

A deep depression over southwest Bay and adjoining west central Bay was brewing about 1200 km southwest of Chittagong port at 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

Met office said the depression over southwest Bay and adjoining area moved north-westwards and intensified into a deep depression over southwest Bay and adjoining west central Bay and was centered at 6 pm yesterday about 1200 km southwest of Chittagong port.

It is likely to intensify further and move in a north-westerly direction.

Maximum sustained wind within 18 km of the depression centre is about 50 kph, rising to 60 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain rough.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted Distant Cautionary Signal Number One. All fishing boats and trawlers over North Bay deep sea have been advised to keep close to the coast and proceed with caution.

AL largest party in next parliament

Party stalwarts who failed to return

By Staff Correspondent

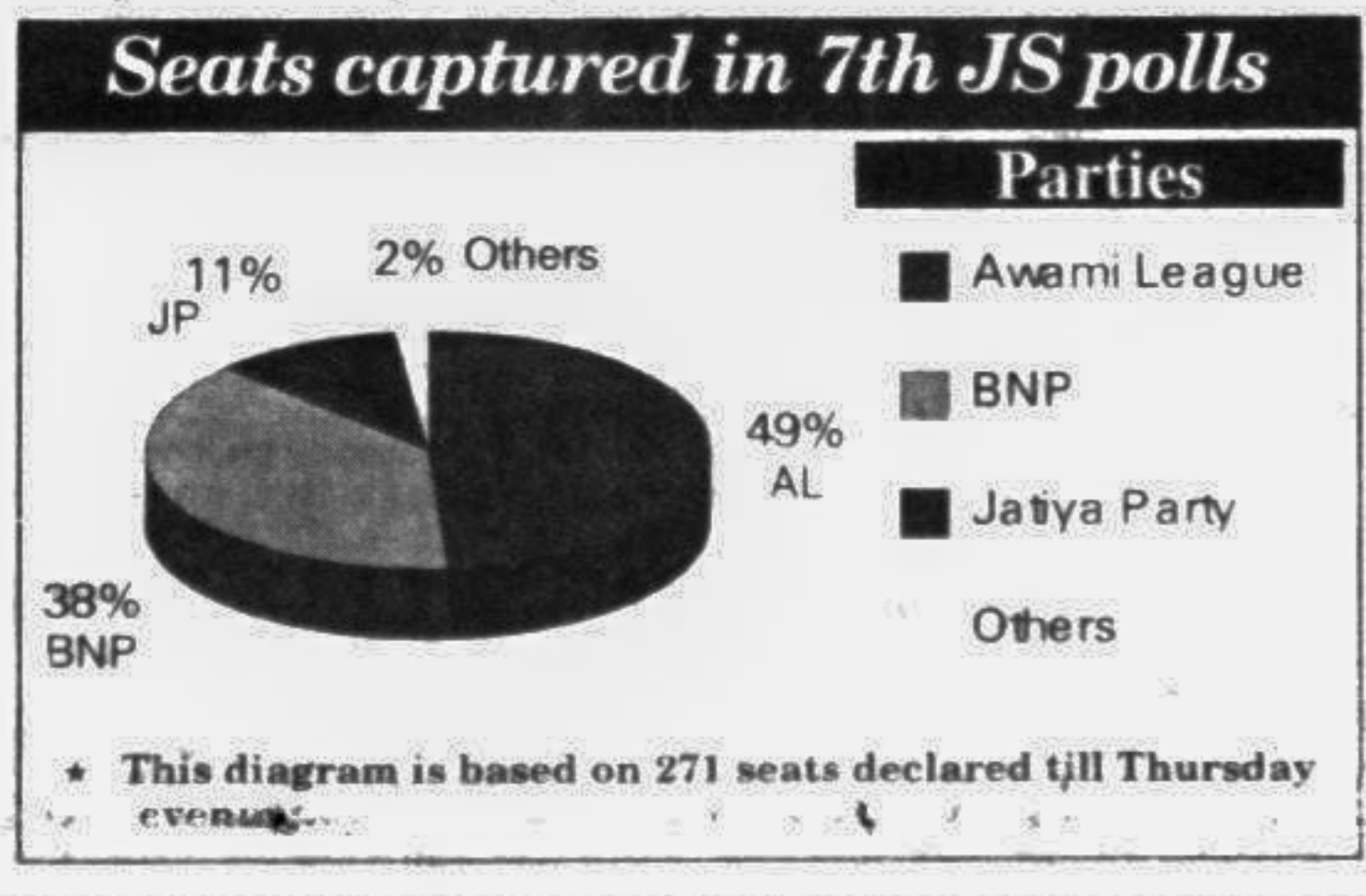
Many stalwarts of the major parties failed to return in Wednesday's general elections. They include former ministers of the BNP government, members of the Awami League high command, top ranking leaders of the Jatiya Party and the heavyweights of the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Among the fallen BNP ministers are party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Majid-ul-Huq, Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Showkat Ali, Abdullah Al Noman, Tariqul Islam, M Keramat Ali, Brigadier (ret'd) ASM Hannan Shah, Prof Jahanara Begum and Prof Abdul Mannan, Major (ret'd) Abdul Mannan, Shahjahan Siraj, Mirza Abbas and Serajul Maq.

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Awami League is poised to emerge as the largest party in next parliament but is unlikely to secure single majority, indicating a hung parliament in days ahead, reports UNB.

According to unofficial results so far announced by the Election Commission, the Awami League of former Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina managed an edge over its rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Jatiya Party is



Hasina awaits President's invitation to form govt

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has said her party is ready to form the next government and is now waiting for an invitation from the President.

"I hope we are going to gain absolute majority and are now fully prepared to form the next government," she said.

The AL president was making a statement and answering newsmen's questions at a press conference, first after Wednesday's parliamentary polls, held last night at her Dhanmondi residence in the city.



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina showing victory sign at the press conference yesterday. — Star photo

Over two hundred newsmen from home and abroad attended the press conference where a beaming Hasina delivered her brief statement amidst clicking of cameras.

Awami League, which remained out of power for over two decades, emerged as the largest party winning 133 seats so far. Unofficial results of 271 Jatiya Sangsad (parliament) constituencies out of the 300 were announced till yesterday.

Asked about a possible coalition with Jatiya Party, Hasina said "Let's see. It is too early to make comment now."

See Page 12 Col 1

One killed, 10 hurt in post-polls violence

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and ten others were injured in post-polls violence in Narayanganj and Dhaka yesterday.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: One person was killed and two others sustained injuries in a clash in the town yesterday, police said.

Mujibar Rahman, 20, received bullet wounds at around noon when a victory procession of the Awami League was confronted with BNP activists near Masdar Bazar.

Witnesses said, BNP activists threw a hand bomb at the procession brought out by the supporters of AL candidate A K M Shamim Osman. In retaliation, the processionists attacked the BNP office. Both AL and BNP activists exchanged at least 20 rounds of fire and charged at least 25 hand bombs.

See Page 12 col 8

Admn has backed certain party to rig polls: BNP

The BNP has accused the caretaker government, the Election Commission and a section of the administration, police and election officials of backing a particular party to commit massive rigging across the country in the Wednesday's polls, reports UNB.

"This rigging was pre-planned, conspiratorial and unprecedented in the history," said Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, senior vice-president of the BNP at a press conference last night.

He said the election, in no way, was free and fair.

Addressing the press conference at the party's Kakrail

office, BNP secretary general Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said the polls results of 111 constituencies were not acceptable to them and demanded re-polling there.

"A list of the 111 constituencies has already been submitted to the Election Commission," he said.

Talukdar told a questioner that "if repolling is not done, the party will announce a programme of action in due time."

Terminating the postponement of results in 27 constituencies as mysterious, he said the BNP nominees were leading in 12 of those constituencies.

The BNP secretary general

alleged that the caretaker government had lost neutrality because of its deeds and attitude.

In this respect, he mentioned the posting of some officials, who had participated in the "Janatar Manch" to express allegiance to a particular party, as deputy commissioners in different districts and allowing them to function as returning officers during the polls.

Leveling the charge of media coup to foil the genuine results of polls, Talukdar said, "There was no transparency of results announced by the tele-

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News Analysis

A verdict for democracy

By S Y Bakht

As in the past, the people have once again clearly come out in favour of the democratic spirit, stability and peace, and against extremism in the political arena.

They have given their unmistakable verdict in the just concluded elections for the seventh parliament throwing their weight mainly behind the two major parties — Awami League and BNP — with democratic credentials.

Other important features of the election include the great enthusiasm seen among the electorate, resulting in an un-

precedented turnout of voters — both male and female.

This indicates that the voters have become politically more conscious. Furthermore, the voters also delivered a big warning to the policy-makers of the political parties as a number of them were defeated in the hustings.

While the stalwarts failed, many junior leaders fared well.

The polls results also disproved most of the pre-polls survey findings showing both the AL and BNP running neck and neck and the Jatiya Party gaining ground.

According to the latest unofficial results of 271 seats out of the 300 announced by the Election Commission, the AL bagged 133 seats and the BNP 104. Besides, Jatiya Party secured 29 seats, Jamaat-e-Islami two, JSD(Rab) one, Islami Oikkya Jote one and an independent candidate won in one constituency.

The polls results were quite a reversal of fortune for BNP vis-a-vis the 1991 elections for the fifth parliament. In that election the AL won 88 seats while it shared its election

See Page 12 Col 1

More than 6 JP deserters defeated

By Staff Correspondent

More than half-a-dozen Jatiya Party leaders who had deserted their old party apparently for electoral victories, have been defeated in Wednesday's polls.

Four JP leaders, including Major General (ret'd) Mahmudul Hassan, Barrister Abul Hasnat, Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury and Jamaluddin Ahmed, had left the party to contest the elections on the BNP ticket, but they eventually lost in the polls.

Former Vice president Justice Nurul Islam, Speaker Shamsul Hossain and Air Vice Marshal (ret'd) A K Khandaker also left the JP to contest from the Awami League. They were also defeated.

Suranjit Sengupta who left the Ganatantri Party for joining the Awami League also failed in the June 12 election.

Voters turnout 73.19 pc

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly 73.19 per cent of the voters have cast their votes in the June 12 parliamentary election, according to a rough estimate.

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) yesterday said that some 41.5 million voters exercised their right to franchise.

Khulna division maintained the lead with 82 per cent in Rajshahi, some 78 per cent voters cast their votes followed by 74 per cent in Sylhet, 74 per cent in Dhaka, 66 per cent in Barisal and 64 per cent in Chittagong division, the CEC said.

A large turnout of female voters was observed but the EC was yet to give any figure. The total number of eligible voters in the country is 56.71 millions.

JP to back any party freeing Ershad

The Jatiya Party yesterday said the release of party supreme H M Ershad from jail will be their major condition for support to a party aspiring to form the next government.

The release of Ershad is our main point. It is the first and foremost point of our party's seven-point programme. We cannot support any government which is not liberal on the point," said JP acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at a crowded press conference at Hotel Sheraton in the evening.

But he avoided a direct answer to repeated queries from both local and foreign journalists as to which party the JP would prefer coming to power.

Asked whether it would favour the Awami League, Chowdhury said: "We will not support any particular party, but support our own cause... There should be give and take."

To a question with whom, among the BNP and Awami League, the Jatiya Party feels ideological nearness, he said ideological conflict among parties in Bangladesh had narrowed down. "Nobody is our enemy... Our ideal is always the interest of the country."

Chowdhury, whose Jatiya Party may well turn out to be the king maker in view of a possible polls result which is unlikely to give absolute majority to either the BNP or Awami League, said that they had not been approached yet by any of the two parties.

The JP acting chairman, however, said he wanted that the next parliament was not

See Page 12 col 7

Ershad, his family members win 8 JS seats

By Staff Correspondent

Jailed chief of Jatiya Party H M Ershad, his wife Begum Rawshan Ershad and two of his relatives have won the election.

Ershad won all five seats he contested while his wife, former first lady got elected from Mymensingh-4.

The constituencies from where Ershad got elected are — Rangpur-2.3.5 and 6 and Kurigram-3.

Ershad's younger brother, G M Kader and his brother-in-law, Dr Asadur Rahman, came out successful from their respective constituencies.



BNP Secretary General Salam Talukdar addressing a press conference at the Kakrail office of the party yesterday. — Star photo

Returns of polls expenses of many leaders yet to reach EC

By Mizan Ali

The returns of election expenses of some prominent leaders including BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, jailed JP leader HM Ershad, Abdus Samad Azad of Awami League and Matiur Rahman Nizami of Jamaat-e-Islami were yet to reach the Election Commission (EC) till yesterday, according to official sources here.

They were among the 706 candidates who did not submit their statements on election expenses.

Under Article 44 AA (1) of the Representation of People's

Order (RPO), "Every contesting candidate shall submit to returning officer, within seven days next following the withdrawal statement in the prescribed form of the probable sources of fund to meet the election expenses."

Clause (3) of the same Article adds, "A copy of the statement submitted under Clause (1) together with a copy of the statement and the return mentioned in Clause (2), shall be sent by the contesting candidate to the Commission by registered post at the time of their submission to the

Returning Officer."

A candidate found guilty of not submitting return of expenses is "punishable with rigorous imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years and shall not be less than two years and also with fine," according to Article 74 of the RPO.

Begum Zia had contested from five constituencies; Bogra-6 and 7, Feni-1, Laxmipur-2 and Chittagong-1 constituencies. She submitted the return of expenses in only Chittagong-1 constituency.

Ershad had contested from

five constituencies but submitted the returns for only one constituency, Rangpur-3.

Abdus Samad Azad a president member of Awami League had contested from Sunamganj-3 while Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Matiur Rahman Nizami had contested from Pabna-1 but both failed to submit returns of election expenses.

JP secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju had contested from Pirojpur-2 and Jhalakathi-1 constituencies but submitted the returns of his expenditure in Pirojpur-2.

BNP senior vice-president AQM Badruddoza, JP central leader Shah Moazzam Hossain and KS Nabi of AL also did not submit their returns. EC officials added.

None of the candidates from Sunamganj-4 and Sunamganj-5 constituencies submitted their returns to the EC.

Of the 706 candidates, whose returns are yet to reach the Election Commission, 190 are in Dhaka division, 165 in Chittagong, 120 in Rajshahi, 98 in Khulna, 72 in Sylhet and 61 in Barisal divisions, the officials added.

Body of young man recovered

By DMCH Correspondent

Police recovered the body of a young man from near the emergency department of the Mitford Hospital yesterday morning.

The victim, identified as Shah Alam aged about 30, hailed from Zazira of Shariatpur district. Marks of injuries were found in his abdomen, hospital sources said.

Election results on Internet

News on the just concluded election and detailed results were sent to The Daily Star home page at the world wide web of the Internet through ISN.

Updated results, news and analysis were provided around the clock beginning the morning of the polling day.

Internet editor of The Daily Star Sonu Bari based in Austin, Texas, USA were in constant touch with the Internet team here at The Daily Star. It was led by Editor Mahfuz Anam, M Shamimuzzaman as coordinator, M Anwarul Haq and the team of The Daily Star reporters.

In the first six hours 1667 enquiries from all over the world were made. The address (URL) of the home page of The Daily Star is: <http://ecw.ec.utexas.edu/~sbari>.