

BNP's Complaints

In a press conference yesterday BNP Chief Begum Zia said it was premature to either accept or reject the poll results because the process was not yet complete.

An election spontaneously acclaimed as having been free and fair by probing international monitor groups has unfortunately drawn a flak from the losing side.

There is a contradiction in their line of thinking in that they regarded as 'mysterious' the withholding of results in 27 constituencies where the EC has ordered repolling in 116 voting centres on June 19 duly taking into cognizance the untoward incidents taking place there.

The BNP's post-election observations read much more than a repeat of the reactions one remembers the Awami League had made known after the 1991 polls.

At any rate, we believe, the BNP should now apply to itself everything it had said in 1991 to the Awami League in response to that party's somewhat strident note against the conduct of polls at that time.

We note that Begum Zia has ruled out any question of calling upon her supporters to go for any street agitation at this stage.

From Rajshahi with Reminder

UNICEF's Progress of Nation (PON) '96 report calls for an immediate shift in our focus from the gloss of electoral exuberance back to the grime and grease inherent in our existence.

It has been quite some time since our alarming acquaintance with the potential monstrosity of health hazard due to the presence of arsenic poison in the water of our daily use.

Hardly a Better World

The number of armed conflicts in the world last year decreased to 30 as compared with 32 in 1994 and 36 in 1989.

We are not, however, globally sleeping a wee bit more peacefully by virtue of this trend which is in itself hardly consistent with the feeling of relief generated at the end of the cold war.

The great powers and multilateral security organisations face the challenges of mostly internalised conflicts which are also keeping the river countries on an attrition course.

The surge of internal conflicts in many countries together with the diminishing international influence on the courses of events holds danger to world peace.

The civil wars present no-win situations. And even the negotiated settlement of the conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina dubbed otherwise as 'spectacular' has run into difficulties as neither side seems satisfied with the status quo.

We would like to congratulate the Chief of the caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman and his Advisers, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mr Abu Hena and his entourage for gifting Bangladesh with an epoch making free, fair and neutral election.

Admittedly, holding of a free, fair and neutral election this time appeared much harder when compared with 1991.

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An Election Replete with Lessons

Now that the provisions for caretaker government is enshrined in the constitution, future ministers should see that they remain much more accountable to the public in a regime of free and fair election. Reward the best and punish the worst is the outcome of a free and fair election.

uncomfortable and uneasy position where serious administrative problems cropped up, because the 13th amendment was also made, allegedly, to empower the president to axe the caretaker government, if needed.

Only researchers can say something on this issue. But suffice it to say here, perhaps, that a transparent democratic process, the existence of the rule of law would go a long way to challenge fundamentalists in this country.

But as a nation, we should not stay complacent with the performance of the current process itself.

Whether they are paid or not is not so relevant as the fact that they extort and loot at will.

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women in the election drew attention of the domestic and foreign observers.

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BNP stalwarts who failed to retain their caps. While in power, those stars allegedly, stole attention for many of their unpopular activities.

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should be given more powers and facilities to tackle these issues.

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show that BNP has lost in both these seats. Thanks to the Magura people for not rejecting the hypotheses that the bi-election was pervasively rigged!

Life Boat, Rain Coat

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Beneath the Surface

by Abdul Bayes

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Dodgy Tactics in Kashmir

Elections, except the one in 1977, have been a farce and the Kashmiris have been treated like dumb driven cattle. They have never enjoyed their democratic right to rule themselves. Nor have they experienced liberty and the interplay of ideas that free ballots bring in their wake.

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BETWEEN THE LINES

Kuldip Nayar writes from New Delhi

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BTV's affinity?

Sir, For the last few months, with deep concern, we have been observing that Bangladesh Television (BTV) has been unnecessarily tele-casting activities of an NGO's Country Director for unknown reasons.

Bangladesh hockey

Sir, The results of Bangladesh in the recently concluded Third Junior Asian Hockey Championships has evoked a great deal of hope and enthusiasm in the hearts of sports fans in the country.

Rotary Int'l awards Hasina....

Sir, My attention has been drawn to a news item captioned as 'Rotary Int'l awards Hasina with Paul Harris Fellowship' published in the second page of your issue dated 11 June 1996.

Gilman's communique

Sir, I have gone through the letter No. 11 published in your esteemed daily on 9.6.96 under the caption 'Gilman's communique'.