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The World On Time



The lone independent MP-elect, Mokbul Hossain, joined Bangladesh Awami League yesterday. Hossain, who was elected from Meherpur-2 constituency, called on AL president Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence and expressed allegiance to her leadership. — AL photo

59pc voters hadn't even heard of Deve Gowda

NEW DELHI, June 16: Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda's 16-day-old coalition government will not last for more than a year, 53 per cent of registered voters interviewed for a post-election poll said, reports AFP.

The poll, covering 1,277 voters in 16 of India's 25 states, revealed that 59 per cent of the voters had not even heard of Deve Gowda, a former chief minister of southern Karnataka state.

The poll conducted between June 6 and 9, is due to be published in the latest issue of the news magazine India Today.

It said about 50 per cent of the electorate disapproved of the support extended to the 13-party United Front government by the Congress (I) party of former premier PV Narasimha Rao.

The findings said the BJP would gain 14 more seats if mid-term elections were held pushing up its percentage of votes from 23.5 to 27.5, making it for the first time the largest party both in terms of seats and votes.

Meanwhile, Deve Gowda today pledged to run a corruption-free government and to woo foreign investment in a big way to ensure the country's economic development.

Foreign investment has a very important role to play in India's development, he said. Most of our Asian neighbours are attracting large volumes of foreign investment to assist in their modernisation and development.

Army to be deployed

From page 1

The government has imposed a ban on carrying all kinds of licensed arms from June 17-21 in 13 districts of the country to maintain law and order during the repolling on Wednesday.

Yeltsin

From page 1

15.7 million Russians had voted by 2 pm, Moscow time (1000 GMT) or 14.75 per cent of Russia's 105 million voters.

The speed of voting in Russia is falling step by step and we can now forecast that the turnout of voters... will be about 65 per cent, and not 70-75 per cent as earlier forecast, the agency quoted him as saying.

A low turnout is likely to favour Zhyganov, expected to win support from millions of voters disillusioned with Yeltsin's economic reforms.

A high turnout would favour Yeltsin, whose voters include young people and others who may not bother to go to polling stations — especially on a warm summer Sunday.

If no candidate wins an overall majority in the first round, the run-off vote next month.

Voting began Saturday night Moscow time when polling stations opened nine time zones away along the Bering and Chukchi Seas. Armed guards watched over the polls and thousands of soldiers patrolled a tense capital to protect against fraud or terrorism.

Rarely has a vote had more riding on the outcome. Some analysts call it the most pivotal election in history.

Yeltsin and Zhyganov were expected to wage a tight race at the head of a 10-candidate field, amid widespread expectations they would qualify for a two-man runoff in early July after failing to receive a majority.

ADP okayed

From page 1

12,500 crore might appear ambitious on grounds of both resource availability and implementation capability.

It said stern action, including seizure of the arms under the Arms Act 1878, clause 17-ka (2), would be taken against the persons who will violate the restriction.

The ban, however, will not be applicable for the members of the law-enforcing agencies on election duty and guards of the government, semi-government and private establishments, the handout said.

Because of these considerations, a core ADP of a relatively smaller size has been prepared," said Dr Mahmud, an eminent economist of the country.

The core ADP includes fewer new projects and follows stricter guidelines in allocating funds for ongoing projects.

The Finance Adviser said funds (to ADP projects) would be allocated according to the core ADP in the beginning of the fiscal year on grounds of fiscal prudence. "As a result, the next government will have enough flexibility in the choice of new projects and in deciding about the ADP size," he said.

With Tk 1170 crore, education and religion sectors received the highest allocation, estimated at 14.15 per cent of the total outlay, in the new ADP. Transportation and electricity sectors are other two major recipients with 10.72 per cent and 10.55 per cent share respectively of the total allocation.

Rejoinder

Mr Khairuzaman, presently posted at Manila as CDA in Bangladesh mission has refuted Probe news item published on May 25, 1996 in The Daily Star. In his rejoinder, he stated that he was never directly or indirectly involved in August 15, 1975 killing as much before the incident he was out of the country on a professional training and subsequently on his return had joined his unit on duty at Bangabhaban.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Repolling in four JS seats Saifur, Humayun close fight in Sylhet-1

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, June 16: Nine candidates are again in the field to get support from voters in the repolling in 5 polling centres of 4 constituencies in Sylhet district.

With only two days left for the repolling scheduled for Wednesday, villages in those centres are now vibrating with the movement of candidates and their party workers.

Out of total 6 constituencies in the district, results of only 2 were announced earlier.

Awami League stalwart Humayun Rashid Chowdhury is facing BNP's Saifur Rahman in Sylhet-1 (Sylhet Sadar and Companyganj). Humayun Rashid had polled 58,899 votes in 126 centres against Saifur's 58,755. Repolling in Companyganj Government Primary School centre will decide their fate. The total number of voters in the centre is 1266.

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and his party workers are in the remote villages to woo the voters. Many AL workers are even staying in the villages.

BNP stalwart Saifur Rahman along with his party's local leaders have also reached the area to earn the voters' sympathy.

Saifur Rahman had contested from three constituencies. He was in Mouvibazar-3 (Mouvibazar Sadar and Rajnagar) defeating Awami League nominee Azizur Rahman, by over 23,000 votes.

Saifur is also facing AL's Imran Ahmed in Sylhet 4 (Jaintapur and Gowainghat thanas) where he is leading by 1056 votes. The number of voters in the two centres of Sylhet-4 where repolling will be held Wednesday is 4947. Imran is also making door-to-door campaign in the villages.

In Sylhet-5 constituency (Jakiganj and Kanaighat

Complaints

From page 1

ties in the polls include Jamaluddin Ahmed of BNP and Suranjit Sengupta of AL. Moudud Ahmed of Jatiya Party also complained about rigging of votes in the constituencies he contested in.

Jamaluddin Ahmed, a former Deputy Prime Minister of the Zia cabinet and a BNP candidate from the Chittagong 4 constituency, was quoted by UNB news agency as saying, "The EC's sincerity for holding a free and fair elections got lost in the cobweb of civil bureaucracy and police administration."

Jamaluddin was defeated by an AL candidate in the polls. He claimed he was defeated in the elections due to vote doctory by his rival candidate.

Suranjit Sengupta of the AL who lost the polls to a Jatiya Party candidate in Sunaiganj 2 constituency, accused the EC for his defeat. Probe news agency quoted Sengupta as saying that the EC has changed four polling centres of his constituency the night before the polls, which caused trouble for many voters of the area.

Abdur Rab Chowdhury of the BNP accused JSD leader ASM Rab of robbing votes in the Lakkhipur-4 constituency. Addressing a press conference in the city yesterday, Chowdhury also accused some officials of the local administration for extending hands in manipulating votes in the constituency, according to BSS.

UNB reports from Khulna, BNP Joint Secretary General and former Whip of Jatiya Sangsad Mohammad Ashraf Hossain yesterday demanded repolling in Khulna-3 constituency.

Addressing a press conference at Khulna Press Club, he alleged that Awami League candidate won the Wednesday's election by resorting to widespread violence and unprecedented irregularities.

Ctg BCL leader arrested

CHITTAGONG, June 16: A local leader of pro-Awami League Chhatra League was arrested from Askardighar in the city today, reports UNB.

Police said Mithun Barua, alias Suman Barua, president of NES College unit of the BCL, was arrested in connection with the killing of a police officer during non-cooperation movement in February this year.

BCL activists staged a rowdy protest in the city bringing out procession and firing shots in the college area leaving a rickshaw puller, Abul Hossain, 25, critically injured.

Hossain was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet wounds.

Injured AL activist dies in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, June 16: An Awami League activist injured in a BNP AL fierce clash during last week's polling at Airkhamar in Sadar thana died here yesterday, reports UNB.

District Awami League identified Bazur Rahman as their partyman and blamed BNP men for the killing.

In an instant protest, the Awami League brought out a procession in the town and later submitted memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner urging for punishment of those responsible for the killing.

Tension was prevailing in the nearby Deuti polling centre area as widespread rigging allegedly occurred there. DC and SP tried to contain the situation, but there were attacks by some angry BNP activists near Deuti while they were returning to the district headquarters.

At one stage, the DC was also injured in the melee. The DC and SP were, however, rescued with the help of BDR from Kurigram and Rangpur.

BNP MP-elect

From page 1

the Chandpur-6 constituency in June 12 elections, police said.

He was produced before the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the morning and was released on bail in the afternoon, police and court sources said.

Alamgir, who was also elected MP in the 1991 polls and in the February 15 poll of this year, was arrested on charges of attempt to murder, creating obstruction in discharging the duties of government servant and for creating public nuisance, police said.

At a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club last evening, the BNP MP, however, denied the charges, which were brought against him terming it a conspiracy against him and his party.

He also alleged that police brought the women at Tejgaon thana in the morning and asked him whether he knew them or not.

Majority party

From page 1

parties is invariably invited to form the government.

When asked whether the invitation from the President right at this point would influence the repolling, Barrister Amirul Islam said, the process should start now as the trend is obvious.

Prior to extending invitation to the leader of the largest party, the President may wait till the re-polling is over by June 19," said Dr Zahir, adding, "unless the President has reasons to believe that any one party enjoys absolute majority all by itself or by way of alliance with others.

Barrister Amirul Islam on the other hand, argued that even if one has to wait for the re-polling, then the leader of the majority party has to be recognised and steps taken for formation of the new government.

Another Supreme Court lawyer on this issue said that at this stage the President could not appoint a Prime Minister till re-polling in 122 centres were completed.

Maung Sue Prue

From page 1

wives, four sons, six daughters and a large number of well-wishers and relations to mourn his death.

Maung Sue Prue Chowdhury became the chief of Bomang Circle in 1959. He was the 14th King of the Bomang Circle.

An elected member of parliament twice in 1986 and 1988, the Bomang chief was also works minister in the then provincial government in 1965.

The mortal remains of the Raja Bahadur was kept reserved for ceremonial cremation in June 30.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has expressed his deep shock and profound sorrow at the sad demise of Bomang chief Maung Sue Prue Chowdhury.

Chief Adviser Muhammad Habibur Rahman has expressed deep shock at the death of Bomang chief Maung Sue Prue Chowdhury.

BNP urges EC

From page 1

local civil and police administration supported reign of terror in all 27 constituencies where repolling is scheduled on June 19 next.

They said, the local police has been arresting, detaining, terrorising and intimidating the BNP leaders and workers and general voters in particular in all these 27 constituencies only to pave the way for easy win of Awami League nominees.

Under the cover of local administration, and the police, the Awami League leaders and workers have already established a reign of terror in all these 27 constituencies only to ensure their easy sail in the June 19 repolling by massive rigging intimidating the BNP supporters and workers.

BNP election steering committee member secretary Haris Chowdhury and former state minister Gayeshwar Chandra Roy briefed the newsmen.

NDI team to observe repolling

An eight-member team of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) will observe the repolling in 122 centres of 27 constituencies on Wednesday, reports UNB.

It will hold press conference on June 20 to inform its findings.

An NDI press release adds, Former Australian Foreign Minister Andrew Peacock and former US Congressman Stephen Solaz will return to Dhaka today to continue the Multinational election observation effort of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI).

One gunned down in Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, June 16: A young man was gunned down by the guards of Forest Department in Chokoria thana of the district on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said Nurul Islam, 26, son of one Abul Kashem of Battoli village, was shot by the guards at dead of night as he came out from the nearby reserve forest after cutting woods. He died on the spot.

A case was filed with Chokoria thana in this connection.

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The Midnight File

Storms kill 22 in Yemen

SANAA, June 16: At least 22 people were killed and dozens more are missing after violent storms and rain thrashed the central part of Yemen, an official said today, reports AFP.

Eight policemen injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, June 16: At least eight policemen were injured, two of them critically, when a police van collided head-on with a truck on the Kushtia-Jhenaidah road here at around noon today.

The accident occurred as the police pick-up van ran into a Kushtia-bound truck coming from the opposite direction near the BSCIC estate.

The police van was on way to a nearby Ansar camp to deliver a consignment of arms.

Of the injured, Subbaidar Wahid, 40 and Mujibur Rahman, Anwar Adjutant, were sent to Dhaka in critical condition, while the others, constables Nur Hossain, 40, Nur Mohammad, 45, Lutfor Rahman, 30, Mosharrar Hossain, 38, Abdus Salam, 50 and Nurul Islam, 40, were admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital.

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Party position in 27 constituencies awaiting repolling

| Constituency No. | No. of centres for repoll | 1st Position | | 2nd Position | | 3rd Position | | Difference between 1st and 2nd position | Votes at stake |
|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|--------|---|----------------|
| | | Party | Votes | Party | Votes | Party | Votes | | |
| 67 Sirajganj 7 | 3 | AL | 50,265 | BNP | 48,223 | | | 2,042 | 3,471 |
| 114 Pautakhali 2 | 1 | AL | 45,109 | BNP | 44,865 | | | 244 | 2,067 |
| 122 Bakerganj 2 | 1 | BNP | 31,396 | JP | 30,294 | AL | 25,391 | 1,102 | 4,633 |
| 142 Jamalpur 2 | 7 | AL | 37,230 | BNP | 32,319 | | | 4,911 | 15,178 |
| 200 Narsingdi 4 | 1 | AL | 78,153 | BNP | 76,638 | | | 1,515 | 1,916 |
| 203 Narayanganj 2 | 6 | BNP | 53,251 | AL | 49,802 | | | 3,449 | 17,272 |
| 210 Faridpur 2 | 2 | BNP | 52,392 | AL | 51,670 | | | 722 | 6,260 |
| 228 Sylhet 1 | 1 | AL | 58,530 | BNP | 58,755 | JP | 40,169 | 95 | 1,270 |
| 230 Sylhet 3 | 1 | JP | 26,443 | BNP | 25,862 | AL | 25,814 | 581 | 789 |
| 231 Sylhet 4 | 2 | BNP | 22,115 | AL | 21,059 | IND | 16,996 | 1,056 | 4,947 |
| 232 Sylhet 5 | 1 | JI | 29,669 | AL | 27,564 | JP | 14,918 | 2,105 | 2,392 |
| 244 B'baria 3 | 4 | BNP | 73,566 | AL | 68,101 | JP | 64,291 | 5,465 | 10,606 |
| 249 Comilla 2 | 10 | BNP | 61,442 | JP | 58,097 | AL | 16,477 | 3,345 | 21,935 |
| 250 Comilla 3 | 9 | JP | 47,297 | AL | 44,595 | BNP | 42,360 | 2,702 | 24,374 |
| 251 Comilla 4 | 5 | BNP | 42,840 | JP | 33,765 | AL | 33,422 | 9,075 | 13,253 |
| 253 Comilla 6 | 5 | AL | 33,172 | BNP | 29,070 | FP | 20,020 | 4,102 | 15,429 |
| 254 Comilla 7 | 3 | AL | 40,869 | BNP | 37,078 | JP | 20,700 | 3,791 | 10,676 |
| 255 Comilla 8 | 4 | BNP | 45,303 | AL | 35,671 | JP | 20,479 | 9,626 | 14,932 |
| 256 Comilla 9 | 6 | AL | 48,438 | JP | 45,750 | BNP | 2,970 | 2,688 | 16,605 |
| 257 Comilla 10 | 15 | AL | 36,296 | BNP | 31,593 | JP | 12,468 | 4,703 | 41,487 |
| 259 Comilla 12 | 9 | AL | 43,550 | JI | 25,954 | JP | 22,219 | 17,596 | 25,476 |
| 260 Chandpur 1 | 5 | BNP | 27,492 | AL | 26,434 | IND | 16,303 | 1,058 | |
| 262 Chandpur 3 | 2 | BNP | 37,390 | AL | 30,957 | JP | 15,898 | 6,433 | 6,976 |
| 267 Feni 2 | 2 | AL | 65,139 | BNP | 61,927 | JI | 11,906 | 3,212 | 7,598 |
| 284 Chittagong 6 | 7 | BNP | 45,765 | AL | 31,358 | | | 14,407 | 18,363 |
| 289 Chittagong 11 | 4 | BNP | 45,374 | AL | 40,036 | JP | 17,101 | 5,338 | 11,349 |
| 293 Chittagong 15 | 4 | BNP | 41,441 | AL | 32,593 | JP | 18,528 | 8,848 | 11,124 |

— Courtesy: Centre for Analysis and Choice (CAC)

SADF

From page 1

development of projects, institutional and human resources development projects and social and infrastructural development projects.

The SADF has identified 13 projects including five from Bangladesh on different sectors, he said adding that the terms of reference, operational modalities and fund arrangement would be discussed in the meeting.

The Bangladesh projects are: Integrated sericulture projects in Bangladesh at a cost of Tk 119.10 crore, manufacture of drilling equipment and surface mining project in Bangladesh at a cost of Tk 24.78 crore, integrated dairy project at a cost of Tk 31.74 crore, split location cement plants at a cost of Tk 234.83 crore and manufacture of double sided and multi layer printed circuit board at a cost of Tk 22.49 crore.

The member countries contributed five million US dollars to the fund, the SADF chairman said.

The country-wise break-up: Bangladesh 567,500 dollars, Bhutan 250,000 dollars, India 1,605,000 dollars, Maldives 250,000 dollars, Nepal 567,500 dollars, Pakistan 1,192,500 dollar and Sri Lanka 567,500 dollars.

JP reaffirms support to AL

From page 1

yesterday that a number of JP presidium members negated the party's statement on the issue of support to the AL till such a decision was taken by the party presidium. Anwar Hussain Manju said, "Those who expressed different views did that in their personal capacity." "Be sure, those views, in no way, are capable of undoing the statement that myself and Mizan Chowdhury issued earlier."

The JP Secretary General, however, avoided a volley of other queries by journalists.

When approached, Ershad's brother GM Kader quipped, "We are hoping that the issue of lending support to AL is almost settled now."

The JP leaders were asked whether they had discussed the legal aspects relating to Ershad's release.

But, the JP leaders were tight-lipped and declined to say anything about it.

Saturday's JP statement had also urged the President to extend invitation to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina to form the next government.

But JP presidium members Rawshan Ershad, had separately said that decision regarding lending support to the AL would be taken in party presidium meeting.

The AL is close to attaining absolute majority in the 300 seat parliament.

Since Thursday last the AL president had talks in person and over telephone with a number of senior JP leaders including Mizan Chowdhury and Manju, according to sources in JP.

The AL chief was assisted by her legal expert during the meeting with the JP delegation, said one of the members attending the meeting.

Yousuf Hussain Humayun, talking to The Daily Star last night after the meeting said, "We are optimistic about the release of Ershad soon, but not on the condition of the pledged JP support to AL in the Jatiya Sangsad, but on legal and constitutional grounds."

Sheikh Hasina was apprised at the meeting that under Section 401 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the sentence of Ershad could be commuted, said Humayun. Besides, the AL chief was also informed that under Article 49 of Constitution, the President also has power to commute the sentence, he added.

According to Humayun, the AL chief and her legal expert took stock of the situation when the legal position of the jailed JP leader was explained to her.

Meanwhile, the JP leaders who, on Saturday, had negated the party stand on the issue of support to AL, also told The Daily Star last night that the support to the AL was announced as par directive of the jailed party chief. "It is now considered as the party decision," one of them said seeking anonymity.

According to sources in the JP, Begum Ershad met her husband H M Ershad in jail yesterday evening. The outcome of the meeting, however, could not be known as she was not available for comment even after repeated attempts.

70 Hutu civilians massacred

BUJUMBURA, June 16: Burundian troops massacred at least 70 Hutu civilians on and around hills in central Burundi last Thursday, community workers today quoted survivors as saying, reports Reuter.

এলাকাবাসীদের প্রতি আন্তরিক শুভেচ্ছা

গত ১২ই জুন, ১৯৯৬ইং বাংলাদেশে অতীতকর্তৃক স্বাধীন নির্বাচন হয়ে গেল। এই নির্বাচনে ঢাকা-৫ আসনে আল্লাহর রহমতে জলশান, ক্যান্টনমেন্ট ও উত্তরা থানা এলাকাবাসীর অংশে প্রচেষ্টায় জয়যুক্ত হয়েছি। আপনারা আমার আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা গ্রহণ করুন। আমি আপনারা এলাকাবাসী এবং সর্বদাই আপনারদের এলাকাবাসী এবং সর্বদাই কামনা করি। আমি আপনারদের কাছে এলাকার সার্বিক উন্ন