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PHILIPS

Repolling fact sheet

Following is the fact sheet of today's repolling in 122 centres of 27 constituencies, made available by the Election Commission:

Seat	Repolling Centre/Vote	Leading party	Nearest party	Difference
Sirajganj-7	3/9452	AL	BNP	2042
Patuakhali-2	1/2067	AL	BNP	244
Barisal-2	1/4633	BNP	JP	1102
Jamalpur-2	7/15173	AL	BNP	4911
Narsingdi-4	1/1916	AL	BNP	1515
Nganj-2	6/17277	BNP	AL	3449
Faridpur-2	2/6309	BNP	AL	722
Sylhet-1	1/1270	AL	BNP	145
Sylhet-3	1/789	JP	BNP	581
Sylhet-4	2/4947	BNP	AL	1051
Sylhet-5	1/2392	Jamaat	AL	388
Bhabaria-3	4/10660	BNP	AL	5465
Comilla-2	10/22350	BNP	JP	3345
Comilla-3	10/23882	JP	AL	2702
Comilla-4	5/13255	BNP	JP	9075
Comilla-6	5/15429	AL	BNP	4102
Comilla-7	3/10672	AL	BNP	3791
Comilla-8	4/14859	BNP	AL	9626
Comilla-9	6/18209	AL	JP	2688
Comilla-10	15/40809	AL	BNP	4703
Comilla-12	9/24165	AL	Jamaat	17596
Chandpur-1	6/12805	BNP	AL	1058
Chandpur-3	2/6976	BNP	AL	6433
Feni-2	2/7598	AL	BNP	3212
Chittagong-6	7/18363	BNP	AL	14407
Chittagong-11	4/11349	BNP	AL	5338
Chittagong-15	4/11124	BNP	AL	8848

11 girls rescued from Tan Bazar

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, June 18: Eleven under-aged prostitutes were rescued from the Tan Bazar red-light area here this morning by a team of the Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samiti (BJMAS), in co-operation with the local police and a First Class Magistrate.

The BJMAS team included Advocate Salam Ali and Elnur Azz, executive director and a member of the organisation respectively.

The girls have been taken to a BJMAS rehabilitation centre in Dhaka.

ID cards issued before June 12 polls valid: EC

The identity cards issued to journalists and representatives of political parties to observe and collect poll results of the June 12 election will remain valid during today's repolling, said an Election Commission press release last night, reports UNB.

BNP alleges

From page 1
the constituency to win the election.

Choudhury further alleged that the Returning Officer yesterday announced the postal ballots cast in the June 12 polls for the AL candidate from Sylhet-1 in violation of the Article 37(3) of the RPO, to influence the repolling at the constituency. He demanded proper action by the Election Commission in this regard.

Meanwhile, a BNP press release said last night that five workers of the party's student wing, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JC), including the VP of Jagarkanda College, Students Union in the Faridpur-2 constituency were arrested on Monday. Besides, it alleged the AL workers and the police were harassing the BNP activists and threatening the voters at Feni-2, Narsingdi and Narayanganj-2.

No decision yet

From page 1
said, "It is totally misleading".

It has been reported in the press that Ershad rejected the idea of his release on parole. The offer was reportedly being pushed by sections of the leaders willing to enter into an alliance with the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The issue of release of Ershad came into the lime light soon after the JP announced its support to Awami League (AL), through a statement issued by its acting chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju.

A section of the JP leaders including Begum Roushan Ershad had denied having any knowledge about the JP support to the AL. Mizan and Manju later reiterated the JP support to the AL and formally urged the President to extend invitation to the AL chief to form the next government.

Manju had also stated that the JP support to AL was extended on the instruction of its jailed chairman. After bearing about Ershad's support to the move the leaders objected to the idea restrained themselves from issuing public statement on the issue, but the internal manipulation went on, according sources in the party.

Begum Roushan Ershad met her jailed husband against the backdrop of this development

'Vote for AL in today's repolling'

The Awami League has urged the electorate to vote for it in today's repolling in 22 centres of 27 parliamentary constituencies and enable the party attain absolute majority in the parliament, reports BSS.

In a statement yesterday, a member of the party presidium and member-secretary of the central election-conducting committee of the party Dr. Mohammad Selim said that the people in the June 12 elections have given the mandate to Awami League but the BNP, which was toppled by people's movement can not still accept the results.

He said the Awami League has reached a stage of achieving absolute majority in the House but the BNP has engaged itself in a conspiracy taking the scope of re-polling in 27 seats.

Dr. Selim urged the people to vote for the Awami League in today's repolling and also called upon the Election Commission and the law enforcing agencies to take necessary measures so that people can exercise their right to franchise in a free manner.

Persons who can enter polling centres

The Election Commission has prohibited the entry of any unauthorised person into the polling centres during today's repolling, reports UNB.

According to the criteria of eligibility announced by the Election Commission, the following persons will be allowed to enter into the polling centres during Wednesday's repolling in 122 centres of 27 seats across the country with permission from the presiding officers concerned:

- Specific number of voters, receiving the presiding officer's entry permit at the same time;
- Candidate/his election agent and polling agent; and
- Any other person permitted by the returning officer.

Most fair polls

From page 1
of the electorate, barring few instances, we conclude that the elections have been free and fair.

He called upon the political parties to respect the will of the people and play a responsible role in a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation.

Stating that the atmosphere on the election day was "festive", the former foreign secretary said his organisation's observers had noticed no remarkable tension except in a few places where polling was marred by violence and intimidation resulting in the postponement of voting.

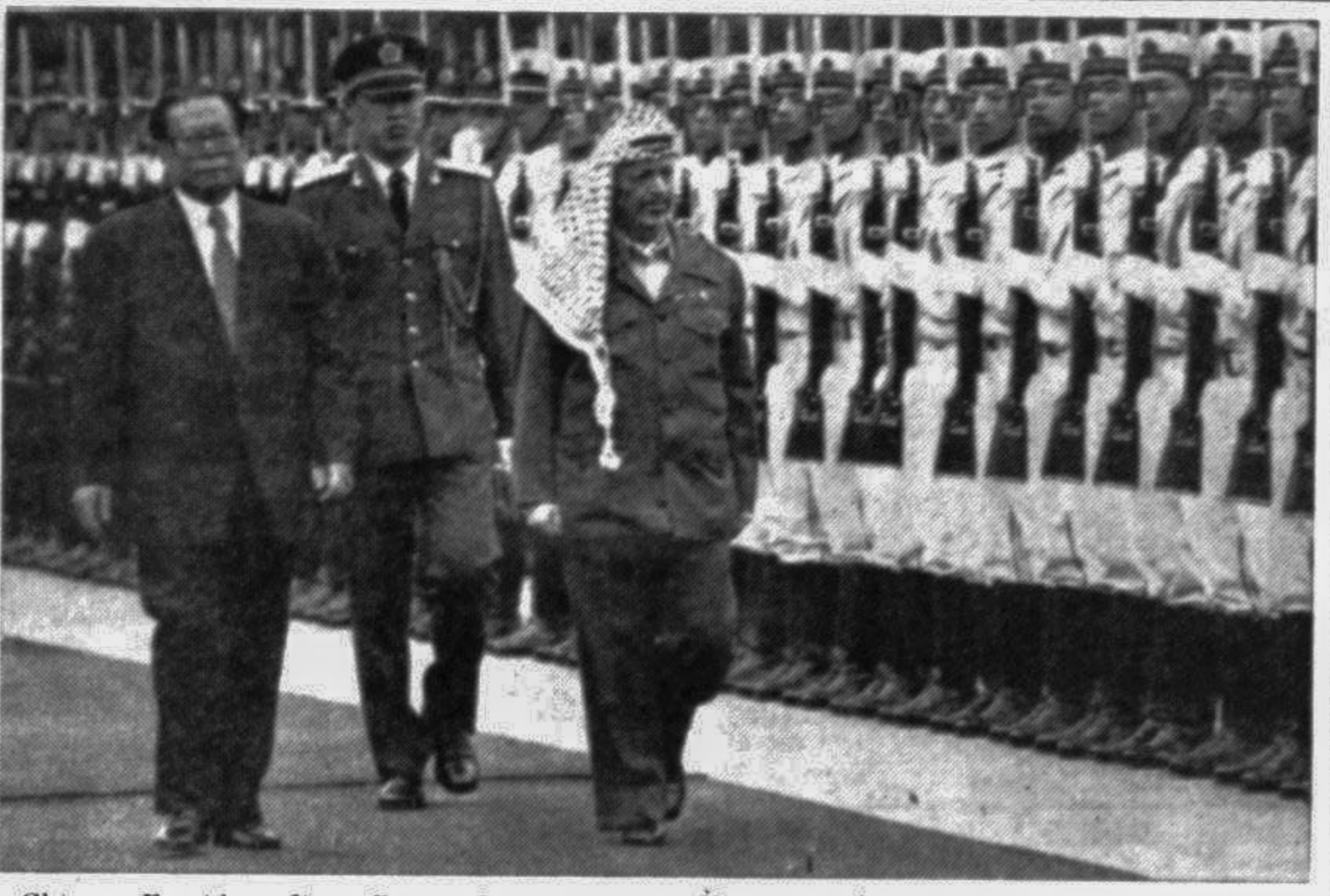
Referring to allegations of widespread rigging and irregularities made by some political parties and candidates, Ahmad said, "The allegations were not significant enough to change the overall outcome."

The FEMA chief said, their observers witnessed a few cases of intimidation and illegality, but those were isolated cases and "appear to be attributable to the individual candidates and their supporters."

Sigma Huda, Secretary General, Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights said there was an air of festivity and happiness all around on the election day.

Her organisation conducted a random survey on the election day which revealed that 60 per cent of the voters termed the election as a "brilliant" example of fair play, more than 20 per cent commented "fairly ok" and the remaining 20 per cent were unsatisfied with the electoral process.

Sigma said, "the voters have proved that they are secular, so they have rejected fundamentalists. The retired army officers were not approved of by the public generally. The business community failed to gain the public support."



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (L) accompanies Yasser Arafat, president of the Palestinian authority, as he reviews the guard of honour during the welcoming ceremony in Beijing's Tiananmen Square yesterday.

Today's repolling 'crucial' for AL

By Reaz Ahmed
The re-election in 122 polling centres of 27 Jatiya Sangsad constituencies is very crucial for Awami League, according to source in the party.

Out of results of 273 seats declared, Awami League got 134 seats, 17 short of an absolute majority in the 300-seat parliament.

Central leaders of the party have made hectic electioneering in the constituencies during the last few days to bag as much seats as possible to get absolute majority in the parliament. MPs-elect of neighbouring constituencies had also joined the campaign, the sources said.

After the joining of the lone independent MP-elect from Meherpur, Mokbul Hossain to AL the party strength now stands at 135. It requires 16 seats for absolute majority in the parliament.

Awami League candidates were leading in 11 of the 27 constituencies and were in second position in 4 others. Elections in the 12 centres of the 27 constituencies were postponed due to "untoward incidents."

Newspaper hawker killed in city road accident

By DMCH Correspondent
A newspaper hawker was killed and another injured in a road accident at Tejaon in the city yesterday.

Monturul Alam, 45, supervisor of the Dhaka Hawkers' Association, was killed on the spot when a speeding car ran over him near Tejaon thana at around 6 am, police and sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said.

Shahjahan, 35, was admitted to the DMCH.

A case has been filed with Tejaon thana in this regard, police said.

Solarz, Peacock meet Manju

Visiting leaders of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) Stephen Solarz and Andrew Peacock called on Secretary General of Jatiya Party (JP) Anwar Hossain Manju at the latter's office yesterday. Manju thanked the NDI leaders for their special interest on Bangladesh elections and hoped that the NDI would continue it in future, reports BSS.

Heatwave claims 17 in Karachi

KARACHI, June 18: Relentless sunshine and suffocating humidity have the southern city of Karachi in the grips of a heatwave that has claimed 17 lives in two days, doctors said, reports AP.

On Tuesday, officials found six people dead on the streets of Karachi, victims of prolonged exposure to sun. Temperatures in Karachi reached 43 degrees C (109 degrees F) Tuesday, the Pakistan Meteorological Office said.

All the victims were homeless drug addicts, Dr Abdul Qadeer said. Many heroin addicts, unable to find work or shelter, live on the streets of Karachi.

"You cannot be exposed to the sun for long periods of time when the heat is this much," said Qadeer, an emergency ward physician at Karachi's Jinnah Postgraduate Hospital.

On Monday, 11 people, including two children, died of the heat, Qadeer said.

Children, the elderly and the sick are the most susceptible to heat-related illness, Qadeer said.

Last week pre-monsoon rains brought some relief to Karachi, but the heat has returned, coupled with stifling humidity, the meteorological office said.

Half of Punjab assembly members resign

Infighting in Cong (I)

NEW DELHI, June 18: The infighting in Congress is reported from different parts of India including the Punjab where the state government (Congress) is in deep crisis following resignation by half of its assembly members, reports BSS.

The resignations include five ministers of the state government headed by Harcharan Singh Brar, United News of India (UNI) said today.

The report said 44 out of 82 state assembly members have sent their resignations to the state assembly Speaker Harnam Das Johar to press home the demand for change of the chief minister.

The Speaker has reportedly brought the matter to the notice of party chief P. V. Narasimha Rao.

Reports of infightings are also received from places like Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. The recent poll debacle of the party is attributed also to such infighting.

Meanwhile, the party chief is facing pressure to quit also from a section of leaders belonging to its apex body, Congress Working Committee (CWC). Those who raised the banner of revolts at the recently concluded CWC meeting include former internal security minister and CWC member Rajesh Pilot and CWC member Ahmed Patel.

AFP from Amritsar adds: Prime Minister H. D. Deve Gowda today condemned the 1984 military assault on the Golden Temple, which left some 600 Sikh militants and soldiers dead in the Sikhs' holiest shrine.

"It was the most unfortunate event," the newly-elected prime minister said during a visit to the Golden Temple in Punjab.

Gowda, who formed his 13-party coalition United Front government on June 1, said he

All-party rally for peace in Lalmonirhat

LALMONIRHAT, June 18: Two all party rallies were held in Sadar thana today with a view to restoring peace in the area affected by widespread violence during Wednesday's election, reports UNB.

The rally at Barabari High School ground was presided over by local BNP leader and union parishad chairman Yasin Ali Mollah while Faridpur UP chairman Lutfar Rahman chaired another rally at the Ghoragachhi Madrasa ground.

The rallies were addressed by DC Sekandar Ali Moudal, ASP Dilip Kumar, Nawsher Ali of Awami League and Sekandar Ali of Jatiya Party.

Faridpur admin denies incident of gunfire in Nagarkanda

FARIDPUR, June 18: Faridpur district administration in a briefing today denied the reports published in a section of the press regarding some incidents about upcoming repolling at two centres in Nagarkanda thana (Faridpur-2).

The Deputy Commissioner of Faridpur, who is also the returning officer today told BSS Faridpur correspondent that no incident of gunfire occurred yesterday in the repolling area. Quoting the police, the DC said that there were some sporadic incidents between the rival groups in the area when three persons received minor injuries who were released after first aid from thana health complex.

The DC said he did not escort any motorcade carrying the leaders of a major political party. He said that while he along with the police superintendent was holding meetings with the members of the public in the repolling area incidentally he came across the motorcade. He said he had arranged special police protection for BNP candidate KM Obaidur Rahman while he visited repolling areas.

Regarding the press report which said that Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury was debarred from entering Nagarkanda area, the DC said that he was not aware of the visit of Prof. Chowdhury.

AI report

From page 1
by village councils continued and the government failed to put an end to such abuses, it said.

Disproportionate use of force by police against demonstrators continued to be reported. In February, three press photographers were injured by police when they tried to take photographs of police beating students, the report further said.

Few perpetrators of human rights violations were brought to justice. AI delegates wishing to visit Bangladesh in July were denied visas, the AI report said.

Election violence

Injured AL worker dies at PG hospital

By DMCH Correspondent
A student of Jagannath University, who was seriously assaulted reportedly by some BNP activists at Mymensingh on the election day, succumbed in his injuries at the PG hospital in the city Monday night.

The victim, Hasan Golondaj Suruj, 28, an activist of Awami League, resisted a group of BNP supporters when they reportedly tried to snatch ballot boxes from the GM Madrasah Centre under Mymensingh-10 constituency after the counting of votes, relatives said.

Suruj was first admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital from where he was later shifted to the PG hospital, hospital sources said.

Suruj, son of Abul Hashem Golondaj of Shaltia, Gofargaon, was he polling agent at the centre for his uncle Altaf Hossain Golondaj who has been elected MP from Mymensingh-10 constituency.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy yesterday morning.

June 12 polls can be model for other countries, says C'wealth team chief

Chairman of the Commonwealth Election Observer group Tan Sri Dr Mohd Gazali Shafie called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Banghaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Dr Gazali Shafie thanked the President and the caretaker government for offering them hospitalities and other facilities for observing the general election in this country. He said that the election of Bangladesh may be a model for other countries and members of his team could learn many things and gain new experiences about the march of democracy in Bangladesh.

Reciprocating the sentiment, President Biswas said that the largest number of voters exercised their right of franchise and hoped that this would help further consolidating and strengthening democracy in the country. He expressed his satisfaction at the presence of a large number of experienced and distinguished foreign observers during the election and added that they met a lot of people of different strata of society and observed the enthusiasm of our voters.

JP, Jamaat candidates boycott repolling in Comilla-12

Jatiya Party and Jamaat candidates in Comilla-12 (Chouddagram) constituency last night called upon the people to boycott today's repolling in nine centres, reports UNB.

Former Prime Minister and a member of Jatiya Party President Kazi Zafar Ahmed last night called upon people of Comilla-12 (Chouddagram) to renounce repolling in nine polling centres today.

In a statement the former Prime Minister alleged the polling in Chouddagram was marred by extensive rigging, acts of terrorism and vote-da-coity.

Kazi Zafar is a JP candidate in this constituency and trailing behind Awami League contestant by a wide margin.

Jamaat candidate Dr Syed Abdullah Mohammad Taher also urged people to boycott repolling.

In a statement last night he alleged that Awami League terrorists in Chouddagram took over the polling centres by acts of terrorism and vote-da-coity in connivance with the local administration to stuff boxes with ballot papers for the Awami League candidate.

War-like situation in Nagarkanda, says Obaid

FARIDPUR, June 18: BNP candidate in Faridpur-2 constituency KM Obaidur Rahman in a press briefing this evening at the local press club alleged that a "war-like situation" has been prevailing in Nagarkanda area due to the presence of hundreds of outsiders led by AL central leaders and that would foil tomorrow's repolling, reports BSS.

KM Obaidur Rahman the returning officer for his alleged partisan attitude who has appointed identified AL supporters as polling officials. He also said that despite his repeated request the concerned authorities have failed to bring back normalcy by driving out the outsiders from the repolling area who are threatening the voters to cast their vote in favour of his rival AL candidate.

However, he said, this had been communicated to the Chief Election Commissioner.

The Midnight File

UN arms embargo on former Yugoslavia goes

UNITED NATIONS, June 18: All the provisions of the UN arms embargo against the former Yugoslavia ended today, the Security Council announced at UN headquarters in New York. The lifting of the embargo on all military equipment, including heavy weapons, follows Friday's disarmament agreement signed in Florence, Italy by Bosnia's warring parties, report AFP.

Clinton rings up Yeltsin

MOSCOW, June 18: US President Bill Clinton telephoned his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin today to discuss bilateral relations and the upcoming G-7 summit in Lyon, France, Kremlin spokesman Sergei Medvedev said, reports AFP.

Medvedev would not say whether the two leaders discussed the outcome of the presidential elections in Russia, Itar-Tass news agency reported.

The latest vote tally today put communist party candidate Gennady Zyuganov within three per cent of incumbent Yeltsin, who has 35 per cent of the vote.

According to preliminary official results of first round election with 74.3 million votes counted (over 99 per cent), Boris Yeltsin got 35.06 pc, Gennady Zyuganov 31.96 pc while Alexander Lebed bagged 14.70 votes.

Oath taking

From page 1
met Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, who emerged as the majority party leader in the June 12 elections.

Sources at the Election Commission said the gazette notification for the rest 27 MPs would be done as soon as the election process is completed in the constituencies.

Polling in some 122 centres of these 27 constituencies, postponed for various reasons, including rigging and violence, according to the Commission, will take place today.

Hasina

From page 1
Australian foreign minister Andrew Peacock apprised the Awami League chief of the presence of their team members in various polling centres where repolling would take place today. Eric C Bjornlund was the other member of the delegation.

Earlier, Dev Mukharjee, Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh made a courtesy call to Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday morning.

During the meeting they discussed matters of mutual interest between the two neighbouring countries as well as international issues.

Mukharjee felicitated Sheikh Hasina on her party's winning single majority in the June 12 polls.

Pakistani High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Karam Elahi, also made a courtesy call to Sheikh Hasina.

They discussed matters relating to mutual interests between the two countries and international issues.

The Pakistan High Commissioner also congratulated Sheikh Hasina for her party's single majority victory in the polls.

Khaleda

From page 1
She noted with deep regret that the Election Commission paid no heed to her party's allegation and without making less enquiry into the complaint, published election results through gazette notification with undue haste and hurry.

Begum Zia concluded with the hope that the caretaker government and the EC would discharge their constitutional responsibilities by conducting the repolling in a free and fair atmosphere by maintaining peace around the polling centres. In the event of their failure to discharge their duties, they will remain accountable to the people, she added.

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