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## AL 146: BNP 116: JP 31: Comilla-3 withheld AL set to form govt

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League is set to form the next government after having emerged as the largest party, with Sheikh Hasina as the next Prime Minister.

Clinching another 12 seats in yesterday's re-polling and the only independent candidate already joining it, Awami League's strength in the next Parliament has risen to 147 seats. With the unconditional support already extended by Jatiya Party which secured 31 seats in the polls, the AL is poised to stage a comeback to power after long 21 years.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which ruled for the last five years secured second position with 116 seats. Jatiya Party which got 35

seats in the Fifth Parliament in third position with 31 seats this time.

Jamaat-e-Islami which had 20 seats in the Fifth Parliament has only three seats now.

Yesterday's re-polling in some centres of the 26 constituencies completed the election to 299 seats out of the 300 in the Jatiya Sangsad. Result of one constituency, Comilla-3 was not announced as polling was postponed in one centre of Muradnagar thana due to violence. Repolling was, however, completed in 9 centres. The EC announced that fresh polling will be held in the lone centre next Saturday. The JP candidate was leading in the Comilla-3 constituency.

In yesterday's re-polling, the Awami League bagged 12 seats, the BNP 12, and the Jatiya Party 2 seats.

Prior to the re-polling, the BNP was leading in 13 of the 27 constituencies, the Awami League in 11, JP in 1 and the Jamaat in 1.

However, in yesterday's re-polling, Jamaat which was leading in one constituency lost it to Awami League. Awami League also got another seat in which BNP was leading. The Jatiya Party also snatched a seat, Barisal-2, from BNP in which the latter was leading.

A gazette notification on June 16 officially declared 273

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Sheikh Hasina

## BNP emerges largest ever Opposition in JS

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) tasted its first-ever electoral defeat in the parliamentary election this time.

With the announcement of unofficial results of repolling in 26 constituencies yesterday, BNP bagged 116 seats against 146 secured by the Awami League (AL).

Nevertheless, BNP is going to be the largest ever Opposition in the 300-seat parliament.

The June election has also brought in some new political issues for the party and its chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

The BNP will face its political rivals — the AL in the Treasury bench and the Jatiya Party in the Opposition bench. Once an ally, the Jamaat-e-Islami, which had supported it a forming the government after the 1991 polls, will also sit with the BNP in the Opposition bench with only three seats.

For Begum Zia, it will be a new experience to play the role of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament with many of the front-ranking party leaders not in the House because they lost in the election.

Moreover, the BNP will find the least number of political parties in the parliament — the JSD (Rab) and the Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) — having a total of strength of 36 members.

The polls also showed the BNP's declining strength in the parliament since the party came into being 18 years ago.

The party had 207 lawmakers in the parliament in 1979 election and 140 in the 1991 election which came down to 116 in the just-concluded polls.

Since its inception on September 1, 1978, the BNP won all the previous national elections it contested — the parliamentary polls in 1979 and 1991 and the presidential

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## AL secures majority for second time

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League (AL) has emerged as a majority party in the country's 7th Jatiya Sangsad securing 146 out of 300 seats. This is for the second time since the country's independence in 1971 that the party has bagged majority of the JS seats.

In the first parliamentary polls held in 1973, the AL bagged 293 out of 300 seats of the Jatiya Sangsad.

In the second parliamentary elections held in 1979, the AL secured 39 seats. The BNP, floated by Ziaur Rahman while in power in a presidential form of government, bagged 207 seats.

In the third parliamentary elections held in 1986, the AL got 76 seats. The Jatiya Party (JP), set up by former President HM Ershad, bagged 153 seats. The BNP boycotted the elections.

In the fourth parliamentary

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A female voter casting her vote at Binga Government School centre in Debidwar thana during repolling yesterday while many others wait in a long queue.

## MPs-elect take oath tomorrow, Sunday

The newly elected members of parliament will be sworn in tomorrow and Sunday at 4.30 pm at Sangsad Bhaban, said an official announcement yesterday, reports UNB.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali will administer the oath in the committee room No-1 at the east block of Sangsad Bhaban at 4.30 pm on both days.

The Parliament Secretariat is sending letters to the MPs-elect inviting them for the swearing-in which would install them as lawmakers. The duplicates of the letters will be kept in the reception security room adjacent to the Parliament Bhaban.

The MPs-elect also can collect their invitation letters from there before swearing-in and thus join the ceremony on time, the announcement said.

Those who have been elected from more than one seats have been asked to submit a signed declaration to the Election Commission stating which one he/she wants to represent. Otherwise, the MP concerned will not be allowed to take the oath of office.

The Election Commission, however, said no audience or guests would be allowed to attend the swearing-in ceremony for lack of accommodation in the committee room.

The MPs-elect have been requested to bring an identity card from the concerned Returning Officer or their respective party leaders to collect the invitation letters from the parliament.

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## Unofficial results of 26 constituencies

Following is the Election Commission's unofficial result of 26 parliamentary constituencies after repolling yesterday, reports UNB.

Poling in 122 centres of 27 constituencies was postponed following violence in the June 12 general election across the country.

Result of one constituency (Comilla-3) was withheld yesterday after polling was stopped following the snatching of a ballot box from Brahman Chhapirtala centre. Repolling will be held at the centre on Saturday (June 22).

1. Sirajganj-7: Hasibur Rahman Swapan of BNP (54,018 votes) won, nearest rival M Mazharul Islam of AL (52,801).

2. Patuakhali-2: ASM Firoz of AL (45,932 votes) won, nearest rival M Shahidul Alam Talukdar of BNP (45,903).

3. Barisal-2: Golam Farug Ovee of JP (40,556 votes) won, nearest rival Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal of BNP (31,840).

4. Jamalpur-2: Haji Rashed Mosharrar of AL (41,816 votes) won, nearest rival Muhammad Sultan Mahmud Babu of BNP (36,344).

5. Narsingdi-4: Lt Gen (Rtd) Noor Uddin Khan of AL (78,721 votes) won, nearest rival Sardar Sakawat Hossain Bakul of BNP (77,620).

6. Narayanganj-2: Emdadul Haq Bhuiyan of AL (58,947 votes) won, nearest rival Ataur Rahman Khan of BNP (58,388).

7. Faridpur-2: K M Obaidur Rahman of BNP (55,115 votes) won, nearest rival Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury of AL (54,570).

8. Sylhet-1: Humayun Rashid Chowdhury of AL (59,710 votes) won, nearest rival M Saifur Rahman of BNP (58,990).

9. Sylhet-3: Abdul Mukit Khan of JP (26,659 votes) won, nearest rival Mahmud Samad Chowdhury of AL (26,168). Shafuddin Ahmed Chowdhury of BNP (25,954).

10. Sylhet-4: M Saiful Rahman of BNP (23,946 votes) won, nearest rival Imran Ahmed of AL (22,725).

11. Sylhet-5: Hafiz Ahmad Majumder of AL (29,483 votes) won, nearest rival Muhammad Fariduddin Chowdhury of JI (28,120).

12. Brahmanbaria-3: Harunul-Rashid of BNP (17,200 votes) won, nearest rival Lutful Hai Sachchu of AL (17,494).

13. Comilla-2: Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain of BNP (69,175 votes) won, nearest rival Hasan Jamil Sattar of JP (64,461).

14. Comilla-3: (Result withheld subject to repolling in one centre on Saturday) - Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain (Kaikobad) of JP was leading with 52,901 votes, followed by Yusuf Abdullah Harun of AL (49,993) and M Rafiqul Islam Mia of BNP (47,716).

15. Comilla-4: Alhaj Engr Manjurul Ahsan Munshi of BNP

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## Repolling in Comilla-3 June 22

Repolling will be held in Brahmanchhapirtala Primary School centre in Comilla-3 constituency on June 22 following suspension of polling there, reports BSS.

The Election Commission yesterday suspended re-polling in that centre following reports of various irregularities.

The Brahmanchhapirtala Primary School centre has a total of 3451 votes.

According to the latest counting, Jatiya Party nominee Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad polled 52901 votes while his nearest rival from the Bangladesh Awami League Yusuf Haroon Abdullah polled 49,993 votes and Barrister Rafiqul Islam of the BNP 47,716.

The Election Commission, which announced the unofficial results of 299 seats so far with the lone exception of Comilla-3, said last night, that polling in that centre would be held from 8 am to 4 pm without any break on June 22.

## Party position

Latest party position among the 299 parliamentary seats declared so far by the Election Commission last night.

Awami League	146
BNP	116
Jatiya Party	31
Jamaat	3
JSD (Rab)	1
IOJ	1
Ind	1
Total	299

The repolling at Brahman Chhapirtala centre of Comilla-3 (Muradnagar) constituency was postponed, following the snatching of a ballot box by miscreants.

Repolling will be held again at the centre on Saturday (June 22).

## Khaleda to give reaction thru press confce

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will give her formal reaction to the June 12 parliamentary election soon through a press conference, said a party spokesman last night.

The date for the planned press conference was not disclosed until last night, the spokesman, Emran Saleh Prince, told the journalists at the party's Kakrail election office.

On June 14 Begum Zia had told a press conference that she would comment on the election on completion of the electoral process.

## Hasina praises 'courageous' role of lawyers 'Help prepare bill to free judiciary from executive'

By SC Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that conspiracy was still going on to foil the mandate given by the people in the June 12 parliamentary elections.

Hasina was speaking at a gathering of lawyers at the Supreme Court Bar Association hall. She went there to meet the members of the legal profession and thank them for their 'courageous role in the last democratic movement.'

Ballot is more powerful than bullet and we want to ensure it once for all that power will be transferred through ballot not bullet, she said.

The courageous role of the lawyers, Hasina said, had greatly inspired her party to launch the movement for election under a non-party caretaker government. The people thus got the opportunity to exercise their franchise in a free, fair and peaceful atmosphere and gave their mandate in favour of the Awami League, she added.

The AL chief reiterated that her party stood for separation of the judiciary from the executive branch of government for the sake of justice and rule of law.

She also called upon the lawyers to help prepare a 'perfect bill for separation of the judiciary from the executive and mentioned that she had already discussed this issue twice with the World Bank executives who assured her of providing financial assistance for this.

But she noted, this will need amendment to the Constitution for which they do not have two-third majority in parliament even if the support of JP is taken into consideration.

'I hope BNP will also support this bill,' she said.

Hasina also assured that if her party forms government, judges will be appointed not in consideration of party interest, but on the basis of merit and efficiency.

Quoting Article 7 of the Constitution Hasina said that people are the source of all

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## A day-long visit to N'ganj-2 Polling held peacefully with 80pc votes cast

From Ehsanul Haque

ARAIHAJAR (Narayanganj), June 19: Repolling in six polling centres under the Narayanganj-2 constituency (Araihajar thana) was held today in a free, fair and peaceful manner amid tight security measures.

About 80 per cent of 17,272 voters cast their votes, according to polling officers in the six centres.

Polling in the centres were postponed due to acts of violence during the June 12 parliamentary election.

The six centres, where repolling were held today were: Maruadi Government Primary School, Satgram Government Primary School, Bajbee Government Primary School, Gazipura Government Primary School, Jalakandi Government Primary School and Bishmandi Government Primary School.

In each centre, a combined team of 10 army personnel, 15 BDR men, 25 policemen and

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## Saifur alleges vote rigging in Sylhet-1

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 19: Former finance minister and BNP nominee for the Sylhet-1 constituency (Companyganj) and Sadar thana, M Saifur Rahman alleged large scale rigging in today's repolling at the Companyganj Government Primary School centre and demanded re-election at the centre.

He also demanded re-counting of votes of all the centres of Companyganj thana.

Addressing a hurriedly called press conference at a local hotel, Saifur Rahman alleged that Awami League

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Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena visited the Eliotganj High School polling centre in Comilla-2 constituency during repolling yesterday.

## CEC visits six polling centres

The Chief Election Commissioner, Mohammad Abu Hena, yesterday visited six polling centres at Iliotganj and Laksham, under Comilla district, and at Patiya and Raizan under Chittagong district to see the progress of the repolling there, reports BSS.

Accompanied by the Election Commissioner, Abdur Rahman, the Chief Election Commissioner visited the Iliotganj High School centre under Comilla-2, Uttarda High School centre and Nawab Faizunnessa College centre under Comilla-10, Dakhin Gobindakhal Primary School centre under Chittagong 11 and Suresh Biddyan centre and

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## 'IOJ won't support woman-led party'

Chairman of the Islamic Oikya Jote (IOJ) Alhaj Maulana Syed Mohammad Fazlul Karim (Pr Shaheb of Charmonai) yesterday urged all not to be misled by a report that IOJ MP-elect Golam Sarwar has extended support to the BNP, reports BSS.

In a statement, he said the Jote is against all alien cultures, including women leadership and, therefore, the question of extending support to any women-led party does not arise. 'Moulana Karim alleged that a vested quarter was spreading such misleading news to tarnish the image of IOJ.'

## BNP MPs-elect meet today

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has convened a special emergency meeting tomorrow for the party's MPs-elect, reports UNB.

BNP Chairperson and former Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will be present at the meeting to be held at the party's Kakrail office at 5 pm, said a press release.

All newly elected BNP members of 7th parliament have been requested to attend the meeting on time.

## ISPR request

The Inter-Services Public Relations Department (ISPR) yesterday said different types of 'imaginary' news items on different important issues relating to armed forces are now being published in newspapers which misled the public mind and tarnish the image of the national army, reports BSS.

All concerned have been requested to check with the authorities concerned before publishing such sensational reports, said an ISPR press release yesterday.

460 city phone lines go out of order

Some 460 telephone lines under Nilkhet Exchange have gone out of order as two primary cables were affected during development works by Aicatel and Diaka WASA. The concerned T&T officials have started repairing works of the two disordered cables and they expected that the telephone services would be restored by three days, said a press release yesterday, reports UNB.