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AL secures 37.5 pc of votes cast, BNP 33.5 pc

By Morshed Ali Khan

Awami League (AL) secured 3.94 per cent more votes in the June 12 general elections than in the 1991 polls while BNP bagged 2.64 per cent more votes this time, according to official figures received from the Election Commission (EC).

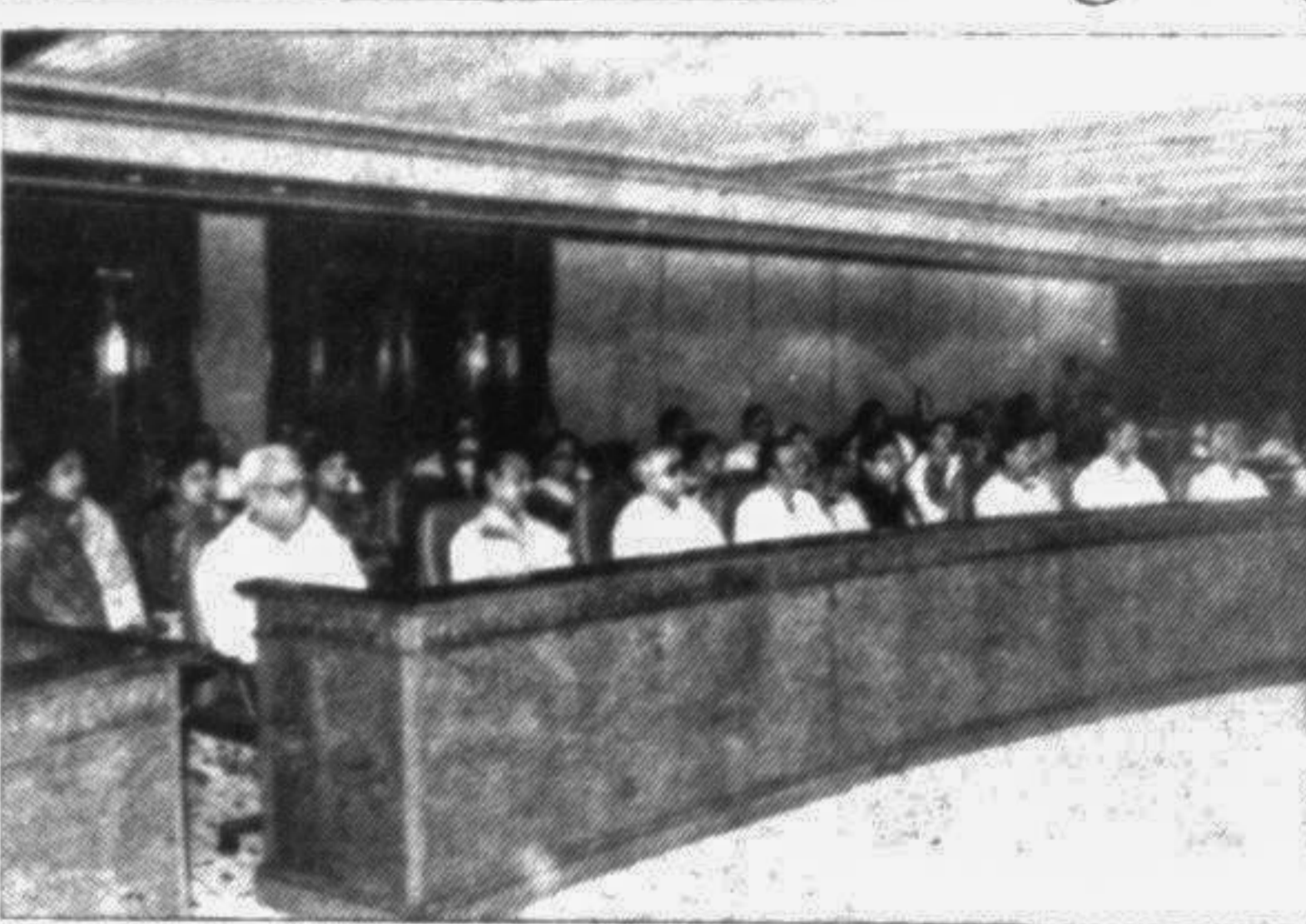
Jatiya Party (JP) has also registered a rise by obtaining 4.21 per cent more votes compared to the 1991 elections while Jamaat-e-Islami's votes fell by 3.52 per cent.

In the June 12 general elections, a total of 424,23,180 votes were cast, of which 37.45 per cent — 158,87,963 votes — were obtained by AL.

Of the total votes cast, BNP secured 33.45 per cent — 141,92,078 votes — in the last parliamentary elections. While JP got 16.23 per cent of the votes cast with 68,83,285, and Jamaat 8.61 per cent with 36,53,012 votes.

In the 1991 general elections, a total of 3,24,34,928 votes were cast, of which AL got 33.51 per cent, BNP 30.81 per cent, JP 11.92 per cent and Jamaat got 12.13 per cent of the votes cast.

In 1991, BNP was the only party to have fielded candidates in all the 300 constituencies. AL then nominated 297 candidates in 300 seats while JP fielded 272 and Jamaat nominated 222 candidates.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the Ward Commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. Mayor Mohammad Hanif is on her right. — PID photo

PM's directive

represents 12 crore people of this country.

Giving her experience of four days in office as the head of government, the new Prime Minister said her observation is that working atmosphere is lacking in running the government. But she is confident that hardwork will help her restore discipline.

Sheikh Hasina requested the Ward Commissioners to take special care to remove the garbage in time and keep the city clean. She requested the mayor to supervise and monitor the city cleaning drives and assured that her government would provide all kinds of cooperation and assistance in this regard.

Recalling the death of four ward commissioners, Hasina said two of them died a normal death while two others were killed. It is most unfortunate, if public representatives have to die this way, then what can befall upon the general public?

She wanted to see an end to such personal vendetta once for all.

Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Referring to some of the basic problems of the city dwellers including drainage, sanitation and supply of pure drinking water, she said that a modern system would be introduced to solve the problems of those vital utility services.

BNP urges AL to give up 'politics of revenge'

Leaders of the BNP yesterday asked the ruling Awami League to give up the "politics of revenge" and restore healthy politics in the greater interest of the nation, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen, they alleged that the Awami League had resorted to a reign of terror throughout the country and continued armed attack on its political opponents since a day after the parliamentary polls.

Newly elected MP's Joyal Abedin Faruque, Mashur Rahman, Mohammad Shahjahan and party leaders Haris Chowdhury, Sakawat Hossain Bakul and Sirajul Haq spoke of terrorism allegedly let loose by the ruling AL in different places to "perpetrate repression on BNP men".

BNP Organising Secretary Haris Chowdhury said the party has received messages from all over Bangladesh that the BNP men, especially Jubadal and Chhatra Dal members, are being listed as terrorists by the administrators as per the instruction of the ruling party.

Tk 28 cr CU budget

CHITTAGONG, June 27: The University of Chittagong announced on Wednesday a Tk 28 crore budget for the year 1996-97, reports BSS.

The Syndicate and the Finance Committees of the university passed the budget at a meeting presided over by the Vice-Chancellor Prof RI Chowdhury. The university senate could not hold budget meeting because of some legal complications, a university source said.

The university would provide only Tk 1.57 crore from its own resources while Tk 26 crore forty four lakh sixty eight thousand is expected to be received as government grant.

Tk 19 crore 19 lakh 79 thousand would be spent for salary of teachers and employees while Tk eight crore eighty-one lakh 79 thousand would be spent in administrative purposes.

Tk one crore fifty five lakh 75 thousand would be spent for construction of female students hall.

The Midnight File

19 killed in Chinese chemical factory blast

BEIJING, June 27: Nineteen people were killed and many others injured Wednesday in an explosion at a chemical factory in the port of Tianjin, near Beijing, the city government said today, reports AP.

CPI may join Deve Gowda's coalition govt today

NEW DELHI, June 27: Indian Prime Minister M D Deve Gowda plans to expand his four-week-old cabinet on Friday, a news agency reported, saying he was likely to bring the first communists into government since independence in 1947, reports Reuter.

Deve Gowda, speaking to reporters in the capital of his home state of Karnataka late on Wednesday, confirmed widely reported plans to bring new faces into the centre-left government, the Press Trust of India said.

The Prime Minister, who was sworn in on June 1 at the head of a coalition government, was expected to tap the Communist Party of India (CPI).

and a regional party from the northeastern state of Assam. The other main communist party, the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M), supports Deve Gowda's administration but has said it will not join the government.

Deve Gowda's United Front alliance controls some 190 seats in the 545-member lower house of parliament, but with the backing of the ousted Congress Party easily won a confidence vote on June 12.

The main opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is the largest single party with 161 seats after inconclusive general elections held in April and May.

BJP leader Atal Bihari Vajpayee stepped down as Prime Minister in late May when it became clear his Hindu nationalist party could not win a trust vote.

Deve Gowda appointed a streamlined government of 12 cabinet ministers and eight junior ministers before winning the June 12 confidence vote.

Flood situation in Sherpur worsens

From Our Correspondent

SHERPUR, June 27: At least five hundred houses have been washed away by floods in Nalbari and Jhenaidah thanas during the last 24 hours.

According to sources, heavy rains and the onrush of water from across the border have aggravated the flood situation in the two thanas.

Standing crops in many areas have gone under water and the flood protection embankment has also been breached at several points. One hundred acres of seed beds have also been washed away by flood waters.

The trouble ensued when police went to arrest some identified terrorists at North Balda at about 3:30 pm.

The garments worker who received bullet wound in his hand was identified as Ashraf Hossain, 24. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

No Bangladeshi

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ing first aid. "During the team's stay at the place, they learnt about the release of remaining 44 Bangladeshis from hospital after receiving first aid."

The ambassador said that more details would be available after the two-member team from the embassy returned to Riyadh.

He said that according to reports reaching him nearly 165 Bangladeshis received minor injuries in the explosion.

Asked about the category of Bangladeshis injured, he informed that they belonged to a varied group and comprised of both skilled and unskilled persons.

Foreign Ministry officials when contacted earlier said they were awaiting details from its mission.

Share trading

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phasised the need for adequate measures by the DSE authorities to ensure transparency and accountability in the market operations.

The DSE is a sales regulatory organisation and so its authorities should ensure proper supervision and take remedial measures when there is any sign of speculation, he suggested.

The Chairman of the SEC also suggested application "circuit breaking system" to protect the market from over-speculation.

"Upward trend should not be erratic. Rather, it should be steady," he said.

Talking to this correspondent, Ahmed Iqbal Hasan, Vice Chairman of the DSE said enlistment with the Stock Exchange should be mandatory for all public limited companies. This will help growth of the capital market, he noted.

He further said that multinational companies which were making huge profit from our market should be brought into the share market.

10 injured in Rangamati clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 27: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between the activists of Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP) and some non-tribal shopkeepers at around 10 am today at Baghaichhan under Rangamati district, police and local sources said.

The injured were admitted to the local health complex. The clash ensued when the non-tribal shopkeepers opened their shops ignoring the half-day hartal enforced by PCP. Pahari Gano Parishad and the Hill Women Federation.

The hartal was called demanding the release of Kalpana Chakma, central organising secretary of Hill Women Federation (CWF) who was allegedly kidnapped from her house on the night of June 11 from Marissa under Baghaichhan thana of Rangamati hill district.

A tense situation prevailed in CHT during hartal period today as the PCP activists also put up barricades on the roads there blocking traffic movement, witnesses said.

Tk 15.37 cr JU deficit budget approved

By JU Correspondent

A Tk 15,3794 crore budget of Jahangirnagar University (JU) with a deficit of Tk 86.45 lakh was approved for the next fiscal 1996-97 yesterday.

The budget was approved by the JU Senate after a brief discussion.

The Senate session that began at around 3:30 pm continued till 6:45 pm.

The Senate session was presided over by VC Prof Aminul Islam Chowdhury. The JU Treasurer, Prof Ataur Rahman Khan, presented the budget.

The revenue income has been shown as Tk 14,5149 crore while Tk 15,3794 crore has been shown as expenditure.

Of the revenue income, the University Grants Commission (UGC) will give Tk 14.18 crore against Tk 18,9905 crore requested by the university authority while Tk 1.02 crore will come from the university's own sources.

President, PM condole deaths of Americans

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in separate messages to US President Bill Clinton yesterday, condole the death of Americans in the bomb blast in Saudi Arabia, reports BSS.

President Biswas, in his message said, "We are extremely grieved to learn of the tragic loss of valuable lives of a number of US nationals and injuries to several hundreds of Saudi and foreign nationals including a large number of Bangladeshis due to the tragic bomb blast in the city of Khobar in Saudi Arabia. We strongly condemn this heinous act and express our deepest sympathies and condolences to your excellency and through you to the victims and their families."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her message said, "I am deeply shocked to learn about the tragic bomb blast in the city of Khobar in Saudi Arabia killing scores of Americans and injuring several hundreds of Saudi and foreign national including a large number of Bangladeshis."

The government and the people of Bangladesh join me in strongly condemning and deploring this dastardly and cowardice act of terrorism."

Three envoys meet Samad Azad

Heads of three diplomatic missions in Dhaka yesterday met Foreign Minister Abdu Samad Azad and discussed matters of common interest, reports UNB.

US Ambassador in Bangladesh David N Merrill, Japanese Ambassador Yoshikazu Kaneko and Indian High Commissioner Deb Mukherjee separately called on the Foreign Minister at his office.

During the meetings, the envoys also exchanged views with the Foreign Minister on the latest developments in the world situation, an official handout said.

Referring to expansion of economic cooperation among the countries, Azad said Bangladesh considers the developed countries as its important development partners.

Contempt Dhahrani blast

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By the judgement on the writ petition the HC declared the permanent transfers of Petro Bangla to the BAPEX Company, an affiliated company of the Petro Bangla, to be illegal, without lawful authority and were of no legal effect.

But the contempters, as alleged in the petition, did not comply with the judgement rather they introduced two separate gradation lists for the Petro Bangla and the BAPEX and awarded the promotion of Petro Bangla with promotion who are junior to the petitioner.

Khandkar Mahub Hossain, Senior Advocate assisted by Advocate Golam Kibria, Md Alzal Hossain Khurshida Bilkis Banu and Md Zafar Imam conducted the case of the petitioner.

Khaleeda falls sick

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"Our leader is still popular in the party. She is also the most popular leader in the country." Begum Zia was the BNP leader and the Leader of the House in the fifth and sixth parliaments. If she is re-elected the BNP leader, she would be the leader of the Opposition in the new parliament.

Asked if his party would respond to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's call in running the affairs of her government on the basis of national consensus, the BNP Secretary General said, "This is a coalition government and not a government of national consensus. Inducting one minister from the Jatiya Party does not give it a character of a government of national consensus."

Replying to another question on changes in the BNP standing committee and in the leadership of its district units and the front organisations, the BNP leader said that decisions in this regard is yet to be taken.

Asked if the standing committee members, who lost in

Housewife murdered

By DMCH Correspondent

A young housewife was allegedly murdered at East Naya-tola in the city yesterday.

Ramma police recovered the body of Shahana Begum, 25, wife of Md Uzzal, from their house at East Naya-tola and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy, police and hospital sources said.

Police arrested Md Uzzal and was interrogating him till last night.

According to hospital sources, marks of injuries were found over the body. Her elder brother claimed that his sister was murdered. But some members of the house said she died of diarrhoea.

The exact reason behind the death could not be known immediately.

SEC opens

From Page 1

public in general.

SEC Chairman Sultan-uz-Zaman formally inaugurated the PRR. SEC member Dr AKM Shahabub Alam and other officials were present.

The SEC chairman said all sorts of investors and the general public are welcomed to use the facilities available at the PRR free of charge.

"Our initiative is to create public awareness about investment across the country as well as to educate more people on capital market," Zaman said.

He said "We have been holding training programmes on share investment education on fortnightly basis for investors, the members of the stock exchanges and their authorised agents since early last year and 18 programmes were organised so far."

An advance course was also organised in the fiscal 1995-96, he said, adding that all the programmes were well-attended. Besides, SEC organised special programmes for women investors also.

SEC has taken initiative to arrange such programmes in other parts of the country.

Home Minister

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things on the right track," he said.

In reply to a question, the minister agreed that many rules and regulations in force from the colonial era should be reviewed.

During his first informal meeting with the press the Home Minister also listened to many problems and suggestions put up before him regarding menaces like mugging, drug addiction, traffic congestion and repression on women.

He said he would hold a once-a-week or twice-a-week regular meeting with the press for exchange of views.



British Prime Minister John Major listens to the national anthem at his arrival yesterday at Lyon Satolas airport in France to attend the G-7 Summit. — AFP/UNB photo

8 Bosnian Serbs indicted for torturing Muslims

THE HAGUE, June 27: The UN war crimes tribunal today indicted eight Bosnian Serbs on charges of gang-raping and torturing Muslim women in the southern town of Foca early in the Bosnian war in April 1992, reports AFP.

It also indicted nine Bosnian Croats for attacking Muslim civilians in 1992 and 1993 when Muslims and Croats — now bound together by a fragile federation — were fighting each other.

The indictments, one against eight men and the other naming a single accused, were the second and third relating to Croat Defence Council (HVO) attacks on the Lasva river valley in central Bosnia between May 1992 and May 1993.

The first indictment, issued last November, accused eight men including Dario Kordic, Vice-President of the Croatian Community in Bosnia, and his military chief Thomir Blaskic, of taking part in "systematic attacks on mainly Muslim villages in the Lasva valley on April 16, 1993 and the murder of civilians."

It said the worst attacks were on the village of Ahmici where "every Muslim house was burned and many unarmed Muslim civilians were deliberately and systematically shot."

It alleges that at least 103 Muslims were killed.

4 killed in Pak bomb blast

ISLAMABAD, June 27: A bomb ripped through a narrow street near a bus terminal outside Islamabad today, killing four and injuring over 40, witnesses said, reports Reuter.

President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto issued statements condemning the early evening bombing as an act of terrorism which would be fought by the government, the official APP news agency reported.

3 Gaibandha JCD leaders held

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, June 27: Police arrested three Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leaders here last night.

They are Gausul Azam Doller, Masud Chowdhury Rana and Ashraf Alam Milton.

86 days of your Governance in Bangladesh

The 86 days of your Governance in Bangladesh, the Nation has successfully overcome the deep darkness of Political Crisis, tension, disappointment and fear. The challenge to hold a free and fair election in front of you ultimately surprised the whole world, of which has also enlightened the path of our destination.



The Nation is very much Proud for your Success. Take our heartiest facilitation. victory for the people- Joy Bangla

Syed Mohsin Ali
Chairman,
Moulvi Bazar Pourashava.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam