

International

Any victory claim by Milosevic will be a fraud: EU

BELGRADE, Sept 25: Western nations forecast defeat for President Slobodan Milosevic as counting continued in Yugoslavia's presidential elections, with the two rival camps each claiming the lead, reports AFP.

The incumbent leader's challenger, Vojislav Kostunica, said Milosevic had failed to score an outright victory and that a second round would have to be held.

Meanwhile, with less than half the votes counted but with concern of vote-rigging still running high, Western nations moved swiftly today to ensure that any declaration by Milosevic that he had won the election would be fraudulent.

"It is clear that any claim by Milosevic that he is the winner would be a fraud," the European Union said in Paris.

In Vienna, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe said claims of victory from pro-Milosevic forces "are not credible" and that Sunday's were "far from democratic".

In London, British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said "all the reliable evidence we have suggests a massive majority" have voted against Milosevic.

And Kostunica himself told reporters: "Our data positively show a victory in the first round of

the elections."

But Milosevic's backers insisted their man was leading, with one top ally saying he was on course for a first-round victory.

Kostunica said: "According to the figures given by Milosevic's headquarters, we are going to have a second round." But "even a second round with Milosevic is a victory, after voting manipulations, intimidation and threats."

Sinisa Nikolic of the Democratic Opposition of Serbia (DOS), which nominated Kostunica as presidential candidate, said the party was not told when it would reschedule.

The party said Kostunica had 57 per cent of the votes with less than half of the 10,000 polling station results in.

But Milosevic's top ally, Yugoslav deputy Prime Minister Nikola Sainovic, said preliminary results showed the president had 44 per cent of 940,453 votes counted so far, with Kostunica on 41 per cent.

He was even predicting a first round outright victory for Milosevic.

Sainovic said ballot papers from 2,478 polling stations had been counted, but did not say how many of Yugoslavia's 7.8 million voters had cast ballots Sunday.

Ivan Markovic of the Yugoslav Left, the neo-communist party of

Milosevic's wife Mira Markovic, gave Milosevic an even bigger lead -- 56.3 per cent of votes counted, with Kostunica on 31.4 per cent.

However, DOS official Cedomir Jovanovic stuck with his figures that Kostunica had won 57 per cent of votes cast, according to partial, unofficial estimates, with Milosevic on 33 per cent.

The ultranationalist Serbian Radical party -- allied with the SPS and JUL in the Serbian and Yugoslav government but which did not back Milosevic's candidacy -- also said Kostunica was well ahead with almost two million votes counted.

It said Kostunica had 1,063,195 votes or 53.53 per cent and Milosevic 752,908 (37.91 per cent).

Both the DOS and the Radicals said the opposition also had a clear lead in parallel local and parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, riot police withdrew from the main streets of Belgrade early Monday as thousands of opposition supporters took over the town centre awaiting results of Yugoslavia's controversial elections.

Around 40 officers, who had stepped in earlier to keep the opposition supporters away from a much smaller group of government fans, withdrew from the city's Republic Square.



A cordon of Serbian riot police stands between supporters of the government of President Slobodan Milosevic and the opposition in the centre of Belgrade late Sunday after Yugoslav presidential and legislative elections. The Yugoslav opposition claimed early Monday that its presidential candidate Vojislav Kostunica was significantly leading over incumbent Milosevic with 45 per cent of polling station results in. Riot police withdrew from main streets of Belgrade early yesterday as thousands of opposition supporters took over the city centre awaiting results of Yugoslavia's elections.

--AFP photo

EU team in Kashmir on fact-finding mission

SRINAGAR, India, Sept 25: Four European ambassadors, including the European Commission envoy in New Delhi, arrived in the troubled Indian state of Kashmir today on a fact-finding mission, reports AFP.

During their three-day tour, the team led by EC ambassador Michel Caillouet will meet Muslim separatist leaders as well as top government and police officials.

The team includes the ambassadors of Belgium, France and Norway.

Official sources said the government would brief them on the current scenario in Kashmir, including the offer and then withdrawal earlier this year of a ceasefire by the region's dominant militant group, Hizbul Mujahideen.

The ambassadors were expected to meet Fazal Haq Gureshi, an influential separatist leader who mediated in the talks between Hizbul and the government.

They were also scheduled to hold talks with the Kashmir's main separatist alliance, the All Party Hurriyat (Freedom) Conference.

"We will tell them the ways through which the Kashmir conflict can be resolved peace-

fully," said conference chairman Abdul Gani Bhat. "We will ask them to intervene."

A Muslim insurgency against Indian rule in Kashmir has claimed more than 34,000 lives since 1989. India blames Pakistan for arming and training the militants -- a charge Islamabad denies.

Several local politicians voiced scepticism over the efficacy of the fact-finding mission.

Police resort to aerial firing to crush riot in Pakistani jail

KARACHI, Sept 25: At least five people were injured today as police resorted to aerial shooting and heavy tear gas shelling to quell a two-day mutiny by hundreds of prisoners in a southern Pakistani jail, officials said, reports AFP.

The injured included Afaz Rizvi, deputy superintendent of the central jail in Hyderabad, scene of unprecedented rioting, they said.



A villager, sat on her wooden canoe, waits for clients who might want a ride on the main street of Cao Lanh town, the capital of the southern province of Dong Thap, Vietnam, on Monday.

--AFP photo

Floods trigger food riots in West Bengal

CALCUTTA, India, Sept 25: Food riots have broken out in India's West Bengal state where the worst flooding in recent years has claimed around 250 lives and spilled into neighbouring Bangladesh, officials said today, reports AFP.

In the worst incident, police were forced to fire in the air Sunday as desperate villagers tried to break into a relief truck and loot packages of molasses and rice in Nalda district north of Calcutta.

"Police had to fire in the air to disperse violent flood victims in a couple of places," said police inspector general Prasun Mukherjee.

West Bengal Deputy Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya described the firing as "unfortunate" and urged security personnel to exercise "restraint".

Reports of looting came in from all the state's eight affected districts, where 10 million people have been hit by the flooding in the past week.

While the official death toll has been put at 208, separate figures put out by the affected districts combine for a toll nearer 250, with several hundred missing.

The floodwaters were receding slightly Monday, but millions remained cut off, with air drops from military helicopters their only source of food and medication.

Military officials said they had managed to rescue 250,000 people at the weekend who had been marooned on rooftops and rafts without food for four days in the worst-hit district of Murshidabad.

State government officials said that while relief supplies were plentiful, a lack of manpower had caused delays in distribution, which in turn had fuelled resentment among affected villagers.

Police said flood victims had looted relief materials and harassed relief workers in Burdwan district.

"Unless the provision of relief supplies can be stepped up, the situation is likely to remain volatile for several days," said Burdwan development officer Sumit Halder.

Bhattacharya told reporters that 20 trucks carrying relief materials had gone missing in Burdwan and Murshidabad.

While some may have been stranded by floodwaters, Bhattacharya said others had probably fallen victim to looters.

Reports in local newspapers quoted one Burdwan flood victim as saying the looted food would be equally distributed among the local community.

"It is natural that people would try to snatch food if they have had to go hungry for days," said West Bengal Congress party leader Paresh Bal, who blamed the state's ruling Communist administration for failing to respond effectively to the situation. In neighbouring Bangladesh, troops were called out to evacuate thousands of marooned people in five western frontier districts hit at the weekend by floodwaters spilling over from West Bengal.

7 Afghans die in Pak coalmine explosion

QUETTA, Pakistan, Sept 25: Seven Afghans working in an underground coalmine in south western Pakistan were killed in a gas explosion on Sunday night, officials said on Monday, reports Reuters.

The chief inspector of mines, Ghulam Sarwar Lodhi, said two bodies had been recovered and five more remained in the rubble. He said there was no chance of survival.

The explosion followed a build up of gas in the mine, owned by the Pakistan Mineral Development Corporation but leased to Akbar Nasir and Co, Lodhi said.

The mine is in the Sharag coal region, 200 km (120 miles) east of Quetta, capital of the province of Baluchistan.

British envoy barred from seeing Suu Kyi

YANGON, Sept 25: Britain's ambassador to Myanmar was prevented Monday from seeing Aung San Suu Kyi who is under apparent house arrest again after her latest defiance of Myanmar's junta, the British Embassy said, reports AP.

Meanwhile, a government newspaper warned Suu Kyi's opposition National League for Democracy (NLD) that it owes its survival to the military authorities, who, it claimed, are protecting the NLD from the wrath of the people.

The NLD has received similar veiled threats in the past from the government, and the latest one appeared to justify the new round of restrictions on Suu Kyi and eight top party leaders, all of whom have been held incommunicado since Friday.

The crackdown demonstrates the resolve of the government to silence the NLD despite the vehement Western criticism it is facing and the brickbats it could receive in upcoming international meetings.

"There are many people who are losing patience and are itching to strike on a group of people loitering around stations, jeties and road corners. Knowing the situation, authorities have to take preventive measures to protect the NLD snakes," said an article in the Myanmar-language Kyemon daily Monday.

"NLD people are snakes... (People) are ready to wipe them out," it said.

A British Embassy spokesperson said Ambassador John Jenkins was stopped outside Suu Kyi's house by security forces and told he would not be allowed to see her. He was told that "it was a temporary measure," the spokesperson said, speaking on the customary condition of anonymity.

British diplomats who tried to visit Suu Kyi on Friday and Saturday also were turned away but they will continue to try to see her, the spokesperson said.

A horrific tale of caste dominant Indian society

NEW DELHI, Sept 25: Thirty-eight lower caste Hindu children were expelled from a school in northern India for demanding the right to drink water from the same source as their higher caste classmates, a report said today, reports AFP.

The Pioneer newspaper, in a delayed report, said the incident occurred last month in the desert state of Rajasthan where caste-based discrimination is still very common.

A non-governmental organisation said the "untouchable" students were punished by the authorities of a government-run school in the Rajasthan district of Barmer for demanding the right to drink water from an earthen pot kept in the school.

Chandrika accused by brother of unleashing violence

COLOMBO, Sept 25: Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga was today accused by her estranged brother of unleashing violence and destroying opposition election material in their home constituency, reports AFP.

Kumaratunga's brother, Anura Bandaranaike, a leading figure in the main opposition United National Party (UNP) said his office in the town of Attanagalle was smashed up early Monday.

"It was done by members of the president's security division," Bandaranaike alleged to reporters here.

"The attack was carried out after the area was declared a high security zone by the president's security division," he said.

He said the attack came on the eve of the 41st anniversary on Tuesday of the death of their father, former prime minister Solomon Bandaranaike, who was assassinated here in 1959.

Security has been stepped up in Attanagalle, 30 km northeast of the capital, for the annual commemoration Tuesday in which Kumaratunga is expected to take part.

"If the president fails to take



Anura Bandaranaike

immediate action against all those responsible for destroying my photographs and other election material, I point the finger directly at her," Bandaranaike said.

He said the attack took place just 300 metres from the family's ancestral home, which is being tightly guarded by police.

Three weeks ago, Bandaranaike accused his sister

of arming Muslim youths in the east to carry out attacks against opponents. Five days later, a ruling party candidate was shot dead.

Bandaranaike is contesting the Attanagalle seat in the elections set for October 10. Kumaratunga is not in the fray after winning presidential elections in December, but is backing another ruling party figure as her virtual proxy.

Monday's incident came as a European mission monitoring the election campaign expressed concern over police inaction over an attack against a UNP opposition candidate in central Sri Lanka.

The European Union Observer Mission said they were in the central town of Kandy when a shooting occurred Saturday.

"I take this matter very seriously and expect it to be investigated to a prosecution," EU mission chief John Cushman said. "I am concerned as to how this matter is currently handled," he said.

The ruling People's Alliance has denied allegations of violence and in turn has accused private poll monitors of exaggerating the reports.

103 Abu Sayyaf men slain, hostages still alive: Manila

JOLO, Philippines, Sept 25: The Philippine military claimed today to have killed 103 Muslim guerrillas in a massive hostage rescue bid and stressed that the 17 captives were all still alive, reports AFP.

The statements were made by the head of the operation, Brigadier-General Narciso Abaya, during the first officially-sanctioned media visit to the southern Jolo island.

The remaining hostages are an American, three Malaysians and 13 Filipinos.

Abaya said the rescue operation, which went into its 10th day Monday, had been "slow" because the Abu Sayyaf kidnapping group "enjoys mass-based support."

"This is a very difficult operation," he said, "comparing the search for the hostages to looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack."

Defence Secretary Orlando Mercado said separately that the operation "should not take another week," adding that poor weather was a stumbling block.

But Abaya said the military believes the Muslim extremist

force's core group of about 400 fighters "is still intact" because "they just keep on running, they don't want to fight."

"We have a very elusive target," he said. "They know the terrain better than the military."

The estimate of 103 Abu Sayyaf fatalities is based on military intelligence and includes an "actual body count" of about 51, he added.

"As far as reports are concerned, all of the hostages are alive and they are in Jolo," Abaya said, amid reports that some of them might have been taken away by rebels who managed to penetrate a naval blockade around Jolo.

President Joseph Estrada ordered more than 4,000 soldiers and police to Jolo on September 16 to end a humiliating five-month hostage crisis.

The crisis began on April 23 with a cross-border abduction of 21 people, mostly foreigners, from the Sipadan resort in neighbouring Malaysia.

All except one of them has been freed but the Abu Sayyaf continued taking new hostages, includ-

ing journalists covering the crisis. Saying enough is enough, Estrada ordered the military blitz after the Abu Sayyaf conducted another cross-border abduction of Malaysian hostages on September 10.

The troops were to rescue the hostages and "destroy" the Abu Sayyaf within a week after the operation was launched on September 16. Two French journalists among the hostages managed to flee from the Abu Sayyaf last week.

Estrada said Monday that "our soldiers are doing all they can," but "because of unforeseen circumstances like heavy rain, the operation has been hampered."

Security forces have detained 18 suspected Abu Sayyaf members and confiscated 207 firearms.

He put government casualties at one soldier dead and six wounded in 26 clashes so far, all government-initiated.

He placed the civilian casualties at four wounded. "As far as the military is concerned, no civilian deaths have been reported."

Arafat-Barak meeting 'in the next few hours'

JERUSALEM, Sept 25: Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat are to meet very soon, possibly within hours, Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said today, reports AFP.

Acting Israeli Foreign Minister Shlomo Ben Ami also predicted a meeting "before the end of this week," but a spokesman for Barak's office said no date had been set.

Speaking on Voice of Palestine radio, Aed Rabbo said that Barak and Arafat would meet late Monday or early Tuesday, after which negotiations would resume in Washington.

Ben Ami for his part told Israeli military radio: "I think that such a meeting will take place before the end of the week."

He added: "A meeting between the two is very important for creating a climate of confidence" in order to reach a peace agreement.

Arafat and Barak have not had substantive talks since the failed Camp David summit in July.



North Korean People's Army's Kim Il Chol (L) comes out with South Korean Defence Minister Cho Sung-tae after the first defence ministers' meeting at the Lotte Hotel in the South Korean resort island of Cheju yesterday.

--AFP photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Madaripur

Notice Inviting Tenders

(Tender Notice No. 6/2000-2001)

- Sealed tenders in BD Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from special class-I (one), combined class-I (one), class-II (one) approved bldg. contractor/firm of PWD and class-II (two) approved bldg. contractor/firm or PWD Khulna Zone, Khulna for the undermentioned work and will be received by the undersigned and the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka and the all Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Barisal in their respective office up to 12.00 Noon of 11-10-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM in presence of the tenderer who may like to remain present. Each tender shall be in a sealed cover with the name of work superscribed on it.
- Name of work: Gr. No. I: Construction of 44 Nos. New Dist. H/Q in Bangladesh 1 (one) at Madaripur (SH-Cosntn. of 800 sft. staff qtrs. attached to Police Line at Madaripur for the year 2000-2001 (6-units) GF 2-units, FF 2-units & SF 2-units). Gr. No. II: Construction of 800 sft staff qtrs attached to Madaripur Police Station at Madaripur for the year 2000-2001 (4-units) (GF 2-units & FF 2-units).
- Estimated cost: Gr. No. I: Tk 36,25,120/- Gr. No. II: Tk 26,56,800/-
- Earnest money: Gr. No. I: Tk 72,502/- Gr. No. II: Tk 53,136/-
- Time allowed: 180 days from the date of issue of the work order each group.

Contract documents consisting of BD Form No. 2911, notice inviting tenders, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. can be seen and obtained from the office of the undersigned and the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka and from the office of the all Executive Engineers under PWD Circle, Barisal and Khulna Division-I/II, Bagerhat/Satkhira/Jessore/Magura/Jhenaidha/Mehepur/Chuadanga/Narail/Faridpur/Rajbari/Khushtia and Additional Chief Engineer, PWD Zone, Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi. The tender form will be sold upto 10-10-2000.

Executive Engineer
PWD Division
Madaripur.

DFP-22894-20/9
G-1672

BRIEFLY

Schroeder in Moscow: German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder arrived in Moscow Monday for private talks with President Vladimir Putin, the Interfax news agency reported, AFP says from Moscow.

The German cabinet chief touched down at Moscow's Vnukovo-2 airport where he was welcomed by Economic Development Minister German Gref, Interfax said. Russian debt and landmark presidential and parliamentary elections in Yugoslavia are expected to feature prominently during the informal meeting.

Lanka troops kill 6 Tigers: Government forces shot dead at least six Tamil Tiger rebels in sporadic fighting in Sri Lanka's northern peninsula of Jaffna, officials said Monday, AFP reports from Colombo.



INSTITUTE OF FOOD & RADIATION BIOLOGY

Atomic Energy Research Establishment (AERE)
Ganakbari, Savar GPO Box 3787 Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
Ref: IFRB-TB 4(4)/2000(VP) Date: 17.09.2000

Local Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the bonafide local suppliers/manufacturers for supply of one "Jeep" to the Institute of Food and Radiation Biology (Under Tissue Banking Laboratory Strengthening Project, IFRB) Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Savar, Dhaka. Tender documents will be available during office hours upto 17.10.2000 at a cost of Tk 750/- (seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) from the office of the Accounts Officer (Budget), Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka with the written permission of the Project Director.

The tenderer must provide (a) Current year trade licence, (b) Up-to-date income tax clearance, certificate (c) Bank solvency certificate, (d) VAT & IRC registration certificate at the time of submission of the tender. Tender with 2% (two per cent) Earnest Money as per quoted value in the form of Bank Draft/Bank Guarantee/Pay Order in favour of Project Director, Tissue Banking Laboratory Strengthening Project, IFRB, AERE, Savar, Dhaka shall have to be dropped in the tender box kept in the office of the undersigned upto 12.00 hours of 18.10.2000 and will be opened at 12.30 hours on the same day in the office of the Project Director in presence of tenderers or their representatives who may wish to be present. No tender documents will be sold on the day of opening of the tender.

For unavoidable circumstances, if the office remain closed on the day of dropping or opening of the tenders the same will be dropped or opened on the next working day keeping time and place intact.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BAEC/SID-1(2)/94-605
DFP-22894-20/9
G-1669

Azizun Nessa
Project Director