

## Hasina: Fair polls

FROM PAGE 12

and injuring many including her party candidate in the area, Sheikh Helal.

She told the meetings that the BNP had forged an alliance with the razakars and killers of Bangabandhu following a so-called report by the intelligence agencies that such a unity would ensure their victory. "But the BNP has become desperate learning about the latest intelligence report that says the Awami League is surely going to win. That's why, the gang of vote thieves, killers and razakars are out to subvert the election."

Hasina further alleged that the BNP candidates were approaching the voters with bundles of money. "They are seasonal birds and investing money to buy votes. Such candidates will definitely try to get their money back multiplied and for that purpose they will engage in corrupt practices," she said asking the people to vote for AL nominees who always have stood by them.

In some constituencies in Comilla, the AL leader said, the BNP and Jamaat candidates are hiring armed goons from outside their areas. "These thugs are attacking

our workers and threatening the voters," she said, warning that people would not tolerate any conspiracy against the polls.

She repeatedly asked the local administration to maintain neutrality and act against those who were obstructing the process for peaceful holding of the coming election.

In all the election meetings, the former prime minister highlighted her government's achievements in various sectors and listed her election pledges. "Vote for boat, we will ensure your economic emancipation. If we are re-elected, we will build a poverty-free, prosperous Bangladesh."

Hasina introduced the AL candidates in all the constituencies she visited -- Mohammad Mohiuddin in Munshiganj-4, Hasan Jamil Sattar in Comilla-2, Prof. Ali Ashraf in Comilla-6, Abdul Matin Khasru in Comilla-5, AHM Mostafa Kamal in Comilla-9, Mujibul Haq in Comilla-12, Joyanal Abedin Bhuiyan in Comilla-11, M Tajul Islam in Comilla-10, Abdul Hakim in Comilla-7 and ATM Shamsul Haq in Comilla-8 constituency.

## Khaleda urges people

FROM PAGE 12

of Bangladesh will vote for sheaf of paddy (BNP's election symbol)," she told the meeting organised to seek support for BNP candidate for the Brahmanbaria-4 seat, Mushfiqur Rahman.

She alleged that the AL was targeting popular BNP candidates at places like Sirajganj, Bogra and Mohammadpur in Dhaka and trying to kill them.

Referring to mass killing at Brahmanbaria on February 6 this year, she called upon people to take revenge the deaths of innocent people through the ballot.

She also demanded immediate cancellation of arms license given to several thousands of AL cadres when it was in power. "The Awami League government gave licence to

identified terrorists, party leaders and activists as well as to their domestic hands."

The BNP chairperson also addressed election meetings at Devidar organised in support for Munzurul Ahsan Munshi for Comilla-4 and at Burichang for Principal Mohammad Yunus for Comilla-5 seat.

Khaleda, who concluded her three-day electioneering in greater Sylhet and Comilla yesterday, left for Bhola late last night after addressing an election meeting at Dholaikhal in support of Sadek Hossain Khoka.

During her two-day tour, she will address election meetings at Hizla, Mehandiganj, Bhola, Doulatkhan, Borhanuddin, Lalmoheh, Dhulia, Bakherganj and Patuakhali.

## AL: Minority voters

FROM PAGE 1

the day of election.

Earlier, the commission asked the parties and candidates concerned to submit a list of the polling agents along with two copies of photographs of each proposed agent to the presiding officers by September 25 to provide them with training before the election. But the BNP at a meeting on September 23 with the CEC opposed the idea.

Following the meetings with the two major political parties, the Election Commission finally decided that the polling agents would be appointed by the candidates concerned on the election day or on the day before.

The commission also postponed the polling agents-oriented training programmes.

About the appointment of the polling agents, the AL leader said the EC's proposal for submitting the list of election agents to the returning officers five days before the polls was unrealistic and contradictory to the electoral rules.

The AL delegation focused on some other issues - appointment of presiding officers and polling agents, law and order situation, deployment of members of the armed forces and the Sunday bomb blast in Bagerhat that left eight

people killed.

The AL delegation objected to the appointment of some Islamic Bank officials as presiding officers.

"The Islamic Bank is run by the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami," the delegation chief alleged.

The AL delegation consisted of members of its election steering committee -- Ataur Rahman Kayser, Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Advocate Syed Ahmed, Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan and AH Mahmood.

Later in the day, the AL at a press briefing at its election office informed reporters about the upshot of the meeting with the CEC.

AL leaders blamed the anti-liberation forces for masterminding the heinous incidents of bomb explosions in recent years in Jessore, Dhaka, Gopalganj and in other places under the patronage of Khaleda Zia.

They expressed frustration over the government's indifference to the attacks on people and properties belonging to the minorities.

The leaders also informed that Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, according to a reliable source, had a machination to launch attacks on the minorities at Rangunia, Razzan, Potia and Boalkhali in Chittagong.

## AL rebels defiant

FROM PAGE 1

At a projection meeting in support of party candidate in a Nilphamari constituency last week, party chief Hasina sounded tough against a party rebel, Abdur Rouf, for being in the race as an independent candidate. She also announced that the rebels would have no association with the party.

At places, party candidates appear to be facing formidable challenge more from their part

y colleagues (the rebels) than the other rival party candidates are, sources said. Actions against the rebels would bring much relief to the party candidates in their respective constituencies, they added.

Among all the AL rebels who remained in the race until recently, independent candidature of a party presidium member has put the party into an embarrassing position.

Dr. Mohammad Selim is campaigning as an independent candidate from all three constituencies, namely Sirajganj-1, 2 and 3, where his younger brother Mohammad Nasim, a former home minister and also the organising secretary the AL, got AL tickets. However, Selim's last minute decision to withdraw from the fray came much to the relief of Nasim and his party.

Some other AL rebels who are still defying the party orders include Kosimuddin Ahmed (Dinajpur-2), Emdadul Islam Chowdhury (Dinajpur-4), Dr Azizur Rahman (Dinajpur-6), Ferdous Zaman Mukul (Bogra-1 and 5), Abdus Samad (Rajshahi-5), Ahad Ali Sarkar (Natore-2), Saidur Rahman (Sirajganj-5), Abdur Rouf (Kushtia-4), Atiar Rahman (Jessore-2), Ishaq

Ali (Jessore-4), Abdul Halim (Jessore-6), Abdul Barek Ali (Patuakhali-3), Anwarul Islam (Patuakhali-4), Shamsul Islam (Barisal-6), GM Khan Tareq (Tangail-6), Amir Ahmed Khan Ratan (Mymensingh-4), Soumenndra Chowdhury (Mymensingh-8), Abdul Matin Bhuiyan (Mymensingh-9), Mohiuddin Ahmed (Mymensingh-11), Hemayetullah Auronga (Shariatpur-1), Khairul Majid (Narsinghdi-4), Shahrier Rumi (Faridpur-5), Haji Mujib (Moulvibazar-4), Sultan Mahmud Simon ((Shariatpur-2) and Baharuddin Bahar (Comilla-8).

Meanwhile, in a press release last night, AL joint-general secretary Muzaffar Hossain Paltu said that Ahad Ali Sarkar of Natore-2 stayed off the polls as far as his candidature is concerned and was now working in support of party nominee Hanif Ali Sheikh.

### JU rapists

FROM PAGE 1

the campus.

Meanwhile, the SURR-called indefinite strike stretched into the 28th day yesterday, marring academic activities. Administrative activities went on as usual, though.

On September 19, the High Court issued a rule nisi on the JU authorities asking them to explain within four weeks why the expulsion order on seven SURR leaders would not be considered 'illegal'.

Most of JU students left the campus, as the authorities postponed all examinations until October 4.

### Samar Das

FROM PAGE 1

He, popularly known as Samarda, stepped into the world of music at the age of 16 playing flute which was broadcast from All India Radio (Dhaka Centre) during the period of the undivided Bengal in 1945.

He, after moving to Calcutta for schooling at St. Paul's, had exclusive training in different branches of music from notable composers like Timir Barun and Vishnu Das Shiralee and received guidance and advice from late Kamal Dasgupta, Raichand Baral, Anupam Ghatak, Durga Sen and Pankaj Mullick.

He took lessons in Western notation in piano from late J D Newman and V Balsara for two years at HMV. He was appointed as a regular instrumentalist at HMV/EMI (India) recording company in Calcutta. The 'golden finger' became the heartbeat of the young generation in the early 50s throughout the Indo-Pak subcontinent.

He got himself attached to the Calcutta-based Bengali film production in 1950 as joint music director with late Kalipada Sen for the film "Lottery" and with late Salil Chowdhury for the film Jighangsha, to complete the unfinished background music. After the partition of Bengal, Samar Das returned to Dhaka and joined Radio Pakistan (Dhaka) as a music producer in 1961 and he built himself up as a full-fledged music composer and music director.

He contributed numerous dances, drama, ballet, compositions, and composed the music for more than 2000 songs consisting modern, folk, religious and others.

He was the music director of the first South Asian International Music Conference in Dhaka in 1954, music director of the films "Mukh-O-Mukhosh," Asiya, Nabarun. He also dedicated himself in the study and research for blending Western instrument and vocal tunes with Eastern music.

Das joined PIA Arts Academy as chief music director and created many-in-flight music for PIA.

The composer of "Kando Bangalee Kando" -- one of the most favourite songs that hit the heart of millions of Bangladeshes against the Pakistani military rulers -- took the responsibility of chief music director of Swadin Bangla Betar Kendro during the War of Liberation in 1971. He produced numerous patriotic songs which were sung by renowned artists from both Bangladesh and India to inspire the freedom fighters.

He directed the music of Long Play disk -- Bangladesher Hridoy Hote -- consisting of 26 patriotic songs dedicated to the martyrs of the Liberation War, released by HMV commemorating the Independence of Bangladesh.

He prepared and arranged the musical scoring of the national anthem of Bangladesh (from original tune of the Tagore's Amar Sonar Bangla) and composed the official song of the SAF Games in 1985 and 1995.

Besides the Swadinata Padak, he received Dishari Padak, Bangabandhu Award, Zebunnessa and Mahbubullah Awards and also award from UNICEF for his contribution in the cultural background of Bangladesh. He was also honoured by several organisations on several occasions.

The founder president of Bangladesh Sangeet Parishad, Samar Das visited India, the United Kingdom, Pakistan, Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Singapore, South Korea, The Philippines, USA, and Indonesia.



JP Chairman H M Ershad addressing a public rally at Kurigram yesterday.

## Clashes leave 296 injured

FROM PAGE 12

Section 144 in the town for an indefinite period.

In Tarash upazila, at least 40 people were injured during a gun-fight between the supporters of BNP and Awami League.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Tarash thana health complex. While the rest released after first aid.

The supporters of the two rival parties exchanged fire and exploded bombs and crackers during the clash that continued for about two hours.

The clash occurred when processions of AL and BNP confronted each other at Tarash Bazar in the evening.

A local office of GKS, a non-government organisation (NGO), house of BNP Tarash thana secretary Selim Jahangir and two studios were ransacked during the clash.

Police and Army resorted to baton charge and brought the situation under control. A case was filed with Tarash thana in this regard.

Our correspondent from Rajshahi writes: At least 30 people were injured, eight of them seriously, in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at Mohorkansha village under Lalpur upazila yesterday.

According to witnesses, the trouble began after tearing of posters of BNP candidate Fazlur Rahman Patal in Natore-1 constituency.

Both the warring groups used firearms and lethal weapons during the clash that continued for half an hour.

Motorcycle of BNP leader Shafed Ali was damaged during the clash.

Our Jhenidah correspondent reports, at least ten BNP men were injured when rival group attacked a cycle procession near Bagutia village under Sailkupa upazila last night.

Police and witnesses said Awami League activists attacked the procession where hundreds of BNP supporters brought out a bicycle procession at about 1.30 pm.

Sources said, just after the incident, BNP men damaged and looted some houses of Awami League activists.

Police arrested eight persons. In Feni, 13 BNP activists, including a female were injured when Awami League activists attacked the BNP supporters at two villages under Sonagazi thana yesterday

protesting the killing of a Jubo League leader in Sonagazi on Monday.

Jubo League leader Ehtesham Ibrahim was killed and nine other AL leaders and activists were injured when terrorists attacked them at Uklibarir Daroja Monday noon.

Following the incident, AL activists yesterday beat up BNP supporters in Akilpur and Mongolkandi villages yesterday. Of the injured, four identified as Nazma Akter, Abdul Wahed, Haroon and Golam Sarwar were admitted to thana health complex.

In retaliation, BNP activists attacked AL supporters at Charkandi, Sujapur and Charkhair villages. They also ransacked houses of AL supporters.

Meanwhile, police arrested 17 activists of BNP and its front organisations from different villages of Sonagazi Monday night and yesterday in connection with the killing of Ehtesham. They were produced before the Feni Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Both BNP and AL filed separate cases with Sonagazi thana in connection with the incident. BNP yesterday held a rally at the Sonagazi thana headquarters where candidate for Feni-3 constituency Mosharrar Hossain protested the arrest of 17 BNP activists.

In Laxmipur, 15 people were injured during a clash between the supporters of BNP and Awami League in the district town on Monday night.

Of the injured, 12 were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The clash erupted when election processions of two rival candidates came face to face in front of Sultan Master's house in the town.

Later, the supporters of four party alliance held a protest rally in front of the house of BNP candidate Shaheed Uddin Chowdhury Anny.

In Barisal, at least 55 people were injured, four with bullet, in pre-election clashes between activists of Awami League and BNP at Gournadi and Hizla upazilas yesterday and on Monday night, according UNB.

Police and witnesses said supporters of the two rival parties were locked in a clash in Sundardi Nandanpatti area in Gournadi yesterday leaving 10 people injured, four with bullet.

Some eight houses in the area were ransacked during the clash.

Besides, Awami League activists allegedly attacked a tempo carrying BNP candidate Mosharrar Hossain

Mongu and his supporters at Hizla upazila yesterday morning, leaving five people injured.

Some 40 people were also injured in a clash between the two political parties at Kusuria in the same upazila on Monday night.

In Mymensingh, a clash between Awami League and BNP activists left some 20 people wounded at Battala of Daugao in Muktagachha upazila yesterday.

Witnesses said the clash took place when two election processions of BNP and Awami League confronted each other at about 5 pm.

Six critically wounded -- Anwar, Razzak, Ibrahim, Rafiqul, Joyanal and Dulal -- were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while six others to Muktagachha Health Complex. Eight others were given first aid.

In Bhola, at least 12 Awami League supporters were injured, four with bullets, in separate attacks allegedly by BNP activists in the district on Monday night.

### Peter Shore

FROM PAGE 12

He is survived by a widow, one son and two daughters. Funeral details were not immediately available.

BSS adds, Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman yesterday expressed his deep condolence at the death of Lord Peter Shore.

In a message of condolence to Dr Elizabeth Shore, wife of the deceased, he said the people of Bangladesh remember with gratitude the valuable contribution made by Lord Peter Shore for the cause of Bangladesh's Liberation War.

Latifur Rahman said Lord Peter Shore also played an important role as Chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Committee on Bangladesh in the British Parliament. In his passing away, the people of Bangladesh and the British citizens of Bangladesh origin have lost a great friend, he said.

He said "on behalf of the Government of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, please accept our heartfelt condolences on the sudden demise of your beloved husband."

"At this hour of grief, the people of Bangladesh join me in conveying their deep sorrow for the loss of a true friend of Bangladesh. We sincerely hope that you would be able to overcome this great loss," he said.

## Bagerhat blast

FROM PAGE 1

created a big hole of over three feet in depth, police said.

Mollahat Sadar and Garbha union are being suspected as places where the plan to plant the bomb was made. Army and CID officials visited the nook and corner of the two areas several times. The house of the four-party candidate at Gaole village has been placed at the disposal of security personnel.

But any clue to the incident is yet to be found. CID officials are desperately searching for a lungi-clad young man suspected to be the carrier of the bomb, sources said. But this could not be confirmed by the investigators.

Police quoting some eye witnesses said that the young man was seen with a mobile phone in one hand and an unknown object in the other hand few minutes before the bomb went off. He reportedly disappeared from the scene when the bomb exploded.

Some of the eye witnesses claimed that the young man could be one of the three unidentified victims, whose bodies were disfigured in the blast. But CID officials said the carrier of the bomb is absconding.

At a press conference on Monday, Sheikh Helal blamed Mufti Abdul Hannan and the Jubo Command for planting the bomb to kill him. They are still conspiring to kill the remaining members of Bangabandhu's family, he alleged.

Sheikh Helal said, "Allah has saved me from the killers harboured by MAH Selim, Bagerhat BNP leader and my rival in the polls battle."

But when asked, Helal could not name any armed cadre of Jubo Command.

He also accused the civil and police administrations in Bagerhat of playing a partisan role as regards maintaining law and order.

Helal alleged that security measures were not enough and police did not scan the meeting venue prior

to its beginning.

MAH Selim refuted all allegations brought against him by Helal. "I escaped several attempts on my life made so far by armed cadres of Sheikh Helal", Selim said at a press conference at Bagerhat BNP office yesterday.

Demanding judicial inquiry into incidents of setting fire to some houses at Utkul union in Bagerhat-2 and the bomb blast at Mollahat in Bagerhat-1, Selim accused Helal of trying to foil the election, sensing his defeat in both the constituencies.

He demanded security of life of all candidates of four-party alliance in Bagherhat district and appealed to the army personnel to reveal the mystery behind the Mollahat bomb blast.

### Ballot papers

FROM PAGE 1

Banderban.

On the second day today, the ballots will go to Pabna, Meherpur, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Jessore, Magura, Narail, Khulna, Jamalpur, Sherpur, Rajbari, Faridpur, Gopalganj, Madaripur, Shariatpur, Sylhet, Brahmanbaria, Chandpur, Noakhali, Laxmipur and Chittagong.

The ballot papers will be sent to Sirajganj, Tangail, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Mymensingh, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Dhaka, Gazipur, Comilla and Feni tomorrow.

### Ctg terrorists

FROM PAGE 1

said the sources.

However, to the relief of people, security forces have already intensified their steps to contain the terrorists. A coordination meeting of police, BDR, Army and Ansar officials was held at the CMP Commissioner's office in the city on Monday. The meeting discussed the overall law situation and measures to maintain law and order during the election, the sources said.

## EC warns 18

FROM PAGE 1

Jatiya Party, and one from Islamic Okkoya Jote (IOJ). The violators are:

BNP: Nurul Islam Moni (Barguna-2), Iqbal Hasan Mahmood (Sirajganj-5), SA Sultan Titu (Chandpur-4), MA Matin (Chandpur-5), Saifur Rahman (Sylhet-1), Selim Reza Habib (Pabna-2), AKM Rezwanaul Haque (Dinajpur-5) and Rahim Uddin (Rangpur-4). The name of the ninth person was not reported.

AL: Mohammad Nasim (Sirajganj-2), Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam (Chandpur-5), AMA Muhi (Sylhet-1), Prof Abu Syed (Pabna-1) and Saraf Uddin Ahmed (Rangpur-1)

JP: Tajul Islam (Feni-2), Shafiul Alam Swapan (Chandpur-5), and Alhaj Munshi Monsur Ali (Chandpur-4)

IOJ: Nazir Ahmed (Feni-2).

Their violations included display of colour campaign posters and posters larger than the specified size, use of loudspeakers before the specified time, obstruction of others' electioneering, setting up expensive wayside election camps and bringing out motorcade.

With these latest warnings, the total number of election rule violators, which include both Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia, now stands at 117.

These warning notices were based on a list of 199 violators supplied from the district electoral inquiry committees across the country.

The EC however has not taken any punitive measures against the violators so far. Punishment for violations provides for fines of up to Tk 20,000.

Following are the candidates to whom the commission served notice yesterday.

The Election commission has shifted from its position

### C'wealth

FROM PAGE 12

CHOGM.

A one-day retreat of Commonwealth leaders will be held at Coolom, a sunshine coast of Queensland, Flynn said, adding that some 1,500 delegates are expected at the meeting.

The theme for the upcoming CHOGM is "Commonwealth in the 21st Century: Continuity and Renewal".

The Australian envoy to Bangladesh told reporters that his country was one of the single largest financial contributors to the Commonwealth and that his country is committed to pursue the common goal of democracy, good governance and rule of law.

"Commonwealth countries have benefited from conflict resolution, holding of elections and strengthening of democratic institutions," Flynn said.

The Australian High Commission in Dhaka is funding the visit of two Bangladeshi participants to the CHOGM.

## A choice for Bush

FROM PAGE 1

Nilsen and the group of professors said their nomination of Bush for the 2002 Peace Prize should be seriously considered, as long as the US leader "avoids a war", "avoids the loss of more innocent lives" and "ensures that the perpetrators are brought to justice."

University professors teaching law, political science, history and philosophy are entitled to submit nominations for the Peace Prize, as are members of parliament and ministers from around the world, former and current members of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, certain lawyers and former Peace Prize laureates.

The list of nominations is a tightly-guarded secret, but those who nominate are allowed to announce their choice publicly. The deadline for nominations each year is February 1.

"Any nomination for a person who has the power and the will to avoid a war should be carefully considered. By making this nomination known, we are also sending Bush a message to avoid the use of certain words referring to religious wars," Nilsen said. Several days after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, Bush spoke of a "crusade" against terrorism.

Officials at the Nobel Institute were sceptical that the nomination could stop Bush from launching a war.

"This initiative is interesting but it doesn't seem realistic. There is a strong likelihood that the United States will engage in a military response of some form or another," institute director Geir Lundestad told the Nordlys newspaper.

"It's good that so many people think of the Peace Prize, and that they believe that it is influential enough to influence Bush. But the truth is, the Peace Prize doesn't

carry that much weight on the international level," he said.

The winner of the 2001 Peace Prize is to be announced on October 12. The award consists of a medal, a diploma, and a cheque for almost 10 million Swedish kronor (935,000 euros, 858,000 dollars).

Last year, the prestigious prize, created 100 years ago by Swedish inventor and savant Alfred Nobel, went to South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung.

### AL-BNP

FROM PAGE 1

President Shahabuddin Ahmadi.

According to newspapers and sources, the Hindu community has been repressed or harassed at Netrokona, Sirajganj, Thakurgaon, Bagerhat, Narail, Shariatpur, Faridpur, Noakhali, Raozan of Chittagong and other places over last few days.

In some areas, there are instances of ousting of the minority groups from their homes. It is suspected that terrorists exploded bomb in Bagerhat in which eight persons were