The Daily Star

Violence in some constituencies: FEMA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), a local polls observing group, in a report last night said that the poll was marred by violence and intimidation in some constituencies.

The FEMA cited some examples of violence that had taken place in different districts, resulting in suspension of polling in some centres. It deployed over 60,000 volunteers to observe the voting across the country.

It, however, stated that in most of the polling stations the FEMA observers visited voter turnout was found high. There was also visibly a high number of women voters. Rain disrupted polling intermittently, it noted, adding that security arrangements were generally satisfactory and people queued up in significant numbers to vote in Dhaka.

The FEMA also noted that at some polling stations election officials did not appear to have been trained and did not display efficiency in performing their duties. "Our reports suggest that even though many polling stations opened on time and election officials had all the material available, there have been serious electoral irregularities at some of the polling

Polls violence kills 5

FROM PAGE 1 said that violence erupted after two of his supporters were wounded in firing by the BNP terrorists. He alleged that BNP men occupied eight polling centres and cast false

BNP candidate Mosharraf Hossain Shajahan made similar allegations against AL. He claimed that AL men occupied ten polling centres and cast false votes. He also claimed that many of his activists were beaten up by AL activists.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: Two persons were killed and 40 others injured in clashes between the activists of two rival parties at two centres one in Barisal-4 constituency and the other at a centre in Barisal-6 constituency during yesterday's voting.

The dead were identified as AFP, Washington Subhas Chandra Das, 20 and Jamal Uddin. 25. will plunge another 10 million people

Subhash was killed at Boalia A S into poverty next year as developing High School centre in Barisal-4 Constituency when a group of armed men opened fire at the centre at about 12.30pm.

The armed gang also ransacked the polling centre and exploded crackers. Polling at the centre has been postponed.

Jamal Uddin, an agent of an independent candidate, was shot dead at Darirchar Khajuria Madrassah centre in Mehendiganj upazila under Barisal-6

According to the FEMA report, one Al supporter was killed in a clash between the AL and BNP activists in Shariatpur-1 seat at around noon and BNP had reportedly taken over four polling stations. Moreover, due to violent inci-

dents, various polling stations were closed down in different constituencies including Comilla-8, 9 and 11, Madaripur-1.

It said, on the night proceeding the polling day, a group of activists went to a village in Manikganj and warned the people that they should vote for the AL. They attacked women of the village with sharp weapons. The women eventually caught them, but later the local UP chairman helped them escape before law- enforcement agencies could arrest them, it added. In addition, intimidation of voters

was also reported from several places in Chittagong including Rangamati, Bandarban, and Khagrachhari. Reports of widespread impersonation have also come from many constituencies, the FEMA said.

It alleged that some of its observers faced obstacles at places and officials on polling duties took away their identity cards at some places.

supporters of AL candidate for

Shariatour-1 constituency Mobarak

Ali Sikdar and AL rebel Hemayet

Ullah Awaranga clashed in BK

Nagar Union of Jazira Upazila at

Polling was postponed in 11

centres in the three constituencies

of the district, including 9 centres in

Shariatpur-1, and one each in rest of

US terror attacks

million to poverty:

The September 11 terrorist assaults

nations take a battering, the World

the recent attacks wrought in the

US, with citizens from some 80

nations perishing in New York,

Washington and Pennsylvania,"

Wolfensohn.

"We have seen the human toll

Bank said in a report yesterday.

about 2 pm.

the two constituencies

condemn 10

World Bank

AL unleashed

FROM PAGE 12 Shibchat under Madaripur, Nilphamari sadar and Kazipur under Sirajganj.

The spokesman said BNP's candidate at Narayanganj-4 constituency lodged complaints with the EC about forcible occupation of 27 polling centres by his rival candidate and AL leader Shamim Osman.

He said terrorists led by AL leader Tofail Ahmed forcibly occupied polling centres and resorted to massive vote-rigging through casting fake votes and manipulating results in other ways in three constituencies in Bhola from where the AL leader is contesting, and fired shots indiscriminately from sawn-off rifles.

Referring to Dhaka's situation, he said AL activists inside different polling centres created jam in polling booths by deliberately delaying the process of voting as each took 10 to 15 minutes to vote.

He said voters were forced to stand in very long queues outside many polling centres as voting could not even begin for at least an hour due to such willful obstructions by AL activists and many frustrated voters returned home without casting their vote.

The BNP spokesman said that the government had failed to ensure a free, fair and peaceful election.

FROM PAGE 1

The number of contestants in

these elections is 1,933, with 1,449

running on the tickets of 52 political

Both Hasina and Khaleda have,

meanwhile, expressed hopes that

their parties would secure enough

seats to form the government on

the country's liberation war and won

the last parliamentary polls to get

back to power after a 21-year hiatus,

has named candidates for the all the

299 seats at stake. It has retained its

The 21-year-old BNP, founded

by late Ziaur Rahman, a key figure in

the country's war of liberation who

was later propelled to power as a

soldier in 1976, has cobbled an

traditional election symbol, boat.

The 50-year-old AL, which led

polling.

parties.

their own.

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1 Asked about her feeling, the AL leader referred to her long struggle for democracy and said she was

happy to see the people exercising their right to franchise To another question, Hasina replied that it was too early to say anything about the election scenario. However, she said she got some information of troubles in Shariatpur and Feni where "anti-Awami League candidates used forces to influence the vote."

The AL chief was a bit critical of the caretaker government for what she said was its failure to run the administration neutrally, which inflamed unrest in some places.

"I hope the administration would take necessary steps to enable the people to vote without any intimidation and pressure," she said.

Hasina later went round to different polling centres in all eight constituencies in the city where the voters in the queue greeted her. Hasina reciprocated by waiving to the enthusiastic people.

The centres she visited were one at New Market, Azimpur, Lalbagh, Nawabpur, Islampur, Bahadur Shah Park, Banglabazar, Lalkuthi, Shyambazar, Farashganj, Gandaria, Jatrabari, Demra, Sayedabad, Gopibagh, Sabujbagh, Khilgaon, Shahjahanpur, Sidhweshwari, Malibagh, Tejgaon, Gulshan, Badda, Banani, Mohakhali, Cantonment Kachukhet, Mirpur, Shyamoli and Mohammadour

said World Bank president James Khaleda FROM PAGE 1 "But there is another human toll

The BNP Chairperson, who is a that is largely unseen and one that resident of Shaheed Mainul Hossain Road, tops the voters' list of the centre. In an instant reaction. she said. " I just cast my vote. I have not received as yet any information either from the city or elsewhere

electoral alliance with the Jamaat-e thousand military, paramilitary and Islami, pro-Naziur Rahman Manzur law enforcement personnel have Jatiya Party faction and the Islam been deployed to help peaceful Oikya Jote (IOJ).

> the AL won 146 seats while the BNP won 116 while the then unified JP 32 and the Jamaat 3. The AL dislodged the BNP in forming the government with support from the JP and man-

In the previous elections held in February 1991, the BNP secured 140 seats, the AL 88, the JP 35 and Jamaat 18. The BNP succeeded in forming the government with the

According to the Election Commission sources, the AL secured 37.44 per cent of the popular votes and the BNP 33.6 per cent. In 1991, the AL had 33.67 per cent of the popular votes and the BNP

law in SC

Former President Bill Clinton was suspended yesterday from the practice of law before the US Supreme Court and he must show why he should not be disbarred, the nation's highest court said.

In a one-sentence order entitled "In the matter of discipline of Bill Clinton," the justices said the former president would have 40 days to show why he should not be disbarred from practicing law before the high court.

On January 19, right before he left office, Clinton admitted giving false, evasive statements about his relationship with former White House intern, Monica Lewinsky.

As part of the deal with the inde pendent counsel, Clinton accepted a five-vear suspension of his license to practice law in Arkansas and paid a \$25,000 fine

"Whenever a member of the bar of this court has been disbarred or suspended from practice in any court of record or has engaged in conduct unbecoming a member of the bar of this court," the Supreme Court's rules require it to suspend the lawyer and give the lawyer 40 days to respond to possible disbarment.

Women of Surat union cast votes for the first time in 50 years UNB, Jhenidah

Northern Alliance

FROM PAGE 12 paign to control militancy.

Shamkhani also acknowledged for the first time that Iran has been supplying the Afghan opposition Northern Alliance with weapons and said Iran would continue to do so. Pakistan's president said vester-

day believed the United States will launch a military strike against Afghanistan, after the Taliban's supreme leader told the Afghan people that "Americans don't have the courage to come here."

The Pakistani president, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, told the British Broadcasting Corp. that "It appears that the United States will take action in Afghanistan." Asked in the Taliban's days were numbered, he replied: "It appears so."

"It appears that the United States will take action in Afghanistan and we have conveyed this to the Taliban," Musharraf said, adding that Pakistan had tried its best to head off a confrontation over Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

Where they

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

President Shahabuddin Ahmad

Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman, Chief

Election Commissioner MA Syed

and the two former prime ministers

cast their votes at five different

centres under three constituencies

Hasina cast her vote at the

Ganobhaban Govt. High School

centre obviously for her party-nominee, Dr. HBM lqbal from the

Dhaka-10 constituency. BNP Chief

Khaleda Zia definitely voted for her

party candidate Maj (Retd) Quamrul

Islam at the Adamjee Cantonment

College Centre under Dhaka-5

constituency. President Shahabuddin cast his

vote at the Bangabhaban Govt.

Primary School Centre in Dhaka-7

constituency where Awami

League's Sayeed Khokon and

Sadek Hossain Khoka of BNP were

the Viqarunnessa Noon School

Centre under Dhaka-10 constitu-

ency where Dr. Iqbal and Maj.

(Retd) Abdul Mannan of BNP were

Gulshan Model High School Centre

under Dhaka-5 constituency where

AL's AKM Rahmatullah was likely to

have a straight fight against Maj.

The CEC cast his vote at

The Chief Advisor cast his vote at

the two leading candidates.

the two main candidate.

(Retd) Quamrul Islam

Awami League chief Sheikh

cast vote

in the capital.

Shunil Chandra Babu, a barber In Afghanistan's beleaguered in Mirpur area, said, "I voted for the capital, Kabul, the first World Food person of my choice without any Programme convoy since the start of the crisis arrived yesterday. Eight trucks carrying 218 tons of wheat made it through to the city after a

Abdus Sattar, a rickshawpuller in Mohammadpur area, said, "Fearing rigging, I cast my vote in the early hours of voting."

Hasina Akhtar, a fifth year student of Sir Salimullah Medical College, expressed her optimism that with three consecutive credible elections in the country, democracy will be consolidated. She hoped that the party losing the election will also accept the people's verdict.

Mozammel Hossain Bokul, a student of Dhaka University said, "It is difficult to choose a candidate because all of them are controversial and of dubious character. I have to choose the better between the

two devils." He was doubtful whether the party which would be in the opposition would attend the Jatiya Sangsad sessions

Former president of S Vietnam Van Thieu dead AP, Boston

Former South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu, who led his nation in the war that tore apart Vietnam and bitterly divided the United States, then was forced to step down as North Vietnamese troops closed in, has died. He was

78. Thieu collapsed Thursday at his home in suburban Foxboro on Thursday and died late Saturday at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center in Boston, hospital spokesman Jerry Berger and cousin Hoang Duc Nha said Sunday.

aged to complete a five-year tenure.

30.81 per cent.

PHOTO: STAR Clinton barred from practicing



NEWS



DHAKA TUESDAY OCTOBER 2, 2001

Pakistan

Bagdis province.

FROM PAGE 1

candidates"

said

bone-jarring journey over rutted

roads, said WFP spokesman Khalid

Mansour said in neighboring

Afghanistan, with one district whose

capture the opposition alliance had

reported on Sunday apparently

changing hands again. Taliban

officials quoted by the private

Afghan Islamic Press, a private

news agency close to the Taliban,

said their fighters had retaken the

district of Qadis in northeastern

defaulting and terrorist-harbouring

polls than elect a corrupt represen-

tative. More voters should bovcott

election to make political leaders

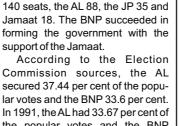
understand that people do not like

the present political culture, she

She said it is better to boycott

Young voters

Fighting continued in the north of



REUTERS, Washington

In the June 12, 1996 elections,

Constituency in the morning. Polling in 19 centres of the two

constituencies have been postponed.

In Shariatpur, one person was shot dead and many injured in clashes between the supporters of two candidates in Jazira area during election yesterday, according to UNB.

The dead was identified as Habibur Rahman, 25.

Three of the injured, who received bullet wounds in a gunfight, were sent to Dhaka. They are Nuru Fakir, 27, Kalam Hawladar, 28, and Selim, 27.

Police and witnesses said the

Munshiganj polls

FROM PAGE 12

each other at a number of polling centres

District administration sources said that despite heavy deployment of army and law enforcing agency personnel, trouble broke out at some places in the constituency.

However, the situation in other areas of the district was normal. Distric officials said violence

erupted and voting was disrupted in all the 13 polling centres in the town. None was however injured.

Polling at three of the centres was suspended -- at Dewbhogh-2 Primary School and Makahati centres in the morning and at Bangla Bazar centre in the afternoon. It was disrupted in other centres for some time.

Activists of rival candidates also forced out polling agents of the other side from several centres.

Awami League candidate Mohammad Mohiuddin complained to the Returning Officer (RO) of rigging at 13 polling centres while Abdul Hai of four-party alliance complained of rigging at seven centres.

Both alleged that supporters of administration sources said the rival side drove away their polling agents from those centres and demanded suspension of voting at the centres. and restored normalcy.

While visiting some polling centres in the town, this correspondent found that polling agents of either BNP or AL were absent from those and false votes were being cast

An armed gang snatched three ballot boxes from Dewbhogh-2 Primary School centre shortly after 9 am.

Witnesses said the gang first control

all narts of the d ing world, especially Africa," he said in a statement.

"We estimate that tens of thousands more children will die worldwide and some 10 million more people are likely to be living below the poverty line of one dollar a day because of the terrorist attacks." The World Bank's preliminary

economic assessment was based only on expected loss of income, he

tried to stop voting at the centre by

firing shots and exploding bombs

and threw those in a pond nearby.

Officials suspended voting at the

centre at around 10 am.

still floating in the pond.

Later, they snatched ballot boxes

When this correspondent visited

None was available at the centre

the spot at noon, one ballot box was

and shops in the area were found

fire in front of Ziastala Primary

Another gang put a revolver on

the head of Presiding Officer

Habibur Rahman at Idrakpur-1

Primary School centre and tried to

personnel turned up immediately

exchanged fire, exploded a number

of bombs and chased each other in

front of Munshiganj High School

centre in the afternoon. The centre

is near the office of the deputy

spot and brought the situation under

Army personnel rushed to the

Activists of AL and BNP

"Many, many more people will be thrown into poverty if development strategies are disrupted," Wolfensohn said

and crackers.

newsmen.

way to hospital.

School centre.

commissioner.

from the country. About the Adamjee Cantonment College centre, she said the atmosphere in this centre is 'still good'.

Later, she went to different parts of the city, but did not visit any polling centre. She went to Uttara, Azampur, Progoti Sarani, Malibagh Chowdhury Para, Khilgaon Chourashta, Shahjahanpur and Fakirerpool.

She took a break at Khilgaon Chourashtha and talked with BNP candidate Mirza Abbas, who is contesting from the Dhaka-6 seat. Abbas told her that the vote casting was very slow due to inadequate number of polling booth.

Afterwards, Khaleda told reporters at the party central office, "I have witnessed a great deal of enthusiasm among men and women and they are very much eager to cast their votes. If the election is held in a free and fair manner. Inshaallah, we will win it with two-thirds majority.

At the time, she was flanked by her two daughter-in laws -- Dr Zobaida Rahman, wife of her eldest son Tareq Rahman, and Samila Rahman, wife of the youngest son Arafat Rahman, and Tareq's only daughter Zaima Rahman.

closed. Local people were so pan-She, however, said casting of icked that they refused to talk to vote was very slow and number of women booths were inadequate. "I Meanwhile, some sources said have seen many women standing in one person Nasir--_who was bullet long queue. This slow process of injured near Makhati polling centre casting votes cannot continue for on Sunday night died yesterday on long. We have urged the authorities to take immediate steps to increase

Army personnel arrested four the number of booths for women." persons with firearms from Sardar She resumed her cross-city tour Para in the morning as they opened at 1:25pm and went to Jatrabari,

Postogola, Faridabad, Sutrapur, Patuatuli, Islampur, Mitford Road, Lalbagh, Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Asad gate, Kalyanpur, Gabtali, Mirpur and Kafrul before winding up at 2:30pm.

snatch the ballot boxes, district Feni As the presiding officer raised An

FROM PAGE 12 alarm, the elements fled. Army distance from polling centres.

At around 7:00pm yesterday, some results were coming in to the DC office. At three centres at least in Feni town, VP Joynal of BNP was winning over Joynal Hazari, the absconding AL leader, with a broad margin.

Returning Officer and DC of Feni AFM Solaiman told The Daily Star that the polling in all the Feni constituencies were held "more or less smoothly.



Relatives escort 90 year old Latifunnessa who came to cast her vote at Adamjee College polling centre. Incidentally it was the International Day for the Elderly yesterday.

Festive mood in city

FROM PAGE 1

the Shamsul Haq High School centre in Demra under the Dhaka-4 constituency, several hundred people had already gueued up when the clock struck eight. They did not mind the long wait, the voters said

Away at the Suritola School centre under the Dhaka-7 constituency, several hundred female voters anxiously awaited their turn at 4:00 pm. scheduled end of the voting hours. Officials in charge of the centre, however, told The Daily Star that they would allow voting to continue until the queue was cleared. no matter how many more hours it needed.

Our correspondents visited over 15 polling centres under different city constituencies and talked to polling agents of rival candidates. Except at a few centres, they expressed satisfaction with the voting progressed throughout the day.

At the Suritola School centre, some agents of the four-party alliance candidates complained of hastened process of voting that had given them no chance to examine the authenticity of voters. Officials, however, denied the charge but acknowledged that due to too few booths available for women in that centre, they had to hurry a bit so that female voters did not remain in queues for long hours.

Two young ladies, Sharmin and

For the first time in nearly 50 years female voters of 12 villages at Surat union in Sadar upazila cast their votes vesterday.

The turnout of female voters in the district, which has got 3,737 women voters, was 80 per cent, said an official

According to various NGOs, a devastating cyclone had lashed the area some 50 years ago on a polling day killing a good number of women and a child, and it prompted the locals to believe that the calamity befell on them due to casting of votes by women.

Since then, the female voters were discouraged to go to polling centres

But this time the women of the 12 villages broke the age-old superstition and joined the election thanks to local leaders. NGO workers and the administration for their campaign to that end.

at their respective voting centres

pulled big crowds who witnessed in

great enthusiasm how their leaders

Rab arrested tod

FROM PAGE 1

of Bhaskerpur Government Primary School centre of Bhatra union parishad at Ramgar was arrested as he suspended the voting at 3 pm and took back all election materials to the UNO office.

Police recovered two seals out of four snatched by JSD supporters from Char Kolakopta Alia Madrasa BNP activists at Bibirhat Rashidia High School centre of Ramgati forced Awami League polling agents Mostofa, Matin and Motaleb

to leave the place. They were found missing after the incident. Voting was suspended at Char

Ghoshai centre for two hours due to violence.. Poling was also suspended at Purba Bhaskerpur Government Primary School center as terrorists snatched ballot boxes from there.

the symbol 'torch' along with his name without mentioning other party symbols or area in the printed papers during electioneering, which the administration called ballot papers, the committee reasoned.

for the past few days.

The administration plotted against Rab by sending that information to the print media, the statement said.

Rab endeavoured to popularise

The clash with party workers on the day of election and his arrest after the incident are nothing but an "intrigue". The committee demanded immediate release of Rab

In the same statement, General Secretary of JSD Hasanul Hoque Inu alleged that army personnel in his constituency Kushtia-2 (Mirpur-Bheramara) favoured BNP leaders and workers and harassed his party leaders and activists.

The army in the same constitu-

ency arrested JSD leaders, workers

The committee said the local administration was conspiring to prevent Rab from winning the polls

Meanwhile, the JSD central

committee in a statement termed

the arrest of party president ASM

Rab a conspiracy of police and the

administration.

Scindia's death

FROM PAGE 12 to the oratory of Vajpavee and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Rajnath Singh of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Mulayam Singh Yadav of Samajwadi Party.

Like Pilot, Scindia was considered as a star of Congress who had the potential to occupy the top slot. But unlike Pilot, Scindia was very close to the Gandhi family and a trusted aide of Sonia Gandhi.

Pilot had carved out for himself just before his death the image of a rebel challenging the leadership of Sonia Gandhi. On the other hand, Scindia had no such hang-up but was rated as a prime ministerial candidate of the Congress when the controversy about Sonia Gandhi's foreign origin had broken out a few years ago.

Many believe that Scindia, apart from senior Congress leader and former Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh, had wide acceptability to other parties if Sonia were to step aside as the leader. Scindia never allowed his political ideology and his royal lineage to bedevil his personal equations not only with incident anywhere in the country." other opposition parties but also

with the main rival BJP.

and beat them up, he said

But unlike Manmohan Singh, Scindia had a mass base, at least in his home constituency of Gwalior from where he never lost an election to the Lok Sabha, lower house of the parliament since 1979.

Although one could argue that Scindia had not entirely been able to keep himself away from the impression of being the leader of a faction in his home state opposed to groups led by senior leaders like Ariun

Singh and Digvijav Singh. Scindia was the Congress' best speaker in the Lok Sabha, both in English and Hindi, and his criticism of the Vaipavee government for the failure of India-Pakistan summit in Agra in July was the most memorable performance by an opposition leader in the parliament. He had a good command over subjects like foreign affairs and defence.

It is but natural that Congress would be cursing its luck for having lost a number of its promising leaders at a time when the party was expecting a lot from them. One recalls Lal Bahadur Shastri, Indira Gandhi, Rajiv Gandhi and now Pilot and Scindia

advisor and top two leaders of the AL and the BNP generated interest among voters of those particular centres. Sheikh Hasina and Khaleda Zia's arrival and stay for sometime

however, said that some tension was generated centring some rumours but there was not a single genuine complaint lodged till that

cast their votes in the first half of the per cent votes were cast by 12 noon.

School centre, Presiding Officer Naresh Chandra told The Daily Star at 12 noon that over 800 votes out of total 1600 were cast

Some 1400 out of 2506 female Marium, were among over a hundred women who got held up for voters at the Ispahani School centre over two hours in long queue. "You cast their votes by 1:00 pm. see, there are six booths for male Casting of votes by some of the country's leading personalities voters here. And there was only one for us. A little while ago the authoriincluding the president, the chief

PHOTO: STAR

ties here opened another booth to ease the pressure." Sharmin said angrily as Marium nodded her head in agreement

Some AL workers raised a hue and cry over the BNP candidate's long stay at a centre under the Dhaka-10 constituency. Tension prevailed over the issue for some time at the Ispahani Girls High School centre. When a Daily Star correspondent visited the centre at 12:50pm, Major (Retd.) Abdul Mannan said he had rushed there upon getting allegation of obstruc-

agents. Presiding Officer Solaiman Ali

time

As the scenario suggested, it appeared that people mostly tried to day. In most centres some 50 to 60

exercising their rights to franchise. After casting their votes at the Ganobhaban Primary School and

tions in the works of his polling

At the Moghbazar Shanoori

the Adamji Cantonment College centres respectively, both Hasina and Khaleda showed 'V' signs expressing hopes of electoral victory. After casting his vote at the

Vigarunnisa Noon Girls School and College centre, Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman took time to visit some other centres in the city to see how

the polling progressed. At around 10:30 am, the chief advisor visited the Adamji Cantonment College centre. Talking to newsmen, Justice Rahman expressed satisfaction over the atmosphere. "I have just had talks with the Inspector General of Police over phone and he informed that there had so far been no violent