

Khaleda tries to contact Hasina over phone

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday tried twice to contact Awami League President Sheikh Hasina over telephone but failed due to 'non-cooperation' from those who received the call at the AL chief's Dhanmondi residence, BNP sources said.

The first call was made from Khaleda's cantonment residence in the afternoon and the second from BNP's Banani office in the evening.

Khaleda Zia wanted to contact Sheikh Hasina to discuss with her various issues including post-election situation, ways of improving relations between the two parties, steps to make parliament the centre of all national activities and further strengthen democracy. She also wanted to seek cooperation from the AL chief in running the country, the sources said.

Scrap election results, hold fresh polls, demands AL

Non-cooperation if demands not met by Oct 10

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rejecting the October 1 election results, Awami League yesterday demanded cancellation of the polls by October 10 and warned that otherwise it would go for a 'non-cooperation' movement from the next day.

Following a crucial meeting of AL Central Working Committee at the party central office in the city, AL President Sheikh Hasina told waiting newsmen, "This election has to be cancelled and we demand a fresh election."

The immediate past prime minister said, "We have taken a resolution in the meeting that Awami League can't accept the election results which have not reflected the people's aspirations. We've decided that the October 1 election has to be cancelled and a fresh election must be held."

She further said that AL MPs-elect would not take oath as lawmakers and would not also join parliament sessions.

"We will write to the President and to the Election Commission tomorrow (Thursday) demanding cancellation of the polls," Hasina said replying to a query.

She also announced a series of party programmes from October 5 denouncing the October 1 election which, she alleged, has been rigged

under a blue print jointly prepared by the BNP-led alliance, caretaker government and Election Commission.

The programmes include demonstrations in Dhaka on October 5 and protest rallies and processions across the country from October 6 to 9. Besides, AL would go for a 'road barricade' programme on October 10. Details of these programmes would be given to the press later, Hasina said.

A nearly two-hour meeting of the ALCWC preceded Sheikh Hasina's press briefing. AL policy planners along with some of the senior party leaders had detailed discussion on polls debacle of the party. Members of AL Presidium, many of whom suffered defeat in the election, also attended the meeting chaired by Hasina.

Party leaders Zillur Rahman, SAMS Kibria, Abdus Samad Azad, Sajeda Chowdhury, Tofail Ahmed, Motia Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Abdul Jalil, Zohra Tajuddin and Mohammad Nasim, among others, attended the meeting and also the press briefing later.

While the party leaders were having their crucial meeting at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue office, several thousand leaders and workers assembled outside it despite intermittent rains and raised slogans like "we don't

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4



President Shahabuddin Ahmad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia share a light moment when she called on him at the Bangabhaban yesterday.

Carter, Vajpayee, Musharraf greet Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former US President Jimmy Carter has congratulated BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia on her landslide victory in the October 1 general election.

Carter phoned Khaleda at about 10pm yesterday and had talks with her for about 12 minutes.

BNP's joint secretary general Haris Chowdhury told The Daily Star that Jimmy Carter hoped the existing friendly relationship between the USA and Bangladesh would strengthen further under the dynamic leadership of Khaleda Zia.

The BNP Chairperson thanked the former US President and invited him to visit Bangladesh. Carter accepted the invitation and said that he along with his wife would visit Bangladesh soon.

Our Correspondent from New Delhi reports: Felicitating BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her party's resounding electoral victory, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee yesterday said he looks forward to working with her to promote cooperation between India and Bangladesh.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addresses an emergency meeting of central working committee of the party at its Bangabandhu Avenue central office yesterday.

AL conveys its decision to polls observers

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League yesterday demanded reelection to the 8th parliament cancelling results of Monday's election that it rejected as "fake and manipulated".

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman conveyed the party decision to representatives of the EU Election Observation Mission, NDI and UNDP observation team at a meeting at the Awami League election office.

"We don't accept this result, we have documented evidence of how the results were fabricated for BNP under a blue print," Zillur told journalists after the meeting at noon.

He said Awami League demands reelection in all the constituencies.

The party was learnt to have sent a letter to the Chief Election Commissioner demanding the reelection.

Earlier, Zillur and Shah AMS

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

New cabinet likely to have a number of new faces

One minister from each alliance partner

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of fresh faces are likely to be inducted in the cabinet to be formed by the BNP-led four-party alliance.

Sources said the BNP alone can form government having already won 181 seats, but it would share power with its allies.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to hold more than one important portfolio. A Freedom Fighters Ministry will be formed, which she may head.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is likely to take over the LGRD ministry, in line with the tradition as far as party general secretary is concerned.

A pressure group within the BNP is trying to convince the leadership

that its hardliners and former ministers who were accused of abuse of power or corruption should not be inducted in the cabinet. The group argues if the hardliners were inducted, the party would do the mistakes the previous Awami League government did.

It is likely that the new government would consider representation from different areas where the alliance has a comparatively fragile footing. These areas include the Chittagong Hill Tracts and greater Rangpur regions.

Moreover, the BNP is likely to appoint one minister from each of the three alliance partners. A negotiation is under way in this regard.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

Khaleda wants to form govt without delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Khaleda Zia has urged the president and the chief advisor to immediately invite her to form government.

She told President Shahabuddin Ahmad that the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has emerged as the single largest political party in the October 1 general election.

A BNP delegation led by Chairperson Khaleda Zia paid separate courtesy calls on the president and Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman yesterday evening.

During the meetings, the BNP thanked both of them for ensuring a free, fair and peaceful election that has reflected people's hopes and aspirations.

BNP sources said both the president and the chief advisor congratulated Khaleda on her winning the election and agreed to invite her to form government immediately.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Separation of judiciary Council of advisors recommends it for new govt

UNB, Dhaka

As the caretaker government could not proceed further with its initiative for separating the judiciary from the executive, it recommended for the upcoming new government to do it.

A meeting of the Council of Advisors with Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman in the chair made the recommendation.

The interim administration thanked the law ministry for drafting laws and rules-regulations for separation of the judiciary.

"Recommendation was made that the next government should consider the draft rules on separation of the judiciary from the executive and take a decision to this effect," said an official handout.

In the meeting, the council of advisors also approved in principle a proposal for turning the National Institute of Kidney Disease and Urology into autonomous body.

Advisors, Cabinet Secretary and secretaries concerned attended the meeting held at the CA's office.

Chief Advisor rejects outright allegations of polls rigging

'I did what I considered good in my conscience'

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Advisor Latifur Rahman yesterday thanked all concerned for their cooperation with the caretaker government in holding the election, and rejected outright the allegations of rigging.

"I was a judge, I don't understand any subtle or gross manipulation... I did what I considered good in my conscience," he said about Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina's allegation of election-rigging.

The chief advisor said this at an informal meeting with the editors of newspapers and news agencies at his office as his interim administration is preparing to hand over the charge to a new government.

Latifur said a free, fair, neutral and transparent election has been possible due to the cooperation of all including media.

"Media has played a very neutral role and reflected the aspirations of the people... Media was very

positive and supportive to the neutral activities of the caretaker government," he told the editors.

The chief advisor said if this positive trend continues, the public opinion would be built up and the country would move towards fair politics and rule of law.

Replying to a question on the concept of the caretaker government, he said it was chosen by the politicians because they have no confidence in each other.

"But it should continue for some more days until maturity, tolerance and sagacity prevail in the country's politics," said the former chief justice

who took over as the chief of the caretaker government in last July.

After the gazette notification in a couple of days on the results of the 8th parliament election, Latifur said a new government will take oath and then the caretaker government will quit.

"The main job of the caretaker government during its two-and-a-half-month tenure was to create an environment for neutral election. The rest work was done and the election conducted by the Election Commission," he said.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Respect people's verdict, say Japanese polls observers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Japanese election observers have said the country's parliamentary election was conducted in a free, fair and peaceful manner and expressed the hope that the people's verdict would be respected.

"As a result of our observation, we are convinced that this election, as a whole, was conducted in a free, fair, peaceful and orderly manner," said Shin Sakurai, head of the Japanese election observer group at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Sakurai, who is also the vice-president of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians' Association Election Observer Group (JBPAEOG) and a member of the House of Councillors, said, "We wish that people's will reflected in this election should be fully respected, and new government should be

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

4-party wins 201 seats, AL 63

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP-led four-party alliance won 201 parliamentary seats and its arch-rival Awami League only 63, out of 283 in the just-concluded general election, according to the unofficial result announced so far by the Election Commission.

The results of 90 centres in 16 constituencies, where voting was suspended due to violence and intimidation, will be made available after the re-polling to be held on October 8.

According to the EC sources, BNP alone won 179 seats, and its allies — Jamaat-e-Islami 16, a faction of Jatiya Party (Nazir) four and Islami Oikya Jote two.

The Islami Jatiya Oikya Front, an alliance led by Jatiya Party (Ershad), got 14 seats, while another faction of Jatiya Party led by Anwar Hossain Manju got one.

The Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Janata League won one seat, and three independent candidates — Delwar Hossain in Barguna-1, Mohammad Ali in Noakhali-6 and Dr. Syed Mokbul Hossain in Sylhet-6 one each.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

16 parliamentary seats Repolling at 90 centres Oct 8

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Re-polling at some 90 centres in 16 parliamentary seats, where voting was suspended, will take place on October 8.

The Election Commission (EC) at a meeting yesterday also fixed the polling date for Cox's Bazar-3 constituency on November 1, where voting was postponed due to death of BNP candidate Advocate Khalequzzaman two days before the October 1 general election.

For the voting in Cox's Bazar-3, the submission of nomination papers has been scheduled for October 9, and scrutiny and withdrawal of the nomination papers for October 10 and 16 respectively.

Chaired by Chief Election Commissioner MA Syed, the meeting decided to arrange re-polling at the centres where voting was suspended due to violence, snatching of ballot papers and intimidation,

said EC officials.

The constituencies where re-polling will take place are Bagerhat-5, Barisal-6, Mymensingh-5 and 6, Kishoreganj-1 and 4, Shariatpur-1, Moulvibazar-1 and 2, Brahmanbaria-3 and 6, Comilla-8 and 9, Chnampur-2, Munshiganj-4 and Laxmipur-4.

The EC will come up with the final result of the eighth parliamentary election after the outcome of the re-polling at the 90 centres with 2,97,413 voters.

UNB adds: Of the 16 constituencies, the BNP is leading in ten seats, Awami League in three and Jamaat-e-Islami in one. Two dissident candidates of the BNP and the AL are leading in the rest.

Following are standings in 16 seats:

In Moulvibazar-1, BNP candidate Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury is leading with 47,710 votes. His near-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Ershad greets Khaleda, leaves for London

BSS, Dhaka

Jatiya Party chief and former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad yesterday congratulated BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on the massive victory in the election.

"I hope the new government will be able to create a flow of development restoring the democratic atmosphere," the former president said in a statement sent from London.

Ershad, who went to London on Tuesday night, said he expects the new government will overcome all failures of the past.

He also called for an end to the politics of vengeance for the sake of peace and prosperity.

The former president will return home after treatment in Saudi Arabia.

He also thanked the caretaker government and the chief election commissioner for holding the election in a peaceful manner.

Ershad expressed his gratitude to the people particularly those of Rangpur for their love and affection towards him, and vowed to dedicate himself to the service of the country.

INSIDE TODAY

Article 4

US-Bangladesh relations: Helping each other in times of crisis Farooq Sobhan

Focus 5

The algebra of infinite justice

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 4		5-43 pm
Oct 5	5-52 am	

Prayer Timings

	Oct 4	
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-51	5-57
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

Husband kills CA's protocol officer, commits suicide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Husband committed suicide after shooting dead his wife, a protocol officer of the chief advisor's office with a 2.2-bore rifle at their BCS Staff Quarters flat at Kataban in the city's Dhanmondi area in the early hours of yesterday.

Zahirul Islam Jahan, 45, the husband, shot his wife Ayesha Afsari, 32, in the chest and head following an altercation over a family feud at their first floor flat at Babupura. They had returned to their flat after attending a social programme at about 11:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Police quoting the first information report (FIR) said the couple locked into an altercation in the early hours of yesterday. During the incident Jahan, who is a member of Narayanganj Shooting Club, was drunk.



Zahirul Islam Jahan

Ayesha Afsari

At one stage of the altercation, the husband lost his temper, took a gun and tried to shoot her wife. Two of their kids tried to prevent the father by holding his legs. Islam beat them up and shot his wife.

When Afsari collapsed on the floor, he realised what he had done and shot himself in the throat at about 12:30 p.m. yesterday. The bullet pierced through his skull.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Many loan defaulters defeated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many of the loan defaulters who contested the 8th parliamentary election from different parties taking advantage of legal loopholes were defeated in the polls.

A number of 'bill defaulters' also could not win the election.

Some known loan defaulters who got their loans re-scheduled just before the election for contesting it also lost the polls race.

Loan defaulters who took part in the election on Awami League ticket taking advantage of legal loopholes and suffered defeat include Abul Hasnat Abdullah (Barisal-1 and 2), Akhtaruzzaman Babu (Chittagong 12), Mostafizur Rahman (Chittagong-3), Capt (retd) A B M Tajul Islam (Brahmanbaria-6), S M Akram (Narayanganj-5) and A K M Shamim Osman (Narayanganj-4).

Besides, Brig (retd) Hannan Shah who was BNP nominee from Gazipur 4 constituency was also defeated.

Begum Rowshan Ershad who

contested from Mymensingh-4 on JP (Ershad) ticket also could not win.

Abdul Kader Siddiqui of Krishak Sramik Janata League who contested from five constituencies in Tangail district suffered defeat in four and won in one.

All the three are loan defaulters. Bill defaulters who contested on AL ticket but lost the electoral race include A S M Feroz (Patuakhali-2).

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2