

Khaleda wants

FROM PAGE 1
Talking to reporters at the Bangabhaban later on, Khaleda said she met with the president to thank him for ensuring a free and fair election.

Later, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said they thanked the president for presenting the nation a free and fair election. He added that the president had also presented the nation a free and fair election in 1991.

Bhuiyan added that they urged the president to publish gazette of the election results immediately so that BNP can form government soon and that the president agreed with the BNP team.

BNP leaders Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Dr. Abdul Moyeen Khan accompanied the party chairperson during meeting with the president.

Earlier, a three-member BNP delegation also met with the chief advisor and thanked him for presenting the country free, fair and peaceful polls.

Mannan Bhuiyan told reporters that they told the chief advisor that BNP was eager to form government as early as possible and urged him to take necessary measures in this regard.

Replying to a question, Prof. Chowdhury said the chief advisor told the delegation that the caretaker government was also eager to hand over power to the newly-elected government as soon as possible.

On a question, Bhuiyan said BNP was ready to form government any time and requested both the president and the chief advisor to arrange the oath-taking ceremony of the new government soon.

About the Awami League's allegation of rigging and demand for re-polling in all the 300 seats, Bhuiyan asked, "Do they mean that rigging took place in the 62 seats, including that of Sheikh Hasina, where Awami League candidates won?"

He said people have rejected the Awami League in the election and would also reject them if they take stand against their verdict. About the AL's announced programmes, he said people will also reject their programmes just as they did in the just-held election.

ETV issue

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Ministry of Information to show cause why the licensing agreement executed on March 9, 1999 between the ministry and A.S. Mahmud, chairman of ETV, should not be declared to have been made without lawful authority and of no legal effect.

Prof. Chowdhury Mohammad Hossain of the Department of Pharmacy and Prof. Abdur Rob of the Department of Geography of Dhaka University and President of a faction of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Gias Kamal Chowdhury jointly filed the writ petition.

The petitioners in the writ said international bids were invited to set up a private television channel in the country. The ETV was one of the parties that participated in the bid.

But after scrutiny, the tender evaluation committee on July 9, 1998 sent a list to the Ministry of Information, which showed the ETV to have been disqualified. But, mysteriously another list was sent to the ministry on the day showing the name of ETV on the top of it, the petitioners alleged.

They further alleged that the licensing agreement was executed with A.S. Mahmud despite the fact that he did not at all participate in the bid. But subsequently, the license was transferred to ETV Ltd.

Bareen Majumdar

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syllabus on music of the Dhaka Board. At the same time, he started rendering 'raga sangeet' on Dhaka Radio.

After a long struggle, Bareen Majumdar had established country's first music college, College of Music; in 1963 with 11 teachers and 11 students.

In 1968, he formed the syllabus for degree class and the Music College under Dhaka University. He also formed a music group Gana Sangskrit Parishad during liberation and performed with his group in different places to motivate the people.

He achieved a number of awards for his outstanding contribution to music, including Ekushey Padak, Kazi Mahabubullah Gold Medal, Sidhubhai Memorial Award, Rabindra Padak, Shilpi Srestha Sammanana, Theatre Sammanana, Janakantha Gunjani Sammanana and BanglaAcademy Fellowship.

Sammilita Sangskritik Jote condoned the death of Bareen Majumdar and prayed for the departed soul.

Agri varsity VC leaves campus fearing JCD attack

UNB, Mymensingh

Student advisor, proctor and four provosts of Bangladesh Agriculture University submitted their resignation yesterday.

Besides, Vice Chancellor Dr Anwarul Islam left the campus along with his family members Tuesday night and took shelter in the town amidst JCD's agitation for his resignation.

As soon as the results of BNP's victory in the national election was announced, JCD workers captured all 10 student dormitories of the university without any violence.

Advisor of Student Affairs Prof. Ahmedullah Sarkar, Proctor Prof. Mustafizur Rahman and Provosts of Sheikh Fazlulunnisa Mujib, Sultana Razia, Shahjalal and Suhrawardi Halls submitted their resignation letters to the Registrar's office.

However, the BAU Registrar, when contacted, said he has not yet received any resignation letter.

The VC left the campus fearing a possible attack on his residence as pro-BNP Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists brought out a victory procession on the campus demanding his resignation Tuesday evening.

Bir Bahadur declared elected

UNB, Bandarban

Bir Bahadur of Awami League was yesterday declared unofficially elected from the Bandarban constituency.

According to the unofficial results, Bir Bahadur secured 39,550 votes against 38,697 polled by his nearest rival Mamyia Ching of four-party alliance.

The results could not be announced earlier as the result sheets from two remote centres Cinglokkpara and Pakuniapara of Ruma upazila could not be brought to the district headquarters due to inclement weather.

The result sheets were collected yesterday from the presiding officers of those centres with the help of an air force helicopter. Deputy Commissioner and Returning Officer Mushtaq Ahmed announced the results in the afternoon.

Carter, Vajpayee

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In a letter to Khaleda Zia, Vajpayee said, "The verdict of the people has placed an important responsibility on your shoulder. As close neighbours, India and Bangladesh share strong link of geography, history and culture."

He said the longstanding friendship between the two countries was based on abiding bond and common values.

"I would like to assure you of my government's continued commitment to enriching the relationship further. I look forward to working with you to promote Indo-Bangla cooperation for the progress and prosperity of our people," the Indian prime minister said.

Reuters from Islamabad says: Pakistan's President General Pervez Musharraf on Wednesday congratulated Khaleda Zia of Bangladesh on her election victory, the official APP news agency said.

Musharraf telephoned the former prime minister now set to resume that post to congratulate her on what he called the "impressive victory" of her political alliance in Monday's parliamentary polls, APP said.

"The President informed Khaleda Zia of Pakistan's abiding interest in close fraternal relations between Pakistan and Bangladesh," it said.

"The two leaders agreed to work together to further strengthen the friendship and cooperation between their countries."

Repolling

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est rival Shahabuddin Ahmed of Awami League bagged 46,825 votes.

The difference of tally between them is 885. There are 2,754 votes in one centre, where voting was suspended and re-polling will take place.

ANBP dissident contesting as an independent candidate was leading with a count of 75,937 in Moulvibazar-2, and 6,107 votes ahead of his nearest rival Sultan Mohammad Mansur of AL who was trailing on 69,830. The total number of voters in the three centres where re-polling is scheduled is 7,540.

In Mymensingh-5, BNP's AKM Mosharrif Hossain secured 78,384 votes against 65,925 of Rashida Mohiuddin of Awami League. The difference of the count between them is 12,459, and the number of voters in eight centres set for re-polling is 26,912.

Awami League's M. Moslemuddin who polled 46,540 votes was leading in Mymensingh-6. His nearest rival Prof. Jasimuddin of the Jamaat had 44,632 votes was 1,908 behind. Independent candidate Engineer Shamsuddin polled 42,549 votes.

As many as 19,634 voters are expected to cast their votes at five centres of the constituency.

Dr. Alaudin Ahmed of Awami League with 85,912 votes is leading in Kishoreganj-1. He secured 1,354 votes against his closest rival Rida Aji Bhuiyan of BNP who bagged 84,558. Re-polling will take place in only one centre and the number of voters is 3,052.

Ctg Shibir cadres Sajjad, Delwar on four-day remand

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Shibir cadres Sajjad Khan and Delwar Hossain, chargesheeted accused in the sensational 8-murder case in Bohadderhat, were taken on a 4-day remand by Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday.

Earlier, Sub Inspector AKM Mohiuddin Selim filed a case against them with Baizid Bostami thana on Tuesday night.

The court granted them a four-day remand when the Investigation Officer (IO) Kazi Enayet Kabir prayed for ten days.

Sajjad, the prime accused, and his accomplice Delwar were arrested by police with one sophisticated AK-47 assault rifle, one cut rifle, one empty magazine, one life-jacket and 65 bullets, after a brief firefight from his Chhalitalai residence at Panchlailash on Tuesday evening.

Meanwhile, the police administration here has heaved a sigh of relief following arrest of the two listed terrorists, especially Sajjad, whom they considered the 'top-most' terrorist now.

"He is the top-most terrorist not only in Chittagong but in the country after Ershad Sikder." CMP Commissioner Shahidullah Khan at

a press briefing said yesterday. Shahidullah said, "We have been trying since the Bohadderhat carnage in July 12, last year to arrest Sajjad and his other chargesheeted accomplices.

Prior to CMP's press briefing, Sajjad talked to a group of journalists at the chamber of Assistant Commissioner (DB) Monirul Islam and revealed some sensational stories including his involvement in the sensational 8-murder and ward commissioner Liaqat Ali Khan murder. He also talked about his debut in the crime world, his rise as a Shibir cadre and his association with arms dealings and procurement.

He claimed to be a meritorious student having first divisions in both SSC and HSC exams from two renowned institutions Ipsahani School & College in 1997 and Bangladesh Navy College in 2000.

Sajjad told journalists that he killed ward commissioner and Awami League leader Liaqat Ali Khan to avenge the murder of his teacher Khuku Moni, also a Shibir cadre, and took part in the Bohadderhat operation as per decision of his organisation (Shibir).

Two cadre groups of Shibir, one led by himself in the city and another led by Humayun in Fatikchhari,

have huge sophisticated firearms including 10 to 11 AK-47 rifles, two M-16, one G-3 rifle, one G-4 rifle, one Chinese LMG, one Barreta gun and over 7000 (seven thousands) bullets, Sajjad said.

The sophisticated Barreta gun was bought by his cadre group for Tk 5.50 lakh from Myanmar-based Naga terrorist group few months back, he added.

JCD ransacks

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activists. They also chanted slogans for rejecting the results of Monday's polls terming it farcical.

Meanwhile, a meeting of the Provost Standing Committee was held with VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair to discuss the law and order situation on the campus.

The meeting urged all concerned to work together to maintain a congenial atmosphere on the campus.

The committee formed earlier by the Syndicate was asked at the meeting to take necessary steps to restore academic activities on the campus, said a press release.

AL conveys its decision

FROM PAGE 1
Kibria briefed the representatives of the election observation teams and produced some "documents of how the results were fabricated for BNP."

Kibria said, "Rigging and manipulation were done at every stage. A group of controversial officers in the election commission and administration did it in connivance with the chief advisor's office."

"The chief advisor himself and his office were involved. He became partisan since the day one," said Kibria, the chief election coordinator of Awami League.

He said people did not accept the "fake" results and the entire country got shocked at this "absurd and fictitious results".

Bringing allegations of manipulation of results being done in some designated rooms in the Election Commission at "the dictate of some controversial officers", Kibria said the agreement between the EC and political parties on the process of declaring the election results was not followed.

"Some BNP people had been in those rooms where results from DCs were received through fax," he said, adding many faxed result-sheets had no sign of origin and destination.

"We wanted to be present to see who is sending the fax and the result, but we are not allowed in those rooms. We don't know what happened in those five or seven rooms."

For example, he said, although the deputy commissioner of Kishoreganj did not clear the results, the election commission declared the results from Dhaka.

About the lists of terrorists supplied to the army by the caretaker government, he wondered that the lists contained the names of Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman and Speaker Abdul Hamid.

Kibria said the army on some occasions were misguided by local administrators including the DCs appointed by the chief advisor.

"Now we have very little options... We are not going to bow to a bunch of conspirators," Kibria told the delegation.

When the EU delegation reiterated that they hope all political actors would respect the people's choice, he told them that after the mock election on February 15, 1996, Khaleda Zia had stated that she received the people's mandate for five years, but people rejected that election.

"Moreover, the country had similar elections in 1979, '86 and '88. We are familiar with such so-called expression of the people," Kibria said.

Deputy chief of the EU election mission Paulo Salvia, coordinator of UNDP observation team Tony Reis, Jim Oliver of NDI and Peter Manicus, regional chief of NDI, Asia were present at the briefing.

Party leaders Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Syed Ahmed, former ambassadors Waliur Rahman and Mohammad Ali were also present.

Scrap election results: AL

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accept the polls results."

Hasina came to the party office at around four in the afternoon and left it at about 6:30 pm. The agitating party workers came close to her motorcade heavily guarded by Special Security Force and ventilated their anger at 'rigging' in the election. Many of them shouted, urging her to call hartals.

As Hasina held the caretaker government also responsible for 'rigging' in the polls, newsmen asked her whether she would accept a fresh election if held under it. "Let them cancel the elections first. If necessary, the fresh one could be held under the President," she said.

While her attention was drawn to acceptability of the polls results among the international election observers, Hasina said, "They observed the polls from surface. They could not go deeper into the rigging aspects. But, I have to uphold the people's interests.

People cast their votes but they have been deprived of actual results."

She alleged that the October 1 election was held just like the February 15, 1996 farcical polls.

Hasina displayed a sheet of paper, claiming it to be a fake ballot paper without any authorised signature. She alleged that such fake ballot papers were available in large numbers and 'rigging' was done by using those.

"In many places, progress of polling was very slow during the first few hours. Waiting for four to five hours, many female voters left polling stations without casting their votes. Later, those votes were manipulated," Hasina alleged.

She wondered how 99.6 per cent votes could be cast at Moheshkhali. She also alleged that AL polling agents were forced out of centres in Barguna.

In a Munshiganj constituency, Hasina claimed, the authorities first declared the AL candidate elected and then backed out and decided for repolling.

The authorities also misguided the army personnel by giving them fake list of 'vulnerable centres, she further alleged.

The AL president complained of violence unleashed by 'terrorists' belonging to BNP and its allies. She condemned 'attacks' on AL leaders and workers and also on the minority community by 'BNP terrorists'.

Hasina expressed deep concern at 'firing' on her aunt's vehicle on Dhaka-Maowa road yesterday. "BNP terrorists fired at the vehicle in which Sheikh Selim, my aunt (Bangabadhu's sister) and some minor children were coming to the capital from Tungipara."

Terrorists were now occupying the dormitories of different universities including Dhaka University and forced out leaders of pro-AL Chhatra League, she alleged.

CA's protocol officer killed

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During the incident, the couple, their two children and a domestic help, Noor Jahan Begum, 32, were there at the residence.

The eldest daughter of the couple, Ela, aged about 13 years, is physically disabled while Sadnan, the eight-year old boy Sadnan, is a student of class two.

A police officer said the husband suspected his wife of having an extramarital affair, as she used to attend official parties. The wife also suspected her husband of being an alcoholic as he used to return to the residence late at night.

Police quoted the domestic help as saying that the altercation centred on the husband's being drunk and it lasted for quite some time.

The guard of the staff quarters, Teesta, said hearing the gunshots he immediately went to other residences of the building and informed the neighbours about the incident. Going there, they found the couple lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

A doctor, who lived at the same building, examined them and advised that the fatally injured couple be rushed to hospital. Accordingly, when they were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College

Hospital on board a three-wheeler tempo, the attending doctors there pronounced them dead.

After the autopsy at the hospital morgue, the bodies were taken to the Staff Quarters at Babupura at around noon yesterday.

The namaj-e-janaza was held at the Staff Quarter premises and attended by officers, colleagues, high government officials and their relatives. The deceased were laid to rest at the Mirpur Intellectual Graveyard in the city yesterday afternoon.

Doors and windows of the first floor were closed, so most of the neighbours could not realise what was happening in that flat, several neighbours said.

Relatives said they had an affair culminating in marriage, though strained later. They were living together for more than 13 years and blessed with two children.

At the time of marriage, Afzari was preparing for the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations.

The husband was said to be a businessman, but actually was not involved in any business. There was an ego conflict between them as the husband was not contributing to the

family but used to meddle with her personal and official affairs, her relatives said.

Afsari's colleagues said they were aware of their troubled conjugal life, and never saw them together in any party. They heard that the couple quarrelled over trivial matters.

The protocol officer was amiable with her colleagues. She was appointed to the current position after three years of her service at the BCS Academy. Earlier, she was a magistrate at Narsingdi.

She was the youngest of her five sisters and two brothers. Afsari hailed from Nagail, Burichang in Comilla. The husband came from Batara in Comilla town.

The locals said a domestic help was present at the residence, while the tragic incident took place. But she was not allowed to talk to anyone.

Sadnan, now orphaned, was moving in front of the building with bruises in the left cheek and a blank look in his eyes.

Two unnatural death cases were filed with Dhanmondi police station yesterday. Police seized the rifle.

Post-polls clashes

FROM PAGE 12
brother, Lutfor Rahman.

Upon being informed, police and army personnel rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

Meanwhile, 15 people were injured as BNP and Jamaat activists had gone on ransacking houses of supporters of the AL and its front organisations across the district since Tuesday night.

The troublemakers reportedly warned that the minority communities in the district leave the country for India or face dire consequences.

UNB adds: the MP-elect from the Sathkira-5 constituency, Gazi Nazrul Islam, and his 14 supporters were injured in an attack from activists of defeated AL candidate.

Twenty people were also injured in AL-BNP clashes.

Attacks on AL men and ransacking of their houses were also reported from Narsingdi and Munshiganj.

Sources said supporters Abdul Ali Mridha, the BNP candidate from Narsingdi-5 who had lost in the parliamentary polls, attacked the houses of at least 12 supporters of AL MP-elect Raziuddin Ahmed Razu yesterday.

In Chandantala of Munshiganj, BNP men ransacked several houses belonging to AL supporters.

When contacted last night, officials of both Narsingdi and Munshiganj said no incident of violence had taken place.

Our Sirajganj correspondent reports that at least 60 people were injured, 10 critically, in post-election clashes at different places in the district between BNP and AL supporters.

Around 30 houses were also ransacked during the clashes. Critically injured AL leader Matur Rahman Master and BNP leader Firoz Talukder were admitted to Sirajganj Sadar Hospital.

Doctors said that their condition was deteriorating as they sustained head injuries. The post-election clashes took place in four areas in Royganj Upazilla, two places in Ullapara Upazilla and one in Belkuchi Upazilla.

Meanwhile, MP-elect Iqbal Hasan Mahmud Tuku visited some places in Sirajganj town and urged people not to engage in violence.

AL-BNP clashes were also reported from Lalmonirhat, Magura, Mymensingh and Chapainawabganj that left at least 110 people hurt.

In Chuadanga, a leader of the BNP-backed Jaiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was critically injured when two pro-AL Bangladesh Chhatra League activists hurled a cracker at him.

Our Chuadanga correspondent reports that Firoz Sarwar Rahman was on a motorbike when the incident took place near the Roopchhaya cinema hall.

Respect people's verdict

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swiftly organised to consolidate the democracy in accordance with the wishes of the people."

He said, "our attention was particularly drawn to many women and young people who participated in this election in an active and orderly manner."

Although our observation was limited, we were convinced that voting and counting were conducted in an orderly manner."

Shin Sakurai is the head of the JBPAEOG which observed the elections in 1991 and 1996. He visited the polling centres in 10 constituencies in Dhaka, Gazipur, Narsingdi and Narayanganj and

observed minutely the vote casting and counting process.

"I was also touched by the sincerity and integrity of the people of Bangladesh through our observation," Sakurai added.

Replying to a question, he said, "The relationship between Japan and Bangladesh is friendly and it will be further strengthened in future."

The press conference, organised at a city hotel, was among others, attended, by Prof. Minoru Ouchi of Shumei University, Prof. Hirofumi Ando of Nihon University and Dr. Mayumi Nouchi, a research fellow of the Institute of Developing Economy.

Hasina's rejection

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in "The Hindu" newspaper.

He said if Hasina refuses to accept the electoral verdict, "it would be a grievous and destructive mistake". The elections, Malhotra added, were held under a neutral caretaker government and most foreign observers "have testified to their fairness".

However, another leading daily "Hindustan Times" in its editorial said the victory of the BNP-led alliance "is certain to jolt the ambience of secular governance that the Awami League government had sought to establish".

"The recrudescence of a communal agenda is likely to be a fall-out of BNP's sharing of the political space with Jamaat-e-Islami and a clutch of fundamentalist groups," the editorial said.

The Hindustan Times said the gap between the BNP and the Awami League in 1996 elections was narrow but this time the gap is much wider "conferring legitimacy on the retrogressive forces".

Expressing similar concern, Inder Malhotra said the presence of Jamaat and Islamic Oikya Jote in the BNP-led combine "could have a negative impact on not only Bangladesh's secular ethos but also on its attitude towards India".

A commentary in "The Times of India" said the Jamaat "may emerge as the rallying point for anti-India activities orchestrated by Pakistan's ISI. This is bad news for India in the rapidly changing scenario in South Asia. Bangladesh needs to be careful about not allowing anti-India

sentiment to grow".

The commentary pointed to the BNP's reservations about certain clauses in the Indo-Bangla Ganges water sharing accord and about Bangladesh selling its natural gas to India and said it remains to be seen how Begum Zia "balances her poll-time rhetoric with political and administrative measures" while dealing with India.

Inder Malhotra argued in favour of India making a "new beginning" with the new government in Dhaka and at the same time said "it is reasonable to expect Begum Khaleda Zia and BNP when back in power would be different from what they were in opposition".

BSS said: Another daily 'The Pioneer' said BNP's comprehensive victory in the parliamentary elections further crystallises the emergence of a two-party system in Bangladesh.

The emergence of the two-party system needs to be welcomed both in terms of the evolution of Bangladesh's still young democratic polity and stability it offers to the country, the editorial said, adding much would, of course, depend on how Khaleda Zia, the leader of the BNP, which is overwhelmingly the major constituent of a four-party alliance, governs.

It said the restoration of law and order situation, which has deteriorated sharply in Bangladesh, would be an important task for Begum Zia. Also important for her will be her country's ties with India.

7 Palestinians Bush

FROM PAGE 12
pouches.

In retaliation for the Palestinian attack, Israeli tanks seized a mile-wide strip of Palestinian territory near Alei Sinai. Bulldozers flattened farmland and tanks shelled seven Palestinian police posts, Palestinian police said.

The main target was Beit Lahia, a Palestinian town of cinderblock homes and garbage-strewn streets separated from the red-roofed houses of Alei Sinai by about a mile of sandy strips and fields.

At one point, an Israel tank shelled a Palestinian checkpoint in Beit Lahia, killing four Palestinian policemen and a