



Awami League held a protest rally in front of the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday.

5 killed, 300 hurt in post-polls clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Post-election clashes involving activists of political parties left five people killed and nearly 300 injured in different parts of the country yesterday and on Thursday night. Of the five, one was killed in Gazipur, Feni, and Kushtia each and two others were in Shariatpur. In Shariatpur, two people were killed and about 100 injured, 50 with bullets, in a gunfight between two groups of local Awami League yesterday, according to UNB. The dead are Advocate Habibur Rahman, 50, a joint secretary of district Awami League and former

Army chief greets Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Harun-ar-Rashid has congratulated BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia for her party's victory in the 8th parliamentary election, party sources said. The army chief telephoned Khaleda at her cantonment residence yesterday.

Khulna AL identifies 4 reasons behind election debacle

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Local leaders of Awami League have identified four reasons for debacle of the party in five out of six constituencies in Khulna district. The reasons pointed out by the leaders who were neglected by other party high-ups in the last five years are: intra-party conflict leading to murder of SMA Rob, repression on the minorities, illegal occupation of land and property and the BNP's cashing in on the AL's misdeeds. When asked, most of the leaders cited the murder of Rob as one of the main factors for the downfall of AL candidates. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina failed to ensure a fair trial of the killers of Rob who was declared a mayoral candidate, said AL leaders preferring anonymity. Repression on the minorities in a calculated manner and illegal occupation of their properties shattered the AL's vote bank. The murder of Kalidas Boral also hastened their defeat. Boral's wife Happy Boral was threatened by Sheikh Hela's armed cadres not to go out of her house during electioneering. The leaders said the burning of houses of the minorities in Bagerhat and the fabricated stories of oppression on them also contributed to the downfall. Gangsterism, harbouring of outlaws and involvement in murders of party men and political opponents in the last five years embittered the voters, said the leaders.

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Ctg AL to go for legal battle, movement

NURUL ALAM, Chittagong

Chittagong Unit of Awami League (AL) is preparing for a legal battle and a movement against 'crude rigging and irregularities' in the October 1 polls here, party sources said.

"We are taking preparations to start a legal fight. We are new collecting relevant information and evidence to file a case against the irregularities done here in the parliamentary polls," said Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) and General Secretary of AL city unit. "AL candidates could have done better here this time if there were no 'crude rigging and other irregularities.'"

He said both legal battle and street movement would continue till cancellation of the election results. "We will follow the agitation."

Polls acceptable, says JP (Monju)

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (Monju) has said the just concluded parliamentary election is acceptable despite controversy. In a statement released yesterday, the JP said as the party believes in democracy, it will go forward with the people's verdict.

The party leaders, however, observed that the caretaker government and the election commission could hold the general election in a free, fair and orderly manner if they were sincere in maintaining their impartiality from the beginning of the electoral process.

They accused that nepotism, incompetence and lack of foresight on the part of the caretaker government have created scope for controversy in the post-polls scenario.

Earlier on Thursday, the JP presidium and the central working committee at a meeting had threadbare discussion on various aspects of the just concluded election.

The meeting observed that the general election was marred by irregularities and vote-rigging despite huge turn out of voters in the election.

Presided over by acting chairman Sheikh Shahidul Islam, the meeting was among others attended by Secretary General Anwar Hossain Monju, presidium members Sayeed Tareq, Abdur Rahim, Khandoker Mahtab Uddin and Joint Secretary General Sadek Siddique.

The JP faction put up 140 candidates in the election but only Anwar Hossain Monju came out successful.

5 killed, 150 hurt as storm hits Kaliganj upazila of Lalmonirhat

UNB, Lalmonirhat

At least five people were killed and 150 injured as storm lashed Kaliganj Upazila of the district yesterday afternoon.

Of the dead, two were identified as Zahir Ali, 60 and Moyna, 8 of village Katina. The identity of three others could not be known.

The storm started lashing Katia Baninagar, Lohakuihi and Dulai villages at about 2 pm and lasted only 10 minutes.

Many houses were damaged and trees uprooted during the storm.

Deputy Commissioner and police superintendent visited the affected villages.

Voters say 'no' to 'godfathers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than a dozen top Awami League leaders, who came to be known and feared as godfathers of powerful crime syndicates over the last five years, have suffered defeat in the just-concluded general election.

Allegations of brutality, extortion, land grabbing, tampering with tender documents and harassment of the people in general and opposition political workers in particular were rife against them. There are criminal cases against them or their wayward offspring.

One of such losers, probably the most talked-about terrorist godfather hogging the headlines recently, is Joyntal Abedin Hazari. He lost in

his stronghold in Feni-2.

The other prominent godfathers who suffered defeat include: Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya in Chandpur-2, Muhibur Rahman Manik in Sunamganj-2, AKM Shamim Osman in Naryanganj-4, Kamal Ahmed Majumder in Dhaka-11, HBM Iqbal in Dhaka-10, Alhaj Mockbul Hossain in Dhaka-9, Haji Mohammad Selim in Dhaka-8, Abul Hasnat Abdullah in Barisal-1 and 2, Akhtaruzzaman Babu in Chittagong-12 and Jalaluddin Talukdar in Netrokona-1.

Popular opinion about the reason for defeat of these political heavyweights is their various terrorist and corrupt activities. People have given their verdict against

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No luck for turncoats

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A number of contestants in Monday's parliamentary election had changed party recently in the hope of winning the polls but their hopes were belied.

Direndranath Saha joined Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) from Awami League (AL) and contested the election from Narail - 1 constituency. Abdur Rab Choudhury left BNP and joined AL

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Khaleda bagged highest votes in Bogra-6

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has bagged 2,27,350 votes in Bogra-6, the highest number of votes cast in favour of any candidate in any given seat in Monday's general election.

With her closest contestant independent candidate Ferdous Zaman Mukul securing only 54,777 votes there, it is also the election's

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Capture of bus terminals, varsity halls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The complete official result of the Eighth Jatiya Sangsad Election is yet to be announced but the process of taking over university dormitories and bus terminals by new groups of people have begun already.

Sources said the new groups that are taking over the residential halls or bus terminals are facing virtually no resistance from their opponents this time.

Different bus terminals in the city have remained a huge source of extortion money for different groups that almost always have political backing.

In Dhaka University, activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of Awami League that had been controlling all the student dormitories of the university, started leaving the halls Monday night soon after election results indicated that the BNP-led four party alliance would form the government.

Till Thursday, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists had established control over ten out of eleven men's residential halls of the university.

The student dormitories of the nearby Dhaka College were also taken over by JCD on Thursday.

JCD also captured the dormitories of Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Agriculture University in the city.

Other than city's Gabtali and

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DU strike called off JCD vows not to harass rival party activists

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called off its on-going indefinite strike at Dhaka University from today.

Leaders of JCD, student wing of BNP, said at a press briefing on the campus yesterday that they took the decision in the greater interest of students.

They however said the movement for resignation of Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury would continue. Rallies would be held and processions brought out on the campus to press the demand.

Meanwhile, Prof Azad Chowdhury welcomed the decision to withdraw strike and said the university authorities would reschedule the postponed examinations as most of the students left the dormitories due to the strike.

The DU Syndicate will meet shortly to take steps to resume normal activities at the university.

Earlier, the Syndicate postponed classes and examinations till October 11.

General Secretary of JCD Shahabuddin Ahmed Laltu told this correspondent they have also asked JCD units in other educa-

tional institutions to withdraw from today if any strike is going on there.

JCD leaders said at the press briefing they would not oppose stay of activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and other student bodies at the halls and their organisational activities.

They warned that action would be taken against JCD workers if they harass or torture activists of other student bodies at the halls and elsewhere on the campus. However, they said non-students, outsiders and terrorists would not be allowed to stay at the halls.

They sought cooperation from all other student organisations to put an end to 'negative student politics' in the country and ensure peaceful co-existence of all of them on the campuses.

JCD leaders denied reports that they captured DU halls. They said genuine students who could not reside in the halls due to 'partisan role' of the university administration and torture by BCL 'armed cadres' have now come back.

They also denied allegations that armed outsiders were now staying at some dormitories under their shelter.

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American and European envoys led by Canadian High Commissioner David Preston met Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina at Sudha Sadan in Dhanmondi Residential Area (Left) and Saudi Ambassador Abdullah MAI-Obaid called on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia at the party's Banani office in the city yesterday.