

## Vajpayee warns of countries pursuing 'terrorist agenda'



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) talks with his Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee before a press conference at the latter's residence in New Delhi yesterday.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee yesterday asked the international community not to let countries pursue their own terrorist agenda under the cover of global action against terrorism.

"Even while extending our whole-hearted support to the pursuit of the guilty terrorists of September 11, we should not let countries pursue their own terrorist agenda under the cover of this action," he told newsmen in an oblique reference to Pakistan.

Vajpayee's comment followed a 35-minute breakfast meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in New Delhi.

India has waged a virtually lone struggle against terrorism for more than two decades, Vajpayee said. "We believe that in this globalised world, distance and time do not provide insulation from the reach of terrorism."

And, he made it clear that India did not favour tackling terrorism in isolation. "We are fighting a global war against terrorism and there has to be a global solution to it."

Blair backed India's stand that terrorism in "all its forms" should be fought by the international coalition and said perpetrators of terrorism

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## Over 30 prominent businessmen win election, 20 lose

SHAHRIAR KARIM

A good number of businessmen who contested the October 1 national election as nominees of different parties won the race while many prominent ones lost.

According to unofficial results, more than 30 prominent businessmen won the electoral battle and some of them even defeated influential political leaders.

On the other hand, about 20 business tycoons lost the polls. There are also many others whose main profession is business and have become people's representative winning this election.

Most of the businessmen who contested the election as nominees of BNP-led four-party alliance won it. However, a number of prominent businessmen who were in the race on Awami League (AL) ticket lost it.

Sources mentioned that more than 50 per cent nominees of the two major political parties in this election, in one way or other, are businessmen.

Leading businessman Harunur Rashid Khan Monno who was four-party alliance nominee won in two constituencies -- Manikganj-2 and Manikganj-3.

Three prominent businessmen who won the election on AL ticket are Vice President of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Kazi Zafrulla from Faridpur-5 constituency, Syed Abul Hossain from Madanipur-3 and Col (Rtd) Faruq Khan from Gopalganj-1. Another businessman, Rafiqul Anwar, won from Chittagong-4 on AL ticket.

However, the most prominent businessman belonging to AL camp failed to woo the voters. President of the country's apex business body, Bangladesh Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Yusuf Abdullah Haroon lost the polls race for the second time consecutively from Comilla-3.

Former FBCCI president and Vice Chairman of Beximco Group Salman F Rahman also lost on AL ticket from Dhaka-1.

Well-known businessmen who lost on AL ticket include President of

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Students of Eden University College chant slogans as they go round the campus yesterday protesting forcible occupation of residential halls by a group of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists led by a former vice-president of the college students union.

## JCD chases BCL out of JU: 3 beaten

JU CORRESPONDENT

As an indefinite strike at Jahangirnagar University passed the 39th day yesterday, activists of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) chased those of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) out of the campus and beat three of them to "retaliate earlier attacks by BCL".

The three assaulted BCL activists are Chistee, Imran and Raju.

JCD activists caught Chistee and Imran from their rooms at Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall and Meer Mosharrif Hossen Hall respectively, took them to the hall guest rooms and beat them, sources said. Chistee was bullet-hit in the leg on July 27 while cleaning a gun barrel, the sources said.

Raju, a former BCL leader of Al Beruni Hall and son of Prof Shamsur Rahman of Mathematics department, was caught on the campus and beaten. He was rescued by the Proctor of the university.

The sources said Raju was earlier beaten on the campus in May, allegedly for collecting toll and terrorist activities.

On Friday, JCD activists beat BCL activist Azim at SSB Hall.

JCD activists "captured" all the male students' dormitories on October 2 as most of the BCL leaders left those on the night of October 1 sensing AL's electoral debacle.

Gunshots are heard on the campus on every night after JCD "captured" the halls. Armed JCD activists are seen guarding hall gates fearing attempt by BCL to "recapture" the halls.

Meanwhile, JCD has demanded immediate resumption of academic activities but threatened to "resist" any meeting of the university authorities till "trial" of the BCL activists responsible for attacks on JCD activists during AL rule.

The indefinite strike on the campus was called by the Students Unity for Resistance to Rapists (SURR) to press its seven-point demand. The demands include cancellation of studentship and certificates of all "rapists", law to check harassment of female students on the campus, amendment to some Proctorial laws and withdrawal of expulsion order and show-cause notices on some SURR activists.

Later, JCD activists brought out a procession and held a rally on the college premises. Meanwhile, Sheuli Shamsed Shilu, general secretary of the College unit of (BCL), alleged that the male workers of JCD also intruded into the female dormitories and threatened the students.

## JCD 'captures' halls of Eden Girls College

DU CORRESPONDENT

Activists of the Eden Girls College unit of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), captured all the dormitories of the college yesterday.

A group of JCD female activists along with their male partners led by Helen Jerin Khan, a former leader of the college took over the control of four dormitories and ransacked about ten rooms belonging to the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), sources said.

The dormitories were, however, virtually vacant as most of the students left them earlier due to the parliamentary elections.

The JCD workers came to the college gate by two microbuses and entered the college premises at about 2.30pm.

A huge number of male activists of JCD allegedly from Lalbagh area in the city were seen roaming in the college premises and in front of the college gate at the time of occupation.

Later, JCD activists brought out a procession and held a rally on the college premises.

Meanwhile, Sheuli Shamsed Shilu, general secretary of the College unit of (BCL), alleged that the male workers of JCD also intruded into the female dormitories and threatened the students.

## Musharraf extends indefinitely his term as army chief

AP, Islamabad

Ensuring his power at a crucial time, President Pervez Musharraf has extended his term as Pakistan's army chief after obtaining approval from top generals and cabinet members, a government spokesman said yesterday.

Gen Rashid Quereshi said Musharraf will continue to hold the powerful slot of the army chief "in the largest interest of the country."

Musharraf, who seized power in a bloodless military coup by toppling the elected government of prime minister Nawaz Sharif in October 1999, was required by Pakistani law to retire from the army Saturday after completing three-year term as the army chief.

But after consultations from senior generals, including the chiefs of the armed forces and the civilian colleagues of his powerful National Security Council and cabinet, Musharraf extended his term indefinitely, Quereshi said.

The extension came as Western nations, including the United States, praise Musharraf's broad support of international efforts to fight terrorism.

The United States has lifted sanctions on Pakistan imposed after the military takeover. Britain and other European nations have also promised increased aid.



Pervez Musharraf

Despite fierce opposition from militant Muslims, many of whom claim that key army officials support them, Musharraf decided to side with Westerner nations. By doing so, he risked the stability of his government and triggered protests in some of Pakistan's larger cities.

However, his broad authority makes him the most powerful ruler of Pakistan in recent years. Besides being president and army chief, Musharraf also is chairman of the National Security Council, which gives policy guidelines to the government.

Pakistan, which gained inde

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## Ctg JCD, Shibir out for domination on campuses

CU CORRESPONDENT

Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wing of Jamaat-e-Islami and BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) are now out to establish their domination at different educational institutions in the port city.

In such a situation, general students of 15 major educational institutions in the city apprehend violent clashes between Awami League's student wing BCL and ICS-JCD.

Following the victory of BNP-led four-party alliance in Monday's general election, ICS and JCD already "captured" Chittagong Medical College Hostel, virtually facing no resistance from their rivals.

Earlier, a faction of BCL -- Nasir group-- and ICS were dominant at the hostel. But activists of the BCL faction started leaving the hostel on Wednesday night after repeated threats from ICS-JCD cadres.

JCD and ICS have established their domination at Mirersarai Broiharhat College and are now trying to do so at Mirersarai Degree College.

Chittagong College and Mohshin College are strongholds of ICS till now.

On the other hand, BCL is still dominant at City College, MES College, Commerce College and polytechnic institute. BCL leaders told this correspondent they would retain their domination at these institutions.

## Naziur demands arrest of Tofail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chairman of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) Naziur Rahman Monjur yesterday demanded arrest of Awami League leader Tofail Ahmed on charge of creating violence.

The chairman of JP faction renamed Bangladesh Jatiya Party also demanded arrest of Rawshan Ershad, GM Kader and his wife on corruption charges.

At a post-polls press conference at the BJP Kalabagan office yesterday, Naziur said proper action would be taken against them soon after the formation of a new government.

He also informed about the talks with BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia on how many elected candidates from his party -- an ally of the four-party alliance -- would be inducted

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## Poet Shamsur Rahman quits Nirmul body

UNB, Dhaka

Poet Shamsur Rahman, president of Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee and leading member of the South Asian People's Union Against Fundamentalism and Communalism, on Friday resigned from both the organisations citing health reasons.

In his letter of resignation addressed to National Professor Kabir Chowdhury, Advisor of the Nirmul Committee and Chairman of the Union, Poet Shamsur Rahman said it has become impossible for him to maintain association with these organisations because of old age and deteriorating health condition.

On Thursday, Poet Shamsur Rahman protested inclusion of his name in the statement by the South Asian Union Against Fundamentalism and Communalism which said minority community was prevented from exercising their franchise on October 1 general elections.

Poet Rahman told UNB Friday evening said complaints about the general election should be decided at the parliament.

He said he was always respectful towards people's verdict.

## 4 sons of Charmonai peer sued

UNB, Barisal

A case has been filed against over 150 people, including four sons of Charmonai Peer, for 'attacking' BNP candidate Mojibur Rahman Sarwar during October 1 election.

Jubo Dal president Adv Raj filed the case.



Mosharrif Hossain, a mentally deranged person, weeps in police custody at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after he was arrested for beating to death two persons at Tongi railway station yesterday.

## BNP leaders meet Obaid at hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some frontline leaders of BNP yesterday met KM Obaidur Rahman, a party standing committee member, at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital.

Obaidur was accused in the November 3, 1975 jail killing case and was detained during the period of Awami League.

Elected MP in the October 1 general election, Obaidur contended with former forest and environment minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury from Faridpur. He was hospitalised following deterioration of his health condition.

BNP leaders Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Moudud Ahmed and MK Anwar visited Obaidur and spent sometime with him.

The BNP leaders, according to sources, assured Obaidur of his immediate release on bail through legal process.

Obaidur is expected to be a cabinet minister and get the portfolio of an important ministry.