

Big victory for grand alliance in Ctg

ABDULLAH AL MAHMUD and NUR UDDIN ALAMGIR, Chittagong

The Awami League-led grand alliance was heading for a sweeping victory in Chittagong division in yesterday's parliamentary election.

As per the official results received till 2:00am, grand alliance candidates won in eleven constituencies while the BNP-led 4-party alliance got four seats and Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) in one seat.

Awami League candidates Mosharruf Hossain was leading in Chittagong-1 (Mirersarai), ABM Abul Kashem in Chittagong-3 (Sitakunda and CCC ward 9 and 10), Fazle Karim in Chittagong-5 (Raizan), Dr Hasan Mahmud in Chittagong-6 (Rangunia) and grand alliance candidate from Jatiya Party (Ershad) Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud in Chittagong-4 (Hathazari and CCC Ward 1 and 2).

Grand alliance candidate from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Moinuddin Khan Badal in

Chittagong-7 (Chandgaon-Boalkhali), AL candidate Nurul Islam in Chittagong-8 (Kotwali), Dr Afsarul Amin in Chittagong-9 (Double Mooring-Pahartali) and MA Latif in Chittagong-10 (Bandar-Patenga) have been unofficially declared elected.

Of the five South Chittagong seats, AL candidate Shamsul Haq Chowdhury was leading in Chittagong-11 (Patiya) and Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury in Chittagong-12 (Anwara).

LDP President Oli Ahmed was leading in Chittagong-13 (Chandanaish-Satkania) while BNP got only three seats -- Chittagong-2 (Fatikchhari), Chittagong-15 (Banskhali) and Chittagong-16 (Sandwip) which is a reverse of the result the 4-party alliance got in 2001.

The unofficial winners of these three seats are former BNP lawmakers Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, Jafrul Islam Chowdhury and Mostafa Kamal Pasha.

Shamsul Islam from BNP's alliance partner Jamaat won the Chittagong-14 (Lohagara -

Satkania) seat.

Earlier, the candidates were happy with the peaceful environment and turnout of the voters terming the polling as the "historic one".

They found the environment that prevailed in every constituency of South Chittagong as unprecedented and historic one.

While visiting different polling centres, these correspondents found an unprecedented peaceful environment in every constituency of South Chittagong.

"I have cast my vote for peace. We want a nice man irrespective of caste and creed," said Nanibala Chakrabarty, a 100-year-old woman voter, while coming out from a remote Shukchhari High School polling centre at the southernmost part of Lohagara upazila in the district.

"The situation was very peaceful and we did not face any problem to cast vote in a very orderly way and within around half an hour," said Alo Rani Das, 65, another minority voter of the

same area.

Anwar Hossain, a college student who cast his vote for the first time, also appreciated the peaceful situation of Shukchhari polling centre that comprises mostly minority voters under Chittagong-14 (Lohagara-Satkania) constituency a stronghold of Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami.

The same peaceful scenario was seen in different polling centres under Satkania, Lohagara, Chandanaish, Patiya and the city.

But the slow casting of votes disappointed many voters, said different sources.

Presiding Officers Shamsuddin Chowdhury and Biplab Basu held ignorance of female voters about the new system responsible for slow casting in female booths.

The slow casting of vote also brought down the rate of turnout in many polling centres like Charchaktai Ameer Forkania Madrasa and Chittagong Government School (under Chittagong 8), Ekhlashur Rahman Government Primary School (Under Chittagong 7) and Police Line School (Under Chittagong 9).

Though the rate of turnout was over 70 percent in these centres, chaotic situation and slow casting forced many voters to go home without casting votes, alleged sources.

Non-availability of voter numbers and unclear photographs of the voters were also blamed for the delay in casting votes.

However, a few candidates tried to play the same old blame game to create confusion about the credibility of the election.

While talking to newsmen at Chandanaish Poura Sadar Centre, LDP President Oli Ahmed, who contested from both Chittagong 13 (Chandanaish-Satkania) and Chittagong 14 (Lohagara-Satkania) put up a lot of allegations against his rival candidates in these two seats.

But while talking to reporters at Barkal Government Primary School centre AL candidate Engineer Afsaruddin Ahmed refuted the allegations outright.

Oli also alleged that his supporters and voters were facing troubles in three centres at South Kanchana unions under Chittagong 14 where 4-party alliance candidate from Jamaat Shamsul Islam was his main rival.



A garment worker casts her vote at a polling station in Mirpur in the city yesterday. Women voters turned out in a large number for the ninth parliamentary elections.

BCL factional clash at SSMC, 10 rooms set on fire

Students asked to vacate halls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sir Salimullah Medical College (SSMC) authorities last night asked the students to vacate two dormitories by 6:00am today, following a violent clash between the two groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) activists.

The clash erupted at about 10:00pm. During the clash, they set fire to about 10 rooms in the main dormitory and vandalised several other rooms," Abdul Hannan, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, told The Daily Star.

One group is led by Rajib and the other by Nitul.

As a tense situation was prevailing after the clash, Dr Subodh Chandra Das, assistant director of the college, issued a notice asking the students to leave the dormitories.

A large number of Rab members and policemen were deployed to avoid further clashes.

JCD leaves, BCL enters

Our DU Correspondent reports: Sensing the historic victory of Awami League in the 9th parliamentary elections, leaders and activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, student wing of BNP,

started leaving the Dhaka University campus from yesterday evening.

Most of the dormitories, seven years' stronghold of JCD, became free from their grip by around 8:00pm. Leaders and activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League, student wing of AL, took their control over the halls.

DU BCL unit President Sohel Rana Tipu and General Secretary Sajjad Saqib Badsha held brief meetings with their hall unit leaders and activists at different guest rooms at around 8:30pm.

This correspondent earlier talked to a number of JCD

leaders and found that they were mentally prepared to leave the halls for some days.

"We have taken preparation of being in the opposition at least for getting relief from Jamaat," said a JCD leader of Surya Sen Hall on Sunday.

The JCD leader is not happy as BNP is in alliance with Jamaat for its in war crimes during the country's liberation war.

Hundreds of general students, activists of BCL and left-leaning student bodies were assaulted by JCD cadres for the last seven years due to their supremacy over the halls.



Voters show their national identity cards at Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute centre in the city yesterday in protest after failing to cast their votes as they did not find their names on the voter list.

I AM 5:15 WILLIAM

TOUCH 2:59 JACKSON 5

SCREEN 6:45 PLANETARY ASSAULT SYSTEMS

MUSIC 3:35 BRAND NEW HEAVIES

PHONE 3:02 BUZZCOCKS

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