



Many streets look deserted as most city dwellers, who went to their village homes to cast votes in the ninth parliamentary elections, are yet to return to the city. This picture was taken at Zero Point yesterday.

New govt to check price hike, militancy, corruption

Hope organisations

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of anti-communalism organisations in a joint statement yesterday hoped that the upcoming government of the grand alliance would put a rein over price hike, militancy and corruption.

VIOLATION OF ELECTORAL RULES Five sent to jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Two separate metropolitan magistrate courts in Dhaka yesterday framed charges indicting five people who were arrested on charges of violating code of electoral conduct during the polling in Dhaka on December 29.

The magistrates sent the accused to jail and fixed January 5, 2009 for deposition with rejecting the bail prayers in the cases. The accused are Eklas, Md Kamrul Hasan, Harunur Rashid, Shahabuddin and Abdur Rahim.

Metropolitan magistrate Abdur Rahim arrested Eklas, Md Kamrul Hasan, Harunur Rashid and Shahabuddin from the polling centre of Kaliganj Government Primary School at Keraniganj on charges of campaigning for four-party alliance candidate being fake polling agents on the election day.

Another metropolitan magistrate Konika Bishwas arrested Abdur Rahim on charges of obstructing the minority voters to cast their votes at the election centre of Shaheed Zia Government High School at Basabo in the city during the election.

The accused were produced before the courts of the magistrates concerned yesterday. They prayed for bail in the cases through their lawyers.

control over militancy and fundamentalism on the priority list," read the statement signed by Shahriar Kabir, general secretary of South Asian People's Union against Fundamentalism and Communalism.

The leaders of South Asian People's Union and Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee expressed the hope while congratulating the general electors for rejecting the anti-liberation communal forces in the ninth parliamentary elections on Monday.

They also congratulated the voters on mandating the Awami League-led 14-party grand alliance to a landslide victory over 262 seats in the elections.

"We extend our warm congratulation to the electors

for having elected the pro-liberation candidates rejecting the war criminals in the ninth parliamentary elections," read the statement.

They also congratulated the caretaker government and election commission for holding a peaceful election in a cheerful atmosphere, which they hoped would be an imitable precedence in future.

They compared the election victory of the grand alliance under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina with the victory in liberation war in 1971.

Signatories to the statement include Professor Kabir Chowdhury, women leader Hena Das, advocate Gaziul Haq, music maestro Kalim Sharafi, human rights activist Ajoy Roy and Maj Gen (Retd) CR Dutta.

War Crimes Facts Finding Committee

In a similar statement, War Crimes Facts Finding Committee also congratulated the electors and hoped for no tolerance to corruption and sternness against injustice from the imminent new government.

The statement, signed by committee's Convener Dr MA Hasan, demanded that the new government takes steps to eliminate fundamentalism, terrorism and corruption from the society, says a press release.

It termed the election results as a mandate against corruption, terrorism, fascism, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The result is also indicative of a demand for trial of the war criminals, it added.

Duta election today

DU CORRESPONDENT

The election of the executive council of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) for the term 2009 will be held today.

The election will be held at teachers' club of the university without any break from 10:00am to 2:00pm.

Pro-BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami teachers under 'White panel' and pro-Awami League teachers under 'Blue panel' with left-leaning 'Pink Panel' teachers are contesting the election.

Prof Khandokar Bazul Haq of International Business and Prof Anwar Hossain of Microbiology department from 'Blue-panel' and Prof Sirajul Islam of Management department and Prof ABM Obaidul Islam of Physics department from 'White-panel' will contest for the post of president and general secretary respectively.

Expressing hope of sweeping victory in the election, Blue-panel candidate Prof Anwar Hossain said DU teachers would cast their votes for the pro-liberation candidates as people of the country gave mandate to the pro-liberation political forces in the ninth parliamentary elections.

White-panel presidential candidate Prof Sirajul Islam said they would try to enhance professional facilities of teachers if elected. Prof Islam also expressed hope of sweeping victory.

Brig Moazzem RAOWA chair

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Brig Gen (retd) Moazzem Hossain, PSC, have been elected chairman of the executive committee of Retired Armed Forces Officers' Welfare Association (RAOWA) for a two years term.

The election was held on December 27 at RAOWA hall at Mohakhali in the city, says a press release.

Other office-bearers are Col (retd) Arshad Ahmed Khan -- vice-chairman; Lt Col (retd) Serajul Islam -- treasurer; and Maj (retd) Md Yasin Mollah -- joint secretary.

Members are Brig Gen (retd) Razia Khanam -- library and publication, Wg Cdr (retd) Ahmed Badrul Hussain -- welfare, and Maj (retd) Syed Rafiqul Islam and Plt Off (retd) Rezaur Rahaman -- general member.

Inadequate supply pushes up vegetables prices in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prices of vegetables soared in the last three days in both wholesale and retail markets in the city because of inadequate supply, as trucks carrying vegetables were coming to the city in a small number fearing untoward situation centring the national election.

Traders at Karwan Bazar wholesale market said prices of vegetables shot up by 40 to 60 percent.

Several hundred trucks transport vegetables to Karwan Bazar every night, but the last three days saw only about 50 trucks each night, they said.

Mohammad Hanif, a trader, said he hired a truck for Tk 20,000 to carry potato from Dinajpur to Dhaka, although the truck owners generally charge Tk 12,000 in normal time.

The truck reached Karwan Bazar on Friday night, he said.

Besides, drivers were not aware of the restric-

tions imposed on different types of vehicles and requisitioning of vehicles by the police caused a panic among the drivers.

During a visit to different wholesale markets yesterday, this correspondent found that bean was selling at Tk 30 per kg, up from Tk 9, aubergine at Tk 16, up from Tk 9, potato at Tk 16, up from Tk 10, tomato at Tk 16, up from Tk 10, and green chilli at Tk 30, up from Tk 20.

Sahadat Hossain, a vegetable trader at Khilgaon Nandipara kitchen market, said prices of vegetables have doubled in a span of three days.

At different kitchen markets, retailers were selling bean at Tk 35 to 40 per kg, aubergine at Tk 40, potato at Tk 25 and green chilli at Tk 40 yesterday.

Md Sohag, 22, a resident of Gulbagh in Malibagh area, said he went to Gulbagh railway kitchen market to buy vegetables but returned home nearly empty-handed, as vegetables were not available in the market.



A group of Palestinian students studying in Bangladesh takes out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding an end to Israeli air strikes in Gaza.

'Stop genocide in Gaza

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of Palestinian students studying in Bangladesh brought out a procession on the Dhaka University (DU) campus yesterday demanding an end to Israeli air strikes in Gaza, which killed hundreds of civilians.

The students urged the international community to stand beside the Palestinian people as more than 300 innocent people were killed in Israeli air strikes in last four days.

Around 40 Palestinian students, mainly from Dhaka University and Islamic University of Technology in Gazipur, brought out the procession holding placards and chanting slogans against Israel and its attacks on Palestine.

They chanted slogans and held placards demanding stop of genocide in Gaza and independence of Palestine.

"We have brought out the procession to stand beside our innocent people in Palestine who were brutally killed by the Israeli armed forces. We urge all conscious people across globe to stand against the genocide in Palestine carried out by the Israelis," Salim Hosny Salim Qannita, a Palestinian student studying at the Department of International Relations at the university, said.

CASE AGAINST HT IMAM Court asks cop to submit probe report by Feb 8

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday asked Dhanmondi police to submit to the court a probe report in the defamation case filed by former energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman against HT Imam, co-chairman of Awami League Election Steering Committee, by February 8, 2009.

Metropolitan Magistrate Dr Abdul Mazid passed the order as the case came up before the court.

Mahmudur, also chairman of Amar Desh Publications Ltd, on December 28 filed the case against HT Imam for making defamatory statements against him. He also sought arrest warrant against the accused.

Mazid recording statement of the complainant fixed December 30 (yesterday) for order in the case.

In his complaint, Mahmudur Rahman said HT Imam at a press conference on December 27 made defamatory statement against him.

Nagorik Samaj alleges irregularities in polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Nagorik Samaj in a statement on Monday alleged that there were a good number of irregularities during the holding of the 9th parliamentary election in spite of the initiatives taken by the Election Commission, says a press release.

The irregularities include influence of corrupt people, extortionists, black money owners, buying votes, creating obstacles to cast 'no' vote, vote rigging, attack on the observers and biasness of the people in the administration, read the statement.

The nominated candidates

of the major parties have played role to influence people with black money and violated the election code of conduct.

Most of the candidates nominated by the two major political parties have spent money beyond the limit determined by the election commission and there are allegations of nomination business against the major parties.

The election commission was also reluctant in enforcing the Representation of People Ordinance 1972.

The organisation urged the election commission to strictly enforce the article 91 of the RPO ordinance without succumbing to any kind of pressure.

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