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New govt by Jan 11?

AL wants to form govt as early as possible

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Following a landslide victory in the one-sided 10th parliamentary elections, the Awami League now wants to form a new government by January 11, two weeks before the current government's tenure ends.

Party sources say the ruling party eyes a speedy completion of all formalities to form the new government as it apprehends an intensified movement by the BNP-led opposition alliance following the polls.

Though the tenure of the current government will end on January 24, the new government might be sworn in on January 10 or 11 so that it could use the state machinery to resist the opposition movement, sources said. In that case, the MPs-elect will take oath on January 8 or 9.

The opposition combine has already called a 48-hour countrywide hartal from this morning demanding cancellation of the 10th parliamentary elections, and has announced that it will continue its agitation till its demand was met.

Against this backdrop, AL leaders and law ministry officials are now busy trying to skirt around the constitution to

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A man being taken to a hospital after Jamaat activists beat him up for going to a polling station to vote in Satkania of Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Rebels stun AL bigwigs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Yesterday's parliamentary polls saw some ruling Awami League bigwigs beaten by rebels.

Besides, two big shots of the Jatiya Party, Chairman HM Ershad and his brother GM Quader, also tasted defeat in national polls for the first time.

AL leaders Kazi Zafarullah and Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin lost the electoral battle to party dissidents, while former state minister Abdul Mannan Khan was defeated

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Voters, lawmen under attack

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The burn victims turned up at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital's burn unit yesterday under new circumstances -- they had crude and petrol bombs directly hurled at them.

Amir Hossain, 50, a bus conductor, fell in the midst of a cocktail explosion at Anirban pre-cadet school in Dania in Dhaka.

"I had just entered the polling centre when five or six crude bombs were hurled inside," said the voter.

"The government was giving so much security, I thought it would be safe to go out and vote."

Like Amir Hossain, rickshawpuller Abdullah, 50, and police constable Inamuddin, 47, had petrol bombs hurled directly at them and are in critical conditions.

Qamrul Hasan, superintendent of police at Baniaganj police station, said the opposition men were behind the attack.

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CEC assumes low turnout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad yesterday said voter turnout of the 10th parliamentary elections would be low as some political parties did not join the polls.

Besides, a thick fog had contributed to the thin presence of voters in some districts of the northern region, he mentioned.

"At this moment, I have no idea of the turnout. We will be able to give details about it on completion of the voting," the EC chief told reporters in the afternoon.

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Hard to find voting info

Many fail to cast vote

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Despite frantic attempts, many voters in the capital could not cast their votes yesterday as they were unable to find their voter numbers at the polling centres.

Some tried for hours to find out their numbers, but they had to return home disappointed. They asked for help from their candidates' polling agents, but the agents too could not come up with a solution since it was almost an impossible task to find out names from a voter list without serial numbers.

It all happened because the electorate in many constituencies were not provided with voter slips by the campaigners.

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No voter? Have a shave!

RASHIDUL HASAN and ASHUTOSH SARKER

It was around 1:50pm when these correspondents entered the Lalbagh Government Primary School polling centre in the capital yesterday.

Presiding Officer Redwan Rahman had nothing to do for quite some time. A teacher at a government college, Redwan decided to make the best use of the time by having a shave.

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A road to Demsha Baruapara Government Primary School polling station in Chittagong is blocked by felling trees yesterday.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ALLEGATION OF RIGGING 31 candidates withdraw from race

STAR REPORT

Thirty one candidates, including from two alliance partners of the ruling Awami League, boycotted yesterday's polls alleging vote rigging by their rivals.

Among the candidates, four were from AL, nine from Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD-Inu), one from Workers Party, three from Jatiya Party (Ershad), AL's former ally in the grand alliance, two from JP (Manju) while the rest were independent candidates.

In Sylhet, two rebel candidates of AL boycotted the election, alleging large scale rigging by the ruling alliance's candidates in the district.

They are former upazila parishad chairman Muhibur Rahman of Sylhet-2 and organising secretary of the USA unit of AL, Faruque Ahmed, of Sylhet-4.

Two rival AL candidates -- Shaheed commissioner of Dhaka-6 and Engineer Monowar Hossain Chowdhury of Gaibandha-4 -- also boycotted the polls.

From JSD (Inu), Afzal Hossain Khan Joki of Manikganj-1 and Sadekul Islam of Lalmonirhat-1 constituencies boycotted the elections.

Afzal and Sadekul alleged that their polling agents were

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Eusebio no more

AFP, Lisbon

Portuguese football legend Eusebio, who was the top scorer in the 1966 World Cup, has died Sunday at the age of 71, his former club Benfica confirmed.

Regarded as one of the greatest footballers of all time, the player known as the "Black Panther", died

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NOTICE

Business pages do not come out today as banks, stock and other financial markets were closed yesterday due to the 10th parliamentary election.

It's victory of people

AL leaders happy with voter turnout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Terming yesterday's national election a victory of the people and of democracy, the ruling Awami League has expressed satisfaction over voter turnout.

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PRAYER TIMING January 6	
Azan Jamaat	5:30 6:05
Fajr	5:30 6:05
Zohr	12:45 1:15
Asr	4:00 4:15
Maghrib	5:30 5:35
Esha	7:00 7:30

Source: Islamic Foundation

10TH JS ELECTION

Foreign missions to react later

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Foreign missions in Dhaka are expected to issue statements within next couple of days on the yesterday's violence-plagued parliamentary election amid a boycott by the main opposition BNP.

The USA, EU, Commonwealth and Russia, among others, did not send observers to oversee the polls, as major political parties failed to find out mutually acceptable solutions for an "inclusive, peaceful, and credible" election.

Talking to The Daily Star, foreign diplomats of several influential countries said they would come up with statements from their respective capitals with calls for stability through constructive dialogue between the Awami League and BNP.

The diplomats said they do not have any instant reactions, statements or comments regarding the just concluded election, as the election was not participatory, peaceful and credible to the people of Bangladesh.

This election was not a good sign for the

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A vote for war crimes trial

HASAN JAHID TUSHER and GAZI TOWHID AHMED

An elderly freedom fighter, Abdus Samad Bir Pratik, travelled more than 12 thousand kilometres from New York only to exercise his right to vote at yesterday's national election. His aim was simple: to express his support for the war crimes trials initiated by the Awami League government.

Aged around 65 years, Samad, who is partially paralyzed and unable to move of his

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