



AL  
232

JP  
33

WORKERS PARTY  
6

JSD  
5

JP-MANJU  
1

OTHERS  
3

INDEPENDENTS  
13

## Strongest majority vs weakest opposition

STAR REPORT

With the election over, a new pattern in parliamentary democracy is going to emerge in Bangladesh after the restoration of Westminster-style democracy in 1991.

It will be a combination of the most brute majority treasury bench that the country has ever seen and the weakest opposition. The February 15, 1996 situation is overlooked here as the parliament then lasted 11 days only and that too just to amend the constitution to introduce the caretaker government system.

In terms of people's representation, the new parliament will be one of the poorest.

The ruling Awami League has so far won 232 seats - 127 of them unopposed. There are eight more seats to go to voting on January 16, most of which AL is set to

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## Polls disappointing

Say US, UK, Canada, Commonwealth about Jan 5 voting ; India says it's constitutional requirement

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US, UK, Canada and Commonwealth have termed the just-concluded parliamentary elections in Bangladesh "disappointing" as more than half of the seats were uncontested and the remaining ones showed only token opposition.

They said the results of Sunday's elections had failed to reflect the will of the

people, and called the new government and all political parties to immediately engage in dialogue to find a path forward for holding a new national election that is free, fair, credible, peaceful and truly participatory.

The influential countries came up instantly with sharp reaction after the ruling Awami League swept the polls securing more than two-thirds majority, with the

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## Life, property to be saved at any cost

PM tells post-polls press meet, urges Khaleda to shun 'violence', cut ties with Jamaat, sit for talks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she had ordered the law enforcement agencies, the army and the administration to combat post-polls violence and criminal activities, and protect people's lives and property at any cost.

"The government's first job is to save lives and properties of people, main-



tain peace and stability and prevent post-election violence at any cost," she said at a crowded press conference at the Gono Bhaban yesterday.

Hasina, who is president of the Awami League, claimed that Sunday's parliamentary election was peaceful and said she was satisfied with the voter turnout.

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Hundreds of local Hindus take refuge at a temple in Goreya upazila since Sunday night in fear of attacks by Jamaat-BNP men. Hindus and Awami Leaguers of Chehelgazi union in Dinajpur, left, attempt to leave the area following attacks on their homes, businesses and properties. Jamaat-Shibir men go on the rampage, right, in Kornai Bazar of Dinajpur Sunday evening.

PHOTO: STAR/FOCUS BANGLA

## DOHAR POST-POLLS VIOLENCE 3 killed as losers attack winners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least three people were killed and nine others were injured when supporters of defeated Awami League candidate Mannan Khan carried out an attack on supporters of winning candidate Salma Islam of Jatiya Party in Dohar of Dhaka yesterday.

Meanwhile, two people injured in election violence on Sunday died of their wounds yesterday.

The early morning attack in Hajarbiga of Dohar upazila in Dhaka-1 constituency left Mokbul Munshi, 35, Moksed Khandaker Musa, 55, and his son Masud Khandaker, 28, dead. Sources claimed that policemen

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## Hindus under threat

Hundreds leave home in panic as Jamaat-BNP-led post-polls terror strikes them in several districts

STAR REPORT

It has been a long period of 43 years. Yet Hindus in Bangladesh remain vulnerable to attacks by anti-liberation forces.

Hundreds of Hindu families who fled their homes following post-poll violence in different districts on Sunday are scared to return as the administration could not ensure their security.

As soon as the voting ended on Sunday afternoon, BNP and Jamaat-Shibir men looted, vandalised and burned Hindu houses in Thakurgaon, Dinajpur, Rangpur,

Bogra, Lalmonirhat, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Jessore.

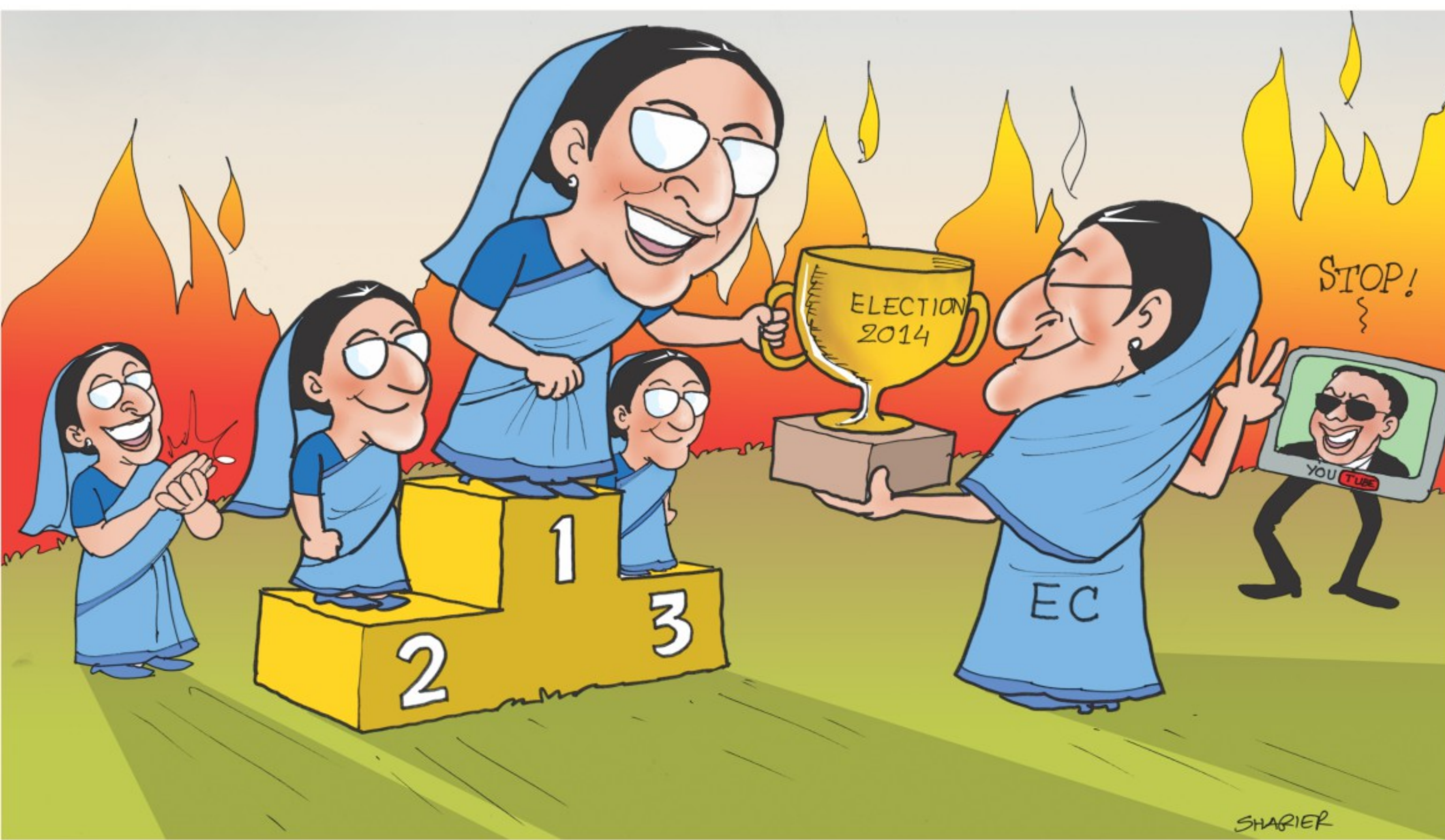
The raids remind many of the atrocities by the Pakistani occupation forces and their collaborators in 1971.

"We left our house in 1971 as the Pakistan army and razakars set fire to our village. And we are passing through the same ordeal in 2014," lamented Bishwajit Sarkar of Malopara village in Abhaynagar, Jessore.

His small shop was looted and fishing nets at his house were burned down.

Bishwajit's neighbour Mayarani is an

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## Post-polls JP drama unfolds Raushan leader of the opposition?

RASHIDUL HASAN

The Jatiya Party seems poised to stage a fresh drama -- this time over joining parliament as the main opposition.

JP Senior Presidium Member Raushan Ershad, who led a section of party leaders to participate in Sunday's polls, held a series of meetings with party leaders yesterday, to determine the next course of action.

The meetings discussed the issues of taking oath and its role as the main opposition party in the 10th parliament, insiders said.

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## Small parties, big success

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A boycott of the vote by the main opposition BNP and, alongside, the favour of the ruling Awami League has earned the Workers Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal a huge success in the just-concluded election.

Both parties could manage to ensure the presence of their highest ever representatives in the new parliament.

The one-sided polls also gave the newly floated Bangladesh Nationalist Front (BNF) and Bangladesh Torikat Federation a taste of victory as both the parties secured one seat each without much effort.

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## Govt lost moral right to rule

Says Khaleda, demands scrapping of 'farcical' polls results; tells BBC Hasina cannot ask BNP to cut relations with Jamaat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday in a statement said the government had no moral and constitutional grounds to remain in power, as people had rejected the "one-sided and stage-managed election".

In an interview with the BBC Bangla Service last night, she also stated that her party would not sever relation with Jamaat-e-Islami on prime minister's request.

"By this voter-scarce and farcical election, it has been proved beyond doubt how much hatred and distrust people have for this government," she said in the press state-



ment.

"But the shameless government is still claiming that the people cast their votes spontaneously and it has received mandated to run the country," the statement reads.

She observed that no one had the jurisdiction to assume powers without people's mandate.

The BNP chief called upon the government to cancel the "farcical election results" and reach a consensus to hold a free, fair and participatory election.

Khaleda also asked world leaders to raise their voices and be more active to restore

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