

Independents

FROM PAGE 16

Bangladesh National Awami Party.

Of them, JP (Manju), Bangladesh Islami Front, Gonofront, Gonotantri Party, Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis and Bangladesh National Awami Party failed to win a single parliamentary seat. The JP (Manju) chief, however, was elected uncontested.

All insiders said the 11 parties would not have obtained the votes had the ruling party not favoured them by not fielding AL nominees in some seats.

Four lawmaker aspirants of the JSD, Workers Party, and Tarikat Federation won the polls with the AL's electoral symbol "boat". The opposition's boycott of the polls was a blessing for the four.

Other than the Jatiya Party, the polls performance of the small parties was very poor. Sixty-six JP candidates polled over 11 lakh votes, more than half of the votes obtained by the nominees of 11 parties.

The JSD, a component of the AL-led 14 party alliance, fielded 25 candidates, including one with the AL's electoral symbol. They altogether got 1.78 lakh votes. Two JSD contestants won with the party's electoral symbol, "torch".

Another alliance component, Workers Party, got 3.56 lakh votes by fielding 20 candidates. Of them, two won with the AL's electoral symbol and two more with the

PARTY	PERCENTAGE
Awami League	73.31
Independent	13.95
Jatiya Party	7.16
JP-Manju	0.49
Gonotantri Party	0.01
NAP	0.04
Workers Party	2.22
JSD	1.27
Bangladesh Tarikat Federation	0.80
Gonofront	0.02
Bangladesh Khelafat Majlis	0.04
Bangladesh Islami Front	0.02
BNF	0.67

party's electoral symbol "hammer."

The 26 candidates of the JP (Manju) performed poorly, bagging only 78,665 votes. Even the newly floated BNF fared better than the JP (Manju).

The BNF fielded 22 candidates and bagged 1.09 lakh votes. Its chief won from a constituency in the capital, where JP Chairman HM Ershad had withdrawn his nomination.

UK MPs in Iran amid thaw in ties

AFP, Tehran

A delegation of British lawmakers led by former foreign minister Jack Straw arrived in Tehran yesterday amid moves by Iran and Britain to restore diplomatic ties, Iranian media reported.

The visit by the four MPs comes two months after Britain and Iran named non-resident envoys to re-establish ties severed in 2011 after hardline Islamists ransacked the British embassy compound in Tehran.

No meeting was scheduled with President Hassan Rouhani during the four-day visit, foreign ministry spokeswoman Marzieh Afsham.

Straw has strongly advocated rapprochement with Tehran since Rouhani took office in August, arguing that his presidency offers an opportunity to resolve concerns over Iran's nuclear ambitions that the West must seize.

Straw was involved in intensive negotiations with Rouhani in the early 2000s when the two men were respectively foreign minister and chief nuclear negotiator.

Those talks led to Iran agreeing to suspend its enrichment of uranium and open its nuclear facilities to spot checks. The deal was later overturned by parliament.

In Tehran, Straw is scheduled to hold talks with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and parliamentary foreign affairs committee chief Aladin Borujerdi, Afsham told reporters.

Straw, a veteran MP of Britain's opposition Labour Party, served as foreign minister under prime minister Tony Blair when Britain went to war in Iraq in 2003. He has repeatedly called for engagement with Iran to end the decade-long crisis over its nuclear drive.

"Against this backdrop, the government will be in deep trouble if Ershad and the party do not support it," the JP leader said.

The JP leaders also suggested that the government keep preparation for holding mid-term election.

Anisul told the press that his party had participated in the polls to keep the continuation of the constitution.

If his party had not taken part in the polls, it would have created a vacuum in the state.

Referring to the constitution, he said as the JP had got a good number of seats in the polls, they might play the role of opposition in the parliament, and join the cabinet too.

The threat became a reality hours after JP

candidate Salma Islam won the election.

Eye-witnesses of the attack that was carried out on the Mollah kin by around 200 people said they had not seen such brutality after 1971.

Musa's 16-year-old nephew Sumon, who also sustained injuries, told The Daily Star that five of the injured were now undergoing treatment at Dhaka and Mitford medical college hospitals.

"We are still reeling from fear that the goons, who are now on the run, might come back and attack again," he said.

SI Siddiqui said law enforcers had stepped up their vigilance in the area.

With the latest round of dismissals, the total number of police officers removed from their posts has risen to 560 in Ankara alone, according to media reports.

The probe has thrown the spotlight on a bitter feud between Erdogan's government and followers of influential Muslim scholar Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in US exile since 1999.

The so-called Gulenists -- once staunch supporters of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) -- hold key positions in various government branches including the police and judiciary.

Turkey's Supreme Board of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK), which appoints senior members of the judiciary, decided yesterday to

2 more burnt to death

FROM PAGE 1

to the hospital. The law enforcers fell victim while discharging their duty ahead of the January 5 national polls.

Police constable Abul Kalam Azad, 40, and presiding officer Saiful Islam, 45, sustained injuries on the election day when they were carrying ballot boxes from a polling centre in Gobindaganj, Gaibandha.

Kalam suffered 14 percent burns and Saiful 12 percent. Their condition is critical as their respiratory organs have been harmed, doctors said.

Kalam's son Sohanur Rahman, a second year student of Higher Secondary Certificate examination, told The Daily Star that their four-member family was in deep trouble since his father had been admitted to the hospital.

"I have never come to Dhaka before. I don't know where to go and how to manage things that my father needs," Sohanur said.

Another patient, Mohammad Abdulla, 45, sustained burns when opposition men torched the Swarupkhan Govt Primary School polling centre in Baniachong of Habiganj district by a petrol bomb on January 5. Abdulla, an Ansar member, suffered 7 percent burns and inhalation injuries only a few hours ahead of the voting.

He said he had a six-member family to look after and the incident had increased their misery.

A total of 98 people have been admitted to DMCH since October 26 last year, said Partha Shankar Paul, residence surgeon at the burn unit.

So far, 20 victims succumbed to their injuries, while the authorities released 40 others.

Visiting the injured law enforcers at the burn unit, Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said the 10th national election was "fair and peaceful".

The IGP, who made the visit around 12:00 noon, also claimed that police had handled untoward incidents on the election day successfully.

"The general people are finally in peace after the election," he said.

Me a n w h i l e, C h i e f E l e c t i o n C o m m i s s i o n e r K a z i R a k i b u d d i n A h m a d, who also paid a visit to the DMCH burn unit, condemned the ongoing political violence, and urged the political parties to reach a consensus through dialogues.

Another patient, pick-up driver Shariful Islam, 30, was seen writhing in pain at the intensive care unit yesterday afternoon.

Hailed from Kotalipara of Gapalganj, Shariful sustained 32 percent burns with inhalation injuries on January 4 in Barisal.

Opposition men hurled a petrol bomb at the van when Shariful was returning home from Barisal sadar. His relative Delwar Hossain said. The incident also left two others, who accompanied Shariful, with minor injuries.

In another incident in Chittagong, a haulier driver M Mitul, 22, sustained 80 percent burns as blockade supporters hurled a petrol bomb at his vehicle around 10:00 pm on Monday. He was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Turkey sacks 350 cops

FROM PAGE 16

sons of three ministers -- were rounded up in a massive sweep in Ankara and Istanbul in December.

The once-unassailable Turkish strongman responded by sacking hundreds of police officials across the country, including the powerful Istanbul police chief.

Erdogan's critics accuse him of desperately trying to protect his cronies, and the appointment of Selami Altinok, a little-known governor with no background in police work, as Istanbul's new police chief was further seen as an attempt to shut down the investigation.

With the latest round of dismissals, the total number of police officers removed from their posts has risen to 560 in Ankara alone, according to media reports.

The probe has thrown the spotlight on a bitter feud between Erdogan's government and followers of influential Muslim scholar Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in US exile since 1999.

The so-called Gulenists -- once staunch supporters of Erdogan's Justice and Development Party (AKP) -- hold key positions in various government branches including the police and judiciary.

The Ergenekon trial saw scores of army officers including former chief of staff Ilker Basbug jailed on charges of attempting to topple Erdogan's Islamic-leaning government.

In Shafinagar, a group of Jamaat-Shibir activists had set fire to a temple and assaulted some Hindus on the eve of the polls.

In Thakurgaon and Dinajpur, security of women has become the biggest concern as families who fled away after Sunday night's mayhem have started to return home on safety assurance by the administration.

Nikhil Sarkar, 48, of Gopalpur village in Thakurgaon, said: "We don't feel safe at all. They [BNP-Jamaat men] asked us to leave for India; otherwise, they would rape our women."

Raj Kumar, a village doctor at Kornai in Dinajpur, said his wife and daughters have gone to a relative's house for safety. There are many others like them.

Meanwhile, the victims who came back to Malopara, a Hindu village of fishermen in Jessor, found that the BNP-Jamaat men not only vandalised or torched their houses and shops, but looted everything they had.

"It would have been better if they had killed us. They took away everything from 105 houses in our village. They either looted the valuables or damaged those. We have been left destitute," said Ranjita, wife of Dulal Biswas who was the most solvent among fishermen in the village.

From their house, she said, the raiders looted Tk 38 thousand in cash, some gold ornaments which were for the marriage of his daughters and other valuables. All of their five fishing nets were burned down.

A case was filed accusing 39 Jamaat-Shibir men and 200 others for the Malopara atrocities, said Officer-in-Charge M. Mahsin of Abhaynagar Police Station yesterday.

In connection with the communal attacks, police have arrested 17 people in

JAN 16 REPOLLS Army to be deployed for 390 centres

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Members of the armed forces will be deployed in eight constituencies to maintain law and order for repolls at over 390 voting centres on January 16.

But the deployment date was yet to be finalised. Election Commissioner Shah Nawaz told reporters at his EC secretariat office yesterday.

Earlier, the EC decided to deploy army across the country from December 26 to January 9 to maintain law and order during and after the polls.

On January 2, Chief Election Commissioner Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad said the deployment might be extended, if need be.

The general election was held in 147 constituencies in 59 districts on Sunday. But violence in eight constituencies forced the commission to suspend voting at some 595 polling centres.

The affected constituencies are Dinajpur-4, Kurigram-4, Gaibandha-1, 3 and 4, Bogra-7, Jessor-5 and Laxmipur-1.

Around 50,000 members of the armed forces now remain deployed across the country.



Obituary

We deeply mourn the untimely death of our beloved colleague Ms. Shehnum Khan in a tragic road accident on Tuesday, January 7, 2014. She was only 26.

She was an Officer with Consumer Finance Centre.

Her death is an irreparable loss to the EBL family.

We pray for the salvation of the departed soul. May the

Almighty give courage to the bereaved family to bear the loss with fortitude.



Attackers of Hindus won't be spared

FROM PAGE 1

Hasina also discussed with the president the formation of a new government, as her party won an absolute majority in the election, said sources in the ruling party.

Hasina, also president of the AL, said she had directed the authorities concerned to compensate and rehabilitate the affected minority families.

She urged BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia to "stop attacks on the minority community", and said the government, otherwise, would take appropriate measures.

In an oblique reference to the international community's call for initiating dialogue to resolve the political crisis, Hasina said the option of holding talks was still open.

"If you [Khaleda] want to talk after severing relations with the Jamaat and war criminals, we could then see how to move forward. But they [the BNP] must cut ties with the Jamaat, and this is the reality."

Hasina also called upon the BNP chief to shun hartal and agitation for the sake of O and A-level exams. Children had been the worst victims of hartals, as they could neither attend schools nor

concentrate on studies.

The PM said nothing could be gained by enforcing hartal. The BNP and the Jamaat wanted

to thwart the polls to destroy democracy by creating a constitutional crisis, but they failed.

She said people had given the AL a mandate through the January 5 polls, and her government's prime objectives were to serve people and build the nation in light of the spirit of the Liberation War.

The PM criticised the role of a section of civil society members, and said many newspapers published reports to make the polls controversial.

The media people have a responsible role to play in the society and they must not encourage terrorists and militants, she said.

Hasina reiterated her government's resolve to continue the war crimes trial and execute the verdicts in the trial.

The leaders of the AL-led 14-party combine congratulated Hasina on her re-election.

Earlier in the afternoon, Hasina told the president that her government was firm to protect people's life and property, and it was doing everything possible to ensure that.

"The prime minister apprised the president of the polls and post-election situation," President's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim told reporters after the meeting between the president and the PM.

The president congratulated the people, the Election Commission and the candidates on the holding of "a peaceful election", said Ihsanul.

Asked whether the two leaders discussed the formation of a new government, Ihsanul said the process of forming a new government starts after the election results are published through a gazette notification.

AL Organising Secretary Bahauddin Nasim told this correspondent last night that the Election Commission had already been working on the publication of election results.

Ruling party sources quoted Hasina as telling the 14-party alliance leaders that the new government would take oath in three to four days.