



To congratulate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Awami League's victory in Sunday's national election, armed forces officials, leaders of various public, private and civil organisations and individuals paid courtesy call on her at Gono Bhaban yesterday.



PHOTO: PID

Symbol mattered as in 1970: PM

AL's landslide victory reflection of stunning dev in 10 year, says Shringla

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the people of Bangladesh cast their votes this time considering the symbol, not the candidates, as they did in 1970.

"This election was like that of 1970. The people cast their votes because of the symbol," she said.

She said this when outgoing Indian High Commissioner Harsh Vardhan Shringla met her at Gono Bhaban. PM's Press Secretary Ihsanul Karim briefed reporters after the meeting.

Describing Sunday's election as a peaceful one, Hasina said it had been possible due to cooperation of all, including the civil administration and armed forces, police, Border Guard Bangladesh, Ansar and Bangladesh Coast Guard.

The Indian high commissioner extended his heartfelt congratulations to Hasina on her party's landslide victory. He said AL's massive victory in the election is the reflection of the stunning development that Bangladesh attained over the last 10 years.

The Indian envoy highly appreciated Bangladesh's socio-economic development under the leadership of Hasina, saying the country is now a changed regional power in terms of economic development and women empowerment.

PM's International Affairs Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi, Principal Secretary Nojibur Rahman, Military Secretary Maj Gen Mia Mohammad Zainul Abedin and the high commissioner's wife were present.

Four 'missing' youths sent to jail by court

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Four university students, who were missing since December 29, were finally produced before a Dhaka court yesterday in connection with a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act, and sent to jail.

The court also rejected their bail petition, in the case filed with Kafrul Police Station on December 17 last year.

They are: Abu Khaled Mohammad Jabed, 25; Borhan Uddin, 26; Rezaul Khalek; and Syed Maminul Hasan, 27.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Baki Billah passed the order after Sub-Inspector Md Zillur Rahman, the investigation officer of the case, produced them before it with a petition to the court to confine them in jail custody until probe is complete, the IO added.

In yesterday's forwarding report, the IO said all four arrestees are active members of BNP-Jamaat, adding that they along with other accused named in the FIR were

directly involved with subversive activities blasting bombs at around 8:21 pm on December 17 in the city's Kafrul area. They should be kept in jail so that they can be remanded in future to find out more about the incident, the IO said.

Defence lawyer SM Kabiruzzaman, however, submitted a petition seeking bail saying his clients were arrested on December 29 from a bus in Farmgate on their way home in Mirpur-1, after shopping at Aziz Super Market. Their family members on Tuesday held a press conference at Crime Reporters' Association Bangladesh, demanding safe return of the youths.

So their bail should be granted as their names were not included in the First Information Report (FIR), and they were not involved with the incident, the lawyer argued.

After hearing both sides, the magistrate rejected their bail petition and ordered to send the four to Dhaka Central Jail in Keraniganj.

AL men unleashing violence now: Rizvi

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP yesterday alleged that Awami League men are unleashing post-election violence against their opponents across the country after returning to power through "vote frauds".

"No Awami League candidate got elected MPs this time. Rather the UNOs and OCs became the MPs in the election," said BNP senior joint secretary general Ruhul Kabir Rizvi while speaking at a press conference at the party's Naya Paltan central office.

He further said, "After staging a cruel mockery in the name of election, they (Awami League) are now carrying out serious oppression on our leaders, activists and supporters at different places."

The BNP leader also claimed AL men are attacking houses, markets and shops, business establishments and agricultural farms and others assets of innocent people and vandalising or setting fire to those.

Rizvi said their leaders and activists now cannot stay in their areas due to post-election violence, harassment and drives by law enforcement agencies to arrest them.

He demanded that the government take immediate steps to stop post-election violence.

Rizvi also strongly condemned the reported gang-rape of a woman in Noakhali's Subamachar upazila for casting vote for "sheaf of paddy", the electoral symbol of BNP.

592 killed in workplace accidents last year

Road accidents caused most deaths, says SRS report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 592 workers were killed in 484 workplace accidents across the country in 2018 and most of the deaths occurred due to road accidents, says a survey report of Safety and Rights Society (SRS), a non-government organisation working for workplace health and safety.

SRS prepared the report monitoring 26 daily newspapers (15 national and 11 local) from January 1 to December 31, 2018, according to a press release.

The report did not include deaths of workers outside the workplace or in road accidents on the way to or returning from workplace. However, on duty workers who were killed in road accidents have been counted in this survey, the release added.

In 2017, the number was 437 in 324 workplace accidents.

In terms of causes of the accidents, the survey found that 176 workers died due to road accidents while on duty.

The report says that electrocution killed 96 workers while 79 died after falling from heights, 68 died from being crushed by falling

machinery or heavy load or hard objects.

Some 60 agriculture workers died in lightning strikes while 28 died in earth or hill collapse. Twenty-five workers were suffocated to death by poisonous gas in septic or water tanks.

Among others, 22 workers were killed in building, wall or roof collapse while 20 were killed in boiler, cylinder or chemical explosions. Fire caused the death of 11 workers.

Among the workplace sectors, the survey found that 184 workers were killed in construction sites, which is 31 percent of total workplace deaths. Besides, 170 workers were killed in transport sector which is about 29 percent of total deaths.

Sekender Ali Mina, executive director of SRS, said all workplace accidents are not reported in the newspapers; the actual number of workplace deaths is more than the figure mentioned in the report.

To reduce workplace accidents, SRS gave a set of recommendations, urging employers and owners to take proper measures to ensure safe workplaces and reduce accident risks that workers face. It also called upon the government to take strict steps to enforce the law to stop such accidents.

Culprit bus driver jailed

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday sent bus driver Md Junayed to jail, after he was produced before it in a case filed over the death of two girls, including a garment worker, in a road accident in the city's Malibagh area on Tuesday.

Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shahinur Rahman passed the order after Sub-Inspector Md Faruk Khan of Hatirjeel Police Station produced Junayed before it and prayed for confining him in jail until completion of investigation.

No lawyer stood for the driver at the court yesterday.

The deceased in the accident are Nahid Parveen Poly, 19, who worked at MH Fashion garment factory, and Meem, 13, a fifth-grader who went to visit the factory with Poly.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 5

Show respect to people's mandate

Quader urges Oikyafront MPs-elect to join oath-taking ceremony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday said Jatiya Oikyafront MPs-elect should reconsider their decision to refrain from taking oath.

"People voted for them. We expect, they'll show respect to people's mandate. If they don't join the oath-taking ceremony, it'll be a manifestation of negligence to people's mandate," he said.

Quader made the remarks while talking to reporters after a meeting with Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Harsh Vardhan Shringla at the secretariat.

Responding to a question about the size of the new cabinet, he said, "We have no idea at the moment. The prime minister will decide."

In response to a question on how Awami League secured win in all the constituencies in Noakhali though it is a BNP stronghold, Quader said once there was organisational weakness of his party in the region and after he took charge as the general secretary of AL, the party successfully overcame the limitation.

Swechchhasebak Dal man stabbed

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

Miscreants stabbed an activist of Jatiyatabadi Swechchhasebak Dal at his residence in Narayanganj last night.

Police said Russel Ahmed, a member of the pro-BNP group's Narayanganj unit, was undergoing treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

His condition was critical, they said.

Rafiqul Islam, an assistant sub-inspector (ASI) of Narayanganj Sadar Model Police Station, said four to five unidentified men entered Russel's flat on the second floor of a five-storey building in Amlapara area of Fatullah around 8:00pm.

"They stabbed Russel in the head and other parts of the body and fled when his neighbours started screaming," he said.

Police said they are investigating the incident and legal actions will be taken in this regard.

Hold re-election under non-partisan govt: SCBA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) President Advocate Zainul Abedin yesterday called upon the Election Commission (EC) to cancel the result of 11th national election and demanded re-election under a non-partisan government.

Advocate Zainul also urged SC to issue a suo moto order on the EC in this regard, claiming ballots were stuffed in 90 percent areas across the country on the eve of polls.

He made the appeal at a press conference organised by SCBA at its auditorium.

Advocate Zainul, a BNP-backed candidate from Barishal-3 constituency, said the December 30 polls cannot be termed an "election", as opposition voters and polling agents were not allowed in polling centres.

The SCBA president also said that they [SCBA] expected a fair polling atmosphere as the army and BGB were deployed.

"However, the armed forces could not work independently without the permission of the deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officer," he added.

Advocate Zainul demanded resignation of the SC judges, who ruled to bar some candidates from contesting the election.



A banner with congratulatory messages to an elected MP hanging from a footbridge on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue in Dhaka yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

A never-ending cycle of posters

Congratulatory posters, banners replacing those put up during polls

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN KHAN

Cleaners of both city corporations of Dhaka are putting extra labour into removing polls-time posters, but it seems residents are not getting a clean city anytime soon, as new posters and banners with congratulatory messages to elected MPs are replacing them.

"I thought it would be over after election but now new posters are being put up. The city will never get a break from this 'poster cycle'," said Lokman Hossain, a banker.

Within a day or two after the national election, several activists and supporters of Awami League put up posters with their names and photos at different establishments, congratulating the newly elected lawmakers.

Painting graffiti on walls or putting up posters on them beyond designated places is a punishable offence, according to the Graffiti Writing and Poster Sticking Control Act, 2012.

According to the act, violators will be punished with a fine between Tk 5,000 and Tk 50,000 or imprisonment for 15 to 30 days.

A resident of Lalbagh, Jubayer

Ahmed, said, "They [people putting up the posters] care little about the cleanliness of this city. All they want is publicity."

Under the relevant act, permission must be obtained from the union parishad and city corporation to put up posters at non-designated places.

The act has given the city corporations a mandate to designate places for posters.

For Dhaka north, there are 20 such areas adjacent to Uttara BDR Bazar, Jasimuddin Road, Kalshi Road, Shialbari, Rainkhola, Notun Bazar, Banasree, Taltola Market, Nayatola Shishu Park, Tolarbagh, NITOR, two locations near Farmgate's Ananda Cinema Hall, Mohammadpur Krishi Market, Mohadmadpur Town Hall, Asad Gate, Khejur Bagan, Fertility Centre in Mohammadpur, Rayerbazar and Gulshan Shooting Club. However, Dhaka south is yet to designate any areas.

During the election, ruling party candidates put up masses of posters at their constituencies for publicity. Yesterday morning, this correspondent saw cleaners taking down overhead

posters from different parts of Jatrahari.

Meanwhile, Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) Mayor Sayeed Khokon yesterday declared that they will remove all polls-time posters in 48-hours.

He kicked off the poster removal campaign from the road in front of Suritola Model Government Primary School in Old Dhaka.

Talking to The Daily Star over phone, Khokon said he had not found any congratulatory poster. "I'm yet to see any such poster. We'll complete our ongoing campaign in 48 hours. After that, we'll take necessary measures against those posters, if found," he said.

Dhaka North City Corporation Panel Mayor Jamal Mostafa said they have already taken down 70 percent of the posters. "We should be done with removing all posters by tomorrow [today]," he said, adding that their cleaners have to put in extra labour to remove all these posters.

He called upon the political leaders and activists not to put up new posters. "This city belongs to everyone and keeping it clean is everyone's duty," he said.



STOPPING THE MENACE... A traffic official stops a motorcyclist from trying to take a shortcut through the wrong side of a road in Dhaka's Malibagh Chowdhury Para yesterday.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS