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China, India,

Russia felicitate

Sheikh Hasina

Modi congratulates

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

China, India and Russia yesterday

congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina on the Awami League's win

at the 12th national polls, the party's

relationships with Bangladesh for

The Western countries -- that include the US, the UK, Canada and

the EU -- that called for free, fair,

peaceful and participatory polls are

each other's national development.

They expressed their commitment

further strengthening the

her over phone

fourth in a row.

JAMADIUS SANI 26, 1445 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS LIFE STYLE: TK 15.00

Bangladesh set an example of free, fair polls

PM tells local, foreign observers

Awami League President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh set an example of a free, fair and impartial polls.

"You have come and witnessed how the people vote in our country. We've set a precedent for free, fair and neutral election," she said while exchanging views with local and foreign journalists and observers.



People voted for the AL and elected it, she said, adding that many independents and some contenders from other parties also got elected as people voted spontaneously.

"We took all sorts of measures to conduct the election in a fair manner, which you have witnessed," said Hasina. "It's not my victory. I think it is a victory of the people," she said amid applause from the audience.

She said she had struggled to establish people's voting

rights for a long time. Referring to the BNP, Hasina said it did not participate

in the election because it is afraid of the competition. The parties that were formed by "military dictators cannot function on their own. They don't have public

support. So, they fear direct election". Bangabandhu's youngest daughter Sheikh Rehana, Bangabandhu's grandchildren Saima Wazed and Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby were present during the event at the

When an Indian journalist asked if she would consider pardoning Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, SEE PAGE 2 COL 1



PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Dhaka North City Corporation cleaners got to work yesterday, the day after the national polls, to clear out the campaign posters of candidates. The photo was taken in the capital's Mohammadpur area.

BNP shelves plans for hartal, blockade for now

MOHAMMAD AL MASUM MOLLA

BNP will not go and blockade-like programmes the next few days even though the party outright rejected the poll results.

The party, which is the main opposition for the Awami League, wants to continue with its peaceful programmes including mass contact and leaflet distribution to garner public support for its demand for election under a neutral government.

The party will decide on its next course of action after seeing the reactions of the

"Our movement will continue until a democratic government is established."

BNP standing committee member Abdul Moyeen Khan

> of action. the party $announced\,mass\,contact\,programmes\,for$ today and tomorrow. It may demonstrate

> at district and divisional levels and also

organise black flag processions.

Western nations

that have long been

calling for a free, fair

and participatory

election, The Daily

Star has learnt from

top party leaders

with knowledge of

BNP's next course

The party also wants to focus on the release of its leaders and activists who

SEE PAGE 2 COL 4 BNP DEMANDS SCRAPPING OF 'DUMMY POLLS'--PAGE 2

Who will sit on opposition benches?

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and WASIM BIN HABIB

With the unofficial results of the 12th national polls out, the question now is what will the opposition in parliament

Although the constitution is not clear about the formation of an opposition in the House, the rules of procedure in parliament shed some light.

It states: "Leader of the opposition means that member of the parliament who, in the opinion of the Speaker, is the leader in the House of the party, or of the group, as the case may be, in opposition to the government having the greatest numerical strength in the House."

The Election Commission announced the unofficial results of 298 constituencies yesterday. According to the results, Awami League bagged 222 seats while the main opposition in the 11th parliament Jatiya Party got only

Shift course to ensure rights, democracy

UN rights chief urges govt, says future of all Bangladeshis at stake

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

UN Human Rights Chief Volker Türk yesterday voiced distress that the environment for Sunday's polls was marred by violence and repression of opposition candidates and supporters.

He called on the newly elected government to take steps to renew the country's commitment to democracy and human rights.

"In the months leading up to the vote, thousands of opposition supporters have been detained arbitrarily or subjected

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মেয়র, রাজশাহী সিটি কর্পোরেশন





Drug theft a growing problem in **CMCH**

