



Local residents evacuate by boat after the Garonne River overflowed and flooded a residential area in Tonneins, south-western France, yesterday, following strong winds from Storm Niels.

PHOTO: AFP

Jatiya Party 'crushed'

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supporters gradually drifting to other parties -- a decline reflected in this election.

The AL was banned from contesting this election, and most parties in its 14-party alliance stayed out of the polls.

Moreover, heavyweight JP leaders such as Anisul Islam Mahmud, Mujibul Haque Chunnun, Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Kazi Firoz Rashid announced separate parties ahead of the election. However, they could not contest due to complications over symbols.

In the 11th parliamentary polls in 2018, JP bagged 23 seats. It secured 34 seats in the 10th general election in 2014, which was boycotted by the 18 party alliance led by BNP. JP won 27 seats in the 9th general election in 2008.

In the 8th general election in 2001, it won 14 seats, and in the 1996 polls, it secured 32. JP and most opposition parties boycotted the 6th general election on February 15, 1996. In the 5th general election in 1991, JP won 35 seats, its highest.

Political analysts said the party has historically maintained good relations with the AL. In the 1986 election held during Ershad's

rule, the BNP boycotted while AL participated. In 1996, after 21 years, AL returned to power with JP's support. In 2006, JP joined the Awami League-led movement against the BNP-Jamaat alliance government and later contested the 2008 election in alliance with AL, becoming part of the government.

After the July uprising, JP's central office in Kakrail was vandalised and set on fire several times. Like Awami League, the party faced pressure from the National Citizen Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and others to be banned.

Analysts said in northern districts including Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha and Nilphamari, there had long been sympathy among voters for Ershad's party. Considering the plough symbol and Ershad's appeal, it was assumed that GM Quader's Jatiya Party would retain some ground in the greater Rangpur region. But the results overturned those calculations.

Rangpur division was once known as the party's fortress. In 1991, the plough symbol won 17 of 22 seats in greater Rangpur; in 1996, it won 21; and in 2001, 13.

Ahead of the 13th parliamentary election, Ershad's party faced another split. A new Jatiya Party was formed

under Anisul Islam Mahmud's leadership. Even during Ershad's lifetime, the party split several times, but the faction led by him remained dominant.

Asked about the defeat, Secretary General Patwary said that in the last one and a half years, the party could not carry out organisational activities and was labelled a "collaborator of fascist Awami League".

He alleged that the local administration, with Jamaat's support, engaged in "election engineering" to defeat them.

"Can you believe that GM Quader and several of our senior leaders will come third in the election in their own constituencies? It was possible because of meticulous design by the local administration," he alleged.

"We are collecting data from the local levels, and we will inform the nation about these anomalies through a press conference," he added.

A senior JP leader admitted to The Daily Star that the party is facing an existential crisis.

Mahmud Alam, joint secretary of JP, said the party has almost no organisational presence at the grassroots.

"We have got the result we deserved," he added.

NCP eyes bigger role after bagging 6 seats

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short of expectations and indicated they would review results in constituencies where doubts were raised over the voting process.

Asked whether the outcome was encouraging, Abdullah said, "The NCP did not get all the seats we expected. We do not think the election was fully free and fair in some constituencies. Questions have arisen in many places, and our analysis is ongoing."

He said the party would issue an official statement to clarify its position. "We think the NCP should have won a few more seats, but we are analysing the overall situation. Let's see what happens."

Abdullah said the party would now operate as an opposition force. "As an opposition party, the NCP will play a leading role in constructive reforms and improving the political environment."

"In the next five years, the NCP will become Bangladesh's main party," he added.

FROM JULY UPRISING TO PARLIAMENT

The party, which has its roots in the July 2024 uprising, spearheaded the student-led movement under the banner Students Against

Discrimination.

After the uprising toppled the then government, several key figures from that platform took part in initial discussions on forming the interim government's advisory council. Two student leaders -- Nahid and Asif Mahmud -- later joined the council as advisers.

Nahid resigned from the interim government in February 2025 to help launch the new party. They aimed for an alternative to traditional party structures and promised a "Second Republic" alongside far-reaching constitutional and governance reforms.

To create a national footprint, the NCP travelled across the country as part of what it described as the "July Podojatra", which party leaders said helped generate momentum and expand its base.

As it moved from street politics to electoral contests, questions emerged over whether protest mobilisation would translate into votes.

In late December, the party signalled it would join the Jamaat-led 11-party alliance, a move that drew widespread criticism. It later joined the alliance and secured 30 constituencies to contest.

The decision triggered backlash

among sections of its support base and fuelled internal divisions, with senior figures resigning or going inactive. At least 19 leaders resigned, including the party's joint member secretary Mir Arshadul Haque, opposing the decision to join hands with Jamaat.

Other leaders who resigned included senior member secretary Tasnim Jara, joint member secretary Arif Sohel, and media cell chief Mushfiq Us Salehin. A few leaders, including senior joint convener Samantha Sharmeen, also became inactive during the election period, according to party insiders.

Following the resignations, the party attempted to reorganise several of its policy and activity wings. Party insiders said the effort gained momentum after Asif joined the NCP as spokesperson, resigning from his role as adviser.

In a comparatively peaceful election, the NCP ultimately secured six seats, giving the party a modest but significant entry into parliament.

NCP insiders yesterday said the party is now planning a post-election restructuring, including outreach to those who resigned, as it seeks to consolidate its position and define its role as a parliamentary opposition.

to do business. For example, they made it easier for companies to send profits abroad and simplified customs procedures at shipping ports.

The report highlighted that "further policy support from the new government will be required to undertake major banking sector reforms, including recapitalising the sector, resolving stressed assets, and strengthening governance".

Voters also approved a referendum on the July charter alongside the general election. Moody's said that "if implemented successfully, these reforms could gradually enhance institutional quality and governance".

Looking ahead to Bangladesh's reliance on international support, the agency issued a reminder about financial aid. "The outlook for reforms will also depend on continued engagement with international financial institutions," it said, adding that future disbursements are likely to depend on the pace of reforms.

SpaceX launches 12th long-duration crew to ISS

REUTERS, Cape Canaveral

A SpaceX rocket soared into orbit from Florida early yesterday with a crew of two US Nasa astronauts, a French astronaut and a Russian cosmonaut headed to the International Space Station (ISS) for an eight-month science mission in microgravity.

The two-stage Falcon 9 rocket, topped with an autonomously operated Crew Dragon capsule dubbed "Freedom", was launched from the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, along Florida's Atlantic Coast, at about 5:15 am EST (10:15 GMT).

A live Nasa-SpaceX webcast showed the 25-story-tall vehicle rising from the launch tower as its nine Merlin engines roared to life, gulping 700,000 gallons of fuel per

second, emitting clouds of vapor and a reddish fireball that lit up the predawn sky.

Nine minutes into its flight, the Falcon 9's upper-stage rocket had accelerated to more than 17,000 miles per hour (27,360 kph) before thrusting the Crew Dragon into orbit. By then, the reusable lower-stage booster had flown itself back to Earth and touched down safely at a Cape Canaveral landing pad.

The four crew were set to reach the space station this afternoon after a 34-hour flight, docking with the orbiting laboratory platform some 250 miles (420 km) above Earth.

The mission, designated Crew-12, marks the 12th long-duration ISS team that Nasa has flown aboard a SpaceX launch vehicle since the private rocket venture founded in 2002 by billionaire Elon Musk began

sending US astronauts to orbit in May 2020.

Crew-12 was led by Jessica Meir, 48, a veteran astronaut and marine biologist on her second trip to the space station, nearly seven years after making history with Nasa colleague Christina Koch by completing history's first all-female spacewalk.

"Thank you team, that was quite a ride," Meir radioed to the SpaceX flight control center near Los Angeles. "Crew-12 is grateful and ready for the journey ahead. We're on our way."

Joining her on the flight was Jack Hathaway, 43, a former US Navy fighter pilot and rookie astronaut; European Space Agency astronaut Sophie Adenot, 43, a master helicopter pilot from France; and Russian cosmonaut Andrey Fedyaev, a former military pilot on his second mission to the ISS.

1 killed, 36 hurt in post-polls violence

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involved in the clash were affiliated with the BNP, adding that legal action would be taken and those responsible arrested.

Jasim's father, Mafiq Nayeb, and his brother, Mashiur Rahman, were also injured in the incident.

In Jhenaidah, at least 25 people were injured in five separate incidents involving clashes, vandalism of houses and election camps, and an attack on a press club office.

Two groups of BNP supporters clashed in Shrirampur village under Shaikupa upazila around 9:00am, leaving 12 people injured, said Shakil Ahmed, inspector (investigation) of Shaikupa Police Station.

Officer-in-Charge Md Jellal Hossain of Kaliganj Police Station said two separate incidents occurred between 11:00am and 11:30am, leaving seven people injured.

In Jhenaidah Sadar upazila, rival supporters attacked houses and clashed at three locations between 9:00am and 11:30am, injuring six people, said Md Sabbir, sub-inspector of Jhenaidah Sadar Police Station.

On Thursday night, unidentified attackers also vandalised the Maheshpur Press Club office.

In Patuakhali, at least five people were injured in separate incidents of violence between BNP and Jamaat activists.

In Khayer Bazar area under Bauphal upazila, Jamaat activists allegedly beat two BNP men around 8:00am, according to locals and police.

Around 9:15am, a local Jubo Dal leader allegedly attacked the business

establishments of two Jamaat activists at Konokdia village under the same upazila. In retaliation, Jamaat activists attacked the house and office of a Jubo Dal leader and vandalised 10 motorbikes and furniture.

In another incident at Mominpur village around 10:00am, a BNP activist allegedly hacked a Jamaat man.

Three of the five injured were hospitalised, said Atikul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Bauphal Police Station.

In Dumki upazila of the district, miscreants vandalised seven rice-puffing stoves belonging to four Hindu families at South Pangashia village on Thursday night, hours after voting ended.

"We were watching election results on television when a group of miscreants attacked the stoves outside our house around 8:30pm," said Fatik Saha, one of the victims.

Officer-in-Charge Md Selim Uddin of Dumki Police Station said legal action would be taken following investigation, while Deputy Commissioner Dr Mohammad Shahid Hossain Chowdhury said security measures had been taken for the affected families.

Separately, Jamaat activists allegedly attacked and vandalised the house of Bauphal upazila Jubo Dal leader Gazi Gias Uddin. Confirming the matter, Bauphal Police Station OC Siddiqur Rahman said the victim filed a case naming several Jamaat leaders as accused.

In Pabna-1 constituency, defeated BNP candidate Shamsur Rahman alleged that around a dozen of

his supporters were attacked by supporters of the winning Jamaat candidate Mohammad Nazibur Rahman in at least three localities between Thursday night and Friday morning.

However, no complaint was filed with police, said OC Rafiqul Islam of Santhia Police Station.

Nazibur later held a courtesy meeting with Shamsur at the latter's residence. A video of the meeting went viral on social media, showing Nazibur assuring BNP supporters that such incidents would not recur.

In Saltha upazila of Faridpur, three people were injured in a clash between two BNP factions, reportedly stemming from an argument over voting, said Officer-in-Charge Md Babulur Rahman Khan of Saltha Police Station.

Police and army personnel rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control. Legal action is underway, the OC added.

In Fulgazi upazila of Feni, a local Krishak Dal leader was expelled following an attack and vandalism at three shops belonging to a Jamaat leader.

The expelled leader, Md Samon, 35, is general secretary of Munshirhat union Krishak Dal.

Officer-in-Charge Md Mizanur Rahman of Fulgazi Police Station said police visited the spot after receiving information and the matter is under investigation. Necessary steps will be taken based on the findings, he added.

[Our correspondents in respective districts contributed to this report]

Jamaat threatens to take to streets

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seats, compared with 77 for the Islamist-led Jamaat-e-Islami alliance. Shafiqur reiterated that vote counting was abruptly halted and manipulated during the declaration process.

"We have documents showing that result sheets were tampered with in various places," he said, accusing the EC of applying a double standard in some constituencies.

"You all saw what happened in the case of Nasiruddin Patwary. You have seen how polling centres were occupied under the leadership of a relative of a leader. The whole nation witnessed it."

The Jamaat chief said those whose rights were forcibly taken away would seek redress.

"If we get redressal within a specified time, that is one thing. If not, we will be compelled to follow our own course. We hope the Election Commission will exercise good judgment and ensure justice. Otherwise, they will have to bear the responsibility," he added.

The Jamaat chief alleged that there had been attempts by a political party "to rehabilitate the fascists", a phrase often used to refer to the Awami League, which was ousted in the 2024 uprising. He said Jamaat would stand firm against any bid to bring back the old regime.

"Our youths will not spare anybody who attempts to compromise the sacrifices made in July. For July, we got 2026 (the election)."

Theories vs facts

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these 50 seats, Jamaat and its allies won 24, BNP and its allies won 22, independent candidates won three, and Islamic Andolan Bangladesh secured victory in one seat, Dismislab's analysis based on the Prothom Alo report shows.

The viral post referencing Khulna-5 contains inaccuracies. According to the official results, the margin between the winner and the main rival in that constituency was

2,608 votes. While this number is under 5,000, it does not match the vote figures cited in the claims, the Dismislab report says.

Similarly, multiple posts have claimed that Delwar Hossain Sayeedi's son was defeated in Pirojpur-2 by just 70 votes. This is also incorrect. The actual margin was 8,288 votes. According to the result, the winner, Ahmad Sohel Manjur, got 1,05,185 votes and Shamim Sayeedi got 96,897 votes.

to Bangladesh."

National Citizen Party (NCP) spokesperson Asif Mahmud Shojib Bhuiyan alleged that BNP secured a two-thirds majority through vote-counting manipulation and result tampering.

Meanwhile, speaking at an emergency press conference at the party's temporary central office in Banglamotor on Friday night, Asif said, "Apart from some isolated incidents, the voting was fair, but the counting process was not. We have already gathered substantial evidence. The government and the Election Commission, along with concerned authorities, have failed," he said.

Alleging delays in result announcements, inconsistencies in recounts, and reports of result alteration, Asif demanded a transparent investigation and re-evaluation from the election authorities.

He also criticised the media's role, alleging that despite private results showing the 11-party alliance and BNP neck-and-neck, the media portrayed BNP as leading -- a move he claims was part of a plot to secure a two-thirds majority for BNP.

"Some government officials and intelligence agencies were involved," he said.

Incidents of assault, arson, and attempts to occupy polling centres occurred, alleged Asif, saying that the 11-party alliance will adopt strict street programmes if the situation continues.

Multiple users echoed such conspiracy theories in comments under various posts. For example, a Facebook page called "Jobians-JnU'ins" had a post stating, "I saw a few from the Jamaat-Shibir camp claiming that a media coup is altering the results of their ameer and others." Under this, a user wrote: "Why did Dr Shafiq accept election engineering?"

Note: For this report, Dismislab used only the constituency-level results published by Prothom Alo.