

# Ershad heading

By A Staff Reporter

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad has built up a massive lead in Tuesday's third presidential poll according to the trend of the unofficial results announced by the Election Commission.

The President secured 12,25,537 votes as against 59,739 votes cast in favour of his nearest rival Moulana Mohammadullah (Hafizi Huzur) who secured the third position in

the second presidential polls in 1981.

The President was far ahead of his 11 rivals in the polls that completed the process of democracy initiated by him.

While the polls proved President Ershad's sincerity in returning to true representative rule, the massive lead indicating a landslide victory demonstrated people's confidence in his programme pursue in past years.

The provisional results of the four divisions made available by the Election Commission at midnight last night showed that Lt Col (Retd) Syed Farook Rehman in the third position got 56,789 votes.

President Ershad secured 3,55,340 votes from Dhaka Division, 2,28,282 from Chittagong Division, 2,15,576 from Khulna Division and 4,26,339 from Rajshahi Division.

Polling took place throughout the country from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 23,465 polling centres without any break. A large number of voters turned out at the polling centres everywhere in the country in favour of the candidates of their choice.

## Ershad addresses

### press confce today

President H M Ershad will address a press conference at 4 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Bangabhaban, it was officially learnt on Wednesday night, reports BSS.

## Results at a glance

TOTAL CENTRE: 23468/RESULTS — 1174

(1) Lt. Gen. Hussain Muhammad Ershad	12,25,537
(2) Mohammadullah (Hafizi Huzur)	59,739
(3) Lt Col (Retd) Syed Farook Rehman	56,789
(4) Md. Zahir Khan	56,789
(5) Sq Ldr (Retd) Moazzem Hossain Chowdhury	19,719
(6) Md. Abdus Samad	7,682
(7) Alhaj Maj (Retd) Md. Afsaruddin	6,089
(8) Mohammad Khalilur Rahman Majumder	5,588
(9) Alhaj Moulana Khairul Islam Jessori	5,366
(10) Muhammad Ansar Ali	5,090
(11) Oliul Islam Chowdhury (Sukku Mia)	5,029
(12) Syed Munirul Huda Chowdhury	4,325
	4,113

## for landslide victu



A jubilant Ershad indicating victory sign after casting vote in Dhaka in the presidential election on Wednesday.

## Peaceful polling all over country

By A Staff Reporter

The third presidential election was held on Wednesday peacefully throughout the country. Polling began right at 8 a.m. and continued till 5 p.m. without any break.

Polling took place in an orderly manner in all the centres but two—Bajurchar and Fakirchar in Feni district—where election was suspended.

The voting began in the capital in warm sunny morning when at 8 a.m. a brief spell of rain accompanied by wet-

terly winds cooled down the temperature making it a pleasant day.

The attendance of voters was thin during the rains, but soon the voting gained momentum and by midday most voters had cast their votes at some places in the city, according to polling officials.

President Ershad cast his vote at Adamjee Cantonment College centre at about 9-15 a.m. He was accompanied by Begum Roushan Ershad. After

casting his vote the President talked to local and foreign newsmen.

The polling stations wore a festive look with posters of contending candidates splashed all over the area. Beautiful arches

of the candidates with their symbols were set up at important road crossings.

Inside the polling booths posters supplied by the Election Commission were pasted. These posters reminded voters the importance of their right to franchise and the way of casting vote. The polling officers followed procedures to guard against casting of false vote.

Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Justice A.T.M. Masud visited some of the polling stations in Dhaka. He was accompanied by Election Commissioner Mr. Abdul Momith Chowdhury and the Secretary of Election Commission Mr. Hussain Ahmed who is also the Returning Officer of the

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## Peaceful polling

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presidential election.

The Chief Election Commissioner cast his vote at Vigaran Nissa Noon Girls High School centre.

Home Minister Maj Gen (Rtd) Mahmudul Hasan visited a number of polling stations in the city to see for himself the situation that prevailed during the polling hours. He was accompanied by the Inspector General of Police Mr. A. R. Khondkar.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police sources said a total of 116 persons were arrested from around the the Dhaka University Campus and some other parts of the city on the day for their attempts to create obstacles to casting of votes.

From the morning a series of blasts were heard from around the DU campus and some other spot. Police said they near Palassey Nilkhet and Katabari and Chankharpool road crossings to disperse trouble makers. Twenty-five

policemen and two members of the public were injured in the incidents in the city, DMP sources added.

Wednesday was a closed public holiday. Radio Bangladesh broadcast special hourly bulletins on the progress of the polling, and put on special programme on the elections. Bangladesh Television arranged a special programme that began at 5 p.m. and continued till midnight.

Most of the Dhaka-dwellers who were enlisted as voters in their village homes left the city earlier to cast their votes.

There were a total of 12 candidates in Wednesday's election. In the first and the second presidential elections of June, 3,1978 and November 15, 1981, there were 10 and 39 candidates respectively.

Counting of votes began at the respective polling stations immediately after the voting closed at 5 p.m.

BSS adds: In Chittagong, there were no incidents but one person was arrested at Kholna.

One person was injured in an incident.

Polling was temporarily sus-

pended and then resumed at Mymensingh and Dhrishadu in

Monazarh under Comilla

district.

Police had to resort to firing

two rounds at the Monazarh centre to disperse the crowd.

These boxes were snatched away. These

boxes were recovered. There

was no casualty. The handout

added.

In Monazarh under Comilla

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