

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 pursued 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 Reehman 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 23,466 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 (Hafezi Huzur)	59,739
(3) Lt Col (Retd) Syed Farook Reehman	56,789
(4) Md. Zahir Khan	19,719
(5) Sq Ldr (Retd) Moazzem Hossain Chowdhury	7,682
(6) Md. Abdus Samad	6,089
(7) Alhaj Maj (Retd) Md. Afsaruddin	5,588
(8) Mohammad Khalilur Rahman Majumder	5,366
(9) Alhaj Moulana Khairul Islam Jessori	5,090
(10) Muhammad Ansar Ali	5,029
(11) Oliul Islam Chowdhury (Sukku Mia)	4,325
(12) Syed Munirul Huda Chowdhury	4,113

for landslide victo



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—Bajurechar 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 wes-

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 3-15 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

Contd. on page 3 col 3

Peaceful polling

Contd. from page 1

presidential election.

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

Home Minister Maj Gen. (Retd) 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 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 had to fire 44 teargas shells near Palassey, Niket and Kataban and Chankhar Pool road crossings to disperse trouble makers. Twenty-five

police 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 second presidential elections of June, 3, 1978 and November 13, 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 two incidents but there was no casualty. One person was arrested in Khulna, one person was injured in an incident.

Polling was temporarily suspended and then resumed at three stations: Trishal in Mymensingh and Dum Chadda Primary School Centre and Monagazi under Sonagazi in Feni district.

Police had to resort to firing 4 rounds at Monagazi centre wherefrom five ballot boxes were snatched away. These boxes were recovered. There was no casualty, the handout added.

In Monarchar under Feni PS two rifles were snatched away from the police; the handout said and added police had to open two rounds of fire and recovered the rifles, there was no casualty.

KHULNA

Our Khulna Staff Correspondent adds: Presidential election was held in a peaceful and orderly manner throughout the district. There was no report of any untoward incident according to police control rooms.

It was remarkable that no election camp was set up by the contesting candidates near the centres.

Educational Minister Mominuddin Ahmed visited a number of polling centres. He expressed his satisfaction at the large turnout of voters.

Our Dinajpur correspondent informed: The presidential election was held peacefully with much enthusiasm all over the district today. No untoward incident was reported. About 60 per cent vote were cast, official sources said.

BARISAL

Presidential election was also held peacefully in Barisal.

GAIBANDHA

Our Correspondent from Gaibandha reports: Election was

held peacefully. According to Election Control Room about 60 per cent voters cast their votes in 500 polling centres throughout the district. Deputy Commissioner of Gaibandha said that no untoward incident was reported.

KUSHTIA

Our Kushtia Correspondent reports: Presidential election was held peacefully and no untoward incident happened in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner of Kushtia said that about 50 to 60 per cent votes were polled.

MYMENSINGH

BSS reports from Mymensingh: Textiles Minister Mr. Hashimuddin Ahmed cast his vote at the Prabaha Viddya Niketan in Mymensingh in the morning.

The Minister also visited a number of polling centres in the town and Muktagacha upazila.

MAULAVIBAZAR

Presidential election was held in Maulavibazar district peacefully, states an official handout. Attempt by some opposition parties for resisting the election totally failed the handout added.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister, Mr. Sirajul Hossain Khan, on Wednesday visited Srimangal and Maulavibazar town to see the election situation. He met Jatiya Party leaders and workers at different places.

In Habiganj Presidential polls were held peacefully throughout the district states a handout.