













# 'Do not press the result button until...' Kapil Sibal issues checklist for LS polls counting

Former union minister and Rajya Sabha MP Kapil Sibal issued a checklist for Lok Sabha polls candidates and counting agents, to check whether the electronic voting machine (EVM) has been tampered with. Sibal told presspersons, "Voting results will be out on June 4. I want to make the public and the political parties aware of what you should do when the machines (EVMs) open. So I have made a chart for all the parties and all the counting agents. In this chart, the CU (control unit) number, BU (ballot unit) number and VVPAT ID will be present. The third column is very im-



portant- June 4 is written in the third column and the time when the machine will

be opened is written below. If there is any difference in this time then you will know that the machine has already been opened somewhere." Sibal added, "The serial number of the control unit will also come here in written format, you have to match that too. When the total votes polled comes, then look at it carefully so that when there are more votes in the counting, the problem may come again. Keep in mind two things, do not press the result button until the verification is done in the above column and if there is a difference between that timing and the timing of the result, then there is

something wrong." The former Congress leader said he did so to ensure there is no possibility of tampering. "There are a lot of people who are saying that these EVMs are possibly tampered with. We want to make sure that there is no possibility of tampering. We are neither saying that they are tampered with nor that they are not tampered." The counting of votes for Lok Sabha polls will be conducted on June 4. Six phases of polls have been completed and the last phase of polling will be held on June 1. As many as 57 constituencies goes to polls in the last phase.

## Arvind Kejriwal requests 7-day interim bail extension citing 'medical tests'



Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has filed a petition in the Supreme Court, seeking an extension of his interim bail by seven days in connection to the money laundering case linked to the liquor policy scam. He was released on May 10 after the court approved his interim bail plain order to campaign for the Lok Sabha polls. The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) said that Kejriwal sought the extension as he has to undergo medical tests. Kejriwal has to surrender to the prison authorities on June 2, a day after his interim bail is set to expire. The AAP supremo was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate on March 21 in connection to the Delhi liquor policy case and subsequently lodged in Tihar Jail. While approving his interim bail plea on May 10, the Supreme Court asked the Chief Minister to surrender on June 2 and said, "Let us not draw any parallel. He was arrested in March and the arrest could have been before or after. Now, after 21 days, there won't be any difference. On June 2, Arvind Kejriwal will surrender". Under the interim bail guidelines, Kejriwal cannot visit the Delhi Chief Minister's office or even the Delhi Secretariat. He has also been asked not to comment about the case or interact with any of the witnesses. Since his interim bail, Kejriwal has been campaigning for his party non-stop. While addressing a townhall programme with the traders and industrialists in Ferozpur, he sought support from the people of Punjab and said that they need to come forward and be at forefront in the fight to save the Constitution, democracy and freedom in this country. Referring to his arrest, he said, "On March 16, the general elections were announced, and they arrested me on March 21. They arrested me, my party leaders Sanjay Singh, Manish Sisodia and Satyendar Jain, and then Modi says in Delhi let's fight the election." Targeting the BJP-led Centre, the AAP leader said that several opposition leaders have been jailed and "then they say, let's fight the election".

## PM Sheikh Hasina on 'plot' to carve out new state out of Bangladesh, Myanmar

Dhaka [Bangladesh] : Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has claimed that a plot is being hatched to carve out "a Christian state like East Timor," from parts of Bangladesh and Myanmar and asserted that she "won't let this happen," as reported by The Daily Star. Hasina has further claimed that she was offered a hassle-free re-election in the January 7 polls if she allowed a foreign country to build an airbase inside Bangladeshi territory. She, however, did not name the country that had made the offer to her. Hasina, the Awami League president made the remarks while delivering her introductory speech at the 14-party meeting at the Gono Bhaban on Sunday. It was the 14-party's first meeting with the Awami League president after the country held polls, The Daily Star reported. The Bangladesh PM stressed that she faces challenges both at home and abroad and that a "conspiracy is afoot", according to a report in the local media, United News of Bangladesh. "Like East Timor... they will carve out a Christian country, taking parts of Bangladesh (Chattogram) and Myanmar with a base in the Bay of Bengal," Hasina said in her address. She noted that business activities have been going

through the Bay and the Indian Ocean since ancient times. "Many have their eyes on this place. There is no controversy here, no conflict. I won't let that happen. This is also one of my crimes (in their eyes)," she said. About the proposal for an airbase, the premier said, "The offer came from a white man." "It may appear that it is aimed at only one country, but it is not. I know where else they intend to go," she said, adding that this is why the Awami League government is always in trouble. "There will be more trouble. But don't worry about it," she added, according to The Daily Star. "If I allowed a certain country to build an airbase in Bangladesh, then I would have had no problem." Moreover, PM Hasina alleged that the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) had conspired to prevent the elections. She further said, "If inflation can be reduced now, people would be relieved. Production is sufficient. There is no shortage." Hasina emphasised that the foreign exchange reserves of many countries are decreasing, including Bangladesh. "There is no need to worry about the reserves if there is food stock in times of emergency," she said. Following the introductory speech, Hasina held



a closed-door meeting with the partners of the 14-party alliance. She said that conspiracies were being hatched to topple the government and she might have to face the same consequences her father, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had faced, The Daily Star reported, citing sources. Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was assassinated on August 15, 1975 along with most of his family members except for his two daughters, including Sheikh Hasina who had been staying abroad at that time. Meanwhile, Hasina said that conspiracies did not bother her and she would never bow down to pressure. Additionally, she emphasised that Bangladesh will not purchase anything from countries that impose sanctions on it, a top leader of the 14-party alliance cited Hasina, reported The Daily Star.

## Severe cyclone Remal leaves trail of destruction; 2 killed

Severe cyclone Remal, which crossed Bangladesh and the adjoining West Bengal coast on Sunday night, left a trail of destruction in three coastal districts of the eastern Indian state, killing two people and displacing around 200,000 people. One Md Sajid, 50, was killed when a concrete chunk fell on him at Entally in Kolkata as the storm battered the region with winds speeding up to 110-120 km per hour and reaching up to 135 km per hour when the landfall started around 9:30pm. An 80-year-old woman identified as Renuka Mondal died at Frazerganj in South 24 Parganas when an uprooted tree fell on her. The storm hit the land between Sagar Islands in Bengal's South 24 Parganas district, which was the hardest hit, and Khepupara in Bangladesh near Mongla. Reports of destruction poured in from places such as Sagar Island, Diamond Harbour, Jharkhali, Hingalganj, and Sandeshkhali in South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas even as operations resumed at the Kolkata airport at 9am on Monday a day after it was shut down at noon on Sunday. The closure led to the cancellation of 394 flights. Local train services from Kolkata also resumed from 9am on Monday, said an Eastern Railways



official. North 24 Parganas district magistrate SK Dwivedi said there were no reports of deaths. "Only trees and electric poles were uprooted. Some houses were damaged. Work has already begun to remove the uprooted trees and restore the electric poles. Around 30,000 people were evacuated and brought to safer places including cyclone shelters." Dwivedi's South 24 Parganas counterpart, Sumit Gupta, said over 150,000 people were shifted to safer places. "...maximum damage [was reported from]...pockets such as Sagar, Namkhana, Basanti, Kultali, Patharpara tima, and Gosaba..." Kolkata received around 140mm of rain from 8:30am on Sunday until around 5:30am on Monday. An official in East Midnapore said around 28,000 people were evacuated. "...the storm uprooted trees, blew tin shades of kaccha houses...the rain damaged

the mud huts." The storm passed over by night but strong winds continued to batter the region on Monday morning. Dum Dum recorded a windspeed of 91km per hour around 5:30am on Monday, Canning (South 24 Parganas) 78 km per hour, and Sagar Island around 63 km per hour. India Metrological Department (IMD) officials in Kolkata said around 9:30pm that the landfall process began and that it would take at least four hours for the storm to pass. "[The] forward sector of the wall cloud region is entering into land. The landfall process is continuing over coastal areas of Bangladesh and West Bengal. It will continue for [the] next three hours. Gale wind speed reaching 110-120 km per hour gusting up to 135 km per hour is prevailing along and off Bangladesh and West Bengal," said an IMD bulletin at 10:30pm. The eye of the cyclone (the central cloud-free region with clam winds) started entering the land around 11:30pm. IMD officials said that the cyclone was barrelling through Bangladesh while losing steam in districts such as Nadia and Murshidabad in West Bengal, which were likely to get heavy to very heavy rain on Monday. A red warning has been issued for the two districts.

