NEWS

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Meanwhile, the residents of

Shantinagar area expressed satisfac-

tion over the enumeration activities

Those, who were left out from the voter

list, were seen enlisting their names

retired government official and his

family members were excluded from

the list though the names of the rest of

the tenants lived in the same building

GM Patwari, a field level official,

said 10 teams are now working at ward

no. 31 and they were given only 100

enumeration process, expressed

dissatisfactions, as they will get only Tk

500 this time. The teachers were given

Tk 2,000 in two phases earlier,

of both the major parties were seen

sisting people enlist their names.

the field level officials were seen going

to each and every house. However

the residents of Baria Chandnao

Noagaon, Amuna, Kaultia and Jhaiar

villages alleged that none has yet to

Around 100 eligible voters of

Awami League dominated Tahir.

Ekdala and Laupara villages of

Ganipur union at Bagmara upazila

were shown 'dead' in the updated

voter list, which was revealed vester-

day during the correction work.

reported our Raishahi correspondent.

show-cause notice against ARO Abdul

Anam after the inhabitants brought an

allegation against him saying Anam, a

BNP loyalist, intentionally committed

Our Netrakona correspondent

quoted Farid Uddin, one of the upazila

election officers of the district, who

admitted incidents of some major

irregularities in the correction process.

not get proper instruction about the

procedures for including and deleting

names on the voter list and they also

were not provided with enough forms,

said Mohammad Naimuddin, an ARO

Our Nilphamari correspondent

reported that scarcity of forms is

hindering the correction process in the

22 civilians killed

as violence flares

Twenty-two civilians were killed in a

weekend attack in western Sudan

which the government blamed on

Darfur rebels and which threatened

to deepen the crisis in the war-torn

US envoy in Sudan Andrew Natsios

stepped up efforts to persuade

Khartoum to accept a joint African

Mezni did not identify the attack-

The governor of West Darfur said

the attack was carried out by rebel

groups who refused to sign the May

peace agreement reached between

Khartoum and the main faction of

Monday's informal talks at

the Sudan Liberation Movement

The latest violence erupted as

anew in Darfur

ofAtpara upazila.

northern district

AFP, Khartoum

region

The field level election officials did

The district election officer issued a

However, surprisingly, the activists

Our Gazipur correspondent said

Teachers, who are taking part at

At Sabujbagh, Monindra Kar. a

enthusiastically.

were listed

sources said.

come to them.

'error.

forms.

Army in for longest Khaleda FROM PAGE 1

deployments for election purposes. Moreover, the 'excuse' showed by the home ministry for the deployment contradicts previous records of army

deployment during elections. During previous elections, the army was deployed only 14 days before the polling day in 2001 election, 18 days ahead of June 1996 election, and 23 days before the polling day of 1991 election Considering the pattern of deploy-

ment of the army during previous elections, the Election Commission (EC) had planned to request the armed forces division on December 26 to deploy the armed forces to maintain law and order situation during the upcoming parliamentary election. But, President lajuddin Ahmed in a

hurried move on Saturday night ordered the deployment of armed forces disregarding objections of the advisers who said the situation did not deserve such a move at the moment.

Usually, the EC requests the Armed Forces Division to deploy army personnel to maintain law and order situation during parliamentary elections. It also holds a series of meetings with the chiefs of different law enforcing agencies including the army ahead of the polling to review the situation. AFP, Shuneh

This time, the EC prepared an action plan on December 3 for sending a letter to the Armed Forces Division on December 26 requesting the deployment, sources in the EC secretariat said.

The EC also planned to hold a series of meetings with the chiefs of different law enforcing agencies before the polling day.

But directed by the president, the home ministry issued the circular on the deployment on Saturday.

During 2001 election, the troops were supposed to be deployed only a week before the polling date of October 1. Justice Latifur Rahman, the chief of the then caretaker government, said in his memoirs that according to the primary plan, the army was supposed to be deployed from

September 22, 2001 back then. "But later on, analysing the situation and orders of the authorities the army was posted at several places ahead of the planned schedule of September 17, which was completed on September 23 all over the country.

Latifur said in his memoirs.

Tattabadhayak Sarkarer Dinguli O who joined the party are Col (retd) Amar Kichhu Katha (Days of the Mokhlesur Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Caretaker Government and My Syed Mohammad Hossain oughts)

This time around the EC announced the election schedule on November 27 and it has yet to hold any meeting to review the law and orde situation. The EC did not express its concern over the prevailing law and order situation as no major untoward event had occurred since the announcement of the election sched-

Even the advisory committee to the caretaker government on law and order, which is ironically headed by lajuddin himself, in its several meetings did not find the law and order situation grave enough to deploy the armed forces.

Political analysts observed that the resident called out the army in an parent bid to thwart the demonstrating political parties' threat to stage an inite sit-in around Bangabhaban.

UN calls for global decision to fight corruption

The head of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) called on yesterday for a global political will to fight against corruption, and urged world governments to set up anti-graft task

forces. People around the world must do more to fight corruption. We need a decision," Antonio Maria political Costa told the first session of a conference of parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption. The convention, the first legally

binding international tool to battle corruption, was adopted by the UN General Assembly in October 2003. Nearly 150 countries have signed

the convention but only 80 have ratified it so far, according to the UNODC. In a message to the conference

outgoing UN Secretary General Kofi Annan urged all countries to ratify the convention, saying it was essential to accelerate world development and reduce crime.

Hasina lashes out at CA Judicial FROM PAGE 16

to the party chief. Among those FROM PAGE 1

them.

in the voter roll in different parts of advisers' request and instructed our the country on different grounds, leaders to go their localities to help alleged Hasina demanding incluupdating the voter list, what situasion of all eligible voters in it.

tion has led to the army deploy-"When the people are working on ment?" Hasina posed the question. correcting the voter roll, the presi-The AL chief instructed her party dent has declared war against the men to remain prepared with whatpeople and taken the strategy to ever they have to lay siege to the place the army against the people Bangabhaban when she calls upon only to ensure the implementation of the vote rigging conspiracy by the "The president did not do the BNP-Jamaat coalition," Hasina right thing by deploying army at this said.

She asked the army not to follow the list created by the BNP-Jamaat coalition, but instead follow the newspaper reports when raiding criminals for arms or black money.

Her party is ready to participate The AL president said the people in the next election at any time but would appreciate the army if they the package deal negotiated arrest criminals, corrupt persons between the advisers of the careand illegal arms possessors in taker government and the major December -- the month of victory. political alliances has to be immedi-But any torture and threat to leaders ately implemented, updating of and workers of AL, 14-party, Jatiya voter roll is to done properly and a Party, LDP and other parties taking congenial atmosphere should be part in their movement would not be created before holding the election, tolerated, she warned.

Senior 14-party leaders Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Obaidul Quader, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Hague Inu, Bimal Biswas, Nurul Islam and Pankaj Bhattacharya were present at the press conference.

lajuddin FROM PAGE 1

proposals virtually fizzled out on Saturday when the president decided on his own account to deploy the armed forces, ignoring strong objections from the advisory council.

The advisers had initiated elaborate measures to resolve the political standoff last week. After a series of meetings among themselves and with the two major political alliances, the council headed by lajuddin Ahmed on Monday came up with a package of proposals aiming to break the deadlock.

The proposals include reconstitution of the EC by sending Election Commissioners Zakaria and Modabbir Hossain Chowdhury on leave and appointing new election commissioners, transfer of secre-

taries, rescheduling of the election and correction of the errors on the updated voter list. The proposals had rekindled

hope for an amicable resolution of the dispute. But suddenly, things began to change for the worse, as the president on Wednesday emerged adamantly opposed to the steps to make Zakaria take time off work.

In sync with the BNP-led fourparty alliance, he stuck to his stance forcing the advisers to look for alternatives

Then on Saturday night, he informed the advisers of his order for the army deployment. Since the caretaker govern-

Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz took

a leave of absence, the president

had appointed two election commis-

Besides, the CA on November 22

addressed the nation without dis-

cussion with the advisers who

described the speech as the presi-

dent's very own. Upset by the presi-

dent's unilateral action, some advis-

ers refrained from attending office

Seething with frustrations, some

ment's assumption of office, the president had decided twice

List righting limps

FROM PAGE 16 none having such names ever lived

the order when advocate ASM lobal Hossain, joint convener of Locals alleged that the ward com-Lawyers' Union for Protection of missioner was involved in the foul play. People's Right, filed the case with Badal however denied the allegation and said these voters have gone out the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM's) Court for and will come back. Enumerator Sabiha Mobarak, who

was correcting the voter list in the area yesterday, admitted the mischief and said she is deleting the names. Badal's brother Monir Hossain

offered Tk 500 to the correspondents for tea and requested them to leave the area.

Around 60 people at Sonargaon slum at Golapbagh in the same ward, alleged that their names were not included in the updated voter list. The EC staff visited them yesterday but did not list their names. One of them, Sheikh Mohammad, said," We heard that our names were not listed on the ground that we support Awami League.

MIRPUR, PALLABI Residents of Mirpur and Pallabi feared that many voters, who moved to other houses in the same areas or to other localities might be dropped from the

updated voter list. Since the field staff do not have clear instruction from the EC. some of them in Pallabi are deleting the names of those voters who moved to other houses in the last three months, and enlisting those who came to the houses they had left.

On the other hand, some other EC staff in Mirpur said they are neither listing the names of those who came to the area in the last three months nor deleting the names of those who left the area.

Meanwhile, many EC staff alleged shortage of forms to enlist new voters. Twenty-five people who recently bought flats in Pallabi area could not be listed as voters due to lack of forms, one of them said yesterday.

Anumber of staff alleged that some local leaders of both the BNP and Awami League are pressuring them to give them forms for listing their supporters as voters

More than 500 voters, lived in a tenstorey building stands next to the ward commissioner's office at Sukrabad, are yet to be listed as voter.

The Daily Star correspondents talked to Mohammad Ansar Uddin. one of the tenants of the building and also a Madrasa teacher at West Raiabazar. who regretted as saying this is for the third time he heard that the field level election officials are enlisting names but he didn't see anyone so far.

Moinul Islam, an official of the same area, said this is not an aberration. "Huge numbers of voters have been kept away from the list ... My younger brother's name was also not on the list and the same happened at different

places of Kalabagan staff quarter area." Islam said. When asked about the incident, an assistant registration officer (ARO) and also an assistant headmaster of Dhanmondi Boys School, said, "Lots of floating people are here in Dhaka and it's really tough to carry out the

Union-UN peacekeeping force for enumeration process properly. Darfur. Mohammad Abdul Baker, a African Union spokesman teacher of the same school and also a Nureddin Mezni said 22 civilians field level election official. said numwere killed and 10 wounded on bers of voters have been decreased in Saturday when gunmen ambushed Sukrabad area after updating the voter a vehicle in Sirba, 40 kilometres

Troops take to streets

Chittagong, Khulna, Noakhali and Bagerhat while the air force was deployed at Zia International Airport. Shah Amanat Airport, and Jessore Airport," Col M Anisur Rahman Chowdhury, director of Inter Services Public Relations, told The Daily Star

vesterday. According to sources, about 70 battalions of the army comprising 400 to 1000 troops each were deployed in 64 districts. How long they will stay deployed to maintain domestic peace, however, could not be learnt.

REACTIONS Ignoring unanimous and vehement opposition by all the 10 advisers to the interim government, President lajuddin Ahmed, also the chief advise not beyond control. to the caretaker government (CG),

unilaterally decided on Saturday night

Ahmed vesterday called on the presi-

A Bangabhaban spokesman reports BSS.

People from different walks of life said deployment of the armed forces was not necessary as law and order was Apart from the advisers to the

dent at Bangabhaban and assured him that the army will discharge the responsibilities vested in it with sincer-

quoted the president as saying that the deployment of the armed forces in aid of the civil administration was necessary to sustain economic activities in the country and to maintain law and order ahead of the upcoming election.

said 75 people were killed in their 'anarchic" political action. time. He violated the constitution "BNP always wants peace and repeatedly. If I survive, justice will welfare of the people, but Awami prevail," said Hasina, warning that League wants anarchy in the they will see how long the president country," she told the function. stavs at the Bangabhaban. Khaleda blamed her opponent

Sayeed, Maj (retd) Sharif Hossain

Mukul and Maj (retd) Golam

Criticising the violent activities

of the AL-led 14-party combine

since her transfer of power to the

caretaker government. Khaleda

Morshed.

AL for what she said trying to push the army towards destruction. She said the BNP-led coalition

government had done a lot of work for the development of the armv

Welcoming the newcomers, she hoped they will accommodate their positions in the party through working together with party's leaders and workers.

BNP Secretary General Abdul held several meetings with her Mannan Bhuiyan was present on partv's Presidium members, leaders the occasion of 14-party alliance and Liberal

AL goes to EC FROM PAGE 16

'The field-level election officials are not enlisting the eligible voters," he held a crucial meeting with British alleged adding that the election High Commissioner in Dhaka Anwar commission's publicity campaign Chowdhury and US Ambassador regarding the amendment of the Patricia A Butenis at her Sudha voter list was not sufficient. The Sadan residence. enumerators are more interested in deleting names of the voters from the list rather than enlist the eligible

ones. Mannan further noted. The EC secretary admitted the scarcity of voter forms and assured them of taking necessary steps to solve this problem as well as other rregularities, if any, the AL delegation said.

Two other members of the delegation were -- Asaduzzaman Lucky and Shahjahan Siddiqui.

Hailing the initiative of the AL, EC Secretary Abdur Rashid Sarkar later at a press conference said that the inclusion of the eligible voters is as much important as the exclusion of duplicate names from the voter roll.

Admitting the allegation that the EC circular on voter list correction was not published in many wellcirculated newspapers, Sarkar said that directives have been given to the section concerned in this regard.

"We have got some complains, particularly from Chittagong," the EC secretary said adding that they have got the allegation that a vested quarter there, is creating pressure not to exclude names from the voter list

Sarkar also noted down complains from the reporters who found irregularities during their spot visit to different parts in the capital, including ward no 42, where 5000 voters

The election will have to be held as per the constitution after preparing an updated voter list, she said. "We accepted the package proposal offered by the advisers, but it has not been implemented yet as the BNP-Jamaat coalition leader [Khaleda Zia] has hindered implementing the deal by using the president and chief adviser in a bid to foil

the AL president said.

army deployment

Prior to the briefing, the AL chief

Democratic Party to discuss the

latest political situation following the

Earlier in the morning, Hasina

the election," said Hasina. She announced a countrywide demonstration tomorrow (Tuesday) demanding full implementation of the package offered by the advisers. Hasina observed that as they 14-party) announced to lay siege to Bangabhaban, the president besieged himself by surrounding

the Bangabhaban with army. The president has lost confidence of the advisers for his unilateral move to deploy army, she said, adding that the president's disregard for the advisers' opinion over the deployment of army has made the situation complicated.

Hasina accused the president of not having any ethics and always following Khaleda Zia's direction. She also questioned whose purpose the president was serving by playing with the army.

The BNP-Jamaat coalition during their five-year tenure has destroyed the three main institutions of the country -- the legislature. the executive and the judiciary. This Pakistan. "The elected political leadership failed to give directions to the people at that critical moment. "In that situation, in response to the indispensable demand of time, the then Major Ziaur Rahman of the Army, made the

historic declaration of independence from Kalurghat radio station in Chittagong as leader of the war of resistance. Moudud's statement is con-

trary to the fact regarding the proclamation of the independence and nothing but a lie, the complainant said.

Metropolitan Magistrate Syed

Mohammad Mujibul Haq passed

In his complaint, Iqbal men-

tioned that Moudud, while holding

his portfolio, in the preface to the

publication of the constitution

printed on August 1 this year, said

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the

national leader of the majority

party, was arrested from his resi-

dence and taken to the then West

the matter.

Moreover, Colonel (rtd) Ahmad and General (rtd) Mir Shawkat, close associates of Ziaur Rahman, admitted that Zia proclaimed the independence on March 27 but the accused hid the fact and distorted the history, Inhal added

Advocates Abdul Jalil Gazi Shahadat Hossain, Hasina Akhter and Mahmud Hossain appeared for the complainant.

US, UK envoys FROM PAGE 16

Hasina's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told the news agency that the Awami League chief categorically told the envoys that her only demand is to create a level playing field for free and fair elections where voters can choose a government of their choice.

The AL president said her party and 13 allies declared the election reform agenda 18 months ago and "we've consistently maintained our stance in this regard."

The diplomats' meeting with Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence, which lasted for one and half hours, came on the heels of the army deployment across the coun-

In reply to a question, Saber said was a pre-scheduled meeting requested by the envoys. In the evening, the envoys called

on BNP Chairperson and immediate past-prime minister Khaleda Zia at her Hawa Bhaban office.

As both sides avoided press, it could not be known what were the issues they discussed during the nearly 45-minute meeting from 6:40pm

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and BNP Chairperson's Adviser Reaz Rahman were present. After Chief Election

to deploy the armed forces in aid of the civil administration, following a threat of an indefinite sit-in around Bangabhaban by Awami League-led 14-party coalition.

Although some of the advisers pointed out that there was no necessity of deploying the troops in a rather favourable atmosphere which had been seeminaly heading towards an amicable settlement of the ongoing electoral crisis, the president however did not pay any heed to their logic or opposition.

Just as the army was being deployed in the capital, police also banned gatherings and processions around Bangabhaban although 14party coalition did not actually officially announce any programme around Bangabhaban for today or for the coming days.

Since the president had assumed the office of chief adviser to the CG on October 28, he decided to deploy the armed forces on two occasions but retracted in the face of stiff resistance from the advisers.

The home ministry said in its news release yesterday, "Members of the armed forces will work on demand of the civil administration to protect public life and property, to keep economic activity running, to recover illegal firearms, and to curb criminal activi-

Meantime, as the news swept through the country fast on Saturday night, the most asked question was, "When will they be seen on the streets?"

The troops were seen moving out of their barracks in the capital around 2:30am yesterday. They stationed at 23 locations in the city setting up camps in community centres of Dhaka City Corporation.

They also set up a camp in Mirpur Indoor Stadium.

According to sources, several units of the army will work in Dhaka under the command of a lieutenant colonel. A lieutenant colonel will also lead the forces at district level.

They have not been learnt to have conducted any major operation in Dhaka till 8:00 last night although they searched several vehicles on Dhaka-Aricha highway and some houses in the Bank Colony in Savar early morning yesterday.

The commanding officers have also begun establishing contacts with DCs (deputy commissioners) and OCs (officers-in-charge) of police in metropolitan areas and police superintendents and OCs in district towns. Assistant Inspector General of Police Matiur Rahman Shaikh told The Daily

At least seven armoured personnel carriers (APC) rumbled in to join the security detail of Bangabhaban.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moeen U

rights and socio-cultural organisations, professionals, transport workers, small traders and even some police officials also opposed the decision, expressing apprehension that it might complicate the situation further.

"We passed much more critical situations immediately after the caretaker government had taken over. If the law enforcing agencies had been enough to control the situation then. was it necessary to deploy the army when the situation is better now?" a

businessman of Dhanmondi said, seeking anonymity. Talking to this correspondent at

Farmgate, a traffic sergeant said the deployment was an insult to the police and other law enforcing agencies. "Does the government have any credible explanation for deploying the army when the situation is under control? Isn't it a slap on the face of the law enforcing agencies who have been working hard especially since the caretaker government had taken

over?" However, one of his colleagues joked: "It'll reduce our load!"

Several university students reacted quite angrily, some of them noted that the president's decision reflects clearly that he acted not on rationale but according to some people's or groups' diktat.

"What's the point of calling out the army now when political parties have postponed their agitation programmes and are preparing for the election?" said a BBA student of Independent University

Sirajul Islam, a street vendor at Gulistan. and Sukhendu Barmon, a fruit vendor at Azampur in Uttara, however, said low-income people like them will benefit from the deployment as political parties will not be able now to enforce agitation programmes that usually harm their income. "But we don't think it was necessary," Sukhendu echoed Sirajul.

Shafiqul Alam, a businessman at Motijheel, noted that the deployment is nothing but a trick to create a panic. "Is this such a grave situation that army deployment seemed necessary?"

Former chief engineer of Power Development Board, Waied Miah, said, "Earlier the army used to be called out in public interest. But I am concerned whether they will do any good this time."

Dalia Quadir, a small entrepreneur, thinks the move will intensify the crisis rather than resolving it.

were wiped from the voter roll in interim government, political parties, 2000 SHEIKH HASINA AND HER FAMILY ENROLLED AS VOTER

AL president Shiekh Hasina and her family members yesterday submitted the voter forms to the assistant registration officer (ARO) concerned, EC sources said.

A total of 11 voter forms were submitted to Deen Muhammad, the ARO of the Dhanmondi from the Sudha Sadan, the sources added.

Stalled EC

talks FROM PAGE 1

In separate post-deployment reactions to the news agency, they regretted stalling negotiations to break the pre-election political impasse and urged the parties to continue efforts to find a solution to the deadlock. They would also monitor the deployment.

A spokesman for the US embassy here said, "We regret that negotiations to break the political impasse have stalled. We hope the army deployment will not undermine efforts to create a positive election environment."

He said, "In the near future, we assume the government will fully explain the army's mission and its rules of engagement, and take action to ensure that the army is seen acting in a nonpartisan manner.'

A spokeswoman for the British High Commission hoped the army deployment will be temporary and made only in support of legitimate civil authorities.

"We will monitor the deployment and trust that military personnel will perform their duties impartially and with due respect for human rights and the rule of law." she said. Canadian High Commissioner

Barbara Richardson also said they were monitoring the situation and urged all parties to continue their efforts to find a solution to the current impasse.

"Dialogue is the only means to ensure democracy, peace and security, not only today but also for Grameen. the future," she said.

The top diplomat from the North American country observed that the Bangladeshis look to their leaders to protect democratic principles and to find a way to move forward to a free was the expression of overwhelming and fair election. joy. As he took seat, he kept repeat-

time they are trying to make the deploy forces but retreated in the army controversial through using face of opposition from the advisers. the president," the AL chief said.

Hasina demanded laiuddin Ahmed's immediate resignation from the post of the chief adviser and accused him of creating obstacles to the advisers performing duties.

Over suspending the sit-in demonstrations around the Bangabhaban, the AL chief said, "People are ready. They will take to the streets whenever I call upon them."

Referring to the updating of the voter roll. she said their leaders and workers have been monitoring the process. She also said massive irregularities were found in different parts of the country and it would not be possible to correct the list in such a short time.

Oslo chill

"We are no more the most corrupt

country, no more a place of famine

and floods. We are now a hope for the

has changed our lives forever."

FROM PAGE 1

proud

details of it.

we are today."

of the advisers yesterday threat-Eligible voters were not included ened to take a tough stance.

the following day.

council in the dark.

ers

edly bowing his head in small nods, as if to show his gratitude to this huge crowd.

Then the piano in the corner rang out as the Norwegian pianist world too," Anis says. "Nobody can even guess how Yunus has made us Christian Ihle Hadland played Bach.

Eight minutes later, Chairman of Down there in the hall compound, the Norwegian Nobel Committee Ole Bangladeshis in typical 'Yunus attire' Danbolt Mjos went to the dais to sat spellbound.

ence rose in a standing ovation. silence. And then the man who made The woman in the red sari was Bangladesh proud slowly walked into clapping with all her might, her the hall in a grey panjabi and beige vest. Beside him walked Mosammat cheeks alistened as tears rolled Taslima Begum, a Grameen Bank down. Her four-vear old daughter borrower to receive the prize for clapped, knowingly or unknowingly. The young Bangladeshi girl in jeans Yunus was not exactly smiling and blouse clapped. The man in the usual smile he always has. flowing beard clapped. The young Rather a mixed feeling played on his girl, Zaman, Anisur Rahman. face -- he was happy and yet he verybody. seemed to be weeping. May be that

For the first time in Oslo, they held

No new voter FROM PAGE 16

given the enumerators copies of the sioners--Modabbir and Saiful Alamupdated voter list and the enumeraagain without consulting the advistors, having only the year 2000 voter list, are busy deleting names of He also made the EC announce voters who died or moved from the an election schedule hurriedly on areas. The year 2000 voter list was November 27, keeping the advisory updated in August this year.

M Kamrul Islam, an enumerator of Asker Dighir Par area of Jamal Khan ward, said, "Many people are interested to include their names in the list but we cannot do that as we were not given the two forms required. We are still working with the list of year 2000 and have not received the updated list."

Amir UI Islam, district election officer (Chittagong-4), said they ordered all the AROs to send the copies of the updated list to the fieldlevel officers. Blaming shortage of manpower, he said a number of enumerators might not get the copies in time.

Meanwhile, Dilshad Begum deputy director of local government (deputy commissioner's office), was given the additional duty of acting district election officer of Chittagong-2, which was vacant for several months

Swaraswati Puja FROM PAGE 16

day instead of January 21.

Leaders of Bangladesh Puja Udjapon Parishad (BPUP) yesterday called on the EC secretary and said the Hindu community got aggrieved due to the fixing of the polling date on the earlier fixed date of Swaraswati Puja.

Urging the EC secretary to shift the polling date, they handed over a letter of request in this regard.

Swaraswati Puja is held mainly in the educational institutions that are also the venue of polling centres.

"We could not know the date of puja as we did not have any calendar with us when we fixed the revised poll schedule," said the EC secretary.

They are trying to contact the major political alliances, he said, adding that a political alliance has already agreed to bringing the polling date forward by one or two days.

According to Baker, the numbers of north of Geneina, the capital of West voters were 17,000 at the fresh voter Darfur state. ist, while the number reduced to 14,000 at the updated list. However, ers but said an investigation would he ruled out any possibility of dropout. be launched into the attack.

The inhabitants of Mohammadpur area feared they might not be listed, as none of the filed level officials was yet to come to register their names.

Police officials, deployed in front of the house of the acting chief election commissioner, were also not listed at

Major UN powers

FROM PAGE 16

helping to build in Bushehr.

plant.

Bushehr had been mentioned by

name in previous drafts but had

been exempted from sanctions

although there was some ambiguity

about delivery of nuclear fuel to the

demand for an explicit characterisa-

tion of the Iranian nuclear

programme as "a threat to interna-

further delay suspend proliferation

sensitive nuclear activities, in partic-

ular all enrichment-related repro-

cessing activities, including

research and development, and

work on all heavy water related

projects, including the construction

of a research reactor moderated by

Vienna-based International Atomic

Energy Agency (IAEA) to submit a

report within 60 days on whether

ran has fully complied with the

It says implementation of the

sanctions would be suspended if

ran halts uranium enrichment but

The draft asks the head of the

It states that Iran "shall without

tional peace and security".

heavy water."

demands.

The draft does not include a US

warns that failure to heed the UN close economic and energy ties with demands would lead to "further Iran -- have been trying to water appropriate measures", a reference down the European draft, while the to economic sanctions. United States has sought to harden

ambassador level come less than a Despite Russian objections, the week after political directors of new text includes a list of a dozen foreign ministries of the six nations Iranian officials directly involved in failed in Paris to agree on the scope their country's nuclear and ballistic of the proposed sanctions. programmes who would be targeted for UN sanctions.

But in Washington, State Department spokesman Sean At Moscow's insistence, it however drops all references to Iran's McCormack said Friday that the six first nuclear power station, a onehad now narrowed their differences billion-dollar facility which Russia is over the terms of the draft.

"The sense is the differences are narrowing," he told reporters after US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice discussed the issue here Friday with Russian Security Council Secretary Igor Ivanov.

But a diplomat close to the negotiations here said tough bargaining lies ahead, notably to win over the Russians who are keen on maintaining a dialogue with the Islamic Republic.

US and European officials however said they were hopeful that an acceptable text would be agreed by Christmas.

"The goal is still unanimity (on a text) but not at any price," a Western diplomat said.

Meanwhile Iran, which ignored an August 31 deadline to freeze uranium enrichment, has said it will not give up its nuclear programme even if faced with UN sanctions.

Uranium enrichment is used to make nuclear fuel as well as the core of an atom bomb. Iran insists it only wants to enrich uranium to generate electricity.

of 'Grameen Check Fatua' and vest deliver his lecture. As he finished, the mill around. Two of them are holding hall room was suddenly flooded with a Bangladesh flag high, waving it another serenity as speakers blared constantly to the press gallery above. a Tagore song to the footsteps of the Hundreds of photographers and Nrittanchal dancers. The audience journalists are busy noting every

Then came the golden moment. Julia, a Bangladeshi art student at Oslo University, shows up with a broad smile. "Are you from the Bangladesh Press?" she asks. Yunus stepped out to receive the Peace Prize. A pin drop silence fell in the hall. He reached out and touched "Please, write well about how proud the recognition, unknown emotions playing on his face. And then the Slowly, the hall was filled up and silence shattered as claps after claps the musicians blew into their bugles. drowned any other noise. The audi-The humming guests fell into a

their heads high.