

EU-EOMB report

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These practices contribute to creating a heated atmosphere and hinder the development of a peaceful election process."

"LOs have reported numerous violations of the electoral code of conduct for political parties and candidates, which questions the authorities' effectiveness in enforcing these rules."

However, they reported that the authorities in charge of implementing the election process are generally carrying out their task in a fair way.

The observation report of the European said due to limited implementation of the procedure regarding postal ballots, the mission is concerned that a large number of Bangladeshi citizens police, military, polling officers, local observers, prisoners could be disenfranchised in the coming election.

Regarding voter list, it said various political parties' complaints have been presented to the European observers regarding deliberate inaccuracies in the enrolment. But, no concrete documentation was supplied to support the allegations.

"European observers notice the existence of freedom of movement

and speech in most of the monitored districts, notwithstanding the difficult circumstances."

"Voter/civic education and awareness programme are being implemented in almost all districts. The European observers point out that some of the voter-awareness effort is being directed at increasing women voters' information in Bangladesh."

EC warns Hasina

FROM PAGE 1
Yusuf Gazi (Chandpur-4), Sultan Mohammad Monsur Ahmed (Moulvibazar-2), and Shahjahan (Laxmipur-1).

BNP-led four-party alliance: Abdul Mannan Talukder (Sirajganj-3), Dr Shafiqur Rahman (Moulvibazar-2), Habibunnabi Sohel (Rangpur-3), Mufi Abdus Sattar Akon (Bagerhat-4), Ridwan Ahmed (Comilla-6), Maulana Abdus Sobhan (Pabna-5), and Harunur Rashid (Nawabganj-3).

Apart from these 11 candidates, Abdur Razzaq of the 11-party alliance, Shawkatul Islam of JP and SM Shahin (independent) in Moulvibazar-2, and Emdadul Haque of JP in Narail were also cautioned.

Khaleda: False promises

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of paddy and jute, rather they increased prices of all essentials.

She promised that if elected, her government would construct a bridge over Jamuna river at Doulapur.

She introduced BNP candidate AZM Rezwani Haq, who also addressed the rally.

At Birampur rally, Khaleda sought vote for four-party candidates to save the country and Islam. She alleged that tear gas shells were fired inside mosques and bombs were exploded in church during AL rule. "But they are now trying to bluff people saying that they would not do anything against Islam, if voted to power. Don't be misled by them," she said.

The BNP chief said people are now united under the banner of the four-party alliance because they do not want to see AL's "misrule" again.

She sought vote for Jamaat-e-Islami nominee in Dinajpur-6 Azizur Rahman Chowdhury, who is con-

testing against immediate past AL lawmaker Mostafizur Rahman Fizu.

At Panchbibi in Joipurhat-1 constituency, she addressed a big meeting where she introduced alliance nominee Abdul Alim who is contesting against AL nominee Abbas Ali Mondal.

Thousands of people greeted her when Khaleda Zia reached Khelai College premises at about 1 pm yesterday. She addressed a rally there in favour of BNP nominee Yusuf Khalilur Rahman.

Some angry BNP supporters halted some vehicles of Khaleda's motorcade at Akkelpur as she did not address a crowd there. They were however dispersed by police and the motorcade moved ahead.

Addressing rallies at Dhamorhat in Naogaon-2 and at Badalgachhi in Naogaon-3, Khaleda said the four parties have united under one platform to form the next government.

CMP identifies

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Bostami, Chalitatali, Muradpur, Bohaddarhat, Bakalia DC road, Patharghata and Pahartali College area.

The city has three constituencies - Chittagong-8 (Doublemooring-Port-Pahartali-Kattali), Chittagong-9 (Kotwali) and Chittagong-10 (Chandgaon-Boalkhali).

About 30 police teams and 45 mobile teams of Detective Branch will be on duty in those areas to ensure free, fair and peaceful voting, CMP sources told this correspondent yesterday.

These areas are being controlled by different notorious terrorist groups led by "listed terrorists" belonged to Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), student wings of Awami League, BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami respectively.

Of the 20 areas, BCL cadres and "terrorists" control 11 areas, followed by "Sajjad Bahini" of ICS which controls five areas.

"Sajjad Bahini" is led by Sajjad Khan, an absconder accused in the

sensational eight-murder case and the prime accused in the ward commissioner Liagat murder case.

The remaining four areas are controlled four "listed terrorists" belonging to JCD, the sources said.

The 11 areas are controlled by BCL cadres led by Mamun (ward commissioner Mamunur Rashid now in jail), Sunil, Dulu, Masum, Chhira Akbar, Mehedhi Hasan, Hazi Belal, Alo and Senior Ilias.

The JCD cadres who control their four areas are led by Morsed Khan, Alam, Iqbal and Samrat.

CMP sources said, a written suggestions detailing strategies to maintain law and order in those 20 vulnerable areas on the election day have already been sent to higher authorities in Dhaka.

"Besides, additional cautionary measures will be taken so that none can dare to resort to any illegal and unfair means to rig the polls," said a top official of CMP preferring anonymity.

Laden's whereabouts

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the clerics announced their unexpected ruling on Thursday after two days of debate.

But Hamid Haqqani, leader of a seminary in Pakistan where several Taliban leaders studied the Quran, insisted he was still in Afghanistan.

"There is no chance of him leaving. The decision of the Islamic scholars was only advisory in nature," Haqqani said.

Another source close to the Taliban said bin Laden actually relished a direct "confrontation" with US military forces in Afghanistan.

"He is still there. This is a moment he has been waiting for," the source told AFP.

The Taliban has refused repeated requests to extradite bin Laden to face trial in connection with the 1998 bombing of two US embassies in Africa, for which he has been indicted in New York.

The Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, reiterated Friday that handing bin Laden over to the United States was out of the question an apparent indication that he remained in Taliban-controlled territory.

Bin Laden's al-Qaeda (The Base) network operates cells around the globe, while his henchmen in Afghanistan are powerful Islamist leaders in their own right, with connections throughout Central Asia, Russia, the Middle East and Africa.

The Taliban militia, which has

Arabs: Coalition

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coalition to fight "terrorism" after the deadly September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

Moussa noted Arab states had imposed a similar condition in 1990 when the United States was building up a coalition to eject Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

"This is the second time in a dangerous international crisis in which the condition of action, coordination and cooperation is to exclude Israel," he said.

Moussa said he did not expect any American retaliation against an Arab state.

"I do not expect that to happen. We have not received any assurances, but I don't think that will happen," Moussa said. "If any Arab country was touched, all fundamentals will change," he added without elaborating.

Sarishabari

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of Awami League candidate Maulana Nurul Islam and the offices of Awami League and its front organisations in different parts of the district in last two months.

Police are not arresting the listed terrorists, rather they are harassing the activists of Awami League and its front organisations in the area.

The leaders demanded arrest of the killers, withdrawal of the OC of Sarishabari thana and in-charge of Tarakandi Investigation Centre.

Awami League leaders Giasuddin Pathan, Sanwar Hossain Badsha, Adv Abdulah and Mozammel Haq Tara, among others, addressed the press conference.

Of them eight were injured in

India may halt

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procession."

The two leaders were to have met next week during the UN General Assembly, but the Sept 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington forced a cancellation.

The Times interviewer described Vajpayee as "distraught" over Washington's failure so far to take India's concerns into account in its overall strategy to combat terrorism.

Vajpayee was quoted as saying, "No statements had emanated from Washington to suggest that the US, though appreciative of India's offer to support its war against terrorism, was in a mood to focus on India's bitter experience of terrorist activities on its soil."

US Ambassador Robert Blackwill had no immediate comment, but was meeting yesterday with India's foreign and defense minister, Jaswant Singh.

Kitty Hawk

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tioned in the western Pacific was one of five US naval vessels to hoist anchor in Yokosuka yesterday.

The others were the destroyer USS Cashing, the guided-missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilburn, the frigate USS Gary and the oiler USNS Rappahannock, said Cmdr. Matthew Brown, a Seventh Fleet spokesman.

US officials have declined to comment on any of the movements, but the ships are believed to be steaming toward the Indian Ocean in anticipation of reprisals against Osama bin Laden and his allies in Afghanistan in connection with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

The Kitty Hawk is one of 11 US vessels stationed at Yokosuka, a naval facility about 45 kilometers southwest of Tokyo that is home to the US Seventh Fleet. The 81,123-ton, 1,069-foot flattop typically carries about 70 aircraft and a complement of 5,500 sailors, naval aviators and Marines.

It was due to be escorted out of Japanese territorial waters by about 10 destroyers and other naval vessels from Japan's Marine Self-Defense Force, which were assigned as part of stepped-up efforts by the Tokyo government to guard US installations, spokesman Hiroshi Oka said.

Train accident

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report at 8 pm.

Police, however, said three people were killed in the accident but failed to give the injury figure.

"With severe injuries along with severed legs and hands, many of the injured were seen moaning," Haider told the news agency.

As road communications with upazila and district headquarters from the station are not smooth, sufferings of the injured people increased.

Following the accident, local people attacked the railway station office and cut off its telephone lines.

A relief train from Dhaka left for Izzatpur station.

Jayalalitha

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by November 13 to continue as Chief Minister. Responding to Jayalalitha's contention that people's mandate is supreme, the Supreme Court bench said the people's verdict should be in consonance with the Constitution.

Jayalalitha quit as Chief Minister soon after the apex court's judgment and she is now expected to nominate someone as her successor to the post.

The verdict by the Supreme Court puts a big question mark over the political future of Jayalalitha, the film star-turned-politician, as she has never relished the idea of any center of power either in the government or in her party other than herself.

Laden might be tempted to try Yemen, where al-Qaeda reported set up a headquarters in 1998 ahead of the embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Bin Laden's group is suspected of the suicide bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen last year.

The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam in his speech said the intention

Pre-polls clashes

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UPDF blamed its rival PCJSS for the killing.

Our Correspondent from Feni writes: At least five people were injured in a gunfight between BNP and Awami League supporters at Amtali in Sadar thana yesterday morning.

The clash erupted at about 11 pm following ransacking of a BNP election office.

Earlier, a gang of armed youths attacked some BNP activists while they were taking tea at a tea stall at Rajarbari. Four BNP activists were injured in the attack.

In another incident, some armed men set ablaze Chhagainaiya BNP office early yesterday morning. BNP blamed their rival Awami League for the incident.

In Begerhat, at least four people were injured in an attack allegedly by the activists of the BNP-led four-party alliance at Mohilapur village in Morelganj upazila on Thursday night.

Witnesses said the four activists of Awami League came under the attack when it brought out a procession at about 7 pm.

Two of the injured Abdur Rashid Shikder and Abdul Jalil were admitted to Barisal Medical College Hospital while two others Abdur Rab and Milon to Pirojpur Hospital.

In Sirajganj, at least 25 people were injured, four of them seriously in separate clashes between AL and BNP supporters at different places in Sirajganj district yesterday.

Supporters of Habib damaged four motorbikes belonging to alliance workers and ransacked their seven election camps.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control within an hour.

Cable TV men

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unidentified miscreants. Police was unable to arrest anybody in connection with the murder till last night.

The shutdown came at a time when people had been anxiously watching CNN and BBC to find out about the latest developments in the US-Afghan conflict over the issue of extradition of Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden.

With cable services suspended,

many viewers called the newspaper offices yesterday to know the latest developments centring the issue. Some expressed their resentment about the COAB decision.

COAB leaders could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Class committee

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Dagbanhiyan Sadar camp of the "class committee" led by committee's upazila captain Ratan, the joint team seized over 100 bombs from an under-construction building just adjacent to the camp.

The arrested are Jamaluddin, Yusuf Nabi, Omar Faruq, Khalilur Rahman, Shohag, Shamsul Alam Khokon, Shahjahan, Nezamuddin, Ayub Ali, Nooruddin, Sumon, Noor Mohammad, Yasin, Al Amin and Humayun.

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"The problem is not with us but with other big developers who do not have respect for law. Look at all the tall buildings around the area, none has adequate parking facilities," an official of the Basundhara project said.

Nevertheless, anticipating traffic

chaos once the complex starts

business, executives of the

Basundhara project proposed the

government that it would extend

support to build a flyover in the area.

An official of the Department of

Environment said that they were

aware that these tall buildings would

pose various problems, but still had

to issue environmental clearance.

"We have no other option than

issuing environmental clearance

once the developer produces certi-

cates from the Dhaka Electric

Supply Authority (DESA), the Civil

Aviation Authority of Bangladesh

(CAAB), Water and Sewerage