

JS elections 55,000 troops leave barracks today in aid of civil admin

UNB, Dhaka

More than 55,000 members of the armed forces leave their barracks today in aid of the civil administration to maintain law and order across the country for peaceful holding of national elections.

Contingents of the armed forces have already been deployed since last week in some trouble-torn districts like Feni, Bhola, Laxmipur, Narayanganj and Munshiganj.

Army Chief Lieutenant General Harunur Rashid said their main task is to work in aid of the civil administration and extend ground support through their presence.

For the first time, armed forces on election duty have been defined as law-enforcing agencies vesting in them the power to make arrests on the polling day. They can arrest any miscreant from the spot on the day.

General Harun assured that the elite troops would take all necessary steps to clear any obstacles to holding a peaceful election.

"Anyone trying to intimidate the voters or obstruct the polling process would be resisted by officers and soldiers," said the army chief in an observation on their special assignment.

Kuwaiti emir suffers brain haemorrhage

AP, Kuwait

The emir of Kuwait has suffered a brain haemorrhage and will be flown to London for treatment, Kuwaiti television said yesterday.

The ailing emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, will be out of the country at a time when the United States is looking to one of its closest allies in the Gulf to help build a coalition against terrorism.

The emir, reported in stable condition Friday, had offered strong words of support to the United States after the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, but in Kuwait and throughout the region there is wariness about a US-led campaign likely to target Muslim and Arab extremists who have been lauded on the streets and in the coffee shops of the Mideast.

State-run Kuwaiti television, quoting a statement from the 75-year-old emir's office, said a plane would fly him to London within hours. Sheikh Jaber was not known to have any serious illnesses. He has ruled the small, oil rich state since Dec. 31, 1977.

The government appeared to take the news calmly. There was no deployment of security forces on the streets of Kuwait City, and only a few police cars outside Al-Amiri Hospital, where the emir was being treated.

Brain haemorrhages are often caused by strokes, which can effects ranging from mild to devastating.

Businessman gunned down in Kushtia

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

A businessman was shot dead by unidentified assailants at village Baradi in sadar upazila at midnight on Thursday.

The victim was identified as Ratan Chakraborty, 35, son of Tripada Chakraborty.

Police said a gang of 15 entered Ratan's house and demanded Tk 50,000 as toll. As Ratan refused to oblige, one of the gang members shot him point blank. Ratan died on the spot.

Police recovered the body yesterday morning and sent it to sadar hospital for autopsy.

Businessman in the town held a protest rally yesterday and demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

A case was filed with sadar thana in this connection.

Correction

In The Daily Star story printed yesterday "Army deployment to bolster public confidence," the gallantry award received by Chief of Army Staff for his valour in the liberation War should read as Bir Pratik. The inadvertent error is regretted.



The students honoured yesterday by The Daily Star pose for photograph. Economist Prof Muhammad Yunus, litterateur Prof Abdullah Abu Syeed and The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam are seen with them.

Employment Bank at each upazila if re-elected: Hasina

BSS, UNB, Dohar

Awami League chief and former prime minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said, if voted to power, her government will take the employment bank to each upazila to enable unemployed youths to borrow Taka 50,000 interest-free as loan without collateral.

"We had already set up the employment bank while in power to provide loan to the unemployed youths and the facilities will be expanded to every upazila if Awami League returns to power," she told a massive election rally at Joypara playground in support of her party candidate Salman Fazlur Rahman, popularly known as Salman F Rahman from Dhaka-1 constituency.

Amidst cheers and clapping, the AL chief said, "You elect Salman Rahman and we will be with you and huge development programmes will take place here."

As part of her electioneering in the area, Sheikh Hasina was addressing a series of huge meetings at Dohar, Srinagar Nababganj and Keraniganj.

She said the people of the area cast their votes in favour of 'Sheaf of paddy', the election symbol of BNP, in the past. But, BNP did not develop the roads and other vital infrastructures although the area is close to the capital.

Sheikh Hasina said Barrister Nazmul Huda, the BNP candidate from the constituency openly said at a function at the Jatiya Press Club that his party had handed over hundreds of arms to the students and youths and he (Huda) also said

that he needed no votes from the people as they have armed cadres.

Referring to the assassination of Ziaur Rahman at Chittagong Circuit House, Sheikh Hasina said Zia's son asked Badruddoza Chowdhury, "Uncle, you were in the room next to the one in which our father was killed. But, Badruddoza could not give any satisfactory reply."

She said although BNP was in power for five years, it did not hold the trial of the killers of Ziaur Rahman.

In Munshiganj, she urged the people to vote for Sukumar Ranjan Ghose from Munshiganj-1.

Hasina said for a long time the people of this area had elected BNP

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

AL calls indefinite hartal in Sarishabari

UNB, Jamalpur

Sarishabari upazila Awami League has called an indefinite hartal in the upazila from today (Saturday) protesting the killing of its two leaders.

The programme was announced at a press conference at the district Awami League office yesterday.

Awami League leader Saidur Rahman and Chhatra League leader Fazlul Haq Shah Kamal were killed in attacks allegedly launched by BNP cadres in a week, Awami League leaders alleged.

They said the BNP cadres damaged the portraits of Bangabandhu and Sheikh Hasina, attacked the car

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Jayalalitha resigns as SC invalidates her appointment

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

The Chief Minister of the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu, Jayaram Jayalalitha, one of the most mercurial lady politicians of the country, yesterday resigned after the Supreme Court struck down her appointment to the post as "unconstitutional" for her conviction in a corruption case.

A five-member bench of the apex court unanimously ruled that her appointment as Chief Minister in May this year was not in accordance with the Constitution.

The bench said any one who has been convicted in a corruption case and sentenced to more than two years' of imprisonment is not eligible to occupy the post of Chief Minister.

Jayalalitha, the chief of Tamil Nadu's ruling AIADMK party which won landslide victory in state assembly poll in April this year, could not contest in the assembly elections as her nomination papers were rejected by the Returning Officer because of her conviction in a corruption case.

Under Indian law, a person who is not a member of the legislature can become a minister but has to get elected within six months of becoming the minister. Jayalalitha had to get elected as a member of Tamil Nadu assembly

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3



Jairam Jayalalitha

Don't be misled by AL's false promises, Khaleda tells rally

ABUL KALAM AZAD, from Naogaon

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has called upon the people to vote for BNP and four-party alliance candidates and not to be misled again by Awami League's "false promises".

The alliance has been formed not out of greed for power, but to free the country from AL's "misrule and corruption" and to protect its sovereignty and ensure peace and security of life and property of people, she said.

She was addressing a series of election meetings in different constituencies in Joipurhat and Naogaon districts yesterday, the second day of her three-day tour of northern districts.

"Time has come to give a befitting reply to their corruption and acts of terrorism through ballot in the October 1 parliamentary election", the former prime minister said.

"You have seen how Awami League ministers and their sons and relatives killed people. Even women were not safe from their hands. That's why I believe people will not cast vote for Awami League again to return to the dark chapter," she said.

She addressed four mammoth public meetings on the premises of Jaipurhat Circuit House, Mofizuddin Degree College and Badalgachhi High School and at Naogaon town.

Khaleda was greeted by thousands of jubilant party supporters everywhere. At every meeting, thousands of people waited for hours defying the scorching heat to listen to her.

She said the October 1 election is crucial because sovereignty, peace and development of the country depend on it. "You have to take the right decision. There is no alternative to sheaf of paddy (BNP's election symbol)."

The BNP chief said 'sheaf of paddy' is the symbol of farmers, service holders and the masses because it signifies peace and prosperity.

On Thursday night, the BNP chairperson addressed half a dozen rallies at Fulbari, Birampur, Hilly and Panchbibi.

At Fulbari, addressing a crowd that was waiting for more than five hours, Khaleda alleged that the AL government did not give due prices

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

14 members of Hazari's 'class committee' held

UNB, Feni

In a joint drive, police and BDR personnel arrested 14 members of "class committee" of Joynal Hazari and recovered two firearms and over a hundred bombs in Daganhuiyan upazila late Thursday night.

Acting on a tip off, the joint team raided a camp of the 'class committee' led by committee captain Sohail Sapua village and arrested 14 members along with a gun, 25 live cocktails, 17 cartridges, two bullets and some motorbike.

In another drive at

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

Anti-terrorism cooperation

UNB, Laxmipur

In a rare anti-terrorism cooperation, all candidates from Laxmipur-4 constituency, have promised not to use terrorists in the election.

They also committed not to hurl abuses at each other in their election campaigns.

Their commitments came from joint meetings at Ramgati bazar, Dobraganj, Char Lorence, Hajirhat, Karuna Nagar, Jamindarhat, Alexander, Sebagram and Bibirhat Wednesday.

Vowing to rid the area of terrorism, the candidates also pledged not to try to secure the release of any terrorists when they will be arrested by law-enforcers.

Organised by Ramgati Upazila Nirbahi Officer SM Jahangir Alam, the meetings were addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner SM Zahurul Islam and Additional Police Superintendent Mohammad Amin.

AL candidate Adv Abdur Rob Chowdhury, four-party candidate ABM Ashrafuddin Nizam, JSD president ASM A Rob, 11-party candidate Abdul Hadi Master, JP (Manju) Abdur Razzak Chowdhury and independent candidate Azaduddin Chowdhury addressed the meetings.



Speculations over Laden's whereabouts

AFP, Islamabad

Speculation mounted yesterday that Osama bin Laden may already have left Afghanistan if so, the breadth of his global terrorist network offers numerous safe havens.

A Pakistani daily, The News, reported that the Saudi-born militant had left the country on Monday, ahead of a meeting of Afghan Islamic clerics to discuss US demands for his extradition.

The meeting ended on Thursday with the adoption of an edict asking Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to persuade bin Laden chief suspect in last week's attacks on New York and Washington to leave the country voluntarily.

The News said former interior minister Naseerullah Babar had also claimed that bin Laden had left four days ago.

Speculation about bin Laden's whereabouts has been rife since

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

2 killed, over 60 hurt in pre-polls clashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least two persons were killed and over 60 injured in pre-election clashes involving activists of rival political parties in different parts of the country yesterday and on Thursday night.

One of the dead was identified as Rustom Ali, an AL activist, while the other as Rupak Chakma, a tribal leader.

Rustom Ali was shot dead in a clash between AL and BNP activists at Maghbazar in the city on Thursday night.

Rupak Chakma was gunned down when gunmen opened fire on the activists of United People's Democratic Front (UPDF) at Madhumongal Hedmanpara village in Panchhari upazila of Khagrachhari district yesterday.

In Maghbazar, activists of the rival parties were locked in a gunfight for about half an hour from 9.30 pm leaving Rustom killed and 10 others injured.

Abul Hossain, uncle of the victim, filed a murder case with Ramna thana yesterday against 15 people including, BNP ward commissioners Chowdhury Alam, Arif, and Khalid Alam.

Tribal leader Rupak Chakma was shot dead and two others Sujit Chakma and Mohon Chakma were injured when they were conducting election campaign for UPDF candidate Prasit Bikas Khisa at about 2.30 pm, according to our correspondent.

Rupak died on the spot while Sujit and Mohon were undergoing treatment at Panchhari Army Dressing Centre.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Cable TV men observe strike

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Subscribers of the satellite cable television were deprived of regular programmes yesterday as the Cable Operators Association of Bangladesh (COAB) suspended transmission in protest against the murder of a colleague.

The COAB shut down all channels in almost all parts of the city yesterday protesting the killing of Nasir Iqbal, a cable operator of Katusur in the city's Mohammadpur area.

Iqbal was shot dead Tuesday by

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

CMP identifies 20 areas as 'vulnerable'

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, Chittagong

Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has identified twenty areas in the city as 'vulnerable', where 'rigging and forcible capture of polling centres' may take place during the October 1 general election.

These are: Agrabad Commerce College area, Madarbari, Nasirabad, Politechnique, Sher Shah colony, Debarpar, Askerdighi, Kazir Dewri, Laikhan Bazar, Gosaildanga, Nandankanon, Chawk Bazar, Chandgaon residential area, Baizid

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1