

Parties should accept

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the caretaker government or deployment of army along might not create the conditions needed for fair and peaceful vote until the political parties extend their honest support to the authorities.

"I would appeal to political parties to renew their commitments of non-violence and accepting the poll results they made to former US president Jimmy Carter."

The European Union, Menezes said, likes to see the political parties engaged in the election accept the results courageously without "ifs and buts."

If a political party accepts defeat gracefully, it would gain tremendous sympathy and respect from the people, he observed.

"At the end of the day, there will be winners or losers and both the parties will abide by that in the interest of building democratic institutions in the country for which the EU is engaged in the election observation," said the envoy of the important donor community.

In reply to a question, the ambassador said he thought that the deployment of army could lower the scale of violence and create confidence among the voters for peaceful and impartial elections.

He welcomed some new measures by the Election Commission to improve the whole election system. He thinks that empowering the army with the authority of arrest and quick disposal of election disputes are positive moves.

About foreign election observers, Menezes said international observation is now part of the electoral process, which would help

Recruiters' malpractice

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International Airport be freed from corrupt practices with a view to stopping illegal migration. Many Bangladeshi youths end up being harassed and humiliated on foreign soil for this, they said.

It also called for documentation of Bangladeshi working abroad and guarantee of their rights to franchise.

Talking to this correspondent, WARBE representatives Syed Saiful Haque and Anisur Rahman Khan referred to the most recent case of an 'undocumented' Bangladeshi worker, Milon, who has been languishing for several months in South Korea because of prolonged illness.

After months of frantic efforts by different local and international labour bodies, the Korean Air has now agreed to provide a free ticket to Milon up to Bangkok. As Bangladesh embassy in South Korea regretted to provide any help to poor Milon, all leading media in that country started campaigning for assistance to send Milon home, sources in Dhaka said.

It is learnt that the Ministry of Labour and Employment is now trying to make some arrangement for early home coming of Milon.

Official sources said that it was

AL candidates

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nominated candidates from respective constituencies. "Otherwise you will be considered expelled from the party on charge of violating party decision and breaking party discipline."

Hasina hoped that the dissident candidates, with their good sense, would show respect to the letter as well as the party decision in larger interest of the country, nation and the party.

Among others, Aminul Islam Ratan from Mymensingh-4 and Shahriar Rumi from Faridpur-5 got the ultimatum to quit the race.

No Baghdad

FROM PAGE 1
attacks against the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington, said: "Not very, at this time. We're still looking but not very."

The United States has named Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi-born dissident who allegedly operates a network of Islamic militants from exile in Afghanistan, the prime suspect in the attacks and has said he is wanted "dead or alive."

In the past week, Israelis have been speculating that Washington might attack Iraq as part of its declared war against global terrorism and that Baghdad would fire Scud missiles at Israel as it did in the 1991 Gulf War.

The Israeli army reported over the past days an increase in demand at gas mask distribution centres in operation since the 1991 conflict. Israeli military planners feared at the time Iraq would launch Scuds with chemical or biological warheads.

In the interview, Malka said there was no reason for Israelis to panic and run to refresh their gas mask kits."

He forecast that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would target Israel only as a last resort and would be wary of exposing now "what he has tried to hide for the past 10 years," a reference to Scud missiles and launchers.

"But if he feels that the noose is tightening around his neck, he might take steps that would put us in the picture," Malka said.

improve the election system here in Bangladesh.

The EU is deploying around 60 long and short-term observers to monitor the much-orchestrated election. It is expected to make an initial impression about the election on October 1 and final report later on.

Some 200 foreign observers are expected to arrive here to watch the crucial vote.

Asked if any confusion could arise out of contradictory observations and reports by foreign observers, he said that a Joint International Observation Group would be formed with chiefs of all the observation teams to coordinate their works.

He, however, said the Election Commission's say is final about the elections it is going to conduct.

To a query about complaints by political parties against some local NGOs who are going to field observers, Menezes said the onus lies with those organisations to show that they are truly objective and neutral to concerned Returning Officers.

Asked if the foreign observers would require any special security here after terrorist attacks on America, he said at the moment there was no serious cause of concern and everything here was running fairly.

Another question, he said it is understandable that the whole world is under shock following the terrorist strikes and Bangladeshi is also affected by that. Obviously the interest in Bangladeshi election will not be as high as it would have been.

200 hurt in pre-polls clashes

FROM PAGE 1

Bhawaniganj area, a group of people, reportedly the activists of Awami League, attacked the procession at Dewlia More that led to a violent clash between the two parties.

Both the warring groups used lethal weapons during the clash that continued for about half an hour.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

In Patuakhali, about 25 people were injured in separate pre-election clashes between Awami League and BNP activists in Baufal Upazila Saturday night.

Police and witnesses said the riot erupted when processions of the two rival political parties came face-to-face in the village of Baliagram.

Eight of the injured Abdul Rouf, Hasan Ali, Moksed Ali, Lal Chan, Hazrat, Farid, Hamid and Harun were admitted to Manikganj Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

Besides, AL activists attacked an election rally of BNP at Kheyaghat

area in Kachhipara leaving five people injured.

Nine of the injured- Bashar, Sobrah, Nurul, Sabuj, Yunus, Kalam, Ruhul, Kabir and Farooq were admitted to Baufal Upazila Health Complex.

In Manikganj, about 20 people were injured, eight critically, in sporadic clashes between the activists of Awami League and BNP in Ghor Upazila Saturday night.

Police and witnesses said the riot erupted when processions of the two rival political parties came face-to-face in the village of Baliagram.

Witnesses said some 15 people were wounded at Charkachua bazar while five others at Charmizan bazar.

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