

# EC warns 19 more candidates

UNB, Dhaka

The Election Commission yesterday warned 19 more candidates for violating the election code of conduct.

The EC in separate letters cautioned them to take corrective measures and refrain from the offence, saying failure will result in imposition of fine in cash.

The latest warnings raised the total number of candidates warned by the EC to 176.

The warnings were issued to the candidates following recommendations of the district electoral inquiry committees.

Following is the list of candidates warned for various reasons:

Moulvibazar-3: Azizur Rahman (AL) for procession with trucks and motorcycles, Saifur Rahman (BNP) for the same reason.

Satkhira-2: Nazrul Islam (AL) for provocative posters hurting religious sentiment.

Gaibandha-2: Lutfar Rahman (AL) for using loudspeakers prohibited during specified hours.

Pabna-3: Anwarul Islam (BNP) for graffiti.

Mymensingh-5: A K M Mosharraf Hossain (BNP) for coloured posters.

Rashida Mohiuddin (AL) for the same reason.

Magura-2: M Shafiquzzaman (AL) for using symbol bigger than the permissible size.

Sirajganj-6: Major (retd) Manjur Kader for cycle procession and using loudspeaker prohibited during given hours.

Feni-1: ATM Golam Maula Chowdhury (Islami Olkya Front) for coloured posters.

Feni-3: Mahbulul Alam Tara (AL) for coloured poster.

Barguna-2: Anwar Hossain Manju (JP-Manju) for making announcement through the poura chairman that tax will be relieved.

Nurul Islam Moni (BNP) for coloured poster.

Chandpur-2: Nurul Huda (BNP) for making malign and provocative comments on Awami League.

Chandpur-1: Ehsanul Haq Milon (BNP) for obstructing Awami League's campaign.

Pabna 1: Prof Abu Syeed for using symbol larger than permissible size, using loudspeaker prohibited during specified hours and graffiti.

Pabna-5: Maulana Abdus Sobhan (Jamaat) for using loudspeaker prohibited during specified hours and motorcycle procession.

# 8 powerful blasts

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Khulna and at a CPB rally at Paltan Maidan and Bangabandhu Avenue in the capital seems to have made little progress till now.

Explosions at the CPB rally and Bangabandhu Avenue left seven people killed and more than 50 injured on January 20 this year.

Seven people were killed and 10 injured in the blast at Kadiani mosque on October 8, 1999.

The investigators have so far submitted charge sheet only in the case concerning the first such incident at a Udichi function in Jessore which left 10 people killed and over 100 injured on March 6, 1999.

An explosion at Narayanganj Awami League office claimed 22 lives and left 100 people injured on June 16 this year.

On June 3, 10 people were killed and at least 30 injured in a bomb blast at a Catholic Church at Bainarchar in Gopalganj. Both the incidents in June took place while police were conducting a special drive across the country.

Ten people were killed and more than 20 injured in an explosion at Ramna Batamul in the city on April 14 this year.

Detective police are investigating the incident. Nine persons were arrested.

CID investigators submitted charge sheet in the Udichi case indicting BNP leader Tarikul Islam and a number of leaders of a regional smuggling syndicate.

But initially CID investigators had pointed fingers at 'fundamentalists'.

In view of repeated incidents of powerful bomb blasts and recovery of bombs, police have specially trained some personnel but they are yet to be equipped with necessary weapons, police officials said.

Meanwhile, various circles are also raising questions about the role and efficiency of intelligence agencies as they failed to give prior warning about any of the seven bomb incidents and planting of bombs in different parts of the country in the last 30 months.

# Bush authorises

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Aerospace Defence Command (NORAD), told the Times that the two generals will make the decision only as a last resort and if there is no time to consult Bush or a higher-ranking general.

Eberhart, citing security reasons, would not speculate exactly when shooting a plane down could be deemed necessary.

"If there's time, we'd go all the way to the president," Eberhart told the daily. "Otherwise, the standing orders have been pushed down to the regional level."

Before the deadly September 11 attacks, there were no formal rules on how the US military should deal with such a situation, Eberhart told the Times.

In the hours after the attacks, Bush ordered the Air Force to destroy any airplane that threatened Washington, Vice President Dick Cheney said on September 16.

"If somebody had called us and said, 'We have a hijacking 100 miles out, coming from Europe or South America, there are terrorists on board and they've taken over the airplane,' that's a scenario we've practised," Eberhart told the daily.

"We did not practice and I wish to God we had a scenario where plane takes off out of Boston and, minutes later, crashes into New York City."

"This is a whole new ballgame," he said.

Air Force Brigadier General Michael Gould, commander of NORAD's operations centre, told the Times that the military is "trying to game this out and anticipate where terrorists could strike next."

"We've improved our ability to communicate with the FAA (the Federal Aviation Administration)," Gould said, adding: "We really never had the need to respond like this before."

## US citizens

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It urged the US citizens in Bangladesh "to defer non-essential travel within the country and to exercise extreme caution from September 30 to October 7".

The advisory added, "Americans are requested to be alert to their surroundings, and limit local travel. All Americans should adopt a low profile, avoid crowds, gatherings and congested areas, and remain inside residences, schools, and workplaces to the maximum extent possible."

# Air, sea ports on alert

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extending a number of facilities that will help the country's economy grow and democracy flourish.

Dhaka is learnt to be expecting permission from Washington for quota- and duty-free access of its readymade garments to the US market. Nearly 45 per cent of the country's readymade garments are produced for the US market.

Washington, by allowing unrestricted access of garments into the US, will contribute to empowerment of nearly two million women already working in the sector. Besides some ten million more people are indirectly associated with the RMG sector.

Besides, entry of quota- and duty-free access of Bangladeshi goods into the US market will contribute to more economic growth, strengthening of democratic institutions and political stability in Bangladesh, which the US now considers a key ally in the region.

It was learnt that the US has already extended 32 least developed countries (LDCs) in the sub-Saharan and Caribbean regions duty and quota-free access in the RMG sector.

Bangladesh was learnt to be expecting more benefits for boosting the IT sector including easier obtainment of work permits for computer programmers. It also expects better facilities for more than three hundred thousand Bangladeshis staying and working in the United States.

There is also expectation that a more liberal visa regime will be established, and genuine students and visitors will be issued US entry permits.

Vigilance at ports

Meanwhile, the Bangladesh Air Force has deployed its officers and personnel in all the air bases and maintenance units for their security throughout the country. The Bangladesh Navy has also stepped up vigilance at both Chittagong and Mongla Ports.

The Navy and the Coast Guard have been deployed in coastal areas and along the coastal line. Some BAF officers along with the Bangladesh Army officers are working jointly at the airports and seaports.

The army, stationed at the Chittagong Port since 1998 when a food cell for handling ships carrying food grains was set up, has stepped up its vigil. The army has also been deployed at the port to ensure security at its protected areas and jetty gates.

A naval flotilla is also based in Chittagong close to the main harbour.

Vigilance has also been stepped up at the country's second port at Mongla.

## Hasina: AL to win

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pre-election scenario marked by terrible bomb blasts at Awami League's election rallies at different places including Bagerhat, Sunamganj and Rangpur leaving many of her party workers dead.

Blaming her opponents for this unabated terrorism that has vitiated the election atmosphere, she said even minority voters are being intimidated so that they do not turn up at the polling centres on October 1.

Hasina who ended her cross-country marathon election campaign and returned to the capital late Wednesday night said people are eagerly waiting to vote for Awami League.

"We want free, fair, impartial and peaceful election," the former Prime Minister said.

## Bomb scare

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yesterday morning.

An unidentified person told the college by phone that a bomb had been planted at the college premises.

But the phone call proved phoney, as a hectic search failed to find out any explosives.

## FEMA

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conduct and performance of election officials and others concerned.

Ahsan said the situation is still marked by apprehension, uncertainty and a sense of insecurity. "There has been a steady increase in violence across the country and in most areas at an unacceptably high rate, affecting more than half of the constituencies." The situation has taken a serious turn in Bhola, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Sunamganj and Chittagong, he said.

Arms recovery drive did not make any significant progress in more than 50 per cent of the constituencies. Violation of election code of conduct over the last two weeks has raised questions about enforcement of rules by the authorities. If this trend continues, it may affect voting, Ahsan added.

He feared that voters would not be able to cast votes safely and peacefully unless concerted efforts are made to check violence and improve law and order. Political parties should ask their supporters to show utmost restraint, he felt.

About reports on resignation of FEMA officials, he said those were exaggerated or not true. "Our accounts are open to inspection, we work in a transparent way."

FEMA will deploy two observers at each polling station on the election day and have a coordination centre at Sonargaon Hotel in the city on October 1 and 2.

FEMA general secretary Firoz M Hasan and vice-chairman Ataur Rahman were also present at the press briefing.

## ETV broadcast

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list to the Ministry of Information, declaring ETV disqualified. But another list was sent to the ministry later on that day, showing ETV on top of the list of bidders.

They further alleged that the licensing agreement was signed with A S Mahmud although he did not participate in the bid. But subsequently the licence was transferred in the name of ETV Ltd.

The petitioners also pointed out that ETV did not obtain any clearance certificate, needed under the Telegraph Act, to function as a TV channel. It set up key-point installations (KPI) at BTV building without permission from the National Security Intelligence (NSI).

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam, Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam moved the case on behalf of the government. Barrister Rafiqul Huq and Barrister Moniruzzaman represented ETV. Barrister Abdur Razzaq moved on behalf of the petitioners.

Meanwhile, ETV Audience Forum at a meeting yesterday alleged that a vested quarter was engaged in a conspiracy against ETV and condemned it.



PHOTO: STAR

Lawyers formed a human chain in front of the National Press Club yesterday protesting the threats on the voters belonging to minority community across the country.

# Clashes leave one dead

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Jamaat at Polashia village in Sadar upazila yesterday, according to UNB.

Police and witnesses said a procession of Jamaat came under attack when it was passing Awami League leader Megu chairman's house at about 5-30 pm.

Of the injured, Nanda Mia, Dulal Maju, Abed Ali, Habil Uddin and Ayer Ali were admitted to local health complex.

Police have been deployed in the area to avert further untoward incident.

In Gaibandha, 18 people were injured in two separate clashes between the supporters of Awami League and Jatiya Party (Ershad) at Sadullapur and Saghata upazila yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said at least 10 persons were injured at Bhatgram village under Sadullapur upazila as the supporters of Raushan Ershad attacked the supporters of Advocate Fazle Rabbi.

Following the incident, the supporters of Fazle Rabbi attacked the supporters of Raushan Ershad at Saghata, leaving eight JP men injured.

In Kushtia, a series of clashes between Awami League and BNP supporters at different places of Daulatpur upazila yesterday left 30 people injured.

At least 48 election camps of the two sides were damaged during the five-hour clashes beginning at 9 am

at Chardawlatpur, Hakimpur, Kaporpora, Chuamallikpara, Pachamadia, Refayetpur, Piarpur, Aamdaha, Hosenabad, Mathurapur and Filipnagar villages.

Police said the clashes took place as a sequel to Wednesday's reported attack on AL supporters by BNP activists at Baragangdia.

The clash spread to 15 villages where 32 AL men and 16 BNP men were injured. Two motorbikes of AL supporters were also set ablaze during the clashes.

In Chittagong, at least 20 people were injured, three with bullets, in a pre-election violence between Awami League and BNP supporters at Moulvir Hat in Chandanaish thana yesterday.

Some 15 houses were also looted and eight shops at Moulvir Hat set on fire reportedly by the BNP supporters during the hour-long clash started at about 5.30 pm.

Police said the trouble ensued when some BNP cadres attacked the house of Thana AL vice president Habibur Rahman and assaulted his wife.

Hearing the news, AL supporters from the nearby AL election office came and locked in the clash where several rounds of gunshots were fired.

Army and police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also arrested three people from the spot.

Three BCL activists who received bullet injuries in the clash

were identified as Shamsul Islam, Shahabuddin and Abul Kalam.

Earlier, in the morning BNP supporters allegedly damaged three election offices of Awami League at Badamtali in Chandanaish.

In Panchagarh, at least 10 people were injured in a clash between Awami League and BNP activists at Chandanbari in Boda upazila on Wednesday night.

Police said the clash took place at about 9 pm when election processions of the two rival parties confronted near Milonbazar Primary School.

Of the injured, Shah Alam Manu, Zakaria, Rajen, Panchanan and Arif were admitted to a local hospital.

On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. They also picked up an AL activist, Zaherul Islam, from the scene.

In Bagerhat, pre-election clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP at Shialkabi area of Kachua upazila left 15 people injured.

Sources said the clash ensued yesterday morning between the activists of the rival political parties over playing an election cassette.

Six of the injured were admitted to Kachua and Chitalmari health complexes. The condition of local Awami League leader Zeilal Sheikh, 45, was stated to be critical.

Besides, eight election camps were damaged during the clash.

# Alliance to curb corruption

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no experience. I am now confident about running the state affairs smoothly, tackling any situation and bringing revolutionary changes in the country."

Asked if other component parties of the 4-party alliance will be included in the cabinet even if BNP gets a simple majority in parliament, she said "We will include our alliance partners in the cabinet even if my party gets two-thirds majority. We have decided to form government together to build the country."

Referring to her month-long electioneering across the country, she said a massive wave has been created and people are eagerly waiting to vote for BNP and its allies to ensure good governance, development, peace and security.

"The nation is united under the banner of the BNP-led alliance because the people are fed up with the Awami misrule in last five years. Terrorism and corruption by Awami league have confirmed our victory."

"You (newsmen) have witnessed how people are spontaneously attending our meetings. I think we will do much better than in the 1991 election. This time we will also be able to knock down Awami League strongholds and win many

seats."

Khaleda Zia claimed that BNP would win the maximum number of seats in greater Mymensingh, Sylhet and Barisal districts.

She however replied in the negative when asked whether an atmosphere for free and fair election has been created.

She said the voter list should have to be corrected. "Controversial and partisan officials must be removed from vital positions. Recovery of illegal arms and arrest of terrorists are prerequisite for a free, fair and peaceful polls".

The former prime Minister said the AL government in the last six months of its tenure gave arms licences to more than 10,000 party cadres, leaders and their wives and sons.

"As member of the Army, my family is entitled to licensed firearm. But we have not availed this facility", she said.

She said that the BNP has demanded of the caretaker government effective measures against any possible 'media and administrative coup' as was done in 1996 polls.

About 1996 polls, she said, "We can't imagine that government officials will nakedly help a certain political party and reverse the polls

result. Results of 44 seats were snatched away through media and administrative coup. We won 170 seats in the last general election."

She said if BNP is voted to power, it will not politicise the administration "as was done by Awami League".

She said BNP will publish a white paper on politicisation of the administration by the AL government.

The BNP Chairperson said the army should immediately begin a massive drive to recover illegal arms.

## Khagrachhari

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ants fled, leaving behind two SBBL (single barrel bore long) guns, which were handed over to police later.

With the news of attack spreading, the UDPF workers brought out a procession in the district town, blaming the attack on the Jana Sanghati Samity that is going to boycott the coming election.

The incident occurred amid mounting tension in the district, adding to the count of violent incidents in which four UDPF workers were killed and 20 injured in the last 15 days.

terrorist activities.

Among the list of accounts were those of bin Laden and his al-Qaeda network.

In Basle, Switzerland, the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) said it was helping national central banks track the money trail of suspected terror groups, by creating a central list of named suspects.

The tiny Pacific tax haven of Nauru, which operates around 400 off-shore banks - about a third of them apparently of Middle Eastern origin - all registered to one government mail box, was under scrutiny amid fears it could have been a conduit for terrorist funds, diplomats said.

In Uganda, officials seized the registration documents of a firm thought to have links with bin Laden.

Acting on information from the CIA or their own surveillance operations, European security agencies have made a string of arrests in a bid to piece together a trans-Atlantic connection to the September 11 attacks.

France, Spain, Belgium, Britain and the Netherlands are holding a total of 23 men suspected of links with bin Laden and al-Qaeda.

In Germany, police are trying to trace an underground Islamic cell in Hamburg, where three of the 19 hijackers involved in the US terror blitz are known to have studied, while in Italy the investigation focuses on networks based in Naples and Milan.

On Wednesday, at least 10 people were arrested in the United States by officials probing allegations that radicals planned to mount chemical attacks on US cities.

China said it arrested a number of suspected separatists in the mainly Moslem province of Xinjiang province, which borders Afghanistan.

Despite its long alliance with the United States and the West, Pakistan, at the frontline of the simmering conflict against bin Laden and Afghanistan, had been reluctant so far to pay anything more than lip service to Washington because of its close ties with the Taliban.

Bin Laden has been based in Afghanistan since 1996 but the Taliban claimed since last week that they do not know where he is. Pakistan has said the same.

Although there is widespread support for President Pervez Musharraf's decision to co-operate with the United States against terrorism, any operation seen as an attack on Afghanistan is likely to trigger a backlash in Pakistan.

In an effort to minimise opposition, the government Thursday organised rallies across the country to demonstrate public support for Musharraf's decision to back the US.

In Islamabad, thousands of students waving Pakistani flags, shouting pro-government slogans and singing nationalist songs assembled in front of the parliament

- suspended since Musharraf seized power in a 1999 military coup.

The deal on intelligence-sharing came as the United States broadly hinted that it would support the opposition Northern Alliance, a loose coalition of anti-Taliban forces that control the northern tenth of the country.

Afghan sources in Peshawar, near the border with Afghanistan, said Taliban control over key provinces in the country's east was weakening, with several commanders about to drop their support for the militia.

## EC: Minority

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24,459 complaints and investigated 3,000 of those.

For announcement of election result, Bangladesh Television is setting up a booth at the conference of EC Secretariat. Ekushey Television will also simultaneously broadcast polls result.

Meanwhile, a three-member delegation of the European Union polls monitoring group led by Joaquim Miranda da Silva which met the CEC yesterday made some queries about the coming election. They also made some observations on the basis of newspaper reports on the pre-election situation.

The two others in the delegation were EU Ambassador Antonio B de Souza Menezes and Deputy Chief Observer Polo Saliva.

# Hasina, Khaleda

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the scheduled ones and the latter had to skip most of the unscheduled assemblies thanks to her special security. Khaleda ignored the security caution, thus elongating the list of rallies.

Hasina concentrated her electioneering more on areas where her party won last time. However, she also put thrust on areas where it lost by small margins in a bid to brighten the party's chances. Khaleda's strategy was a bit different, however. In her extensive campaign, she attempted to boost the party prospects in the seats her party lost to the AL in 1996 while trying to retain the seats won last time around.

Both leaders went ahead with marathon campaigns into the dead of night. An early beginner, Hasina continued her day until midnight while Khaleda, a late starter, rounded off the canvassing in the small hours.

In their electoral battle, the two prime minister hopefuls had many things to promise the voters and many more to say against each other. In their desperate bid to outsmart each other, the two at times broadsided their roles in and out of power.

Election pledges dominated their speeches, while failures and misdeeds of the two former ruling parties were on the same scale in their fiery statements.

The issues of terrorism and corruption had an equal leverage on the campaigns of the two contenders, even when they made common pledges.

The pledge to free the society from terrorism and corruption figured supremely in Khaleda's speech against Hasina's for a poverty-free prosperous

Bangladesh.

Being the immediate-past prime minister, Hasina had had a lead over her predecessor Khaleda while highlighting her government's rare achievements like food autarky and stable prices of the essentials. Conversely, Khaleda cashed in on widespread terrorism during the Hasina's rule.

Islamic issues dominated the election campaign as both sides were trying to undermine each other in their war of words over their allegiance to Islam.

At the tag end of campaigning, the two leaders accused each other of attempting to subvert the election by unleashing terrorism and attacking each other's party.

With only two days to election, the two leading parties are busy giving finishing touches to their preparations and examining their prospects keeping watch on the caretaker government and the Election Commission.

## Hasina turns 55

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Eldest among two daughters and three sons of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Hasina was born on September 28, 1947 at her paternal home at Tungipara.

She stepped into politics during her student life when she became vice-president of the Eden College Students Union in 1965. Hasina was married to renowned nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Mia, who hails from Rangpur, in 1968. She is blessed by a son and a daughter. She graduated from Dhaka University in 1973.

She was in West Germany when her father was assassinated in a military putsch on August 15, 1975. However, ending a six-year exile after her father's assassination, Hasina returned home on May 17, 1981 to steer the Awami League in a hostile political atmosphere.

She led her party in every national movement against martial law and dictatorial regimes. She was confined inside the Dhaka Cantonment in 1983, was under house arrest for two months in 1984, and was again confined for three months in the following year and for one more month in 1986.

Finally, she guided the Awami League to stage a comeback to power in 1996 after long 21 years.

Fondly referred to by her admirers and party supporters as 'The Daughter of Democracy,' Hasina has authored quite a good number of books. She has received many prestigious honorary degrees from national and international universities.

## BBC to broadcast Hasina's phone-in programme today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BBC Bengali Service as part of its special programme on Bangladesh Election-2001, has already recorded a phone-in programme of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina. The programme will be broadcast today, September 28 at 7.30 and 10.30 pm, local BBC office said.

BBC is also expecting to record a similar programme of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

# Int'l polls monitors

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ing areas, according to newspaper reports.

Despite the violent undercurrents, foreign observers yesterday expressed a determined confidence that the polls, the country's eighth since independence from Pakistan in 1971, would be largely unaffected.

"The elections of 1991 and 1996 were fair and elections in 2001 would be fairer," United Nations Development Programme representative Jorgen Lissner said, according to the state-run BSS news agency.

Tony Reis, co-ordinator of the United Nations Electoral Assistance Secretariat (UNES), said election observers would provide a vital role in maintaining law and order.

"Hostility between the two major parties is the single largest obstacle to ensuring a democratic environment in Bangladesh. Fair polls, free of all sorts of intimidation, should be ensured by renouncing the use of violence."

"Everybody - the caretaker government, the Election Commission, the media, the people in general - wants free and fair elections and they may help bring a

peaceful and orderly situation on and before the election day," Reis is quoted by the BSS to have said.

Observers, including representatives from Canada, Japan, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan and a European Union delegation headed by chief monitor Joaquim Miranda, were being briefed by officials yesterday.

They will join more than 300,000 local observers, largely from non-governmental organisations, appointed by the caretaker government of Justice Latifur Rahman, which took over from Hasina's administration earlier this year to organise the polls.

As final preparations were being made, the authorities were taking no chances over further outbreaks of trouble.

Some 67,000 military and paramilitary troops have been deployed in the run-up to the polls in an effort to restore confidence among the 75 million voters. The government has also announced it will take the unprecedented move of shutting down mobile phone networks on the election day to scupper attempts to organise last-minute riots.

# Swiss assembly

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the Zug mafia".

The attacker, a Swiss national from the Zurich region, was also armed with a pistol, the ATS news agency quoted local police as saying.

More weapons were found in his car, which was parked in front of the building.

An ATS reporter, who was covering a session of the local parliament at the time of the shooting, said that "there was blood everywhere", with casualties lying on the floor and small fires burning in the assembly hall.

His voice quivering, the reporter said that there appeared to be an explosion, possibly from a grenade, and there was thick smoke inside the hall.

The ATS reported that the man started shooting at parliamentarians, followed by members of the local government and then at journalists in the hall.

Among the dead were health director Monika Hutter-Haffiger, public works director Jean-Paul Flachsman and interior department director Peter Brossard, Tele24 television reported.

The president of the local government, Hans-Peter Uster, was among the 10 injured.

There are 80 seats in the parliament of Zug, a small canton, or region, in central Switzerland with 92,000 inhabitants.

Peter Hess, the speaker of the Swiss assembly, the National

Council, interrupted debate to tell deputies about the incident, and said three local deputies in Zug were among the dead.

"I can confirm that an incident has taken place, but we have no further details to give for the time being," a police spokesman told AFP by telephone.

About 30 ambulances and two helicopters were rushed to the scene, and the city centre of Zug was immediately sealed off, while local residents described scenes of chaos on the street outside.

"I saw people rushing out of the building. It was really horrible, I was shocked," Viktor Schach, a shopkeeper opposite the parliament building told Swiss TV.

Informed of the attack during a visit to Brussels, Swiss President Moritz Leuenberger said he was "severely shocked".

Most Swiss men carry out annual military service until the age of 40 and keep their automatic rifle at home but incidents involving army rifles are rarely reported.

Shooting rampages are virtually unheard of in Switzerland, and there was palpable sense of shock even among Swiss journalists reporting on the incident.

A closely-knit community, the area is favoured in the business community because of its low taxation and attracts many foreigners.