

Khaleda doubts EC

EC in deep

FROM PAGE 1 "The caretaker government will be able to stand down with honour if it transfers power peacefully after holding free and fair elections," Khaleda said.

School ground, she said. "The nation will benefit greatly if BNP-led four-party is elected to power as her party completed all its pledges of 1991 and 2001 elections," she said.

"We are committed to reducing prices of essentials and people will be able to lead their lives peacefully," she said. She pledged to set up Biral land port if her candidate wins from the constituency.

Prior to her speech in Dinajpur Gor-e-Shaheed Moydan she visited the graveyard of her mother and sister and offered prayers. Later she went to her ancestral home in Balubari in Dinajpur town.

"I'm still struggling against the ill-motives of the caretaker government and I'm giving you the commitment that I will remain beside you as my sister and mother did," she said.

While addressing in Rangpur on Wednesday, Khaleda promised that Rangpur and its adjoining districts will be brought under gas supply network if BNP-led alliance forms the next government.

Hundreds of people of the areas ignoring intensive cold weather waited at the ground till midnight to attend the meeting.

She also pledged to would set up an export processing zone in Rangpur region to remove munga permanently.

Khaleda is scheduled to address more rallies in Joypraha, Naogaon, Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj and Natore today before returning to Dhaka.

Addressing a meeting at Thakurgaon Govt Boys' High

4-party faces

FROM PAGE 1 be held without ballot papers. Asked how, he answered, "Aren't they [courts] considering if it's humanly possible? Since they think we can, then of course we can."

Replying to another query, the polls chief said, "The commission is receiving a court order every five minutes."

Asked if the EC will file appeal against those, he said, "We don't have the energy and patience for that."

Throughout the day yesterday the commissioners and EC officials were busy trying to work out a solution to the problem.

They even discussed if it was possible to postpone elections in the constituencies in question and hold those after the matters are settled at courts, meeting sources said.

Another Dubai developer Meraas said it was reviewing plans for a massive \$95 billion housing project in a sign the global economic crisis is beginning to hit the booming city-state, reports AFP.

After much deliberation, the EC decided to accept the candidature and directed its secretariat officials to ask the returning officers concerned to take necessary measures.

"We are simply reviewing our business strategy, as well as the phasing and rollout of the Jumeira Gardens project to make sure the development proceeds in the most opportune way to meet changing investor needs," the company says.

Referring to the complexities of symbol allocation, the EC officials said they shudder even to think of what is awaiting them.

Besides construction workers, a good number of Bangladeshis also work in the restaurants in the UAE and other Middle Eastern countries. They are also concerned over future job cuts.

To make matters worse, some of those who got back their candidacy belong to BNP, AL and JP. Others from the parties in those constituencies have already been allocated symbols.

Swapan Rozario, a cook at a restaurant in Dubai, told The Daily Star over phone: "Customers are very thin in the restaurants. We never know what will happen next."

A senior official said the ROs will have to allocate the parties' electoral symbols to the new ones, cancelling the previous allocations.

"Our embassies in many countries don't play a positive role to facilitate overseas employment," he said.

"Now those from whom the symbols will be taken away might move to the court against the decisions," he added.

The next government's first task in the sector should be to tap the potential job markets and improve relations with the major manpower importing countries, he added.

The candidates for BNP winning court orders are Golam Mawla Khan Bablu in Sirajganj-5, Major (ret'd) Manjur Kader in the same constituency, Kabir Ahmad Bhuayan in Laxmipur-2, Shahidul Alam Talukder in Patuakhali-2, Abdus Sobhan in Barisal-1 and Abdul Gafur Bhuayan in Comilla-10, from AL are Matiuur Rahman in Mymensingh-4, Habibur Rahman Mollah in Dhaka-5 and Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir in Chandpur-1, and from Jatiya Party are Fakir Ashraf in Netrakona-2 and Kazi Zafar Ahmed in Comilla-11.

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Terrors back

"We want to give something to the country. Give us a chance to serve you and the country. We shall build a developed Bangladesh where none will starve or live without clothes, education, housing and healthcare facilities," the former premier said.

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Test, ODI series

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UN chief

FROM PAGE 16 He said a high-level panel of the UN chief, headed by Francisc Vendrell, will visit Bangladesh next week to assess and report on the preparations for the elections and on developments in the immediate post-election period.

Overseas employment

HC declares detention of Falu illegal

UN tribunal jails

FROM PAGE 16 remarks of two mega construction companies of the Emirates. Dubai property giant Nakheel -- behind grandiose projects like a one-kilometre tower and artificial palm-shaped islands -- said on November 30 it has fired 500 staffs because of the global financial crisis.

A manpower agent dealing mostly with Saudi Arabia said the case in Saudi Arabia is no different from that in the UAE. "But there are some countries -- Libya, Sudan, Lebanon and Syria -- which have good demand for Bangladeshi workers. The government, however, has not paid much attention to these countries," says the BMET official.

FROM PAGE 16 said Raphael Constant of the verdict.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bagosora, a church choir boy in his youth who rose to become a key officer in the Rwandan military, was tried along with three co-defendants.

The High Court (HC) yesterday declared illegal the detention of former BNP lawmaker Mosaddak Ali Falu.

Two of the co-defendants, also ex-military officers, were also sentenced to life, while the third was acquitted.

Upon a writ petition filed by Falu, an HC bench of justices Mir Hasmat Ali and Shamim Hasnain also asked the government to release Falu immediately, if he had not been shown arrested in any other case.

Prosecutors had sought a life sentence for Bagosora, who had pleaded not guilty and argued that he "never killed anybody."

Meanwhile, another HC bench of justices Md Arayesuddin and Md Abu Tariq granted an interim bail for two months to Falu in a case filed by the Anti-corruption Commission (ACC) for misappropriating relief materials.

The genocide saw extremists from Rwanda's Hutu majority slaughter minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus, killing 800,000 people over 100 days. The massacres shocked the world and led to accusations that Western nations watched them unfold without moving to stop them.

Falu's counsel barrister Ahsanul Karim yesterday told The Daily Star that there is no legal obstacle now to his client's release following the HC verdict.

The slaughter is thought to have been triggered by the downing of a plane carrying Rwanda's then president Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu, and his Burundian counterpart on April 6, 1994.

Upon separate appeals, two other HC benches granted bail to former BNP state minister Ruhul Qudus Talukder Dulu, Laila Arjumand Banu, wife of former Awami League minister Mohammad Nasim, and Nazmin Banu, wife of Engineer ANH Akhter Hossain, in separate corruption cases filed by the ACC.

The tribunal ruled that Bagosora was responsible for the assassination of former prime minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana, as well as the killing of 10 Belgian peacekeepers and several politicians.

Earlier, special courts had sentenced them to imprisonment for different terms in the cases.

It also ruled that Bagosora, the cabinet director of Rwanda's defence ministry when the genocide began, was behind the massacre of Tutsis at road blocks in the capital Kigali and in his home region of Gisenyi in the north.

CASE AGAINST FALU

Bagosora was arrested in Cameroon in 1996 and his trial began in 2002.

ON November 3 the Supreme Court stayed an HC order that granted Falu bail in the relief scam case after he had obtained bail from the HC submitting a controversial medical report.

The indictment accused him and his co-defendants of having conspired to "work out a plan with the intent to exterminate the civilian Tutsi population and eliminate members of the opposition, so that they

The government on October 26 issued a detention order against him.

Earlier on June 2, a special court sentenced him to five years' rigorous imprisonment in the same case.

Falu was arrested at his cantonment residence in the capital on corruption charge on February 6 last year.

"The representation of People Order (RPO) empowered the armed forces in 2001 to arrest anyone on the polling day without any warrant and to act against any activity that goes against the electoral code of conduct.

Hasina for secular

Iraq coup

Tight security

FROM PAGE 1 She also gave assurance that gas supply will be ensured for the city residents and a new wage commission will be formed for industrial labourers.

She also joined rallies at Khan Jahan Ali College ground in Bagerhat-2 and introduced the party candidates in three other constituencies.

control and they have initiated adequate measures to see the present peaceful situation continue, meeting sources said.

"If we are voted to power, we shall bring down the price of essentials, increase power generation, make education up to degree level free, give agricultural subsidies and ensure community health care facilities," Hasina said.

After attending another rally on Rupsha Amdabad School ground in Khulna-4, Hasina addressed finally the rally on the Circuit House ground in Khulna-2 constituency and introduced the grand alliance candidates to the people.

"Rab and police officials told us at the meeting that the whole situation is under control," Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda said later apparently to dispel fears fuelled by security alert from the agencies concerned against any sabotage.

"Besides, more schools and colleges will be set up, allowances for freedom fighters, widows and elderly people will be doubled, fertiliser will be sold on open market and loans will be given to shrimp traders and unemployed youths," she said.

Hasina, accompanied by her younger sister Sheikh Rehana and Rehana's daughter Azmina Siddique Ruponti left the capital on December 16 for conducting election campaign outside Dhaka.

The initiative was seen as a way to unite Iraqi factions, and a means to reverse what is widely seen as one of the huge blunders committed by United States in Iraq post-Saddam.

"We want to give something to the country. Give us a chance to serve you and the country. We shall build a developed Bangladesh where none will starve or live without clothes, education, housing and healthcare facilities," the former premier said.

She is expected to return to the capital on Friday after addressing rallies in Jessore, Narail, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Magura and Faridpur.

Its decision to disband the Iraqi army and sack all Baathists from the government to eradicate Saddam's influence led to the rise of a deadly insurgency that has since claimed tens of thousands of lives.

Hasina addressed election rallies on AK Fazlul Haque Govt Primary School playground in Chitalmar, Mollahat Govt College playground and Kazi

The AL chief also visited the house of Jubo League leader Warid Chowdhury, who was killed in a road accident at Garfa in Mollarhat upazila, and consoled his bereaved family members.

Maliki, 58, a conservative Shia Islamist, became the head of Iraq's first permanent post-invasion government in May 2006.

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From 2003-2004, he had served on a de-Baathification committee to rid the country's government and civil service of Saddam supporters.

High officials of police, Rab, Ansar-VDP, BDR and Armed Forces Division, representatives from various intelligence agencies, all divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs) attended the meeting held at National Economic Council auditorium.

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However, the committee quickly earned the reputation of being overzealous and it purged thousands of people who had only joined the Baath party in order to climb up the career ladder.

Inspector General of Police Nur Mohammad and Director General of Rab Hasan Mahmud Khandaker later dismissed fears of sabotage over the December 29 parliamentary elections, but mentioned special precautionary measures, UNB reports.

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The Bangladesh government sent the request under the UN Convention against Corruption to help find information regarding wealth amassed through illegal means and corruption and restrain use of that money by identifying the corrupt person.

The two top bosses of the police and the elite security personnel made the remarks to reporters separately when their attention was drawn to some perceived public apprehensions about any such act to foil the elections.

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The MoU was signed on the eve of visit by CMC President Tang Ye. Energy secretary, Petrobangla chairman and the Chinese ambassador were present at the ceremony.

Replying to a reporter's question about possible militant activities ahead of the election, CEC Huda said people should not get worried as the situation is under control. The armed forces--army, navy and air force--will be deployed tomorrow and remain so till December 31 in aid of the civil administration to ensure security for holding the national polls in a healthy atmosphere.

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All work under the closure of construction contract with CMC is set to be completed by January.

Under the Local Government Upazila Ordinance 2008, a loan defaulter is not eligible to contest the election.

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The MoU additionally seeks CMC's help in introducing new safety measures at the mine, future mining design, adoption of new technology and equipment and increase in coal production in the future.

Of the defaulters, 205 submitted nomination papers as chairman candidates, 87 for vice-chairman (male) and eight for vice-chairman (female).

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MoU signed

Upazila polls

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FROM PAGE 16 President Li Gua seeks to extend cooperation with the Chinese consortium leader that developed the mine under a supplier's credit.

CODE OF CONDUCT

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The programme is already behind its earlier schedule.

The CEC expressed frustration at inaction over violation of electoral code of conduct in some areas in the country, meeting sources said.

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After many years of various hitches, the mine is now performing satisfactorily, sources say.

Some of the SPs present at the meeting said they were still in the dark about their authority to take instant action against those who violate of the code of conduct.

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HOW MONEY WAS TRANSFERRED TO KOKO'S ACCOUNT

At this, Huda noted that the electoral laws have given police adequate authority to take action against such violators.

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According to Singapore government's information, Koko registered the trading and consulting firm in that country with the help of a few associates and the Singaporean service agent on April 10, 2004.

He asked the returning officers and police officials to immediately take stern action against these persons.