### 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.

She urged EC and the caretaker government to act neutrally saying, "Otherwise, theirlives peacefully," she said. people won't forgive you."

"Whatever you've done in the past, prove your neutrality now through your actions and people will remember you,"

During her nightlong campaigns that continued till 7:30am yesterday and resumed again at 12:30pm, the BNP chairperson addressed election rallies in Pirganj in Rangpur, Gaibandha, Nilphamari, Kurigram, Lalmonirhat, the commitment that I will Thakurgaon and Dinajpur.

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

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

Addressing a meeting at Thakurgaon Govt Boys' High

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 able to lead

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 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 gov-

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

seat for women in parliament,

is running for Madaripur-3

where the party nominated

Faridpur-1, who won in the

2001 elections as an Awami

League candidate but later

joined BNP, is contesting this

year's polls as an independ-

ent. BNP and Awami League

nominated Shah Abu Zafar

of Dinajpur-2, Hafizur

Rahman Sarker of Dinajpur-4,

Ahsan Habib Lincoln of

Kushtia-2, Anisuzzaman

Khokan of Kishoreganj-2,

barrister Abdullah Al Mamun

of Comilla-5 and Jalaluddin of

Chandpur-2 might be prob-

lems for alliance candidates in

lawmakers Oli Ahmed, stand-

ing in Chittagong-13 and

Chittagong-14, and Redwan

Ahmed, running for Comilla-

Democratic Party candidates.

Bikalpadhara leader AQM

Badruddoza Chowdhury is

ning for Netrakona-3.

candidates

and Jamaat candidates.

FROM PAGE 1

in Netrakona-4.

Alamgir, Babar

minister for planning, filed

nomination for election in

Chandpur-1 and Babar, for-

mer state minister for home,

In another development

yesterday, the Appellate

Division vacated its chamber

judge's order directing the

commission to accept the

nomination papers of BNP

leader Shahidul Alam

The ruling came on a peti-

The apex court however

tion filed by another BNP

candidate Engineer AKM

snubbed Jatiya Party leader

Abdul Bari's appeal against

the EC's decision disqualify-

ing his bid to contest the

directed the commission to

allow Mohammad Shahjahan

The same day the HC

During hearing, lawyers for

Mohiuddin and Babar said

there are precedents for indi-

viduals who had been earlier

sentenced to jail terms con-

testing the elections. They

cited HM Ershad's name as an

counsel for Mohiuddin, told

The Daily Star that the regular

appeal against the HC order

upholding EC's decision

ruling his client out of the

Rokanuddin Mahmud,

Talukder for Patuakhali -2.

Farooq Ahmed Talukder.

Naogaon-5 seat.

example.

7, are contesting as Liberal

Meanwhile, former BNP

their respective seats.

Besides, Jalal Uddin Ahmed

and Abdur Rahman there.

Kazi Sirajul Islam of

Habibur Rahman.

# 4-party faces

FROM PAGE 1 candidate.

A number of district-level committees, however, already decided to expel rebel BNP candidates from the party and sent letters to the secretary general to get approval for their decision.

Narail district committee decided to expel Dhirendranath Saha, who is running in Narail-1 as an independent, while Cox's Bazar district BNP unit sent a letter to the central committee to get the approval for the expulsion order against Shahiduzzaman, who is contesting for Cox's Bazar-3. Both of them were BNP MPs in the eighth parliament.

Party leaders said many former lawmakers who had close ties with expelled BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan failed to bag nominations for the polls and a number of them are contesting the polls as independents.

Mannan Bhuiyan himself is contesting the polls in Narsingdi-3 as an independent. BNP nominated Tofazzal Hossain Master in that con-

stituency. However, a few former lawmakers, known to have Noakhali-4. belonged to the so-called reformist faction of BNP including Saifur Rahman, Mahbubur Rahman and Hafizuddin Ahmed, got party

tickets. BNP rebel Syed Shahidul Haque Jamal, a whip of the eighth parliament, is contesting the polls in Barisal-2 and Pirojpur-1 constituencies where the four-party nominated Sharfuddin Santu and Delwar Hossain Saidee.

Shah Abul Hossain, who was a state minister in Khaleda's cabinet, is contesting in Barisal-4 as an independent against alliance nominee Mejbah Uddin Farhad. Rebel candidate Nazir Hossain is contesting the polls in Sunamganj-1 and Sunamganj-4.

BNP's Central Law Affairs Secretary Zoinul Abedin is contesting against party's Joint Secretary General Selima Rahman as an independent in Barisal-3. Former BNP lawmaker Rustom Ali Farazi is running for Pirojpur-3 where the party nominee is Shahjahan Mian. Former BNP lawmaker Shamim Kaiser of Gaibandha-4 is contesting the polls against alliance candidate and Jamaat leader Abdur

Rahim Sarkar. Former BNP lawmaker Zahiruddin Swapan, also information and research secretary of the party, is in battle with party candidate Eng Abdus Sobhan in Barisal-1. Former BNP lawmaker Fazlul Azim of Noakhali-6 is and ANM Abed Raja of BNP to contesting the polls against run for Chandpur-4 and party nominee Shakhawat Moulvibazar-2. Hossain. Former BNP legislator Syed Mokbul Hossain is trying to defeat four-party nominee for Sylhet-6 Habibur

Rahman, a Jamaat leader. BNP leaders Faruk Talukder and Shahidul Alam Talukder, also a former lawmaker, are fighting against each other in Patuakhali-2 while Tasmin Rana, who was selected MP in the reserved

## UN chief

parliamentary race would be FROM PAGE 16 heard later. He said a high-level panel of Karim said that as per the conthe UN chief, headed by Francesc Vendrell, will visit of turpitude cannot contest the Bangladesh next week to assess and report on the prepelection. His client was sentenced to 10 years in jail for arations for the elections and on developments in the immenot for immoral behaviour. diate post-election period.

FROM PAGE 1

Asked how, he answered, "Aren't they [courts] considering if it's humanly possible? Since they think we can, then of course we can."

the polls chief said. "The commission is receiving court order every five minutes."

Asked if the EC will file appeal against those, he said, "We don't have the energy

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

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

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

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

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.

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

against the decisions," he added.

The candidates from BNP winning court orders are Golam Mawla Khan Bablu in Sirajganj-5, Major (retd) Manjur Kader in the same constituency, Kabir Ahmad Bhuiyan in Laxmipur-2, Shahidul Alam Talukder in Patuakhali-2, Abdus Sobhan in Barisal-1 and Abdul Gafur Bhuiyan in Comilla-10, from AL are Matiur 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.

standing in Munshiganj-1 and Dhaka-6 and Bikalpadhara The independent candileader Maj Mannan is contestdates are Lutfozzaman Babar ing the polls in Dhaka-11 and in Netrakona-4, Barun Kumer Dey Biswas in Satkhira-3, Jamaat and alliance ally Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury in Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) candi-Chittagong-14, Dewan Nazrul dates are fighting against each Islam in Tangail-7, Ataur other in Cox's Bazar-2 and IOJ Rahman Shamim in and BNP candidates are run-Moulvibazar-2, Azizul Huq Chowdhury in Dinajpur-6, BNP and Jamaat both have BM Selim Reza in Jessore-2, Sachindra Lal Dey in Chapainawabganj-3 Chittagong-3, Siddiqui Sirajganj-4, Rajshahi-3, Rahman Manna in Bhola-3 Jhenidah-3, Barguna-2, and and Shahidul Islam in Meherpur-1 even though BNP had said it was only keeping Narsingdi-5.

### Chapainawabganj-3, Terrors back Sirajganj-4, Rajshahi-3, and Jhenidah-3 open for both BNP

FROM PAGE 16 political parties have been set

up so far in the area, they added. These criminals are also taking part in election rallies, processions and door-to-door visits to seek vote for the can

A high official of Detective Branch said they have not ye received any complaint about gathering of criminals but would look into the matter.

zone Deputy Commissioner Anwar Hossain said, "We will catch the listed criminals whenever we spot them or get

## lest, ODI series

FROM PAGE 16 They kick off the tour with a three-day warm-up match against a local selection at the

with the six-day affair that starts from December 26 at the Sher-e-Bangla National Stadium while the second Test begins in Chittagong on January 3.

After the Tests, they play a tri-nation series that also involves Zimbabwe from

Mahela Jayawardene (captain) Kumar Sangakkara (vicecaptain), Malintha Warnapura, Michael Vandort, Thilan Samaraweera, Tillakaratne Babar's lawyer Ahsanul Dilshan, Prasanna Jayawardene (wicketkeeper). stitution, the persons convicted | Chaminda Vaas, Muttiah Muralidaran, Dhammika Prasad, Chamara Kapugedera, Farveez Maharoof, Dilhara

## Overseas employment

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 palmshaped islands -- said on November 30 it has fired 500 staffs because of the global financial crisis. The government-

controlled developer, one of the biggest employers, also said in a statement it would be scaling back work on some of its projects. The job cut is responsible action in light of the current global market conditions, it noted.

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 the official adds. city-state, reports AFP.

business strategy, as well as the phasing and rollout of the Jumeira Gardens project to make sure the development proceeds the company says.

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.

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."

When this is the scenario in the Middle East, other labour hiring countries like Singapore, South Korea or Qatar employ small number of workers from Bangladesh.

## 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.

Many construction projects are being launched in Sudan and the country has a huge demand of labours. But there is no initiative on part of Bangladesh to send workers there, says an official at the Ministry of Labour.

"Already, Sudanese employers have sent a good number of job demand letters, but workers could not be sent due to bureaucratic tangles,"

Libya is another country, "We are simply reviewing our which has signed a memorandum of understanding to hire workers from Bangladesh. But the Bangladesh embassy's role so far has not been found in the most opportune way to very positive, said Abdul Alim, meet changing investor needs," member of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agencies (BAIRA).

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

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 new openings for Bangladesh are Romania and Russia, Alim said, suggesting that the government put special emphasis on these markets because employment in these countries will fetch much more remittance.

## Hasina for secular

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.

"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.

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.

"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.

rallies on AK Fazlul Haque Govt Primary School playground in Chitalmari, Mollahat Govt College playground and Kazi family members.

Azahar Ali College ground at Fakirhat in Bagerhat-1 constituency from where the AL president is contesting.

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

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. 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. She is expected to return to

the capital on Friday after addressing rallies in Jessore Narail, Kushtia, Jhenidah, Magura and Faridpur.

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

# Koko's Tk 11cr

FROM PAGE 1 proceedings will be taken

against the persons involved and efforts will be made to bring back the money," Hanif

The investigation will confirm if there was any violation of the Foreign Exchange Regulations of Bangladesh Bank, if the money was shown in Koko's wealth statement, and if any offence was committed under the Prevention tance. of Money Laundering Act.

three cases against Koko.

He is a co-accused in the commission's first corruption case filed against Khaleda and 11 others for violating tender conditions in awarding container-handling job to indentinghouse Gatco.

Koko is also accused in a case for extorting Tk 1.20 crore over a few years.

The other case he is accused in is for amassing wealth worth Tk 2,23,18,245 and concealing information about properties worth Tk 11,20,145. Koko submitted his wealth statement to the ACC in January this year and the commission filed the case on

### April 23. HOWMONEYWAS TRANSFERREDTO

KOKO'S ACCOUNT 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.

China Harbour Engineering sent to the firm's account 9.20 lakh SGD and 8.30 lakh SGD on May 6 and 31 and another 8.29 lakh SGD on August 1 in 2005. The ZASZ received another 3.03 lakh

SGD from another source on October 6 the same year.

Singapore government's information says Koko transferred 8.30 lakh SGD from the account of ZASZ to another

informed the ACC about the matter through its Attorney General's Office following Bangladesh government's request for mutual legal assis-

The Bangladesh govern-The ACC has already filed ment 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.

# MoU signed

FROM PAGE 16

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

behind its earlier schedule. After many years of various hitches, the mine is now per-

forming satisfactorily, sources The MoU was signed on the FROM PAGE 16 eve of visit by CMC President

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

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.

## HC declares detention of Falu illegal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

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

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. Meanwhile, another HC

bench of justices Md Arayesuddin and Md Abu Tariq granted ad interim bail for two months to Falu in a case filed by the Anticorruption Commission (ACC) for misappropriating relief materials. 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.

Upon separate appeals, two other HC benches granted bail to former BNP state minister Ruhul Quddus 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.

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

CASE AGAINST FALU

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 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.

## Iraq coup

FROM PAGE 16

Earlier this year Iraq approved a law allowing former Baath members to return to government jobs as part of the current Shia-led administration.

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.

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.

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

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

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.

## Human haulier

FROM PAGE 1

Mozammel Haque, began at Sinabah around 6:30pm When it reached Bholua area on Shafipur-Baroibari Road, the empty human haulier started its engine and ploughed into the procession. The driver of the human

hauler managed to escape. Mozammel, running for Gazipur-1 constituency, while visiting the spot told journalists that BNP-sponsored criminals yesterday morning threatened of dire conse-

quences if they brought out the procession. He claimed that the killing was a planned one and his rival BNP candidate backed it.

The Officer-in-charge of Kaliakoir Police Station said they are investigation whether

### it was an accident or homicide. Upazila polls

be eligible for contesting the election on repayment of the loan before the last date for scrutiny of the nomination papers. Scrutiny of nomination papers ends today (Friday). Under the Local

Government Upazila Ordinance 2008, a loan defaulter is not eligible to Of the defaulters, 205 submitted nomination papers as

## UN tribunal jails FROM PAGE 16

the third was acquitted.

Tutsis and moderate Hutus,

killing 800,000 people over 100

days. The massacres shocked

the world and led to accusa-

tions that Western nations

watched them unfold without

have been triggered by the

downing of a plane carrying

Rwanda's then president

Juvenal Habyarimana, a Hutu,

and his Burundian counter-

Bagosora was responsible for

the assassination of former

prime minister Agathe

Uwilingiyimana, as well as the

killing of 10 Belgian peace-

keepers and several politicians.

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

Cameroon in 1996 and his trial

him and his co-defendants of

having conspired to "work out

a plan with the intent to exter-

Bagosora was arrested in

The indictment accused

of Gisenyi in the north.

began in 2002.

It also ruled that Bagosora,

The tribunal ruled that

The slaughter is thought to

moving to stop them.

part on April 6, 1994.

killed anybody."

said Raphael Constant of the verdict.

Hassan Bubacar Jallow Bagosora, a church choir charged that the four were boy in his youth who rose to involved in a conspiracy that become a key officer in the began in late 1990 when hun-Rwandan military, was tried dreds of Tutsis were arrested along with three co-defendants.

after an attack by a Tutsi-Two of the co-defendants, dominated rebel group. also ex-military officers, were The conspiracy became also sentenced to life, while more explicit the following year when the accused, part of Prosecutors had sought a

a 10-member panel formed by life sentence for Bagosora, Habyarimana, worked who had pleaded not guilty towards the "definition of the and argued that he "never enemy", Jarrow argued. The panel met to explore The genocide saw extremists from Rwanda's Hutu majority slaughter minority

could remain in power."

ICTR chief prosecutor

ways of "defeating the enemy militarily, politically and through the media," with the enemy being the Tutsi ethnic group Bagosora's French lawyer Rapahel Constant had ques-

tioned the very basis for the

case, arguing that prosecutors failed to prove the killings meet the legal definition of "genocide." The former military officer, 67, had also denied killing 10 Belgian peacekeepers to force the withdrawal of UN peace

force in Rwanda and allow the massacres to go ahead. "I never killed anybody, neither did I give orders to kill. You are the ones who can rehabilitate me back to the society," Bagosora said. He argued he was a victim of propaganda from the present

Tutsi-dominated Rwandan government. Lieutenant-Colonel Anatole Nsegiyumva, the former commander of Gisenyi military region; and Major Alloys Ntabakuze, the former commander of the Para-Commando battalion of Kanombe (Kigali) were con-

victed on the same charges. But the tribunal acquitted a fourth officer, Brigadier Gratien Kabiligi, the former chief of military operations, and

# Tight security

adequate measures to see the present peaceful situation continue, meeting sources said.

"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

"The state of emergency has been lifted. All need to remain alert so that miscreants cannot come out to disturb the polls," the CEC told

None of the officials who spoke at the meeting apprehended any sabotage centring the December 29 parliamentary polls while the home secretary said the ministry directed law enforcement agencies to take special security measures in the wake of withdrawal of the state of emergency, sources attending

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

measures, UNB reports. 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.

The EC during the meeting directed the authorities to remain vigilant and keep complete control over the prepost- election situation across the country.

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.

One battalion of armed forces personnel would be deployed at each district headquarters as strike force. And they would patrol the entire district ahead of and for two days after the polls, says a circular issued by the home ministry.

"The armed forces will assist other law enforcement agencies in maintaining law and order if returning officers

seek their assistance," says the circular on the planned security before, during and after the election.

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. Shamsul Huda said the EC had earlier decided that the army would be deployed from December 24.

"We have changed our previous decision and decided for army deployment from December 20 in the wake of withdrawal of the state of emergency," he said. A senior official of the

home ministry, which drew up

the security plan, said over 50,000 army personnel were deployed to maintain law and order before and after the 2001 election. This time the number might be higher. As per the home ministry circular, police will maintain

law and order inside polling

stations and ensure security of

election officials and transportation of polls materials. Ansar and VDP members will work as per police directives. Buoyed by the security measures, the CEC hoped a congenial atmosphere would be maintained on the polling

day to ensure exercise of franchise by all voters, especially Huda said polling centres have been divided into two categories--general and 'important'. Polling stations considered 'vulnerable' in the previous polls as regards

ered 'important'. "A total of 18 law enforcers will be deployed at each important polling centre and 14 at each general centre," he

The CEC said the commission also directed the law enforcement agencies to ensure security of people who become vulnerable after polls. "We have identified some areas and ordered for special election, polling-day and security measures for people

> Karim said at the meeting BDR, customs and immigration have been alerted against any 'infiltration' into the country. CODE OF CONDUCT

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

in the dark about their authority to take instant action against those who violate of the code of conduct. At this, Huda noted that the

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

## EC in deep

be held without ballot papers.

Replying to another query,

and patience for that." to the problem.

sources said.

to take necessary measurers.

"Now those from whom the symbols will be taken away might move to the court

Begunbari area and started to set up a makeshift office of the BNP. At least seven such clubhouses of activists of different

didates of their parties.

When contacted, Mirpur

## information about them."

BKSP from December 21. Then they embark on the two-match Test series starting

January 10. **SQUAD** 

possessing unlicensed firearms, Fernando, Thilina Thushara Mirando and Rangana Herath.

place on July 29, 2005. The Singapore government

The programme is already

Tang Ye. Energy secretary, Petrobangla chairman and the Chinese ambassador were present at the ceremony.

> contest the election. chairman candidates, 87 for vice-chairman (male) and eight forvice chairman (female).

### minate the civilian Tutsi population and eliminate members of the opposition, so that they ordered his immediate release.

FROM PAGE 1 control and they have initiated

against any sabotage. reporters.

the meeting said.

women and minorities. security are now being consid-

of those areas. Home Secretary Adbul

meeting sources said. Some of the SPs present at

the meeting said they were still

electoral laws have given police adequate authority to take action against such violators.