

Brow-raising deployment

Army to stay inside cantonments, will come out when called, says EC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The nature of army deployment in the upcoming city corporation polls will be completely different from those in any previous election in the country. In the past, army personnel patrolled the roads to maintain law and order during polls time. Their presence alongside regular law enforcers gave voters a strong sense of security. Besides, troublemakers dared not create any chaos in the polling centres -- be it capturing centres or stuffing ballot boxes. But things will be poles apart this time. For the April 28 city polls, army members will not be seen patrolling the streets, as the Election Commission does not want them to. The EC rather wants them to remain inside the cantonments as a "reserve force" for four days since April 26. In a letter to the Armed Forces Division, the commission sought one battalion (over 700 members) of army for each of the three city corporations -- two in Dhaka and one in Chittagong -- that go to polls on Tuesday. SEE PAGE 2 COL 2



A woman holds a laminated picture of a missing relative and a fragment of a bone at the Rana Plaza site in Savar on Tuesday. Today is the second anniversary of the building collapse that claimed over 1,100 lives. PHOTO: AFP

INSURANCE IN RMG A dismal record

SAJJADUR RAHMAN

2 YEARS OF RANA PLAZA DISASTER

Of the 1,134 workers that died in the Rana Plaza collapse two years ago, the families of only 100 of them got the group insurance benefit worth Tk 1 lakh each. The beneficiaries of those workers were certainly the lucky ones, as the remaining 1,034 victims did not get a single penny from the insurer, thanks to Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association's policy. Group insurance is an insurance scheme that covers a group of people, usually employees of a common employer, members of societies or professionals in a common group. MORE ON STAR BUSINESS SEE PAGE 2 COL 4



"She [Khaleda Zia] is like a serpent changing its skin to suit the circumstances, but her poisonous fangs remain intact."

INFORMATION MINISTER HASANUL HAQ INU AT A PRESS CONFERENCE AT THE PID YESTERDAY

Pledges just hollow

Aspiring mayors making promises that they won't be able to keep

TAWFIQUE ALI

Many of the pledges the mayoral aspirants are making in their manifestos for the April 28 city corporation elections are outside the legal and financial mandates of a mayor, say leading local government and urban experts. Such promises mostly concern mass transport system, power plant, commuter train service, circular waterways, river and canal reclamation, land use control, housing, flood plains conservation, water-logging and uninterrupted services of water, electricity and gas.

"It seems they have made such pledges without having understood their mandate and authority," said noted urban researcher Prof Nazrul Islam. Among its other jobs, city corporations collect revenue and take care of vital civic amenities like waste collection and management, mosquito control, maintenance and repair of roads and footpaths, surface drains, street lightings and fighting food adulteration. The list is long but it does not include any of the issues the candidates are promising to take care. Both Annisul Huq and Sayeed Khokon -- Awami League's mayoral candidates in Dhaka north and



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OBSTRUCTIONS IN CAMPAIGN BNP won't back out of polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP policymakers have decided not to ask party-endorsed runners in the city elections to withdraw from the race even if BNP chief Khaleda Zia faces more attacks while campaigning for them.

Before deciding so, BNP senior leaders at an urgent meeting with Khaleda at the party's Nayapaltan office on Wednesday night talked about the party chairperson's motorcade coming under attack of allegedly activists of pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League at Bangla Motor that day.

Khaleda's motorcade came under attack at Karwan Bazar on Monday as well when she was campaigning for a party-backed mayoral aspirant.

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It benefits BNP camp

Some AL leaders believe

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Some Awami League leaders feared the recent attacks on the BNP chief's motorcade would have a negative impact on the voters' likelihood of voting for the AL favourites in city polls.

They suggested that such attacks should be stopped immediately as it would give the BNP-backed candidates electoral mileage.

In their views, media reports on the attacks stirred public sympathy for the BNP. Talking to The Daily Star, AL presidium

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LOOKING AHEAD GLOBALLY- We are proud to be the part of Bangladesh Textile Industry

**Soorty Unveils an Iconic Milestone in Green Building Technology
Garment Sewing to Wet Processing**

Marking an unprecedented benchmark in the sphere of green construction and sustainable engineering, the newly unveiled state of the art "Soorty" production facility in "Comilla-EPZ" was awarded the coveted LEED Gold Certification. Soorty is a renowned denim manufacturer with a history spanning over three decades. In continuously striving for excellence Soorty has succeeded in creating a unique fashion environment and offering an edge for the company's valued clientele. In keeping with its vision of creating high quality merchandise through innovation and responsible operation, the fully fledged Soorty facility located in Bangladesh performs the complete production function including garment-making and laundering. The requirement for a model green building stems from the Soorty belief of being accountable to three key elements of context, user and other life forms. The context of the site such as urban specifics, climate, soil conditions and local hydrology have been addressed through the application of apt strategies in relation to the 74% occupation of land by the building's footprint. Further numerous landscaping features have been introduced to the design to overcome the tropical heat conditions and advanced storm water drainage system facility. Provisions have also been made for the user, who in this case will be the planned 6475 workers at the facility. The employees have been considered a priority stakeholder group in the planning of the facility and amenities have been designed to extend maximum levels of comfort for them. Primarily the thermal stresses that occur from solar radiation have been greatly minimized by utilization of unique shading functions and the employment of an insulated roof with high reflectance has allowed elimination of the roof thermal load. The conservation of other life forms and aversion of damage to their existence is a key concern for Soorty in light of its responsibility towards the environment and its flora and fauna. In alignment with this belief in responsible operation, the Soorty facility operates only during the day time and leaves the surroundings unhindered for the local fauna to occupy during the night. Soorty, in its bid to lead the global garment manufacturing industry is making strides in creating value for its clientele. Simultaneous to its rapid growth Soorty also assures its stakeholders a safe and responsible mode of operation in which conservation of life and the environment takes great priority.

LEED GOLD 66

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Water Efficiency 10/10

Sustainable Sites 24/26

Energy Efficiency 12/35

Regional Priority 4/4

Indoor Environmental Quality 6/15

Material & Resources 6/14

- Potable water saving of 50% per annum from efficient flow / flush fixtures, waste water treatment.
- Almost 95% of construction waste diverted from landfill.
- Erosion & Sedimentation Control Plan (ESC) conforming to 2003 EPA Construction General Requirement implemented.
- Large windows to allow daylighting and views to outside.
- Energy saving of 31% from efficient absorption chiller, waste heat recovery boiler, efficient lighting, production equipment.
- Local material accounted for 56% of material used for construction
- Waste storage area constructed to encourage and segregation of recyclables.
- LED task lights for 90% of regularly occupied areas.
- Meters installed to monitor savings at regular intervals.
- Lighter color paving to reduce heat island effect.