# The Daily Star

# Blockade postponed

decided to postpone the blockade programme

announced agitation programmes during these three days as part of the ongoing movements.

The 14-party will hold mourning processions wearing black badges today across the country to protest the killing of Wajiullah and a rally in front of Nabisco in Teigaon in memorv of Waiiullah tomorrow. Special prayer will be offered at all

mosques, churches and other places of worship tomorrow for a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election. A countrywide demonstration will be held on November 18 to press home the demands of the alliance.

"We can feel the people's sufferings due to the blockade programmes, but we have no alternatives," Hasina said. She held President laiuddin Ahmed responsible for all the sufferings as he did not take any steps to meet the nation's demands.

Hasina urged both lajuddin and CEC MAAziz not to increase people's sufferings and meet the demands to create a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election.

The chief adviser must act neutrally, Hasina said, adding, "If the president fails to function as the chief adviser without directives from a special quarter, then he must appoint a non-partisan person in the post."

She said all political partiesexcept BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami-and people from all walks of life have reached a consensus that a free and fair election is not possible unless the CEC resigns and the EC is reconstituted. She asked the CEC for whose interests he has been sticking to his

position. The AL president demanded immediate exclusion of the 1.40 crore fake voters from the updated voter list and inclusion of eligible persons in it. arrangements for transparent ballot box, and withdrawal of 300 politically appointed upazila election officers.

She demanded arrest and punishment of the corrupt persons and those responsible for all grenade and bomb attacks in the last five years. She also demanded immediate

removal of the officials loyal to and benefited by the immediate past BNP-Jamaat alliance government from both the civil and police adminis-

#### tration and filling the posts with leaders of her party and alliance and honest, eligible and deprived officials. Hasina alleged that the chief At the press conference, Hasina

adviser has been following directives of a certain guarter rather than fulfilling the people's expectation through

direction the decision of the caretaker government advisory council to transfer the home secretary was suspended.

She said the 14-party alliance has tortured.

more election commissioners,

reconstituted." missioners and election officers.

democratic rights of franchise.

vealth.

# Iran vows to pursue nuke plans 'until

bombs.

ahead

report.

victory," he said.

West, which fears the Islamic

Republic is trying to build atomic

speaking a day after the U.N.

nuclear watchdog, the International

Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said

whether its plans are peaceful.

broadcast live on state television.

Iranian nation and with each pass-

ing day the Iranian nation goes

a great nuclear celebration before

the end of this year, all over Iran," he

said, without elaborating. The Iranian year ends in March 2007.

The panel is headed by Krishna

Jung Rayamajhi, a retired Supreme

Court judge, and was appointed by

multi-party government that took

power in May. It is due to submit its

report to the government on Friday.

on the newspaper article, saying the

commission had not finalised its

charges of ordering the crackdown.

in the king's former royalist cabinet

and several senior officials, who

have been found guilty for their role

in the crackdown besides human

rights abuses and for misuse of

public funds, The Kathmandu Post

Rayamaihi told Reuters

mended against the king.

the trinity of Hindu gods.

interrogated by the panel.

Rayamajhi declined to comment

towards the summits of

"By the grace of God, we will hold

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was

his activities in the last 15 days.

still been showing patience even after 24 of its leaders and workers have been killed since October 26. She warned of bad consequences if any more of their leaders is killed or

She said as the BNP-Jamaat coalition knows very well that people will not vote them in the next election. they are conspiring to rig the election with the help of the CEC and the politically appointed election com-

Any move by the BNP-Jamaat coalition to rig the next election will be resisted, she said, urging the countrymen to be united to protect their

rule of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government as a "complete failure" that witnessed skyrocketing price of essentials, unbridled corruption, rise of militancy, acute shortage of power, politicisation, political and extra judicial killings, and looting of public

Senior 14-party leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Abdul Jalil, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Quader, Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Hague Inu were present at the press conference

## 100 hurt outside Dhaka FROM PAGE 1 CHITTAGONG

utive day.

KHULNA

for the day.

noon.

nate

by the time

are taken."

only if necessary.

BRAHMANBARIA

Chittagong port.

The attackers also set fire to at least 10 motorbikes belonging to the blockaders and vandalised 10 more, which were parked at a nearby filling station. Two inter-city trains had left Sylhet station but were stopped by the blockaders on the tracks before they could reach their destinations.

The blockaders burnt some tyres and held a brief rally before putting up a barricade for the Chittagong bound inter-city train Paharika Express at 10:45am. However, after some time. Paharika Express departed Sylhet at 11:00am, 40 minutes behind schedule. The activists and leaders of 14-party also brought out a truck procession

in the city. Later, in the afternoon, the blockaders again went to the train station and stopped Dhaka bound inter-city Parabat Express on the tracks.

# the end'

**REUTERS**, Tehran Iran's president said yesterday his

She asked why and upon whose

Asked if the 14-party alliance will accept any reconstitution of the EC by keeping the CEC and appointing Hasina said, "...then it has not been

Hasina described the five-vear

Probe blames FROM PAGE 16 ministers, we found him responsible for all the decisions taken by the cabinet," The Himalayan Times quoted an unnamed source in the inquiry panel as saying.

The blockade in Chittagong passed

peacefully yesterday keeping the

port city detached from other parts

of the country for the fourth consec-

suspended due to the blockade, an

unprecedented congestion of

containers was created inside

Rupsha inter-city train that left

Khulna Railway Śtation at 7:55am

vesterday came under attack of

blockaders at 8:10am at a level

crossing leaving the train damaged

and disrupting train communication

city passed peacefully. The blockad-

ing coalition erected makeshift

also remained inactive.

Brahmanbaria town was totally

under control of the blockaders till

of reconstitution of the EC very com-

plex as the BNP-led alliance vehe-

assumed the office of the chief adviser

to the caretaker government on

October 29 following Justice KM

caretaker government that started

searching ways for making the EC

election will discuss the recommenda-

tions placed by the major political

parties to resolve the ongoing stale-

Mahbubul Alam told reporters yester-

party combine that enforced an indefi-

nite blockade programme from last

Sunday yesterday suspended the

programme till next Sunday and

threatened to enforce the programme

again if their 11-point demand includ-

ing reconstitution of the EC is not met

party combine, time is running fast

ahead of the next parliamentary election while the EC is preparing for

announcing election schedule in

political parties will return if some steps

would hold another round of dialogue,

Replying to a query, Khan said they

Apart from the deadline of the 14-

"Outcome of the discussions will be

The Awami League (AL)-led 14-

credible for holding a free and fair

The council of advisers to the

Hasan's refusal to take the office.

President lajuddin Ahmed

mently opposed removal of the CEC.

But blockades at 22 points in the

With delivery of goods remaining

# Big int'l banks

NEWS

America.

Annibale says.

The US bank and its Mexican

unit Banamex have raised over 70

million dollars in capital markets in

recent years for Compartamos, the

biggest microfinance lender in Latin

"They've got very good repay-

ment histories. There's a very

underserved population that should

be served by the financial sector.

Financial inclusion makes sense,

Citigroup is joining microfinance

initiatives in Bangladesh, India,

Indonesia, Mexico, Peru and

Citigroup, Shaukat Aziz, addressed

the summit Sunday with a strong

message of support in his new role

Indian School of Microfinance for

Women, who travelled from

Ahmedabad, India, lauded

funded the whole effort. So we have

been providing training to small

clinets for other financial services.

Citigroup is launching a new

savings plan for microsavers in

India that can be opened with mini-

mum documentation and accessed

through biometric teller machines in

Banks say these programs must

"About two-thirds of the world's

be commercially viable, but as

Yunus underlines, the numbers are

population has no access to con-

ward commissioner Chowdhury

their programme against that of the 14-party a success. "People have

rejected 14-party's programme. They

(14-party) have attacked our activists

in the last few days. But from now on,

we will respond to them in the same

way," Khoka told reporters after the

Bhuiyan alleged that the 14-party has proved itself as an "anti-people

combine" by holding the people

hostage with its destructive

Later in his statement, Mannan

too tempting for banks to ignore.

sive." Yunus said Monday.

offices of microcredit arouns

their own money," she said.

Jayshree Vyas, a trustee of the

'Citigroup has supported us,

Annibale's former boss at

Romania among other places.

as Pakistan's prime minister.

Citigroup's efforts.

## FROM PAGE 16

In his book, "Banker to the Poor," Yunus recalls how Bangladeshi bankers laughed at him when he first proposed lending money to the

destitute. Bankers are not laughing anymore. In fact, they are lining up to serve the "unbanked" in the hope that today's poor person will country would press on with its nuclear programme "until the end" become the prosperous client of and would not be stopped by the tomorrow.

Bankers from Deutsche Bank, ING, and the chief executive of Banco Estado Chile, Jose Manuel Mena Valencia, joined Annibale for a panel discussion Monday on how commercial banks can work in microfinance

in a report Iran was still stonewalling Gera Voorrips, a microfinance probes aimed at determining specialist with the Dutch bank and insurer ING, told delegates that "The Iranian nation stands for its commercial banks were currently nuclear right and will go ahead until the end," Ahmadinejad said in a 'small players" in microfinance, but said "we should really be more speech to a rally in western Iran, ambitious.

"Everybody should be welcomed "Time is on the Iranian nation's as a customer by any bank," Voorrips told microcredit side. With each passing day, (the West) must retreat one step and practioners from around the world. acknowledge the rights of the

Fed up with conventional bankers. Yunus founded and opened his own bank, the Grameen Bank, in microfinance organizations 1983 of which he is the managing director.

Grameen has made tiny loans, which now average 100 dollars, to 6.6 million poor, mainly women borrowers who require no collateral. However, it is Grameen's repayment success that has caught the attention of Citigroup and other commercial banks. The loan recovery rate is almost 99 percent, despite interest rates up to 20

percent. Grameen has loaned 5.7 billion dollars to date, of which 5.1 billion has been repaid.

Citigroup, which earns that sum in just one quarter, believes it can leverage its expertise with microfinance institutions to build a future client base.

# 4-party extends

### FROM PAGE 1

yesterday as part of its counter "Until it is signed by the commisprogrammes. Leaders of the BNP sion members you can't say it is and its allies led the processions and addressed the rallies. final. There can be changes,"

They said the people have rejected the Awami League (AL)-led It was not immediately clear what 14-party's blockade programme action, if any, would be recombecause it created anarchy and resorted to terrorism form the very Last month, he failed to reply to day of handover of power to the questions from the panel on caretaker government. They will face 14-party activists in the streets The panel's probing of the virtuif the four-party leadership wants, ally powerless monarch is the first they said.

time an inquiry has questioned the Mirza Abbas, joint secretary king in Nepal which has traditionally general of BNP, told a rally at Fakirapool Bazar, "After getting considered the monarch as an incarnation of Lord Vishnu, one of order from our party chairperson, we will force them (AL) to go back home with their indefinite Nearly 300 people have been programme." These included senior ministers

Former state minister Fazlur Rahman, Gayeswar Chandra Roy and Jamaat leader Rafigul Islam Khan, among others, addressed the bring back normalcy in public life. rally with DCC ward commissioner Sajjad Sharid in the chair.

Ctg port At a rally held at Moghbazar

meeting.

programme.

# **CEC's removal**

FROM PAGE 16 presidential form following the president's assumption of the office of the chief of the caretaker govern

ment Dr Ajay Roy urged making clear distinctions between the activities of the president and the chief of the

caretaker government. Prof lajuddin, who is holding the offices of both the president and chief adviser of the caretaker government, must reflect neutrality in his activities, he said.

Asked if the reforms of the FC and election in due time is possible. Dr Hamida Hossain said it is possible but the EC must work day and night and cancel the holidays.

Most of the reforms demanded by the 14-party combine are possible through ordinances, Laila Kabir said

Voluntary resignation of the CEC is the best solution at this moment, said advocate Salma Ali.

She urged the political parties not to involve children in the political programmes and stop harassment of women.

Dr Anisuzzaman, Ajoy Roy, Dr Hayat Mahmud, Khushi Kabir, Ziauddin Tareq Ali and advocate Kohinoor Begum were also present at the press conference. voters will be with them.

### helping women to learn to manage BB alerts banks Banks are also looking at these

FROM PAGE 16 Referring to the letter, a high official at BB said the letter advised the banks to strictly follow the existing rules set by the central bank for rescheduling any default loan.

Sources said the BB has received three days, were working on technia number of complaints that some cal issues involving the Kyoto powerful loan defaulters are trying to influence their concerned bank nations to reduce emissions of managements for rescheduling their greenhouse gases by 5 percent default loans without complying with the central bank rules. below 1990 levels by 2012.

## Irawler

ventional banks. We want to break FROM PAGE 16 that line and make banking inclu-The trawler named Lima Express started for Lengutia of Mehendiganj

from Barisal at around 3:30pm When it reached near the channel, a dredger hit it from behind. The trawler got twisted and capsized instantly The boatmen rescued most of

the passengers. But some unidentified passengers, including women and children, remained missing.

Alam. City BNP President and Mayor Three of the missing passengers were identified as Shamim of Sadek Hossian Khoka addressed a rally at Sutrapur, orgainsed by local BNP. Charmonai, Fatema and her mother Maleka. Search for the missing passengers is going on in the Earlier at a joint meeting, four-party Kirtankhola river. leaders decided to take steps to make

River police seized the dredaer. but its master and employees could not be traced until the filing of this report at 7:44pm yesterday.

A rescue team comprising divers, led by a port officer of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authorities (BIWTA), were sent to the place of accident from Barisal

# EC security

FROM PAGE 1 The people have already to discuss another proposal for a rejected their programme," he said temporary ban on the journalists' and urged the caretaker governentering the EC Secretariat prement to take immediate steps to mises, the sources added.

oping clean-energy technology in At present, a large number of partnership with other countries iournalists, both from electronic and print media, visit the EC Secretariat encourage economic growth," she aularly to collect

# Annan chides inaction on global warming

tration

DHAKA THURSDAY NOVEMBER 16, 2006

## AP, Nairobi, Kenya

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan told the UN conference on climate change yesterday that those who would deny global warming or delay taking action against it are "out of step" and "out of time."

"Let no one say we cannot afford to act." Annan declared, in a clear reference to those, such as the Bush administration, who contend that reducing global-warming gases would set back economies too

much. The UN chief lamented "a frightening lack of leadership" in fashioning next steps to reduce global emissions. "Let us start being more politically courageous," he urged the hundreds of delegates from some 180 member nations of the 1992 UN climate treaty. He later told reporters, "I would

The chief US delegate, Paula J

Dobriansky, at a later news confer-

has been a leader with "ground-

The United States and Australia

President Bush says it

are the only major industrialized

countries to reject that 1997 treaty

would harm the US economy, and it

should have required cutbacks in

of the past century's 1-degree rise in

global temperatures to the atmo-

dioxide and other heat-trapping

gases, byproducts of power plants

automobiles and other fossil fuel-

burning sources. Continued tem-

perature rises could seriously

In his address, the UN chief

referred to a recent British govern-

ment report projecting that unim-

peded global warming with its

predicted rising seas, droughts and

other climate disruptions could cost

between 5 percent and 20 percent

of global gross domestic product

far less to cut emissions now than to

deal with the consequences later,'

change "is not science fiction.

Those who try to sow doubt about it

are "out of step, out of arguments

tary of state, stressed at her news

conference the US efforts in devel-

Dobriansky, a US undersecre-

"We must act in wavs that

and out of time," he said.

"It is increasingly clear it will cost

He said the science on climate

disrupt the climate, they say.

spheric accumulation of carbon

Scientists attribute at least some

poorer nations as well.

programs.

annex.

each vear.

Annan said

FROM PAGE 16

Other climate campaigners want leaders around the world to oppose this strategy of marking really show courage and to know tıme. that if they do, their people and the

"That won't work. It would allow the US to hold the negotiations hostage," said Hans Verolme, Dutch spokesman for Climate Action ence countered that Washington Network, an alliance of environmentalist groups.

focusing on how to set emissions

quotas for the post-2012 period a

regime others hope will include the

United States, the biggest emitter.

Cabinet ministers from around the

world were arriving here for high-

level bargaining on such key issues.

may simply set a timetable for continuing talks into next year. Many

here think real negotiations must

await the end of the Bush adminis-

the negotiating table with a serious

proposal when a new president

takes office in 2009," said veteran

Clapp, president of the US group

conference observer Philip Clapp.

National Environmental Trust, noted

that Democratic and Republican

contenders in the 2008 presidential

election favor capping US emis-

"The United States will return to

At best, however, the conference

breaking initiatives" on clean-Verolme expressed concern that energy technology all voluntary too many years of negotiating and seeking government ratifications of Delegates at the two-week a new agreement would leave a gap annual meeting, entering the final after 2012

The carbon market is beginning to lose confidence in this process, Protocol, which obliges 35 industrial he said

A multibillion-dollar market has emerged in which European Union countries, obligated under Kyoto, buy and sell "carbon credits." Companies overshooting their emissions quotas can buy carbon credits from more energy-efficient enterprises that don't utilize all their allowances.

At the same time, another market growing in projects that reduce greenhouse-gas emissions in developing countries, which are not obligated under Kyoto but which can

sell such credits to industrial nations. If it appears the Kyoto regime will end without an immediate successor, it would shatter business confidence in the future of those markets and cause carbon prices to col-

lapse.

## FBCCI, BGMEA FROM PAGE 1

honoured our request postponing the blockade programme for the next four days," he said, adding: 'We'll also request the political leaders to take the economy into their consideration before enforcing any political programme.

He requested the chief adviser to

BGMEA President SM Fazlul

the caretaker government and all

political leaders to take immediate

Hague hailed the decision of the 14-

party combine to postpone the

steps to break the standoff

blockade until Sunday.

## KHAGRACHHARI

Three activists of the student front of BNP were injured yesterday afternoon when a group of AL activists attacked them while they were pasting posters at Zia Nagar in the district headquarters.

Police later arrested some AL leaders and activists including its district unit labour affairs secretary Nur Hossain, Dilu, Rafiq and Ismail in that connection.

To protest the arrests, AL leaders and activists laid siege to Khagrachhari Sadar police station in the evening and were agitating there till filing of this report at 7:30pm.

CA's court In another incident in Ramgarh FROM PAGE 1 upazila, nine leaders and activists of They also recommended initiating AL and BNP were injured when they steps by the president and chief clashed in Guimara area yesterday adviser to remove the CEC if he evening. refuses to resign willingly. The advisers now find the issue

Earlier on Tuesday fifty people including Officer-in-charge (OC) of Manikchhari police station and leaders and activists of BNP were injured when BNP men clashed with law enforcers.

According to sources, workers of Manikchhari upazila BNP attempted to bring out a march towards Manikchhari Main Road where AL and its front organisations were holding a meeting on Tuesday night.

As police intercepted the march to prevent untoward incidents. BNP men hurled brickbats at policemen injuring Manikchhari OC Santosh Barua

The law enforcers went into conveyed to the council of advisers tomorrow," Information Adviser action to disperse the BNP marchers leaving 50 injured. RAJSHAHI

At least 20 men were injured in a clash between AL and BNP activists at Shibpur under Puthia police station Tuesday night, while the law enforcers opened eight blank fires to disperse the mob.

Local people said a land dispute between a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Babu and an AL activist Rezaul Karim turned into a battle leaving 20 of both the groups injured

## MOULVIBAZAR

between November 20 to 30. Activists of 14-party coalition yester-We have to take a decision day damaged around 10 buses and quickly,"AkbarAli Khan said. six three wheelers in Kusumbag All the political parties want the area of Moulvibazar district town. election in right time, he said, adding, "We also believe that confidence of the SAVAR

14-party demonstrators yesterday damaged around five vehicles while vehicular movement on Dhaka-Aricha, Nabinagar-Kaliakoir, and Baipail-Dhaka highways remained suspended.

podiums at nine of the 22 points. dailv said.

The pro-democracy supporters were backed by Maoist rebels, who A human hauler was damaged and railway sleepers were uprooted in plan to sign a comprehensive peace Brahmanbaria. There was no vehicaccord with the multi-party adminisular traffic on Brahmanbaria-Dhaka. tration on Thursday and join a new Brahmanbaria-Chittagong, interim government in the impover-Brahmanbaria-Mymensingh, and ished Himalayan nation by Dec. 1. Dhaka-Agartala highways. Akhaura land port and Ashuganj river port

FROM PAGE 16

people's wishes.

CFC.

party.

the alliances.

ing.

He also denied the report of

negotiate for joining two alliances.

peaceful situation in the country.

crossing, four-party leaders asked the AL leadership to give up the blockade programme, and said otherwise they will face dire conse-

quences. Former lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu and Jamaat central leader Abdul Kader Mollah, among others, addressed the rally chaired by DCC

law enforcers had assured importers of full protection of their cargo

Juktofront

## FROM PAGE 1

political parties yesterday, Juktofront and Jatiya Party informed the committee about their stances on the matter during separate meetings held in the state guest-

The ledaers of Juktofront, a political platform comprising Unity for Political Reform (UPR), Krisokh Sramik Janata League (KSJL), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Labour Party, in a meeting with the delegation of the council of advisers, said removal of the present CEC is not a demand of any individual political party rather it is a demand of the entire nation.

"Removal of the CEC has now become a constitutional obligation, commented Juktofront leader ASM Abdur Rob who is also the chief of UPR.

When asked why he did not join The advisers assured the the four-party alliance after he said Juktofront delegation of taking he would. Ershad said that he actions regarding removal of the suspended the move for the time CEC in accordance with the constibeing. "I took the decision without tution, leaders of the platform said. discussing it with my party men. But

"Reconstitution of the Election later I came to know that BNP's Commission and removal of the position was not very strong at the CEC are the demands of the time." grassroots level and our position commented Kader Siddigi, presiwould have become worse had we dent of KSJL also a leader of joined the four-party alliance at that Juktofront, at a news briefing after time," he said adding that they have the meeting.

been maintaining liaison with both "If they (the CEC and other commissioners) have wisdom and common sense, they should have forming two separate committees to resigned long time ago," he said.

"Retailers refused to sell goods Regarding his resignation in to the CEC," the KSJL president 1990, Ershad said that honouring said adding, "Under the circumthe constitution he stepped down to stances, if the CEC doesn't resign avoid bloodshed and to maintain a now and creates further sufferings for the people, then it will mean that Jatiya Party leaders Kazi Zafar he is not a sane person rather a sick Ahmed, ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader, person.

Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud It is now very much clear that Fazle Rabbi Chowdhury, Abul under the present CEC, a free and Kashem and Tajul Islam Chowdhury fair election is quite impossible. were also present during the brief-Kader Siddigi said about what he had told the advisers.

"The CEC should be boycotted socially and his house should be surrounded so he cannot go to the

FROM PAGE 16

during transportation but none came to take delivery of containers or goods from the port during the blockade programme, sources mentioned

office even for a single day," Kader

initiatives to deploy the armed

forces keeping the advisory council

Kader Siddiqi said he had sug-

gested the delegation of advisers

that if the home secretary had taken

the initiative unilaterally, he must be

sacked and if the president-cum-

chief adviser had taken the initiative,

duty for serving him," he added.

Siddigi told the newsmen

in the dark.

he should resign.

about preparations for holding the next parliamentary election. Leaders of any political parties, however, are vet to visit the EC with any complaints or demands centring the election

The FC is planning to take actions regarding the proposals, sources said.

Emerging from the meeting, the DMP commissioner left the EC Secretariat declining to reply any queries of the waiting journalists. No electronic media was allowed to shoot the meeting.

The secretary to the EC "I will request his domestic help Secretariat Abdur Rashid Sarkar and his chauffeur not to report to also did not give any details about the meeting. He just told the report-The Juktofront leaders also ers that the security was strengthdemanded punishment for the ened after consulting both the EC and the government. present home secretary for taking

The DMP also put up barbedwire barricades at the entry point of the road leading to the Planning Commission complex and at the entrance of the complex in the morning in a bid to prevent any procession from marching towards the EC Secretariat. Huge policemen were deployed at all the entrypoints, around the complex, in adjoining areas and roads leading to the EC Secretariat

The CEC and three election commissioners attended and left their offices yesterday amid tight security.

# Hartal greets

FROM PAGE 16 They also threatened to enforce a nonstop hartal in the district if the appointment of Kahinoor is not cancelled

Educational institutions and business establishments remained closed and vehicles were off the roads during hartal hours.

Controversial Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Kohinoor Mia, held responsible for Monday's killing of an Awami League (AL) leader, was transferred to Rangamati on Tuesday.

The transfer order came following Kohinoor's order to spray hot water on a peaceful demonstration of blockade supporters at Karwan Bazar in the capital on Monday. leading to a violent clash between police and demonstrators. During the clash. a speeding police van drove through the demonstrators. killing AL leader Waziullah and injuring two others critically.

Asked about Annan's criticism of poor international leadership on climate, Dobriansky replied. "We think the United States has been leading with its groundbreaking initiatives Closed-door talks here are

India alleged Pakistan's spy agency

had a role in the Mumbai attacks, a

Khan said this was "finger point-

"We thought this was simply

But Menon said it was now up to

"We want them to stop activities

The two sides, who conducted

Pakistan to prove it could act

of banned groups like Laskhar-e-

Taiba." he said. "First we will see

how they act on the information we

tit-for-tat nuclear tests in 1998.

"expressed satisfaction over the

implementation of the agreement on

meet next in Islamabad in February.

in January 2004, is aimed at ending

bitter disputes between the coun-

tries since the subcontinent was

partitioned in 1947 at the end of

a result of the process, including the

start of bus links across divided

Kashmir and work on settling a

glacier or in disputed Kashmir.

Tensions have been reduced as

The peace process, which began

have already given to them."

ballistic missiles".

British colonial rule.

Guiarat.

ing" and counter productive and the

new panel would be a better forum

levelling allegations and not cooper-

ation." he told a news conference.

claim denied by Islamabad.

to discuss such issues.

against Islamic militants.

In a press release issued last night, the BGMEA president appreciated the leaders of the 14-party combine for taking the decision. He also urged the president and chief adviser to the caretaker government to take proper steps to resolve the political crisis.

Nuke rivals agree

"We did have a discussion on Siachen." Menon said. "We both described what bothers us. There is still a gap between our positions. It is something that we need to talk through. That is why we are still talking through this issue."

The two countries have fought two of their three wars over Kashmir since independence, and India accuses Pakistan of militarily backing Islamic militants waging an insurgency that has claimed at least 44,000 lives since 1989.

Pakistan denies it arms or trains the militants. On Tuesday, Khan called for troop cuts in the region to reduce tension. India said that was conditional on a halt to terrorist attacks.

pre-notification of flight testing of "There can be further troop withdrawals in Kashmir," Menon They also agreed on the "early said.

signing" of an agreement to reduce "But violence has to go down. the risk of "accidents relating to The threat to people trying to live nuclear weapons", without giving a peaceful lives has to go down.' specific time frame. The two are to

India did hand over what it claims is proof that Pakistan-backed Islamic extremists carried out bombings in March in the holiest Hindu city of Varanasi as well as attacks on shoppers in the capital last October.

The New Delhi attacks left 66 festival shoppers dead while the triple blasts in Varanasi killed 23 worshippers and injured 68 others. boundary dispute along a creek on

Khan confirmed that India the western Indian border in handed over "some material" But Khan and Menon acknowlrelated to the strikes. But he said edged there were no breakthroughs "there is nothing about the Mumbai on troop levels on the Siachen blasts but I just flipped through the pages" Islamabad wants India to reduce

India had earlier said it was troop levels in Kashmir and on the prepared to hand over evidence that glacier but New Delhi insists the Pakistan had a hand in the blasts process can start only after the but the country's national security authentication of Pakistani posts on adviser had said the evidence was the icy wasteland, where cold claims more lives than actual com-"not clinchina".

Earlier, the four advisers had a meeting with a JP delegation at the same venue A six-member team of JP leaders led by Anwar Hossain Maniu told the advisers to find a solution to the present political crisis in such a way

so that no party can claim sole victory. "We urged the advisers to ensure a level playing field for all political parties and to ensure a free and fair

election," Anwar Hossain Manju told reporters after the meeting. The JP delegation also suggested the advisers to take initia-

tives for facilitating a dialogue between BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina.

About the demand for removal of the CEC, JP Secretary General Sheikh Sohidul Islam said. "It would be better if the CEC resigned."

JP Chairman Anwar Hossain Maniu however avoided clarifving their position about the demand despite repeated queries from the journalists.

He rather said. "It is not assured that the upcoming election would be free and fair if the present CEC resianed."

Ershad blames advisers to the CG and different adding that the CEC should not get influenced by any person, party or

by the power he is holding, rather he should give priority only to the At one point when the reporters house Padma. mentioned that people used to call

Ershad as 'Biswa Behaya (a great shameless person)' during his rule, the former military dictator smiled and said that his bad reputation had already been removed thanks to the On his party's participation in the upcoming polls, the JP chairman said, "JP believes in election. We

might go to the election with some alliance through mutual understanding," He, however, reminded that the JP has been taking preparations to contest election as a single