14-party warns CA

fair conduct of the election" by this time, the countrymen will go on with the blockade programme for the third

He observed, "He [lajuddin] is still trying to keep intact the BNP-Jamaat's blueprint for election engineering. By taking hasty measures to announce the election schedule even before initiating steps to reconstitute the Election Commission, laiuddin in fact is trying to destroy the electoral and democratic process.

The president is dragging his feet despite knowing well that the blockade will start again on Monday, Jalil said adding that public patience is wearing thin with lajuddin's indiffer-

are compelled to take up the agitation, the CA, chief election commissioner (CEC), three other election commissioners, and the bureaucrats working for BNP-Jamaat will have to shoulder the responsibility.

Jalil warned that situation would turn even more volatile if the fourparty alliance does not desist from backing CEC MA Aziz and the politically appointed election commissioners immediately. Anxious about having to suffer an election debacle, the BNP-Jamaat coalition has been pushing the country towards violent

the immediate past ruling coalition has long been conspiring to hold a 'blueprint election' like that of 15 February 1996. They have been

Iragi troops hunt on for kidnapped

Security forces were hunting vesterday for two Westerners kidnapped in southern Iraq after an American hostage was found dead and two others rescued in the violencewracked country, where British Prime

Five Westerners -- four US citizens and an Austrian -- working as security guards for a Kuwaiti company were kidnapped on Thursday while escorting a 49-truck convoy near the southern town of Safwan.

The latest kidnapping, which came just two days after dozens were abducted from a Baghdad government ministry building -- with many still missing -- is yet another example of increased violence in war-torn

Five more people were killed Saturday, including three policemen shot dead by insurgents in the restive Divala province, northeast of Baghdad. Three corpses were also found in Baquba, the capital of Diyala.

the situation in the country after the US and British invasion of March 2003 was a disaster.

newly launched English-language channel, Blair was challenged about what interviewer David Frost said had "so far been pretty much of a

AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Kader has threatened to lay a siege to Bangabhaban demanding demands are not met.

others, by Motia Chowdhury, M Nurul Islam, Pankai Bhattacharva, Moinuddin Khan Badal, Dilip Barua. Abdul Mannan and Anisur Rahman

relentless in their efforts, as they know that the people will reject them in the upcoming election for massive corruption, misrule and plundering of public wealth over the last five years.

Different socio-cultural organisations, members of the civil society and the people from across the political spectrum are now united in their call for FC reconstitution and an atmosphere congenial to holding of a free

Even the European Parliament has rejected the controversial EC and expressed concern over inclusion of 1.30 crore fake voters. It has called on the president to reconstitute the EC and correct the grossly flawed voter

It shows that the BNP-Jamaat coalition and its stooges in lajuddin and Aziz are hated even by different nternational quarters, he added,

The AL general secretary urged the people to stay alert to attempts to hold a one-party election or foil the

He said although the president had declared that he would depoliticise the administration, his activities seem mock-up. The government orders cancelling the contractual appointments have not yet been implemented and those officials are still holding office with the blessings of some invisible forces, he added.

"We have learnt that if the BNP and Jamaat fail to have their plot executed by President lajuddin, they might replace him with Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar " Jalil said adding that lajuddin has been kept at a "don"t move" position.

"We will continue our movement until the Flection Commission is reconstituted, the controversial CEC and the three election commissioners are not removed and the voter list is not corrected," he said.

Jalil said although the four advisers have prepared a set of recommendations regarding FC reconstitution in consultation with different political parties, the chief adviser seems to have no time for them. Instead, he has been holding meetings with the controversial CEC and his deputies in a move to declare the election schedule hastily, he added.

He said the council of advisers to the caretaker government has been kept at a distance from the election related works.

All programmes marking the Armed Forces Day on November 21 will remain outside the purview of blockade, Jalil announced.

Meanwhile, Sheikh Hasina's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad vesterday dismissed different private elevision channels' news that the former leader of the opposition had been invited to Bangabhaban for

talks with the president. He termed the airing of the news

"provocative and misleading" Among others, senior leaders Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Obaidul Quader. Rashed Khan Menon. Abdur Rahman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed, Abdul Mannan, Nurul Islam, Pankai Bhattacharva and Dilip Barua were present at the press briefing.

Yunus

the Nobel Peace Prize. Prof Yunus said it brought a new life to the nation that can only be compared with celebration of the victory day after a long Liberation

He said the Nobel Peace Prize has brought a respite to the bitter tension that the nation is now passing through in the political front.

Yunus praised the contribution of the expatriate Bangladeshis to their motherland and hoped that the forthcoming election would be held

He said the Nobel Peace Prize has not only been awarded to him and the Grameen Bank but also to all clients of the microcredit programme who made the concept workable.

Yunus said Grameen Bank has recently started working to set up two eye hospitals and launched nutritious food production programme aimed at improving the health of the poor.

He said Bangladesh can win many successes but what it needs at this stage is peace and discipline.

WB committed

definition of the World Bank's spending in microcredit, it relates

about 1.3 billion dollars, if you use a much broader definition that includes credit lines, policy advice, payment systems, work on regula-

"I would argue that the actual percentage of money spent in the field of microfinance is not the best measure for the commitment of an organisation to building that field,"

Littlefield added. Both Yunus and Littlefield attended the summit in Halifax. Canada, at which campaigners announced their goal of extending tiny loans known as microcredit to 175 million of the world's poorest

Yunus, a Bangladeshi who won the Nobel prize in October, believes microcredit is one of the most powerful tools to combat dire poverty and help individuals boost their

Yunus's Grameen Bank makes loans averaging 100 dollars to destitute and often illiterate people so they can expand a small business, such as selling food or handi-

Yunus has had frequent disagreements with the World Bank over how to best alleviate world

He said at the summit that more of the global development lender's large infrastructure projects should be owned and run by local poor people, not by governments.

Littlefield said World Bank president Paul Wolfowitz is "extremely supportive" of microfinance and has visited projects in Indonesia, Mexico

She said the bank's work in helping to develop domestic financial markets, payment systems and credit bureaus was "critically important to opening up access for poor people to the kinds of financial services that can help improve their

Littlefield is also the chief executive of The Consultative Group to Assist the Poor (CGAP), a collection of 33 public and private development agencies, which promote microfinance. CGAP is housed at

the World Bank She said that Wolfowitz had attended a meeting of CGAP agency heads in Paris last month.

upcoming election," Bhuiyan said, adding that the election process has to be completed before 15 days of the 90-day tenure of the caretaker govern-

The high-power BNP delegation led by Khaleda also told lajuddin that the BNP will keep supporting the constitution.

ment is to carry out routine work and cooperate with the Election Commission," Bhuiyan said.

ing with the chief adviser took place at a time when the caretaker government is under tremendous pressure to end the existing political deadlock through reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC).

From the outset, the BNP and its allies have been vehemently opposing the move to reconstitute the EC through removal of the chief election commissioner (CEC). The top leaders of the alliance have also been critical of the caretaker government for initiating

Meanwhile, the council of advisers to the caretaker government yesterday sat at an emergency meeting to find out ways to resolve the ongoing

The advisers sat first in the morning and discussed over two hours before adjourning the meeting until 9:00pm. The BNP chairperson met the chief adviser in the evening

Sources said the BNP delegation at the meeting strongly opposed the caretaker government's move to

The BNP leaders also discussed the issue of transferring the civil ser-

The former ruling party leaders expressed dissatisfaction over the caretaker government's moves to

sive transfer within it." Mannan Bhuivan told the press, adding, "A large number of officials have been transferred although their jobs are not related with the election.

"Termination of a few government officials were even beyond the capacity of the caretaker government,"

the president assured them that he will look into the matter. The BNP high command also

urged the president to take necessary steps to maintain law and order and to protect life and property of the people. nation of the CEC and three other election commissioners, he said, "This

ment as per the constitution in all matters. The BNP delegation, which entered the Bangabhaban at 6:40pm and emerged from it at 8:40pm, included BNP Standing Committee members Saifur Rahman, Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, KM Obaidur Rahman, Moudud Ahmed,

present political crisis during the

meeting with the AL chief. Expressing his concerns over the voter list, Larma said many fake

Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban -- witnessed two decades' of insurgency before a peace deal was signed in 1997.

Election Commissioner MA Aziz to

end the current political stalemate. "The present political stalemate should not continue, it is not good for

the country," he added. When asked if his party would join the AL-led 14-party alliance, Larma said no such issue came up

Milon

Barrister Zia had an appointment on Friday (November 17) with BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman at Hawa Bhaban, Milon said. Everything, however, went wrong when LDP leader Mahi B Chowdhury and his supporters created a chaotic situation on Thursday in Barrister Zia's house, he added.

"I stayed at his house from 6:00pm to 12 midnight on Wednesday," the former state minister said adding that he again visited Zia's house the next

On the allegation that Milon was accompanied by BNP cadres during the alleged kidnap attempt, the BNP leader told the reporters that those who came to Barrister Zia'a house at that time were from his Dhamrai constituency.

Barrister Zia, who won the last parliamentary election from BNP ticket, joined the LDP recently leaving BNP Contacted. Barrister Zia denied any communication with Ehsanul Haq

Milon over telephone. "So far, I never called Milon, he (Milon) himself phoned me and requested me to return to BNP which I refused," Barrister Zia said adding that had he really made up his mind to return to BNP, he could have started

lajuddin keeps quiet

two hours when she urged him again to start the electoral process including announcing the election schedule immediately.

About the morning's meeting held in Bangabhaban, the advisers however said things were moving positively towards reaching an amicable solution to the political crisis prevailing ahead of the next parliamentary election centring the demand for resignation of the chief election commissioner (CEC).

"We are discussing all the issues....we are trying to resolve the standoff. We will sit again tonight, if necessary tomorrow morning too. We will let you know after settling the issue...you will be pleased," Information Adviser Mahbubul Alam told reporters emerging from the meeting.

Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury echoed the same view and hoped to find a

The advisers however did not specify as to which direction the progress is heading, particularly concerning the EC.

At the council meeting, the advisers discussed several options for resolving the electoral crisis including appointment of a few more election commissioners to the EC as CEC MA Aziz had rejected outright the idea of his resignation, sources said.

The meeting however could not reach a consensus on any of the options proposed by the fourmember delegation of advisers that negotiated with political

UNB reported last night quoting a Bangabhaban source that the president, during his meeting with Khaleda Zia, told her that he is ready to appoint two more election commissioners to reform the EC if the political parties demanding EC reconstitution agree to it.

Some advisers however expressed their doubts about the idea of appointing more election commissioners to bring balance in the four-member EC.

"We are not sure whether appointing more election commissioners will make the Election Commission effective," an adviser told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.

At the meeting, the four members of the advisers' delegation, Dr Akbar Ali Khan, CM Shafi Sami, Mahbubul Alam and Yasmeen Murshed, briefed the council about the outcome of the bilateral dialogues with political parties. In the dialogues, Awami

League (AL)-led 14-party coalition, Jatiya Party (Ershad), Jatiya Oikya Front, and Jukto Front categorically demanded reconstitution of the EC through resignation of the CEC and reshuffling of the administration. On the other hand BNP-led four-party alliance vehemently opposed reconstitution of the EC and massive reshuf-

AL-led 14-party threatened to

"Among the defence forcers, only the

him saving that in case of emergency.

the naval base station can procure

goods worth Tk 2 lakh directly and the

navy chief can buy goods worth Tk 2

crore directly through an open tender.

Anything worth above this sum have to

be procured through the DGDP or

other higher authorities. Procurement

on non-emergency basis should also

also purchase equipment or spares

valued beyond Tk 2 crore without the

DGDP's involvement. But in that case,

it will have to buy those only from the

original manufacturer through the

Bangladesh embassy concerned with

approval from the principal staff officer

(PSO) of the Armed Forces Division

None of these procurement rules

tenders were notified in the naval

headquarters blackboards but not in

any newspaper or other mass media.

The first tender gave seven days time

to submit proposal and the second

navy chief's approval to procure

spares worth Tk 70 lakh. This

restricted tender was cancelled with-

out any explicit reasons. The navy

August and amid the chaotic political

order this month.

then floated the second tender in

situation, hurriedly issued the work

six months to issue its urgent work

order, it could have done the same

through the DGDP and get the best

transparent deal," noted a navy

It is not clear why the NSSD issued

two separate orders to the AJA

International when one was sufficient,

sources said. One work order asks the

supplier to deliver spares worth Tk

2.66 crore by November 27 and the

other worth Tk 3.42 crore by January

Habib Enerprise has been asked to

"If the navy could afford to wait for

The first tender was based on the

(AFD) or the minister concerned

Again, in emergency, the navy can

be processed through the DGDP.

But DGDP sources contradicted

navy can procure anything directly.

Kyoto countries

Experts say Kyoto's so-called second commitment period must deliver swingeing reductions in emissions to avoid potentially crippling damage to the world's climate system by fossil-The 2008 negotiations are officially

a "review" of the Kyoto Protocol -- a broad assessment of what changes should be made for the treaty's next commitment period. Any changes will then have to be

negotiated in full and subsequently

Agreement came after the 12-day marathon talks in Nairobi under the

189-member UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) went hours into overtime. Developing countries had feared

that any preconditions for the review meant they would be forced into accepting binding curbs on their nollution - a requirement that would carry an economic price. Under Kyoto's present format, only

35 industrialised nations that have signed and ratified the pact are required to make targeted cuts in emissions of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO2). But China, India and other highpopulation developing countries are

fast becoming big emitters of CO2 in their own right as they voraciously burn oil, gas and coal to power their economies. Environment ministers from indus-

trialised countries also agreed that alohal emissions of greenhouse gases had to be halved, although they did not set a date. The European Union (EU) has

been pushing for a deadline of 2050,

contending this will limit the rise in Earth's atmospheric temperature to 2 C (3.6 F) by 2100 compared with 1900. "Thanks to the leadership of the European Union, we now have a solid work plan to combat emissions after 2012," said European Environment

Commissioner Stavros Dimas "There is no time to wait. We must cut emissions by 50 percent in the next half a century to end global warming."

The present Kvoto Protocol obliges industrialised countries to reduce their emissions to a level that is around five percent below the 1990 benchmark. For the 2013-2017 commitment

period to work, a way must be found to get the big developing countries to tackle their burgeoning pollution and also tighten the screw on emissions by industrialised countries. Another problem will be how to

establish tighter cooperation with the United States, which by itself accounts for a quarter of global emissions.

Under President George W. Bush, the United States has refused to ratify and abide by the Kvoto Protocol

Even if a pro-Kyoto president takes office in the United States in January 2009, he or she is unlikely to have the political elbow room to ratify Kyoto in time for joining the negotiations for 2013-2017, diplomats in Nairobi said.

Activists say the 2013-2017 negotiations must wrap up by the end of 2009, as the outcome will take two or three years to be ratified.

Any spillover into 2010 could lead to a gap between Kyoto's commitment periods, which would badly dent confidence in the fledgling carbon markets, launched under Kyoto in 2005, said Hans Verolme, director of WWF's climate-change programme.

The Nairobi meeting also ran into fire from grass-roots advocates for poorer countries.

UNFCCC Executive Secretary Yvo de Boer, though, said developing nations would "walk away with a very significant package" He pointed to decisions on manag-

ing and financing Kyoto's Adaptation Fund to help vulnerable countries cope with the effects of climate change and on setting a five-vear work programme to identify which kind of adaptation measures would be useful

Another area of progress was on streamlining the Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM), an incentive for transferring low-polluting technology to poor countries, so that African economies could benefit from it. said de Boer.

Kyoto became operational in February 2005 after a long and agonising gestation.

Two more countries. Sierra Leone and Lebanon, have now ratified it, bringing the total to 168, it was announced in Nairobi on Friday.

Businessman

FROM PAGE 16 session during the time of abduction, added his relatives.

The abductors later called up Nazim's family and demanded a Tk 10 lakh ransom for his release, the relatives said. Nazim returned home from a

Middle Eastern country almost a year ago and runs numbers of businesses in the area including public transport and poultry farms, they said. Recently, right after the last Eidul-Fitr, he successfully negotiated

the release of one of his abducted

relatives, said the family sources.

His family suspects that same abductors might be involved in Nazim's abduction.

Fortune-seekers

FROM PAGE 16

She came to Dhaka Thursday evening as asked by Joynal, who then gave her some documents including passport.

"I along with some other women went to the airport (Zia International Airport) at about midnight and was sitting there (at the lounge). An official wanted to see my documents and then declared those invalid,' she said.

Another woman of the group, Jamila, 25, also from Manikgani gave Tk 55, 000 to a broker. She had borrowed the entire amount. The passport she carried was a forged one carrying her photo but some other's name and address, said the illiterate woman narrating her plight.

"Manpower (BMET) officials sent me to immigration section. Two officials refused to okay my papers but another sent me to a particular official, who checked and allowed to me to go the waiting room (lounge),'

A number of other victims spoke

a relative cheated her of Tk 90,000 putting her in distress.

At the shelter home, the women sere seen crying while talking to their relatives over telephone. "I do not know when and how to go home. I don't think I can go abroad any-

> BNWLA Executive Director Advocate Salma Ali said they will keep the women under their shelter and will try to send them back to their houses. They will also give them legal assistance, if needed, she said.

more," said Saleha from Savar,

of similar sufferings.

Meanwhile, Special Branch (SB) of police filed a case against 38 people, including brokers, officials of Caab and BMET.

The SB on Friday detained **BMET Welfare Officer Mohammad** Shahialal, and computer operators Mosharraf Hossain, Hasan Jahirul and Hafizur Rahman and one Biman official Ramzan Ali from ZIA in this connection.

The police are interrogating the detainees but they could not yet catch any brokers.

Russia warns

non-proliferation regime," he told reporters at an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) summit in Vietnam

"But if we push this or that situation into a corner, then the threat of proliferation significantly heightens."

The North Korea crisis has been a key issue at the meeting of 21 Apec mbers in Vietnam. Earlier the United States chided Russia and China Friday for holding

up agreement on a UN resolution

imposing sanctions on Iran over its

nuclear programme and urged them to "accelerate the pace" of the talks. Undersecretary of State Nicholas Burns complained that negotiations at the United Nations over what sanctions to impose on Iran for refusing to freeze its uranium enrichment programme had dragged on for

three weeks with insufficient prog-"We have had a lot of debates. a lot of discussions, it's time to get on

with it." Burns told reporters. "We hope very much that the Russian and Chinese governments will accelerate the pace of work in New York," he said.

The major powers have been debating a draft resolution drawn up by Britain, France and Germany that would impose limited sanctions on Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile sectors for Tehran's failure to comply with an earlier UN resolution on

halting enrichment. China and Russia, both close economic partners with Iran, argue the measures are too extensive, while Washington has pressed for

US President George W. Bush was due to raise the issue with his Russian and Chinese counterparts. Vladimir Putin and Hu Jintao, over the weekend on the sidelines of a Pacific Rim summit in Hanoi, Burns

Despite the slow pace of prog-

Israeli minister

ress. Burns was optimistic the UN

FROM PAGE 16 Lieberman told public radio. "All must disappear and go together to para-

The ultra-nationalist leader said Palestinian foreign minister Mahmud Zahar, like Haniva a member of the ruling militant Islamist movement Hamas, should also be targeted by Israeli forces.

"Mahmud Zahar and Haniya should no longer be able to move freely. They and their belongings should be attacked," said Lieberman, who ioined the government of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert at the end of October.

The comments come amid a flurry of calls by senior Israeli officials to step up military operations against Gaza militants and target their leaders after a Palestinian rocket killed an Israeli woman Wednesday.

Lieberman is a member of the security cabinet and leader of the farright Yisrael Beitenu party. Supporters say he is a man of principles who has the firm hand needed to wade through the world of Israel's domestic and foreign policies, while critics call him a dangerous radical, a fascist and a

In the interview, Lieberman called Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas "irrelevant."

"He is a partner who has no power, no will, and no authority, and he has never respected his commitments." said the controversial minister, adding that Israel should work with Jordan to

Lieberman also called on Israel to reoccupy the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt "to put an end to the trafficking of weapons, rockets and

Infrastructure Minister Binyamin Ben Eliezer, a member of the leftleaning Labour Party, on Thursday similarly said that "targeted killing operations must be broadened, not only against those who fire rockets but against their leaders."

Defence Minister Amir Peretz also vowed Wednesday to "move against those who are involved in the firing of rockets, starting from their leaders and down to the last of their terrorists."

Security Council would eventually impose sanctions on Iran under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, making the measures mandatory for all UN

members.

difficult negotiations, but we're working hard and I for one believe that we will have a sanctions resolution." he said. The US and others believe Iran's uranium enrichment programme is

"These are very complex and

ultimately aimed at producing fissile material for nuclear weapons. Iran insists it will use the enriched uranium only to fuel nuclear power stations, something it is permitted to do as a signatory to the nuclear non-

proliferation treaty.

Burns said a report issued this week by the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency was "filled with concerns about the lack of transparency" of the Iranian nuclear programme. The report, leaked to reporters,

notably said that unexplained traces had been found in Iran of highly enriched uranium and plutonium. materials that can be used in nuclear warheads. Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said earlier Friday that "rather than punishing Iran", the UN Security

with inspecting nuclear sites to ensure fissile material is not used for military purposes. "The role of the Security Council is precisely to help and not to replace

Council should give the lead role in

the crisis to the IAFA, which is tasked

the IAEA in the process," Lavrov told reporters during a visit to India. "We have been trying to help with the IAEA efforts to bring the matter to the negotiating table rather than block the pathways to the possibility

of pursuing those talks," Lavrov said. Burns described the US-Russian differences as "tactical disagreements" over which sanctions to impose on Iran now and which to hold back for use later in the even Tehran continues to defy the Security

agreement." he said

"No one is taking the position that there will not be sanctions, the only question is: What is the framework of this first sanctions resolution and then where do we go from there?", he

"We don't have a strategic dis-

"I do believe we can work this out."

Blair

FROM PAGE 16

situation in which the will of the majority for peace is displaced by the will of the minority for war.' Reacting to his comments, Liberal

Democrat leader Menzies Campbell

said the Prime Minister should now apologise for his actions. He told PA: "At long last the enormity of the decision to take military

action against Iraq is being accepted by the Prime Minister 'It could hardly be otherwise as the failure of strategy becomes so clear. "If the prime minister accepts that it is a 'disaster' then surely parliament and the British people who were given a

flawed prospectus are entitled to an apology." A Downing Street spokeswoman said Blair did not believe that the violence in Iraq had been a disaster.

"He was simply acknowledging the question in a polite way before going on to explain his view. 'To portray it as some kind of admission is completely disingenu-

ous." the spokeswoman told the BBC. Blair used the interview to speak at length about British foreign policy in the Middle East and the continuing violence in Iraq. He reiterated his appeal to Iran and Syria to become partners of the West in the search for

Blair rejected any suggestion that

his readiness to work with two countries, until recently described by the US as part of the "axis of evil", was appeasement Meanwhile. The Islington Tribune reported that Trade Minister Margaret

peace in the troubled region.

Hodge told a private meeting of Labour supporters that Blair was guilty of "moral imperialism." Hodge told members of Islington's

Fabian Society that the Iraq war was Blair's "big mistake in foreign affairs", the paper reported. After her criticisms of the Prime

Minister, she added: "I hope this isn't going to be reported." the newspaper

claimed.

FROM PAGE 1 general secretary of AL, said only 24 hours are left for lajuddin to meet the demands that include among others reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC). If he fails to carry out the proposals "aimed at creating an atmosphere conducive to free and

The plot thickens due to the dilly-

dallying tactics of the president, the ALleader alleged.

ence to the 11-demand. He also said if the AL and its allies

confrontations, he added. The 14-party leader alleged that

Westerners AFP, Basra

Minister Tony Blair conceded the situation was a disaster.

Blair on Friday acknowledged that In an interview on Al-Jazeera's

1-pt movement

removal of the president if the The rally was addressed, among

"That actually is quite a narrow only to credit lines on lending to microcredit institutions." she said. The actual number "could be up to six percent of its total budget,

tion and supervision as well."

people by 2015.

BNP tightens

caretaker government if it goes by the "The task of the caretaker govern-

The BNP chairperson's first meet-

the move for reconstitution of the EC.

reconstitute the EC.

sack and transfer government officials who are not related with the election "The civil administration is about to disintegrate completely due to mas-

Replying to a query, Bhuiyan said

On the 14-party demand for termiis not our concern...We asked the chief adviser to run the caretaker govern-

Tanveer Ahmed Siddiqui, vicepresidents MK Anwar, Tariqul Islam

and M Shamsul Islam. Hill districts

voters were enrolled on the list in Chittagong hill tracts. "The enrolling of voters was not done properly in the hilly region," he added. The three hilly districts --

Larma, who also heads the regional political party Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, said he favours the removal of Chief

during the meeting.

was followed in this case. When these rules were brought to FROM PAGE 1 the notice of navy official concerned. also sought his help regarding the he expressed his ignorance about The deal was initiated in May this year as an "emergency procurement". But the "emergency" procurement followed two rounds of restricted tender floating and killing of more than six months time. Sources said both the

the process all by himself and did not need any mediator to do that.

including a countrywide blockade again from tomorrow if the demand for reconstitution of the EC is not met by the end of today. In a bid to counter 14-party's programme, BNP and its allies also announced street demonstrations and threatened to launch tougher programmes if the CEC is

removed.

enforce tougher programmes

Amid such a situation, the advisers wanted to reach a decision in yesterday morning's meeting, which was convened urgently apparently in the face of severe criticisms for delaying to hold a meeting, but the chief adviser adjourned the meeting till 9:00pm sources said. The meeting, where some

regularly, also discussed reshuffling of the administration. The council of advisers started searching for ways to make the FC credible from its first meeting on November 1 and continued discussing the issue at several other meetings on November 2, 4,

advisers emphasised on holding

meetings with the chief adviser

8, 12 and 13. On November 2, it sent an adviser to CEC MA Aziz to know whether he would resign if requested by the caretaker government. But the CEC stubbornly refused to resign and instead announced that the next parliamentary election will be held under the present EC.

On November 13, the council

of advisers formed the four-

member delegation, which held

bilateral dialogues with seven political parties. The advisory committee wrapped up the talks with political parties on November 15 and informed the chief adviser about the outcome, but the chief adviser did not immediately convene a meeting of the council of advisers. The advisers were informed that the issue would be discussed at the cabinet meeting which was originally scheduled for tomorrow But in the face of an avalanche of criticisms, the chief adviser sud-

denly convened the meeting two days earlier yesterday morning. B Chv

FROM PAGE 1

party press release.

the caretaker government is the result of BNP-Jamaat alliance's conspiracy, Badruddoza said, adding that the CA is working under the direction of Khaleda Zia.

Badruddoza who is also a

former president, accused lajuddin

of moving in an extremely slow

made the announcement, said a

charge as the chief adviser (CA) of

President lajuddin's taking

Executive President of the LDP Col (retd) Oli Ahmed Bir Bikram demanded legal actions against corrupt ministers and MPs of BNP. Secretary General of LDP Major (retd) Abdul Mannan, Alamgir Kabir, Maj Gen (retd) Anwarul Kabir kdar. Abdul Karim Abbasi and

Ali Kadar, among others, spoke on

Navy flouts rules deliver goods worth Tk 11 lakh by November 26 The sources pointed out that prices of the spares were highly inflated in the work orders. For instance, a "socket for cockpit" for this of speedboat is sold at euro 26 (Tk 2288) by its manufacturer. But the work order priced it at Tk 26,000 each. A gasket worth euro 20 (Tk 1.760) has been priced at a staggering Tk 8.32 lakh each. Different types of rubber tubes have been

> each while these are sold at prices below euro 20 (Tk 1,760) each. Aring drive (complete assembly) is sold by the manufacturer at 2,000 euros (Tk 17,600) but the work order

A 12-volt battery has been aston-

priced it at Tk 24.34 lakh.

priced between Tk 2,000 and Tk 6,760

ishingly priced at Tk 28,000 and alternator battery charger at Tk 2.59 Again there are inconsistencies in the pricing of same things in two work orders. For instance, Habib Enerprise was given an order for merely three types of spares. The first is rubber pipe, number 2,13,02,688. Here the unit price of each of these pipes were estimated at Tk 19,700. But in the work order for AJA International, 'rubber hose', number 2,13,02,488 (which is

Moreover, both Habib and AJA were separately ordered to supply lub oil pipe (three each).

the same) has been priced at Tk 6,760

The other order to AJA International actually asks for full engines and propeller. Navy sources said engine is not a spare part but a major component. Again, price of the engine is around 15,000 euros (Tk 13..2 lakh) each but the work order priced it at Tk 50 lakh. The euro 2,000 propeller was given a price tag of Tk 7 Back in July, the same business

lobby made the navy seek approval for

procuring six high-speed boats at a

higher cost of Tk 14.5 crore. Following

objections by the comptroller general

of audit against this purchase and

reports in The Daily Star, the PMO

rejected the bid and asked the navy

to re-tender the procurement.

Patiya Police Station confirmed the incident.