Bush asks China for aid with N Korea

AP. Hanoi. Vietnam

President Bush sought Chinese President Hu Jintao's help on dual fronts yesterday, aiming to rein in North Korea's nuclear ambitions and encourage the Chinese people to buy more US goods.

Capping a three-day stay in Vietnam's capital, Bush also asked for help from Moscow in the North Korea nuclear dispute and celebrated a deal allowing Russia to join the World Trade Organization.

Here for an economic summit of 21 Pacific Rim nations, Bush coordinated strategy on North Korea in one-on-one sessions with all four of America's partners in the effort to rid Pyongyang of its nuclear weapons programs.

All the while, he feted America's new footing with host Vietnam, a communist country in an economic boom. Later Sunday, the president arrived in Ho Chi Minh City, the country's economic heart, for a day of events there.

The crowds that greeted Bush were larger and happier than any he saw in Hanoi. Locals laughed, waved and cheered, and some held American flags alongside Vietnamese ones. After landing, the Bushes met Australian Prime Minister John Howard and his wife for dinner.

National Security Council official David McCormick said Bush and Hu reached "an agreement on direction and next steps" on North Korea in a lengthy and specific discussion.

McCormick refused to characterize what the two leaders decided must happen next, saying only: "Both leaders are in a very similar position in terms of their views on this issue and

National Security Adviser Stephen Hadlev has said the North Koreans "cannot come back just to talk." but must take concrete steps to implement a year-old agreement to abandon its nuclear program.

In a pitch for U.S. manufacturers and farmers, Bush told his Chinese counterpart: "I strongly support your vision, Mr. President, of encouraging your country to become a nation of consumers and not savers."

This gentle nudge represented a

change from past meetings, where

last year's record and rising \$202

billion trade deficit between the two

countries and complaints over lax

Chinese enforcement of intellectual

property rights have produced more

The landscape is different now.

enforcing U.N. sanctions enacted

against North Korea after it tested a

nuclear bomb last month, and was

instrumental in persuading

Pyongyang to agree to return to stalled

six-party nuclear negotiations, per-

has evolved from trying to arm-twist

China on its economic policies to a

demands on China, most aimed at

addressing the trade deficit: adopt a

more flexible currency and promote

more growth to encourage Chinese

families to reduce extremely high

merce between our countries as there

is, there's going to be trade difficulties,"

Bush said. "But nevertheless, we both

adopt a spirit of mutual respect and the

The Chinese leader declared that

desire to work through our problems."

trade was "expanding very rapidly"

and offered Bush what he said was "a

piece of good news to share." This

turned out to be a recitation of four-

month-old U.S. statistics the president

had no doubt already heard, showing

a 35 percent jump in exports to China

second gathering in a week. The two

had a social visit at a Moscow airport

two countries' top trade officials sign-

ing of an agreement on Moscow's

ascension into the WTO. Bush called it

good for the United States and good

The Sunday meeting followed the

Bush met later with Russian

Vladimir Putin their

in 2006, through July.

as Bush flew to Asia.

"Obviously, with as much com-

ess confrontational approach.

savings rates and spend more.

And in general, the administration

Among the perennial U.S.

China has shown some support for

acrimonious exchanges.

haps by next month.

6 killed

others were rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). They were identi-

The truck was going to scene, they added.

Correction

The story also mentioned that the naval chief approved procurement of spare parts worth Tk 70 lakh in the first tender in May last. Actually the second tender had the approval for parts worth Tk 75 lakh. The first tender did not even have any financial approval.

SC judgment

the chief justice.

facing the contempt-of-cour charges are Dr Kamal Uddin Siddiqui, the ex-principal secretary to the prime minister. Alauddin Sardar, Dr Mahbubur Rahman and Siddigur Rahman Chowdhury.

the implementation process of separation of the judiciary in compliance with the Supreme Court's 12point directive that stemmed from the Masdar Hossain case seven years ago.

The nine other mid-level bureaufacing the contempt charges for "distorting" the Supreme Court

Butenis; UK envoy FROM PAGE 1

told reporters after her meeting with Hasan Mashhud.

"I think it was clear long ago that the Election Commission has lost the confidence of people of Bangladesh," she said, adding that she is very much concerned that the nation is missing "the last chance" to resolve the crisis

14-party alliances to resolve the crisis through dialogue with the advisers who are very capable and patriotic," Butenis said, adding that all political parties should show

The US envoy urged both the alliances to stay out of streets and forward for a peaceful solution to the

resolution passed by the European Parliament on FC reconstitution

to resolve the ongoing crisis Choudhury said, adding, "The failure to reach any consensus will be alarming. Time is running fast ahead of the next parliamentary election.

Jalil said BNP-Jamaat has used Islam for narrow political gains.

Meanwhile, the 14-party leaders are keeping close contact with different other organisations with a view to take them on board to up the tempo of the current agitation, said

leaders within a couple of days, said sources. Jukto Front comprises Krishak Sramik Janata League of Kader Siddiqui and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) of ASM Abdur Rob.

Besides, some senior leaders are in touch with Jatiya Party (Ershad), JP (Anwar Hossain Manju) and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) over the issue of EC

reforms, added the sources.

major component of the 14-party, yesterday held a meeting at the office of Bangladesh Workers Party. The meeting discussed the preparation for the blockade programme and called on the president/CA to take immediate steps to remove CEC MA Aziz and three other election commissioners

FIVE-LEFT PARTY

The same day five-left party and Gono Mukti Andolon held a joint meeting. They called for an immediate resolution of the ongoing political stalemate

Samillita Islami Jote at an emergency meeting at its central office demanded that President lajuddin Ahmed stand down and appoint a non-partisan person as the chief

fied as Saiful, Reaz Uddin, Abul Hossain and Md Kasem

Kutubchhari Bazar of Rangamati from Ranirhat. Locals alleged that a helper was driving the truck and he lost its control on the steering due to inefficiency leading to the fatal accident. He managed to flee the

Sudan upon procurement in foreign currency through an open interna-

case Barrister M Amir-UI Islam asked the reasons behind it since nobody prayed for the adjournment.

On his hour-long meeting with the CEC and three election commissioners. UK High Commissioner Choudhury told reporters, "We discussed many issues including confidence of the political parties or the election machinery.'

Garment owners

became financially unstable due to the political unrest, the government should bear the responsibility. Otherwise, we will be compelled to take legal action against the present

The BGMEA president said they have already talked to other trade bodies to arrange the sit-in programme around the Bangabhaban premises.

Annisul Hug and Tipu Munshi. two former presidents of BGMEA, also spoke at the conference.

The BGMEA leaders also expressed their concerns over the activities of the CA and said the people of the country think that the president and CA handled crucial situations indecisively. It was very unfortunate that the CA along with 10 advisers failed to provide any

The BGMEA president said political programmes like blockade destroy the country's economy and the garment sector suffers losses up to Tk400 crore per day.

The president/CA has the right to restructure the Election Commission in many ways, said Annisul Huq, adding, "He has to be strong in restructuring the Election Commission." He also urged the 14-party

alliance to consider rescheduling

their blockade programme until the president addresses to the nation. Tipu Munshi, however, alleged that someone was controlling the overall activities of the caretaker

CEC will be resisted at any cost, Jalil

Advisers irked

FROM PAGE 1

- CM Shafi Sami, Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury and Mahbubul Alam to discuss the country's situation vesterday at the secretariat

Finance Adviser Akbar Ali Khan told journalists, "Nobody can be happy with a piecemeal solution of appointing two more commissioners to the Election Commission."

Only the president has the power to take actions regarding restructuring the Election Commission (EC), he said adding, the advisers have no power in this regard.

"At the advisory council meeting Saturday, we told the chief adviser that the tension will not be dissipated by merely taking some measures. There is a question of creating an environment and we have recommended in favour of that." Khan quipped, adding that regarding the EC, it was decided at the meeting that the president will take a decision all by himself.

He noted that there had been a lot of transfers and postings recently. "But none of the transfers or postings accommodated the suggestions made by 14-party coalition," Khan said adding, "On the other hand, even four-party alliance and the donors are also raising questions about these transfers.

"The government employees and officials are also expressing their grievances about such transfers and postings," he said.

"This cannot help to create an environment for a good election," Khan pointed out adding, "A measure that fails to make anyone happy cannot bring in a good result."

Akbar Ali Khan described the magnitude of the current crisis. The advisers have no control over the areas which are under the president's jurisdiction, he said. The political parties are also run by the country's biggest personalities over whom the advisers have no control either, he added

"This situation demands that the political parties resolve the crisis themselves," he said.

On the question whether the advisers would resign, given their limited authority to resolve the crisis, Akbar Ali Khan said, "I don't know what I would do. But I have no fascination for this job. I do not take anything from the government other than the car and the security. I don't wish to take anything else. I will try my best to carry out my tasks but the result is not guaranteed."

He noted that he was closely involved with two past caretaker governments. "The advisers in the past held meetings jointly everyday. But this is not happening now. If we can't sit together how are we to take quick decisions?"

Khan pointed out that when 10 advisers held their first meeting in the state guest house Padma, the political parties started terming it as a 'conspiracy'. "If they call it a conspiracy we simply cannot work," he

Unlike the problems faced by vious caretaker governments the present problems are more complex. As a result, a solution proposed a few days after the emergence of a problem is failing to solve it. That's why the problems should be resolved right away, he suggested

'I would be happy if I could speak with more optimism. I would request all, including the advisers and the civil society, to urge the political parties to resolve the crisis," Akbar Ali Khan said.

AL-led 14-party coalition had proposed three ways for removing MA Aziz from the EC. One is to form a Supreme Judicial Council for Aziz's removal on ground of publicly lying (about being requested by the caretaker government to step down), the second is to send him on a forced leave, and the third is to remove him asserting executive power on the basis of a precedent set by a verdict of the Indian High Court regarding a chief election commissioner there. The advisers found that not all of them are legally applicable, but one of them is, which

CA told

FROM PAGE 1

The alliance leaders told the chief adviser that his activities so far have not reflected "neutrality".

"You have not used the time effectively to act neutrally," they told lajuddin, adding that it does not seem that there is an interim neutral caretaker government in the country at present

"The chief adviser rather seems to be serving the purpose of a vested group," the 14-party leaders alleged, urging the president to save the country from confrontations by fulfilling their demands

They demanded removal of the CEC to create a congenial environment for holding a free and fair At the briefing, Jalil declared a

non-stop blockade programme across the country from today demanding the resignation of the chief adviser "We will build up all-out resis-

tance if the caretaker government declares the election schedule without reconstituting the Election Commission through removing the CEC and three election commissioners and updating the voter list correctly," Jalil said. Any election under the present

will take a long time to implement "The best option is his voluntary

resignation," Akbar noted. The constitution does not provide any other solution. But the president, if needed, can consult the Supreme Court for other actions, he said.

"The administration may try to conduct the election. Back in 1996 that had happened. Like other people of the country, we will observe to see what happens next," Power and Energy Adviser

Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury said,

"We discussed formation of

Supreme Judicial Council, forced leave, sending him to hajj but these cannot be executed in accordance with the constitution." He said, "Adviser Justice Md Fazlul Haq suggested that Aziz's

lying cannot be brought to court as a

gross misconduct." Although he himself and another adviser had met Aziz conveying the caretaker government's request to step down, Aziz flatly denied being

requested "What can we do when the particular person is not responding and his conscience is also not

The power adviser admitted that the outcome of the advisers' effort to end the existing crisis is very poor. "The outcome of our efforts to bring an end to the crisis is very poor. If we had a common ground it would be better for all," he added.

He said the country is in a critical juncture and the next two days wil determine the fate of the country.

Mashhud said with optimism that all political parties will accept the 'package of solution' the president is preparing and they will participate in

two new election commissioners to reconstitute the Election Commission," he said, expressing his hopes that all political parties will realise the fact that the EC cannot be reconstituted in a way acceptable to all.

He said the advisers hope that the president's upcoming speech will offer a solution to end the stalemate between the rival political alliances. But he added that the president's speech might not bring 'any miracle' due to constitutional limitations.

He however said the president is supposed to address the nation today but it might also be deferred.

Replying to a question he said whether a political party is participating in the election is not the main issue. "The issue is whether the election is acceptable to all,

DMP bans rallies. processions in, around Dhaka Cant on Nov 21

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has banned all types of rallies processions and meetings inside the Dhaka Cantonment and its adjacent areas on November 21, the Armed Forces Day.

A press note signed by ABM Bazlur Rahman, police commissioner of DMP, was issued to all print and electronic media vesterday where it said that the ban would be imposed in the area to ensure secuattending the reception at Senakunja.

The president, advisers to the caretaker government, members of the diplomatic community and top officials of government and nongovernment organisations would be nvited to the reception, added the

President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government lajuddin Ahmed will also place wreaths at the Shikha Anirban in Dhaka Cantonment before attending the reception in the evening.

JMB men's appeal

led by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain heard the matter.

31, upheld the death sentences of

The High Court (HC), on August

seven JMB militants that had been awarded by a trial court of

bomb attack on November 14, 2005. Although militant leaders earlier repeatedly said they would not appeal against verdict, after the HC

occasions slandered the iudicial system. Some of the convicts did not even challenge the HC verdict in their petition for appeal. Rather, they asked the Supreme Court to hold their trial on the basis of Islamic Law.

3 killed

A revolver, two pipe guns and three revolver bullets were recovered from the scene, said the press release.

Several criminal cases including four for murder were filed against Rafiqul with different police stations of Khulna, Jessore and Narail. Other allegations against him are extortion and robberies.

Meanwhile in Naogaon, two listed terrorists of PBCP were killed in an encounter between their cohorts and Rab at Kashiabari village under Atrai upazila early morning Sunday, reports The dead were identified as Sohel,

30, son of Hurmat Ali and Pintu, 35, son of Abdur Rouf of Noidighi village of the same upazila. Rab sources said Sohel and Pintu

were wanted in the many criminal cases including the sensational Noidighi six-murder case. Members of Rab 5 arrested Sohel and Pintu from the capital on Friday

evening, Rab sources said. Later, they

took the two terrorists to Rajashahi for

interrogation. Rab along with the two went to Kashiabari village at around 4:00am to capture their accomplices and seize hidden firearms.

As soon as Rab reached the snot other members of the terrorist outfit opened fire at Rab triggering a gun Sohel and Pintu were shot during the 'shootout' while fleeing Rab cus-

tody and died on the spot," claimed Later. Rab sent the bodies to Sadar Hospital for their autopsy. À shutter gun, a pipe gun, a bullet

recovered from the scene. City gridlocked

and a homemade sharp weapon were

FROM PAGE 1 sudden requisition, a lot of vehicles, did not ply the streets at daytime also, although a severe traffic jam was seen almost the whole day in the streets due to the 4-party alliance rally and proces-

The number of rickshaws was more than any other day, dominating the city's lanes and bi-lanes and creating a huge traffic jam. Taking advantage of the situation, the rickshawpullers also charged double fare, some commuters alleged Mirpur, Dhanmondi, Mohammadpur, Moghbazar, Shantinagar, Azimpur and the old parts of the city, everywhere the scene was the same.

"I walked all the way from Elephant Road to Karwan Bazar to get a CNG but I'm yet to find one," Imrul Kayes, a private employee, told The Daily Star at Karwan Bazar in the afternoon.

Mohammad Rais Iqbal from Mirpur, working in a shipping agency at Motijheel, told The Daily Star that he failed to get any vehicles at Motijheel and was forced to walk up to Shahbagh, but could not find any bus or a single CNG three-wheeler. "Now I am walking towards Farmgate to get something to get on," he said. The city kitchen markets were

make a stock of essentials. Many alleged of high prices of vegetables The fuel stations also witnessed a rush in the evening, with long queues of vehicles forming in front of almost

bustling with activities in the evening

as the customers thronged there to

every station.

The number of passengers was higher than usual at the bus terminals, train stations and launch terminals as many people wanted to reach their estinations before the start of block ade from today.

Quoting some school authorities, some parents said that chance for finishing the classes within this year is less due to the continuous blockade

India tests

missile are likely to be carried out next week as well, the sources said. Nuclear-capable India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars, two over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir, routinely carry out missile tests and

The missile, which can carry conventional or low-vield nuclear warheads, was last tested on June 11 this year. The missile is designed for battlefield use against troops or

armoured formations Prior to the test, local authorities temporarily evacuated more than

Cops find FROM PAGE 1

now kept at

Asked what steps will be taken against the high officials of BMET main office at Kakrail when the Welfare Desk staff admitted of the bureau's involvement. IO Shahadat Hossain said, "I cannot say it now."

The police also found names of at least seven travel agencies linked with the women trafficking process, he said He, however, declined to dis-

The IO said police raided some areas, but failed to catch any agents

Meanwhile, a source said two of the accused are Nurul Islam and his wife Sathi of Lalbagh in the capital and work as police sources.

police actions and went into hiding.

accusing the five government staff and 33 brokers of involvement with the trafficking attempt. The 38 accused are very influential, which is why they could not be

Libraries in sand

FROM PAGE 16

astrology or mathematics, while others tell tales of social and business life in Timbuktu during its "Golden Age," when it was a seat of

learning in the 16th century. "These manuscripts are about all the fields of human knowledge: law, the sciences, medicine," said Galla Dicko, director of the Ahmed Baba Institute, a library housing 25,000 of the texts. "Here is a political tract," he said,

pointing to a script in a glass cabinet, somewhat dog-eared and chewed by termites. "A letter on good governance, a warning to intellectuals not to be corrupted by the power of politicians.

Bookshelves on the wall behind him contain a volume on maths and a guide to Andalusian music as well as love stories and correspondence between traders plying the trans-Saharan caravan routes. Timbuktu's leading families have

only recently started to give up what they see as ancestral heirlooms They are being persuaded by local officials that the manuscripts should be part of the community's shared "It is through these writings that

we can really know our place in

history," said Abdramane Ben

Essavouti. Imam of Timbuktu's oldest mosque, Djingarei-ber, built from mud bricks and wood in 1325. **HEAT, DUST AND TERMITES** Experts believe the 150,000 texts collected so far are just a fraction of what lies hidden under centuries of

homes "This is just 10 percent of what we have. We think we have more

dust behind the ornate wooden

doors of Timbuktu's mud-brick

than a million buried here," said Ali Ould Sidi, a government official

responsible for managing the town's World Heritage Sites. Some academics say the texts will force the West to accept Africa has an intellectual history as old as its own. Others draw comparisons with the discovery of the Dead Sea

Scrolls. But as the fame of the manuscripts spreads, conservationists fear those that have survived centuries of termites and extreme heat will be sold to tourists at extortionate prices or illegally trafficked out of the country.

South Africa is spearheading "Operation Timbuktu" to protect the texts, funding a new library for the Ahmed Baba Institute, named after a Timbuktu-born contemporary of William Shakespeare

The United States and Norway are helping with the preservation of the manuscripts, which South African President Thabo Mbeki has said will "restore the self respect, the pride, honor and dignity of the

people of Africa." The people of Timbuktu, whose universities were attended by 25,000 scholars in the 16th century but whose languid pace of life has been left behind by modernity, have similar hopes.

"The nations formed a single line and Timbuktu was at the head. But one day, God did an about-turn and Timbuktu found itself at the back," a local proverb goes.

"Perhaps one day God will do another about-turn so that Timbuktu can retake its rightful place." it adds.

doctors had been called to work and

that operations were under way on

severely wounded victims. As a large

crowd of residents gathered at the

hospital, he urged them to remain

outside unless they were donating

Hillah has been the site of many

In May, a car packed with explo-

sives blew up at a dealership in

50 killed in Iraq

survivors ran in all directions." "How will I feed the six members of my family when I return home

Alwan said. Another survivor. Mohammed Abbas Kadhim, 30, said: "I was thrown a few meters by the blast and I couldn't see or hear for a few minutes as I was lying on the ground. People were racing everywhere looking for their missing sons, brothers, friends

all of them shouting 'God is great.'

without work and without money?

Crying and screaming Shia women searched the scene for their sons. Some blamed Sunni Arab insurgents for the attack. Others said Hillah's police don't provide poor people such as day labourers with adequate security. Firefighters wearing yellow rubber boots raced to the site to put out the

chunks of crumpled concrete as they moved toward the remains of the van, which was reduced to a blackened hulk of twisted metal. The blast shattered windows and ripped gaping holes in concrete stalls and storefronts nearby. Some busi-

burning vehicle. Some stepped over

mud mixed with blood and large

ness owners were using brooms to sweep away debris from the blast. Others stood nearby, surveying the damage as if in a daze. in part to guard the heavily damaged shops and stalls from scavengers Some of the stalls were serving

explosion occurred. Ambulances carrying the dead and wounded raced to nearby Hillah Hospital, which has its own morque As medics carried stretchers into the

outside offering to donate blood.

conducting raids in Baqouba and two villages near Kirkuk, 300km traditional breakfasts of boiled eggs north of Baghdad, police said. and tea to the labourers when the

In Sunday's worst attack by suspected insurgents outside Hillah, a roadside bomb and two car bombs exploded one after

another near a bus station in south-

eastern Baghdad, killing eight

Blair hints at change

military might. The implication that other allies are now coming around to that line expected change in direction from

called for two of Washington's archenemies. Syria and Iran, to help revive the Middle East peace process, bring stability to the wider region and halt spiralling sectarian

himself appeared to agree in a television interview Friday that the Iraq war had been a disaster so far. Blair and Musharraf held a 20minute face to face meeting at the

former British colonial governor's

residence in Lahore while officials

from both countries were in talks for about 50 minutes The Pakistani military leader told reporters there was a "total consonance" of views but was more forthright in calling for a multi-

Taliban "cannot be won through military action alone", instead calling for a broader strategy embracing politics, reconstruction and development.

"These two seemed to be missing from the area which today is under the Taliban action. That happens to be the south-east region

soldiers, in Afghanistan.

"The Taliban is an Afghan prob-

Both Blair and Musharraf expressed confidence in their partnership against extremism although they agreed they would need to work increasingly closely "for many years to come". "This extremism that we are

facing... has been a long time grow-

sooner we start fighting it the sooner Blair said the West and its allies were "in the midst of a difficult global struggle" against Islamic extremism and warned that the only way to win was to back moderate forces in

As part of the strengthened links with Islamabad. London said it would more than double its development aid to 480 million pounds (909 million dollars) over three years,

countries including Afghanistan and

ing Musharraf's policy of "enlightened moderation" in Islamic schools or madrasas that have been blamed for radicalising Muslim youths including visiting Britons. Blair said 20 million pounds

help tackle poverty in Pakistan, which has been a key ally of the USled "war on terror" since the September 11, 2001 attacks. The two governments' interior ministries and intelligence services

would be released immediately to

counter-terrorism and counternarcotics as well as in the fight against illegal immigration and

Blockade restarts

FROM PAGE 1 to maintain law and order At a press briefing at Dhanmondi AL office yesterday evening, 14party Coordinator Abdul Jalil warned that the CA would be forced to resign if he continues his efforts to implement "the BNP-Jamaat's

blueprint for election engineering".

will seek to blockade all roads, rail

and waterways and cut off the

capital from the rest of the country.

Dhaka city 14-party coordinator

Mofazzel Hossain Chowdhury

The combine leaders said they

All ports will be shut down and districts and upazila headquarters will be brought to a standstill from

Maya last night told The Daily Star that blockade will be enforced at 40 points across the capital. Maya, also

press conference.

today, they added

BLOCKADE POINTS

city AL general secretary, said they will resist any attempts to foil the programme JOINT BRIEFING After an hour-long meeting, Jatiya Oikya Front and the 14-party held a

Jalil said they have decided to launch a simultaneous movement starting with the blockade today. He said a deep-rooted conspiracy is on to destroy the national sovereignty and democracy and all political parties must unite in resistance to the evil forces in BNP-Jamaat coalition. "So, we have

Addressing the briefing, Abdul

reached a consensus in favour of a simultaneous movement." he observed. Jalil, also general secretary of AL, said in no way will they accept the election schedule if it is announced before implementing the 11-point demand of the 14-party

and eight-point of the Oikva Front.

The meeting rejected the presi-

dent's proposal for appointing two

more election commissioners

instead of booting out CEC Justice Aziz and the three other commissioners from the EC The meeting observed that the president/chief adviser has been frantically trying to implement the BNP-Jamaat plot to hold a "blueprint election". He seems relentless in his efforts to announce the schedule without creating an atmosphere

fair election. It also expressed fear that if the commission announces the schedule on orders from Khaleda Zia. it would certainly translate into a severe disruption to the democratic process

The meeting demanded that the

advisers of the caretaker govern-

ment be empowered more and

allocated ministries that are vital

congenial to conduct of a free and

with respect to the conduct of elec-Briefing the newsmen, Oikya Front Coordinator Major (retired) Abdul Mannan said the discussion with the 14-party was successful. Both the sides believe that reconstitution of the EC is the most important political imperative at the moment. The election will not be acceptable if held without reorganisation of the commission.

Mannan, also secretary general

of LDP, said now there is no alternative to ouster of lajuddin as he has failed miserably to discharge his duties as the chief adviser. He said alongside AL and its allies, they will be on the streets to press home the

Mannan said they will also hold a peaceful sit-in in the capital today. Among others, Abdur Razzak,

Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Kazi Zafarullah, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Obaidul Quader. Rashed Khan Menon. Bimal Biswas, Nurul Islam, and Dilip Barua of the 14-party combine and Alamgir Kabir, Major General (retired) Anwarul Kabir Talukdar, Barrister Ziaur Rahman, Mahi B

Oikya Front were present at the Later, delegations of Islamic Front Bangladesh led by Syed Bahadur Shah, Islamic Oikya Jote (a faction) led by Mezbaur Rahman Chowdhury and Nezame Islam Party led by Harun-e-Abdullah Al Masud Khan exchanged views with the leaders of the 14-party alliance.

Chowdhury, and Firoz M Hassan of

AL and its allies in the ongoing movement for reconstitution of the After meeting the Islamic parties,

They declared to join forces with the

They could meet the Jukto Front

11-PARTY MEETING The Dhaka city unit of 11-party, a FROM PAGE 1

tional tender.

We rearet the errors.

counsel for the Masdar Hossain

"It's suo moto adjournment," said Four top government secretaries

They are charged with impeding

crats of different ministries are edicts on separation of the judiciary.

"I urge both the four-party and

refrain from violence. She hoped that the political leaders will move

He said he, of course, owns the A political consensus is essential

solution acceptable to all, they said. election.

government from behind the scene.

working," Mashhud questioned.

the next general election. "We decided unanimously to add

Mashhud pointed out.

rity of the high-profile dignitaries

The full bench of the Appellate Division comprising seven judges

Jhalakathi On May 29, the Jhalakathi court sentenced Abdur Rahman, Siddiqul Islam, Ataur Rahman Sunny, Abdul Awal, Iftekhar al Mamun, Khaled Saifullah and Arif to death for killing judges Sohel Ahmed and Jagannath Pandev in a suicide

verdict, six of the seven condemned militants filed petitions for appeal in October at the eleventh hour of deadline for appealing. The other condemned, Arif, is still on the run. The militant leaders on many

FROM PAGE 16

advance under an agreement.

the Airport Police Station

close the names for the 'sake of investigation'. as they had already got to know the

Immigration police on Friday filed a case with the Airport Police Station

identified or arrested earlier during the tenure of the immediate past government, the source said

In August, an explosives-rigged bicycle blew up near an army recruiting centre in the city, killing at least 12 people. The attacker, who was posing as an army applicant, left the bike at the centre as volunteers

gathered outside.

deadly bomb attacks.

blood.

Hillah, killing at least 12 people and wounding 32. One of the worst bomb attacks in Iraq during the war also occurred in Hillah, when a suicide car bomber killed 125 national guard and police recruits in February 2005.

in a series of attacks by suspected insurgents in the cities of Baghdad. Mosul and Baqouba, police said. US and Iraqi forces also killed 12 insurgents, detained 11, and freed eight Iraqi hostages while

Elsewhere in Iraq, 21 civilians,

five policemen and a soldier were

killed and 50 Iragis were wounded

civilians and wounding 43, police Dr Mohammed Dhiya, the hospital's manager, said all the city's

of thinking coincides with an the coalition in Iraq when the bipartisan Iraq Study Group reports. The Prime Minister has also

violence in Iraq. The implication comes after Blair

faceted strategy to curb the Taliban insurgency in neighbouring Afghanistan. General Musharraf restated his view that the fight against the

of Afghanistan," he added. Musharraf again brushed off

western concerns about Pakistan's role in fuelling extremism and its commitment to tackling Taliban insurgents who are fighting Nato-led troops, including 5,200 British lem." he said.

ing and it's going to take a long time to defeat it." Blair said. "but the we will achieve victory.'

with the bulk going into education. The cash will go towards promot-

will also work more closely on international organised crime