

## Blockade

**FROM PAGE 1**  
The Awami League (AL) led 14-party joint by Jatiya Oikya Front comprising Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), Jatiya Oikya Mancha and Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, resumed the blockade demanding EC reconstitution as the third deadline for President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed to meet its 11-point demand ended on Sunday.

**THE CAPITAL**  
With the daybreak, blockade enforcers took position at different intersections in the capital to block vehicular movement. They also set up makeshift podiums on trucks at many places and on streets at other places. Folk singers were rendering parody during intervals of speeches by leaders. At some places, satires were read out to cheer up the gatherings.

Leaders of the 14-party and LDP delivered speeches throughout the day yesterday with intervals, assuring their supporters of an imminent victory. The participants were also seen dancing at almost every blockade point.

A good number of general people were seen at these points. The participants chanted slogans at the top of their voice, especially while burning the effigy of the CEC. Some of them even kicked the effigies.

At Mirpur 10, Mirpur-1, Gabtoli, Shyamoli, Sukrabad, Russell Square and Pallan, singers rendered parody criticizing the CEC. At some places, blockade rallies turned into election campaign rallies. The singers also depicted the agony of people during the five-year rule of BNP-Jamaat alliance.

On the Supreme Court (SC) premises, the SC Bar Association (SCBA) leaders addressed a rally. Many lawyers rendered songs that once cheered up people during the Liberation War.

At Russell Square, pickets torched a private car while at Shyamoli, they vandalised a CNG-run autorickshaw.

At Amin Bazar ghat, a good number of fertiliser bags sent from Chittagong were seen piled up. Usually about 50 trucks carry fertiliser from here everyday.

In front of the BNP central office at Naya Pallan, a small rally of party men were held and there was a similar rally of Jamaat about 100 yards away.

The 14-party leaders held rallies at Bangabandhu Avenue, Zero Point and Muktangan throughout the day. Police yesterday removed the barricade they put up at the entrance to Muktangan. Jubo League later set up a stage.

Participants were in a jolly mood as they expected that the CEC would resign any time. Vehicles except rickshaws, vans and emergency transports were not seen in atrabari-Sayedabad-Kanchpur areas on Dhaka-Chittagong highway.

Leaders and activists of 14-party and LDP took to the highway in processions.

Almost all the shops excepting some medicine and food stores remained closed during the blockade in Old Dhaka.

Pickets vandalised a passenger bus at Mirpur.

**BOGRA VIOLENCE**

While Islam Chhatra Shibir activists were marching in a procession to join a meeting of the four-party alliance at

**BNP men attack**

**FROM PAGE 1**  
activists Md Naim Chowdhury, 30, and Abu Sama, 30, and JCD activist Abdul Kader, 26, was critical and they were undergoing treatment at CMCH.

Sources said the BNP men brought Naim out of his house and cut his tendons.

**LDP RALLY**

Addressing the rally, Oli Ahmed called upon the people to fight against the widespread corruption, terrorism and injustice.

He said he made a great blunder by recommending Gazi Shahjahan for nomination before the 1996 elections.

Oli declared M Yakub Ali, convener of Patiya upazila LDP, as his party's candidate for Patiya for the next election and sought vote for him.

Former state minister Ridwan Ahmed and LDP central leader Shahadat Hossain Salm also spoke at the rally presided over by Yakub Ali.

## India, China

**FROM PAGE 16**  
There were no expectations of a breakthrough on the border issue although both sides are working out details of the next meeting of special representatives formed to examine the issue.

Singh said the two special representatives will be asked to accelerate their efforts to arrive at a boundary settlement on the basis of the Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles signed in April last year.

"We agree that an early boundary settlement will advance the basic interests of the two countries and must therefore be pursued as a strategic objective. Such a settlement will invest our strategic partnership with further strength and dynamism," he said.

While this process goes on, it will be ensured that "such differences are not allowed to affect the positive development of bilateral relations," the declaration said.

Singh said he had "cordial, open and constructive talk focusing on bilateral relations and cooperation on regional and multilateral issues".

The two countries agreed that the positive development of Sino-India relations in recent years "must be made irreversible", the Indian Prime Minister said.

They also agreed to set up additional consulates in Kolkata and

Satmatha in the town, some unidentified people threw a cocktail at them yesterday morning.

Agitated Shibir workers later attacked a 14-party gathering near the AL office, stormed into the office and ransacked furniture, accusing those present of throwing the cocktail.

Activists of both the rival combines tried to attack each other but failed to do so due to police barricade between the two sides.

Shibir activists, joined by Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal and Jubo Dal workers, later threw cocktails on police to clear the barricade, prompting police to fire teargas shells and rubber bullets.

Police said at least 50 cocktails were blasted at Satmatha and adjoining areas during the two-hour clash that left 50 injured.

Including three journalists, Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and additional police force were deployed at important points of the town to prevent further clash.

Eight of the injured including Town unit Shibir Organising Secretary Shakawat Hossain and JCD Sadar Thana unit President Sarker Mukul were admitted to local Mohammad Ali Hospital.

**CHITTAGONG**  
While BCL activists in 18 trucks were returning in a procession to Nimtala in Pahartali area at around 1:45pm, JCD and Shibir activists, who were holding a rally there then, pelted bricks on the procession injuring some BCL activists.

The BCL activists later chased and attacked the JCD-Shibir workers and damaged the four-party's podium, chairs and tables. Shibir leaders Jahid and Rakib were stabbed there. Later, BCL workers chased away JCD-Shibir men from the area.

Fifteen people were injured before police brought the situation under control.

President of Shibir Chittagong City South Unit Jahidul Islam and activist Raquibul Islam and JCD leader Afsaruddin were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) with serious injuries.

BCL activists Wasmuddin, Iqbal Ahmed, Zakaria, Sabbir and Pavel Rahman were also injured.

Reports from different other districts said the blockade was observed peacefully.

**GAZIPUR**  
15 people were injured in a clash between activists of four-party alliance and AL.

As some activists from a four-party procession were chanting offensive slogans while passing the AL district office in the evening, someone hurled a stone at the procession.

Numbers of four-party activists were angered by this act and they vandalised over a dozen plastic chairs stacked outside the AL office.

Supporters of the two groups locked in a clash and hurled bricks at each other after the AL activists organised themselves and chased the four-party men.

Police took position between the two rivals in an attempt to defuse the tension but without any success.

Later riot police and Rapid Action Battalion joined to assist the police and dispersed the clashing activists by firing teargas shells.

## Reporters wants

**FROM PAGE 16**  
They also threatened to go for tougher movement if the ban is not withdrawn by today.

On Sunday, the EC suddenly imposed the ban on journalists' entry to its secretariat. The EC also barred reporters from entering its office for few hours last week.

Addressing the rally, the media people said the restriction was imposed at a time when the next parliamentary election is approaching and all eyes are set on the activities of the EC.

They found the ban as an intervention to their freedom of expression and alleged the EC imposed the ban so that the reporters could not dig out its irregularities and corruption.

The reporters said as the general election is nearing, people want more information regarding the EC and its steps to hold free elections. But the restriction stands as a serious block to gather information from the EC, they alleged.

## JCD attacks

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Curzon Hall at around 9:30am when a BCL procession demanding CEC's removal reached there.

BCL's DU unit President Sohail Rana Tipu and General Secretary Sazzad Saqib Badsha led the procession started from the Institute of Fine Arts.

Later, the BCL activists reorganised themselves and launched a counter-chase against the JCD. Armed with bamboo sticks, activists of both the organisations then engaged in a skirmish and hurled bricks at each other.

Four cocktails went off during the clash, sources said.

On receiving information, police rushed to the spot and charged batons on both the groups to disperse them leaving at least two injured from both sides.

The incident marked the BCL's first organisational presence on the DU campus since the caretaker government took over last month.

## 3 outlaws

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Regional leader of their rival PBCP Lal Pataka faction inside the crowded Jalalpur market. They gunned him down and hacked him to death, said the sources.

The dead was identified as Amjad Hossain, 35, son of late Abu Jafar, of Chomorpur village under Ataikula Thana.

Locals chased the extremists and caught one of the suspected assassins, Dulal. The mob beat him up and handed him over to Rab 12.

Following Dulal's confessional statement, a Rab team took him along at Dhopaghata in the afternoon to recover hidden firearms and capture his accomplices, said Rab.

Soon after the Rab team reached Dhopaghata, Dulal's cohorts fired on Rab prompting Rab to return fire that triggered a half-hour long gunfight, Rab added.

Amirul, Dulal and Lutfar were found dead after the gunfight was over, claimed Rab.

The dead are accused in many cases filed in several police stations including Pabna and Ataikula, Rab said.

Rab recovered a rifle, two bombs and some bullets from the scene.

## 4-party protests

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"People will not forgive if you fail to maintain neutrality. So, you should not do or say anything that goes in favour any particular party," he told a rally at Mohamudpur.

Chaired by Alauddin Ali, the rally was also addressed by Jamaat-e-Islami leader Rafiqul Islam, Jubo Dal leader Abdus Salam and Shirin Sultana.

From another rally held at Teigaon, former state minister and Jubo Dal president Barkat Ullah Bulu criticised the advisers to the CG saying, "They are busy meeting some illogical demands, which is not their duty. But they are not doing what they should do as regards holding the next election properly".

Presided over by Jalal Ahmed, local BNP and Jamaat leaders addressed the rally, followed by a procession.

Rama Thana BNP also held a rally Mouchak crossing and brought out procession led by DCC Ward Commissioner Ariful Islam Arif.

Similar programmes were held at Dholaikhal, Nayabazar, Hossain Market in Badda, Mohammodpur BRTC bus stand, Mirpur Mazar crossing, near the New Market and at many other places.

## Ershad says

**FROM PAGE 1**  
trial of the case, the ones willing to humiliate him in front of the society had implicated him in the case. And therefore, he was seeking acquittal of the charges in the case.

On July 17, 1990 (when Ershad was the then president of the country), a team of customs officials held four people including two foreign nationals at Zia International Airport while attempting to smuggle around 3.6 kg gold worth about Tk 2.5 crore into Bangladesh, the prosecution said.

A smuggling case was filed with the Cantonment Police Station the same day against the four — Bernhard Rudiger of Germany, David Anthony Chalmar Chaker of England, then manager of the Zia International Airport Maj (Retd) Ashraf Uddin Sekender and Abu Taher, a security guard of the airport.

Ershad's name was not in the FIR (First Information Report) that was recorded before the BNP government came to power. Later, on August 31, 1991, the investigation officer (IO) of the case included Ershad's name in the supplementary charge sheet as an abettor during the ongoing trial.

Rudiger, Chalmar Chaker, Ashraf and Taher were convicted and sent to prison on different terms on May 14, 1992.

The trial against Ershad did not start due to a stay order from the High Court.

Ershad was acquitted and discharged of four graft cases in last August and September amid speculations of his joining the four-party alliance.

**lajuddin**

**FROM PAGE 1**  
the armed forces for their outstanding role in facing national crises apart from performing their professional duties.

The president/chief adviser also mentioned the role of the armed forces in UN peacekeeping missions and said they have upheld the image of Bangladesh abroad playing an active role in establishing international peace.

He said the government has taken up a massive programme to make the armed forces more capable of facing the challenges of the 21st century.

"We must attain the expected quality through implementation of the programme. Inshallah, we'll work together and tirelessly to achieve that goal," the president said.

## 14-party demands

**FROM PAGE 1**  
parties, donor agencies, foreign diplomats and international communities want reconstitution of the EC, so that, the next election could be held in a free and fair manner.

Referring to the BNP chairperson's demand for announcement of election schedule without delay, Jaill said sending a certain debacle in the upcoming elections, the BNP-Jamaat alliance wants quick declaration of election schedule so that they can make arrangements for their plan to rig the election.

All the political parties and the people of Bangladesh are united, they would not allow any rigged elections be held in the country, Jaill stated.

He said the BNP-Jamaat alliance has resorted to conspiracies as a congenial atmosphere for a free and fair election is being created.

The AL leader alleged the Hawa Bhaban, an office of the BNP, has brought identified terrorists to the capital to attack 14-party rallies and create anarchy in the country.

Claiming notorious criminal Subrata Bain was released on Hawa Bhaban's request after he was arrested at a city hotel recently, Jaill demanded immediate investigation into the matter.

He also accused "Hawa Bhaban godfathers Ilias Ali and Gias Uddin Al Mamun" of conspiring to attack four-party rallies so that the 14-party alliance could be blamed for the attacks.

Referring to attacks on minority communities in different southern districts, Jaill demanded the president to take immediate actions to stop attacks and harassments of minorities. He also demanded security for the minority community during the elections.

Jaill protested against a news item on newspapers about the AL submitting a list of 829 officials to the establishment secretary. He said they have not submitted any list and those who placed the list in the name of AL are not involved AL at all. They placed the list only to mislead people and the AL has no relation with these people, he claimed.

AL Leader Abdur Razzak, Toifal Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Obaidul Quader, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul

## One day gone

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Sources said the president will address the nation upon receiving a result of his initiative.

CEC MA Aziz, who came to the office amid tight security at 8.45 in the morning yesterday and had a series of meetings with election commissioners and EC officials, left the office at 4:13pm amid police escort again without saying anything to the media about his next course of action.

The CEC did not attend the Arms Forces Day programme in Senakunja yesterday evening either and cancelled a scheduled meeting with a foreign delegation today, sources said.

The officials of the EC Secretariat guessed that the CEC might not attend his office from today amid a wide-spread rumour that he took a 90-day leave of absence.

Contacted by The Daily Star, Secretary to the EC Secretariat Abdur Rashid Sarkar declined to say anything about the CEC's next course of action.

The secretary, who also attended a series of meetings with the CEC, however said that he did not visit Bangabhaban carrying any message or letter from the CEC to the president.

The presidential delegation comprising three advisers that met the CEC on Monday morning and announced later that they will get a result in 24 to 48 hours, last night said they were also waiting for the CEC's response.

"We don't know anything till now," adviser Sultana Kamal, a member of the presidential delegation, told The Daily Star on Friday.

The advisers, who attended the Armed Forces Day's function in Senakunja yesterday evening, were also discussing among themselves whether the CEC had informed his decision to the president, but none of them had any information regarding that. They wanted to sit together to discuss the next course of action upon receiving a response from the CEC, which they could not do since they did not have a decision yet, sources said.

President Iajuddin Ahmed however expressed his optimism that the efforts of the advisers to break the present political impasse will be successful, the state-run news agency BSS reported yesterday.

"I hope the differences among the political parties will soon be narrowed down and a solution to the crisis will come in the next one or two days," a Bangabhaban spokesman quoted the president as telling the visiting British Deputy Chief of Defence Admiral Charles Style, who called on him yesterday.

The president also told the British admiral that he is trying hard to solve the problem for paving the way for a free and fair election.

CEC MA Aziz who has been rigid on his stance of not resigning however on Monday assured the presidential delegation that he will inform the president about his decision on whether he will resign or take a leave in two days.

Since then all eyes have been set on Aziz to know his decision, but he did not disclose anything yet. He left his office at 4:13pm and did not visit Bangabhaban since arriving at his residence.

A widespread rumour was that the CEC had sent a fax to the president informing his decision to take a 90-day

Haque Inu, Aktheruzzaman, Bimal Biswas, Pankaj Bhattacharya, Nurul Islam and Dilip Barua were also present in the briefing.

Meanwhile, as part of the AL's campaign for electoral reforms, a delegation of AL leaders led by former finance minister AMA Muhit met Adviser to the Caretaker Government Shafi Sami yesterday. The delegation discussed key reforms issues with the adviser.

AL leaders Asaduzzaman Noor, Farruk Ahmed Chowdhury, HT Imam and M Mokammel Haque were members of the delegation.

## Col Faruk

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Sessions Judge's Court adjourned the delivery of the verdict as he could not go to the special court set up adjacent to the Dhaka central jail due to political unrest.

The cases— one under the Arms Act, one under the Special Powers Act and the other under the Explosive Substances Act— were filed with Cantonment Police Station on August 18, 1996.

During the trial, the court recorded statements of six prosecution witnesses in each case.

According to the prosecution, a criminal investigation department (CID) team along with the then officer-in-charge (OC) of Cantonment Police Station arrested Faruk on August 18, 1996 after raiding his house at DOHS in the capital.

The team also seized a revolver, a shotgun, an airgun, a stengun, 616 bullets, eight international passports, 2,830 Pakistani rupees and 62.75 Libyan dinars from the spot.

Later, four cases were filed with Cantonment Police Station— one under the Arms Act, one under the Foreign Currency Control Act, one under the Explosive Substances Act and the other under the Special Powers Act.

Earlier, on May 9 last year, the same court acquitted Lt Col (dis-mised) Syed Farukur Rahman of charges in a case filed for possessing foreign currencies, as the charge brought against him was not proved.

Another court on October 20, 2004 sentenced Faruk to life in jail in the jail killing case.

## CA's apathy

**FROM PAGE 1**  
routine work as well as the preparatory work for holding the election.

At yesterday's meeting, the advisers discussed the existing political impasse and government measures for a free and fair poll once the crisis is resolved, sources said.

"We are discussing various issues with each other at different times so that we can perform our duties properly as described in the constitution," Adviser CM Shafi Sami told reporters before joining the lunch.

The advisers, however, declined to call their having lunch together a "meeting". "We gathered to take lunch only and Mahubul Alam was today's host," Finance and Planning Adviser M Akbar Ali Khan said.

Adviser Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury did not attend the lunch as he was at a scheduled programme outside the secretariat, his personal staff said.

Earlier on Sunday, Shafi Sami hosted a lunch for his cabinet colleagues.

After assuming office, all the advisers met at a lunch meeting at the state guesthouse Padma.

BNP Chairperson and immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia bitterly criticised the meeting, terming it "a conspiracy" as the chief adviser was not present there.

But Akbar Ali Khan told reporters that they had met only for taking lunch.

## Japanese envoy

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Justice Mahfuzur Rahman and Mohammad Hasan Mansur were present.

Talking to reporters at the EC gate after the meeting, Inoue said he exchanged experience and views with the election officials on various issues and preparations for holding the next election in a free and fair manner.

The envoy termed the current political situation the internal matter of Bangladesh and said, "We do not want to make any comment on it."

"People of Bangladesh will decide how the election will be held in a free and neutral atmosphere," he said.

Later, Australian High Commissioner Douglas Foskett met Election Commissioner SM Zakaria at his office.

He left the EC Secretariat without responding to any query of the waiting journalists.

## BGMEA

**FROM PAGE 1**  
ultimatum to the president to break the deadlock; otherwise, they said, they would stage a sit-in on the premises of the presidential residence Monday.

However, later they had decided to have the decision approved by the association members and accordingly, they called an emergency board meeting at the BGMEA office yesterday. At the meeting, the members overwhelmingly endorsed the sit-in programme, said sources.

"We will have to go for a sit-in in front of the Bangabhaban if President Iajuddin fails to work out a solution by today," Tipu Munshi, the immediate past president of BGMEA, told The Daily Star.

He said, "The majority view at the meeting was that we hold the demonstration."

Addressing a press conference after the board meeting, former BGMEA president Anisul Haq said, "We must organise the programme as the so-called constitutional and democratic politics of the political parties has been ruining our industry."

BGMEA President SM Fazul Haque, however, did not make any comment on the planned sit-in.

He said, "We will meet the president and chief adviser on Thursday and then decide on what to do."

Meanwhile, in a statement signed by Salahuddin Ahmed, acting secretary of BGMEA, said the board meeting has decided to submit a memorandum to the chief adviser, advisers and the governor of the Bangladesh Bank, depicting how badly the garment sector has been affected due to the ongoing political unrest.

The statement said the apparel factory owners and manufacturers hope that the current crisis will come to an end within the deadline spelt out by the interim government. They will announce more programmes if things do not improve by that time.

**HANNAN'S ORGANISATIONS**

On return, Hannan established Kotlarpada Adarsha Cadet Madrasa at Kotlarpada and began working as a teacher there.

He said he had come in contact with Mufti Shafiqur Rahman, Abdul Hye, Abdur Rouf, Saidur Rahman and some other HuJI leaders at a meeting at Gahardanga madrasa in 1994. They had invited him to join HuJI.

On induction into the organisation, he was appointed the publicity secretary and soon started working at different levels in places across the country.

The main objective of the organisation was to train up young Muslims and have them ready to fight for the fellow Muslims "subjected to oppression at home and abroad".

Around 2 lakh people might have been trained in the Kaomi madrasas, schools, colleges and universities.

Hannan also founded Khurshidia Mahila Madrasa, a madrasa for the women in Jessore, in 1995.

He came back to his cadet madrasa the next year. Besides, he formed an NGO, Al Faruq Islamic Foundation, in 1996.

Since then, he would visit the HuJI offices at Khilgaon and Taltala in Dhaka and attend the organisation's meetings regularly.

**HUJI IN ACTION**

Hannan in his submission said the organisation had already decided to stop the non-Islamic activities in the country and help others in their ways.

In line with the decision, HuJI had sent fighters to Myanmar to fight for the Arakanese rebel Muslim forces.

**UDICHI BLAST**  
The HuJI leader also described in detail how his organisation had carried out the deadly blast at Udichi programme in Jessore.

Hannan said they had worked out the plan for the attack at their Mohammodpur office in 1999.

Among others, Abdur Rouf

## Container terminal

**FROM PAGE 16**  
the cranes for five days during suspension of the Awami League-led 14-party combine's blockade programme.

It will demand Tk 10 lakh as compensation for per day work stoppage.

The CPA installed four sophisticated gantry cranes at the cost of Tk 150 crore in January this year and