## Sectarian violence Traffic suffers kills 24 Iraqis

Fierce fighting between coalition forces and insurgents shut down a city north of Baghdad yesterday and gunfire crackled across the capital, as Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki prepared to travel to Jordan for a summit with US President George W Bush aimed at halting the country's escalating sectarian violence and paving the way for a reduction of American troops.

By 10 am, 13 insurgents, six policemen, and five civilians had been killed, including two Iraqi females who were caught up in a coalition raid north of the capital, police and US officials said. That raised to seven the number of Iraqi females, including an infant, who had died during American raids in Iraq in the last two days.

In New York on Tuesday, UN Security Council voted unanimously to extend for one year the mandate of the 160,000-strong multinational force in Iraq.

The Security Council responded to a request from al-Maliki, who said a top government priority is to assume full responsibility for security and stability throughout Iraq but that it needs more time

In Baghdad, some of al-Maliki's key Shia backers have threatened to suspend their cooperation with Parliament if he goes ahead with the summit in Amman later Wednesday, but the prime minister showed every sign that he was on

Last week, Shia politicians loval to the radical anti-American Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr threatened to boycott parliament and the Cabinet if al-Maliki, a Shia, meets with Bush during the two-day summit. The political bloc, known as Sadrists, is a mainstay of support for al-Maliki.

On Wednesday, the lawmakers showed no sign of backing down.

"We are sticking to our position. The boycott is still valid." Falih Hassan, a Sadrist legislator, said in an interview with The Associated Press. "Bush is a criminal who killed a lot of Iragis and we do not want him to interfere in Irag's affairs. The Iraqi government should negotiate with the UN Security Council, not with the leader of the country that is occupying Iraq.

Meanwhile, heavy fighting continued in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, where clashes between coalition forces and Sunni-Arab insurgents have killed scores of militants and civilians in the past few days.

The university, public schools and many stores remained closed, and the capital's streets were mostly empty, except for a few people who dashed out to small fruit or vegetable stalls to stock up on

In a city with a crumbling infrastructure, few residents had electricity and most only received limited water supplies. Many Shias and Sunnis have fled neighbourhoods where they live in a minority. seeking refuge with relatives in nearby provinces or, if they had the money, in neighbouring Jordan and

In Wednesday's deadliest violence in Iraq, coalition forces backed by US aircraft killed eight al-Qaeda in Iraq insurgents during a raid near Bagouba that also left two

Iraqi women dead, the US military

aimed at detaining Iraqis who were running a known cell of insurgents. the US command said. Coming under heavy fire from rifles and machine guns, the soldiers called in air support that killed the eight al-Qaeda in Iraq militants, the command said in a brief statement. While searching the area, US forces also found the bodies of two local Iraqi females who had died during the fight.

No coalition casualties were reported.

Baqouba is the capital of Diyala province, where widespread fighting involving insurgents has raged for several days. On Tuesday, Diyala police said they found 11 bullet-riddled bodies around

fought with suspected insurgents in Ramadi, the capital of Anbar province, killing six Iraqis: one man and five females, including the infant.

That fighting began after a coalition patrol discovered a roadside bomb in the Hamaniyah section of Ramadi and two Iraqi men fled to a house where they took up position on the roof, the military said. US soldiers attacked the building and after the fight the six bodies were found inside, the military said

It accused the militants of risking the lives of civilians by using the building as a safe house for insurgents in Ramadi, 118km west of Baghdad, the site of frequent fighting between US forces and mili-

Earlier Wednesday morning, suspected insurgents attacked the police headquarters in downtown Bagouba, and five of the attackers were shot and killed, police said on condition of anonymity, as they regularly do to protect themselves. Insurgents often kill Iraqi security forces for being allied with the USled coalition

In Salahuddin, a province west of Diyala, insurgents killed four policemen and wounded four others in a carefully coordinated attack on a police station in Samarra city that used a suicide car bomb and militants armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades, said police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

In another town in Salahuddin, suspected insurgents attacked a police checkpoint, killing two policemen and wounding two others, said police Capt. Laith Mohammed.

American and British embassies are based.

exploded near a police patrol in a commercial centre of the capital. killing three civilians and wounding 11 Iragis, including two policeman and three children, said police Lt. Bilal Ali Maiid.

police Lt. Ali Muhsin, Guards at the building opened fire randomly after the attack, he said.

Court, Purana Paltan, Doyal Chattar. Chankharpul, Nawabpur and Zero Point areas barricaded for hours starting from 11:00am.

As a result, the people committing from north to south or vice versa had a lot of troubles and soon those travelling from east to west and the other way round had to endure the

Traffic on the streets approaching Gulistan was at a standstill for a couple of hours. The worst affected were Shahbagh, Farmgate Navapaltan Motiiheel Bijaynagar Shantinagar, Rampura, Mouchak Kamalapur, Tongi Diversion Road Gulshan, Banani and the Airport Road.

Roads on many parts of the old city too were wedged with gridlock. The lanes and bi-lanes were clogged with rickshaws and cars

Many people were seen walking to their destinations as the traffic jams persisted for long hours.

waiting for the thoroughfares to be

"I walked all the way from Shahbagh to Farmgate," said Abdus Sobhan Shakil, a trader.

During the time between 11:00am to 2:00pm, those bound for Motijheel from Shahbagh had no alternative but to walk

"I needed to go to Motijheel for some urgent work. But the police stopped me at the High Court intersection. They also did not allow me going through Segunbagicha.' Badrul Ahsan, one of hundreds of sufferers, told The Daily Star yester-

'Then I waited for over an hour for the Jubo Sangram's programme to end," he added

## Phone bills

Fazlur Rahman of Natore and Sved Mohammad Mohsin of Dhaka.

Earlier on Tuesday, the BTTB filed seven cases with the same court against seven former BNF lawmakers to realise telephone bills totalling Tk 23 lakh.

Fazlur Rahman owes the BTTB Tk 13.893 while Mohsin Tk 43.383.

In the complaints of the cases the accounts officer mentioned that Fazlur Rahman did not pay the amount of money from April 1991 to November the same year while Mohsin from April 1993 to December 1995.

Even though they were served repeated notices for paying the amount, they did not make any attempt to pay their dues. As such the accounts officer prayed to the CMM for realising the fine from the amount of revenue under section 7(A) of the provisions of Telegraph Act 1985.

### Nicholas Burns FROM PAGE 1

vision for the country. "Bangladesh has recently earned an important distinction, it's citizen Mohammed Yunus and the Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize for their ground-breaking efforts in microcredit and other initiatives."

"He is a remarkably selfless person and he inspired me with his ambitious and even audacious vision that all of the families in his country should have access to capital to improve their lives," Burns said adding he met with Dr Yunus in Washington last week to discuss how the US can implement its own foreign assistance more effectively for maximum impact.

Burns also stressed the pivotal importance of Bangladesh to the future of South Asia because of its "Advantage of size, a growing economy, and a talented popula-

The US under-secretary however, feels that Bangladesh must effectively tackle corruption and failure to do so, will undermine confidence in government and in the Bangladeshi economy. The US will work with civil society and Bangladeshis to help combat corruption, he added.

The speech titled "US Policy in South Asia" was published in the US Department of State website.

### Ex-BCL leader

FROM PAGE 16 Siraj in the chair, the speakers said the arrest aimed at foiling the 14 party's agitation. They demanded Bidhan's release within 24 hours. threatening to launch a broader

Bidhan had been wanted in a number of criminal cases including murder, arms possession and robbery, a police official said.

Earlier, a commission meeting on November 15 recommended the government sell its remaining shares in Rupali Bank to the Saudi Prince for a price of \$134 million.

On August 27, the commission declared the Saudi Prince as the highest bidder. On October 5, then prime minister Khaleda Zia okayed the prince's bid of \$330 million to

The government, owner of around 94 per cent shares of Rupali Bank, decided to sell 67 per cent of its shares to comply with conditions set forth by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) on loans for the country's banking sector reforms.

In March last year, the government assigned the commission to sell off the bank's 93.26 per cent stake and leave the remaining 6.74 per cent for the general public.

## **Education files**

schools and colleges where they work will suffer financial loss as government will have to spend Tk 400 crore annually while around Tk 800 crore is usually collected as tuition fees.

Protesting the circular, NFTE may go on indefinite strike. A decision on the strike will be announced at the teachers' national conference capital on December 2

shown negligence about their circular issued on November 13 that asked the authorities concerned to remove all 'politically nominated' people from the governing bod-

ministry progress reports on implementation of the circular by November 20.

But the political personalities are still in the governing bodies or managing committees of educational institutions while the progress reports on the implementation of the circular are yet to be submitted to

There is also the matter of teachers who were illegally sacked in last five years and had expected that they would get back their job after the caretaker government took

"Around 5,000 teachers lost their job for political reasons in last five years. But the present caretaker government led by Prof lajuddin, also in charge of the education ministry, has not taken any initiatives," said Dr M Akhtaruzzaman, convener of Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad.

Leaders of different teachers' organisations said the education ministry chief should investigate irregularities and corruption in different projects during the last five

years including Tk 500 crore Unitrack education project, Tk 20 crore teachers' training project under NAEM, Tk 28 crore English learning project and 650 crore upgrading education standards project assisted by the Asian Development

The education ministry will have to decide the fate of about 22,000 teachers of non-government primary schools by the weekend. According to a circular issued by the ministry in late 2004, some 21,725 teachers appointed before 1992 at the non-government primary schools will lose their jobs if they fail to achieve the required qualifications by November 18 this year.

For a male teacher, the minimum qualification set by the ministry is a Higher Secondary Certificate or equivalent while for females it is a Secondary School Certificate.

But the teachers have failed to fulfil the condition by the stipulated

Several teachers said most of the teachers belong to the age range of 45 to 55 years and it is now impossible for them to complete SSC and HSC courses.

The teachers, however, have achieved an expertise during the last few years through hands-on teaching, they said

Talking to The Daily Star on Tuesday, Bangladesh Nongovernment Primary School Teachers Association President M Shamsul Alam said they would go on indefinite strike or hunger strike on December 11 if the government does not revoke the circular by December 10.

If such a large number of teachers lose their jobs it will hamper the election process as well as primary

## President 'happy'

The BNP-led four-party alliance, on the other hand, welcomed the election schedule and reiterated that there is no scope to make any

change in the declared schedule. The EC secretary, however, told reporters on Tuesday that there is a scope for rescheduling if the political

parties can reach a consensus on it. But Sarkar somewhat backtracked yesterday. Asked what if the political parties cannot reach any consensus, he said "all political parties" means "those which are factors in the election".

"But there is no scope to defer the election beyond January 25 as there is a constitutional obligation to hold the election within that time. So, scope for re-fixing the polling day instead of January 21 is very little." Sarkar said. "The timeframes for other stages of the election process like filing candidatures can be adjusted if the major political parties agree.

Asked if he requested the president on behalf of the EC to initiate steps for creating a political consensus, the EC secretary said, "The Election Commission has already requested the caretaker government to create peaceful atmosphere for holding a free and fair election.' He, however, did not specify

when and how the EC made the

adviser gave any directions or guidelines on election preparation. Sarkar said, "The president was just briefed. He did not say anything."

since the announcement of polls schedule. The acting chief election commissioner and four other election commissioners have not also talked to the media as of vesterday about the prevailing situation. Meanwhile. UN Secretary

General Kofi Annan's special envoy Craig Genness, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning, conveyed Annan's message for the caretaker government and political leaders of Bangladesh that the UN is concerned over the political situation stemming from electoral

lajuddin Ahmed told the UN envoy that all steps have been taken to hold free, fair, neutral and peaceful parliamentary elections.

# **BNP** delegation

to provide all necessary political

support to the caretaker government for holding the next general election timely and neutrally.

"We came here to support the caretaker government's activities. The team came following an order of the BNP chairperson," Farruk said

He said holding of a general election is a political process so every political party can extend its support to the process.

Replying to a guestion on whether any political party can meet the administration, Farruk said all political parties have the right to make suggestions to the caretaker government regarding holding of the general election.

When asked, weather BNP is happy about the preparation of the caretaker government for holding the general election, he said it is not a matter of being happy or unhappy. The administration will do everything required to hold a free and neutral election.

Farruk expressed his shock over the news regarding a widening gap between the chief adviser and other advisers, which was published in different dailies and said, "The news which were published in different dailies are not fair '

After the meeting Akbar Ali Khan said he is successfully continuing to carry out the routine work of the government. About the political crisis he said the crisis did not originate in their tenure rather they inherited it from the previous government.

He said his main duty is to accelerate export as an adviser to the ministry of commerce, and to enhance revenue earning as an adviser to the finance during the three months of his tenure.

Khan said his ministry has very little to do regarding the upcoming general "19 upazilas have no BTTB land

phone connectivity. The post and

telecommunications ministry will take

initiatives to provide the service in those places or alternative measures will be taken." he added.

Board (BTTB) to immediately extend the benefit of fiber optic cable to mass department to improve international postal services.

Khan said holding the general election in a free and fair manner is mainly the responsibility of the Election Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs, and of some other related government organisations, which are expected to perform their duties with a sense of accountability.

## Pakistan

month agreed to create a panel to share intelligence on terrorism and move to cut the risk of nuclear weapon "accidents".

The talks rekindled a peace process put on hold since July's Mumbai train bombings, in which 189 people died. Indian officials said Pakistan's spy agency was linked to the blasts, a claim Pakistan denied.

They also agreed on the "early signing" of an agreement to reduce the risk of "accidents relating to nuclear weapons", without giving a specific time frame. The two sides are to meet next in Islamabad in February.

The rival neighbours have fought both in its entirety.

## **Bush meets** Iragi leader in Jordan today

AP, Riga, Latvia

President Bush, under pressure to find a new blueprint for Irag, on Wednesday sought to strengthen Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's ability to quell rising violence amid U.S. doubts about his capacity to control sectarian warfare.

Bush flew from a NATO summit in Latvia to a summit with al-Maliki in Amman, Jordan.

The president was expected to ask the embattled Iraqi prime minister how best to train Iraqi forces faster so they can shoulder more responsibility for halting the sectarian violence and, specifically, mending a gaping Sunni-Shiite divide.

The two-day summit was beginning even as a top White House adviser raised doubts about al-Maliki's ability to halt escalating sectarian violence in Iraq, where U.S. involvement now exceeds the length of America's participation in World War II.

## BNP wants probe

FROM PAGE 1 Osman Farruk said after the meeting with Cabinet Secretary Abu Solaiman Chowdhury. He was accompanied by former secretaries Mofazzal Karim, Shafiqul Islam and Syed Suja Uddin.

BNP do not want to see any government servant active in political affairs directly or indirectly. incidents should be addressed as endemic diseases, which need a permanent cure," he added.

Talking to the reporters after the Establishment Secretary AFM Solaiman Chowdhury said that the team requested the government to refrain from any move that may give rise to chaos in the administra-tion. Regarding issuance of the circular, he said that he only followed the directives of the government. The cabinet secretary did not talk to the press. A group of former and in-service

senior civil servants, who are known to be close to BNP, joined a secret party in November 24 hosted by former energy adviser Mahmudui Rahman in his business office in the

citv's Uttara. Following the meeting, the

council of advisers formed a probe committee headed by agriculture secretary on November 27 to investigate the incident. An establishment ministry circular issued the same day, however, included investigations into all previous similar inci dents within the seven-day period. Expressing their surprise at this, two advisers had said that the probe body was only tasked to investigate the Uttara incident. The establishment secretary had said that he only followed the directives of the gov

## 14-party youth

memorandum to the advisers. Hundreds of riot police and paramilitary BDR were deployed around the Secretariat to ward off any violence. Police have beefed up security around the Secretariat building since the morning. They put barricade at the High Court, Matsva Bhaban, Purano Paltan and Zero Point areas to intercept the protes-

vehicle to ply on the streets around the Secretariat, However, no untoward situation occurred during the

Due to police's barricade, the whole Dhaka city came to a stand still during the sit-in programme and normal life was hampered severely

The pro-Awami League (AL)

AL Joint Secretary Obaidul Kader, Awami Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok and General Secretary Mirza Azam addressed the demonstrators asking them to carry on their current movement for free and credible

elections. At the rally, Kader urged the

### UN concerned

FROM PAGE 1

Asked about the UN suggestion for political dialogue, he said the dialoque between parties is not required now as the matter is related to the caretaker government.

Jalil said the UN envoy

Hossain and former Ambassador

### Ziauddin were also present. First ODI

FROM PAGE 1 nation last July-August, Habibul Bashar's men would be buoyed by their impressive 101-run win in the ICC Trophy in India in October and the 43-run victory in Tuesday's Twenty20 match in Khulna.

The only worry for the home side was Aftab Ahmed's back iniurv but the Chittagong hard-hitter is expected to play alongside Mohammad Ashraful, who was dropped for the first three games but made a return after back-to-back hundreds including a recordbreaking 263 in the first class com-

## **Prof Yunus**

parliament, Yunus explained. The cabinet portfolios of the respective alliances would be settled and be attached to the agreement.

The tenure of the interim government would be one year although, if necessary, it could be extended by a further year.

Both alliances would make a commitment to elect a new president and reconstitute the election commission. They would declare the name of the president before the election and attach it to the agree-

The new government would update the voter list, amend the election rules, and introduce voter identity cards, Yunus said.

Thousands of city dwellers attended the open reception accorded for the first time for any Bangladeshi at the south plaza of the magnificent Songshad Bhaban.

Yunus told the crowd that despite the bitter rivalry of the political alliances he believed an agreement was possible. "If two conflicting groups can sign a peace accord amid fierce battle, why can't two rival political alliances in our country?" he

The interim coalition government would also be charged with implementing the policies on which there was a consensus and which were mentioned in their manifestos.

Yunus said these should include declaring upazila elections, taking effective measures to curb corruption, running Chittagong port at full capacity, and ensuring optimum use of information technology. Legal and institutional arrangement for attracting foreign investment should be instituted, Bangladesh Biman reformed and autonomy given to national radio and television. Abnormal price hikes should be controlled and the power crisis solved.

After completing its tasks the interim government would resign and handover power to a caretaker government. The next election would be under the caretaker government and both the parties would be committed to help the next government.

Yunus called upon all the political parties to implement the peace accord and make it permanent in order to ensure the progress and prosperity of the nation. The Nobel laureate requested

both the political parties to avoid

conflict and shake hands in an effort

to save the nation from complete ruination. Urging the 14 party alliance to withdraw the blockade programme,

Yunus said further would push the country down a dangerous path from where there would be no way out. He said he feared Bangladesh would turn into a

country like Somalia. Dr. Yunus also presented a number of positive features of the country, achieved despite natural disaster and massive corruption. He said that in some respects Bangladesh is well ahead of India Pakistan and Sri Lanka

However Yunus said he regretted the appalling situation in the premier port of the country, Chittagong, and the power sector. The Chittagong port is working like an independent body and the government is helpless, he said.

According the reception, city mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka formally handed over a key of the city to the Nobel laureate. Thousands of people also gave a standing ovation to one of the greatest heros of the nation. They clapped and cheered in joy.

The open stage was decorated with colorful balloons and a giant portrait of Dr. Yunus. Dr. Afrozi Yunus, wife of the Nobel laureate, and other relatives were also present at the reception.

Khoka said he hoped that Yunus would play the role of a bridge in solving the basic problems of the

The mayor said that against the backdrop of disagreement and the volatile political situation, the nation wants bold leadership from Yunus.

Khoka also termed Yunus one of the proficient sons of the soil. He also recalled the great history of Dhaka in respect of struggle for independence, the language movement and struggle against colonial

A commemorative note on behalf of the citizens of Dhaka was read out by prominent educationalist and chairman of Bishwa Shahittaya Kendra Prof Abdullah Abu Sayeed. Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar

deputy speaker Akhter Hamid

Siddiqui, former ministers Barrister

Nazmul Huda, M Morshed Khan, Abdullah Al Noman, government high officials and prominent citizen of the country joined the reception. The reception was followed by a

cultural show rendering patriotic songs and folk dances by child

## **HC** ruling

FROM PAGE 1 Islami Oikya Jote) and Islamic Front on

They questioned the validity of the president's assuming the role of CA without exhausting the constitutional options and the EC's measures to unveil the schedule for the next general election without publishing the draft electoral list.

Counsel for the petitioners, barrister Amir-UI Islam, submitted that President lajuddin Ahmed had taken up the CA's post arbitrarily without exploring the options laid out in the constitution.

He told the court that the president had in fact initiated steps in line with the article 58C to know from former chief justice Mahmudul Amir Chowdhury if he was willing to hold the office of chief adviser. But he had to stop the process because of objection from the immediate past

In his submission, Amir appealed for a court's ruling asking the president to hand over power [of the CA] to Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury prerogative of the post. Attorney General (AG) AJ Mohammad Ali said the petitions are

ruling coalition led by the BNP.

not public interest litigation (PIL) and so a ruling in favour of those will create an 'unstable situation' in the country. He also guestioned why the peti-

### tioners challenged the validity of the Gazipur people

FROM PAGE 16 the Explosives Substances Act. Around six months ago, the investigation officer (IO) of the case CID Inspector Shyamol Chowdhury

submitted the charge sheet. However, since all the 13 accused were not brought to the additional sessions judges court, the officials failed to frame charges against them, sources said. The case is still pending. Mohammad Momen Miah, an ASP of Dhaka Central Jail is now the IO of the

The families of those killed in the attack said that they doubt whether the culprits would be brought to book.

Fatema Begum, wife of the slain Advocate Amjad Hossain said, "The captured culprits were flown to Dhaka through helicopter, but my dying husband failed to have the facility of an ambulance that day."

Her sceptical brother Nasiruddin said that the accused might get away through the president's mercy.

Two of the accused and also condemned prisoners Shaekh Abdur Rahman and Khaled Saifullah are now at a sub-jail in the

one third of the interim government's tenure has already passed Dr Kamal Hossain, who too moved for the petitioners, said the court could

constitution Anumber of pro-BNP lawyers were seen giving counsel to the AG during the hearing. And at one stage, barrister Tania Amir, counsel for LDP leader Abdul Mannan, requested the bench to learn "on whose behalf they were speaking and advising the attorney

general" Former law minister Moudud Ahmed then stopped talking to the AG

said witnesses Former BNP lawmaker Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed later briefed the iournalists about the arguments of the AG who did not face the press in last

two dates as well Barrister Masood R Sobhan

FROM PAGE 1

alliance to "stop destructive activities" and join the election.

destroy the country," she said. Lauding development work in the banking sector during the BNP rule. Khaleda said the democratic practice will be hampered if the election is not held timely and without the

programmes cannot continue. Asking the activists of bank employees' federation to work together for winning the next election, Khaleda said, "By holding ar election like 2001, we will prove that

peace and democracy. BNP Standing Committee Member Saifur Rahman also criticised the caretaker government advisers, saying, "They took oath to maintain secrecy of confidential matters. But the advisers are talking in a free style and no country can go

essentials in the last five years, but termed the increase "usual" when huge development work is imple

President BM Bakir Hossain, the meeting was also attended by BNF leaders Mirza Abbas, Mosaddek Ali Nazrul Islam Khan, Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Zafrul Hasan and

# 14-party sit-in

Earlier on Monday, the combine and the other parties staged a similar sit-in to get their demands met. AL President Sheikh Hasina asked the president/chief adviser (CA) to accept their 11-point demand by Saturday to avert a non-stop country-

wide blockade from Sunday.

simultaneously to realise their com-

mon demands, which also include

depoliticisation of the administration.

announced that all educational institutions, their examinations and haii pilarims would be kept out of the purview of the blockade. The AL general secretary provided a list of incumbent and former bureaucrats who attended the much-talkedabout party at former energy adviser

Mahmudur Rahman's Uttara business

office. He demanded immediate

At a press briefing yesterday at

AL's Dhanmondi office in the capital,

14-party Coordinator Abdul Jalil

action against them. The list included home secretary Zahirul Islam, local government secretary Sarfaraj Hossan, planning secretary Zafar Ahmed Chowdhury, power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain. food and disaster management secretary Ehsanul Fattah, forest and environment secretary Hyder Ali, additional secretary of water resources M Badrul Alam Tarafdar, additional secretaries Azahar Ali and Sr Abdus Sabur, joint secretary and former divisional commissioner of Dhaka Abdul Bari, divisional commissioner of Dhaka Mahfuzul Hague, social welfare joint secretary and former deputy commissioner of Narayanganj Harunur Rashid and Cabinet Division joint secretary Dr

The others are former health secretary Fazlur Rahman, former education secretary Shahidul Alam, former IGP and secretary Md Qayyum

Jalil accused CA lajuddin Ahmed of

conspiring to hold an election as per a

blue-print of the BNP- Jamaat-led four-

party coalition. He warned that any move to hold an election like that on February 15 in 1996 would be

and Dainik Bangla intersections and Shapla Square. Dhaka city AL General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya at a rally on the Bangabandhu Avenue vesterday asked party workers and

Mukarram National Mosque, Paltan

At the rally, AL presidium member Abdur Razzak alleged that lajuddin is working for the BNP-Jamaat to rig the next election. He asked lajuddin to quit the post of CA immediately, and appoint a non-party person as CA.

commissioners. AL Joint General Secretary Obaidul Quader alleged the CA is working for the BNP.

Other speakers included Suranjit Sengupta, Motia Chowdhury, Nurul Islam, Syed Zafar Sazzad and Bimal Biswas

The early morning attack was

That same day, US soldiers

In Baghdad, gunfire could be heard for much of the morning near the Green Zone, the heavily fortified area on the Tigris River where Iraq's parliament, US soldiers and

Two mortar rounds also exploded near the Health Ministry, wounding two bypassers, said

and former member of the National Board of Revenue Saiiad Hossain.

During the sit-in today, the 14-party activists will take position at Ittefag intersection, Joy Kali Temple Road, Nawabpur Road, Bangabandhu Square, Golapshah Mazar, GPO intersection, South Gate of Baitul

Rupali FROM PAGE 16 supporters to make the sit-in a suc-

Presidium member of the party buy a 67 per cent stake in the bank. Tofail Ahmed said the president has completely failed to show his neutrality. He has made the EC more controversial by appointing two partisan

## at the Engineers Institution in the The education ministry has also

ies/managing committees or ad hoc committees of educational institu-The circular directed the authorities concerned to submit to the

Replying to a query, he said four election offices at the field level have so far come under attacks. Asked if the president and chief

The EC has not held any meeting

# President and Chief Adviser

Akbar Ali already asked Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone consumers and also asked the postal

FROM PAGE 16

three wars since independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over the disputed Himalavan territory of Kashmir, which is divided between the two and claimed by

Following the rally, a representative team of Jubo Sangram submitted a

Police also did not allow any

youth workers also asked President lajuddin Ahmed to quit the office of chief adviser for his alleged partisan

### president/chief adviser to play a neutral role.

expressed concern at the appointment of partisan election commissioners. Awami League International Affairs Secretary Syed Abdul

president's taking over so late when Sunday filed the three petitions with the HC on November 26. always ask for interpretations of the

moved for Adnan Anwar.

Khaleda

"They want to make the country ineffective to serve others' interest. but the BNP cannot allow any one to

democracy, development the people are with development,

on like this." The former finance minister admitted the increase of prices of

Presided over by federation