NEWS

Package proposal

The meeting between the delegation of advisers and the top leaders of AL-led 14-party coalition was under way at the time of filing of this report last night

Earlier, the daylong hectic meeting of the council of advisers found it very difficult to arrive at a decision without opening the second round of negotiations to resolve the prevailing deadlock centring some crucial issues ranging from the assumption of the office of chief adviser (CA) by the president to the hurried announcement of the election schedule

The meeting chaired by President and CA lajuddin Ahmed finally decided to send a delegation of advisers to the two chiefs of the two alliances -- Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina, to negotiate with them for a solution to the crisis on the basis of the package proposal.

The council of advisers sat to review the demands and proposals of the two major alliances that had been placed to them on Saturday night when the advisers had held long talks with the alliances' leaders at Bangabhaban. The council meeting, that had started at 11:00am and ended at about 5:00pm. discussed every issue related to the upcoming election and the prevailing political situation.

Sources said at the meeting the advisers talked about the recent appointment of two election commissioners, one of whom had had aspirations to be a BNP candidate in the next election, and said the appointment should have been made on consultation with the major political alliances to avoid controversies. If an acceptable person was appointed then the controversy over the FC would not have deepened. they said.

In response to the advisers' criticism President and CA lajuddin Ahmed defended himself by saying that he had thought Mudabbir Hossain Chowdhury is a good man, sources said.

The CA asked the advisers at the meeting to chalk out measures to make the EC credible for holding a

Rumsfeld backed pullback in Iraq

REUTERS, Baghdad

US forces attacked insurgent bases in Iraq on Sunday as a leaked memo from the man who sent them there revealed that Donald Rumsfeld believes their strategy is not working and it may be better to reduce troop numbers.

A day before election defeat cost Rumsfeld his job, the outgoing defense secretary told the White House: "It is time for a major adjustment. Clearly, what US forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough."

The Pentagon confirmed the

Rejoinders

THE PACKAGE IN DETAIL At the council meeting, the advisers

14-party and BNP-led four-party alliances. On the AL demand for cancellation of the election schedule, the advisers found that it is not possible to cancel the schedule announced by the EC due to the time constraint, as the election must be held by January 25.

scheduled dates for completing other stages of the electoral process like filing of applications for candidacies, and scrutiny of the nomination papers can be rearranged keeping

is, sources said.

About correcting the voter list, the EC Secretary briefed the meeting saying that there is always scope for including and deleting names on the updated voter list until the day before the polling date. The advisers included the idea of correcting the voter list in the package proposal.

correct the updated voter list by aoing from door to door, it will need more time which is not in abundance right now since the election must be held within 90 days of the dissolution of the last parliament. To extend the deadline for holding the election, explanation of the constitutional provision regarding the matter must

About 14-party's demand for reconstitution of the EC including removal of election commissioners SM Zakaria and Mudabbir Hossain Chowdhury, the council of advisers in its proposal said the two election commissioners can be made inactive during the election. If the two major alliances agree on the pro-

> moves to implement the proposals, giving the two election commissioners options of taking leaves of absence or resignations, sources said

Once the two election commissioners leave the EC either temporarily or permanently, the president will appoint more election commissioners to make the EC credible to

they will not object to such a move. Al-led 14-party has been cate-

gorically demanding, for a long time, transfers of some secretaries including the secretaries to home and establishment ministries, and the cabinet division. The council of advisers yesterday agreed to transfer the secretaries of the two ministries and also assured the coalition that more transfers related to the upcoming election might follow if it

FROM PAGE 16

FROM PAGE 1 free and fair election

discussed every demand of AL-led He said on the day the meeting took place he was in a 'kulkhwani' of one of his relatives in a mosque at Dhanmondi, Road No 7 (Old). "As a public servant throughout

my whole service life I tried to serve the government neutrally and with due satisfaction of my authority," Fattah added. The home ministry on Thursday The advisers agreed that the protested a report published in a

the date of polling on January 21 as it

BNP-led four-party alliance's leaders, after the meeting with the CA and other advisers on Saturday night said they have no objection to such changes in the election sched-

If the EC takes measures to

name concerning the meeting was published in some newspapers on November 25 and the next day they be sought from the Supreme Court. published rejoinders on the report.

Besides, during his talks to reporters from the electronics and print media on November 27 he made it clear that he was not present at the Uttara meeting. This was published and telecast accordingly. Publishing a 'condemnable' and untrue' report regarding a secretaryposal, the advisers will initiate level officer of the government is not acceptable on any criterion of ethics,

the rejoinder said. It requested to check authenticity before publishing reports in future. In a separate rejoinder to a report

headlined "Govt to probe bureaucrats' secret date with Mahmud" that went with a picture published in The Daily Star on November 26 Dr Md Abdus Sabur, joint secretary of the Cabinet Division, said the report The leaders of BNP hinted that

concerning him is mendacious. He said the picture with caption --Abdus Sabur, Joint Secretary,

Cabinet Division tried to hide his face while leaving ex-energy adviser Mahmudur Rahman's business office in Uttara -- is not correct. "In fact I was not present in that alleged secret meeting, and the picture is not mine," Sabur said in his rejoinder sent to The Daily Star

Acting CEC Jatiya Oikya Front FROM PAGE 1 Asked if the voter list is error-free.

3 GIs, 29 Iraqis killed

ence on Iraq.

statement.

There's a political process ongo-

ing in Irag and there's a parliament

which is the best in the region. We've

become an independent sovereign

state and it will be us who decides the

future of our country," he said in a

idea in a bid to find a way out of the

vicious sectarian struggle that has

ness and the level of violence, that

they can do it alone. The international

community has to help them do it and

work with them," he told reporters at

The meeting witnessed a heated

debate over the FBCCI's role during

the current political situation which

some of the members alleged was due

to the chief adviser's tilt towards a

A few board members also

The meeting decided to form a

committee to estimate the total loss of

businesses due to the volatile political

situation. The committee will have to

submit the report within two weeks of

mposed by the feeder operators.

ment should waive interest rates on

export-import activities to assist them

romped to 218 for four in 42.4 overs

chasing down the Zimbabweans

score of 217 for seven in their stipu-

With the success. Habibu

Bashar's men took one step forward

on their way to confirm the series win

after their nine-wicket win at Khulna

and now go to the third game tomor-

row at the same venue to ensure their

second home series victory against

Nafees continued his run-fest

against the Zimbabweans when he

smote 10 well-struck boundaries to

make his runs off 69 balls and the left-

hander smashed Gary Brent over the

midwicket fence to complete his sixth

half-century in style in 47 balls. He

was brilliantly caught by Sean Williams at point off Elton

Chigumbura.

their Southern African opponents.

lated 50 overs in the day-night match

future political programmes.

overcome the losses

Tigers

FROM PAGE 1

its formation, sources said.

the United Nations in New York.

FBCCI

FROM PAGE 16

plunged Irag into bloodshed.

On Tuesday, Annan suggested the

"I do not believe, given the bitter-

wigs at ex-energy adviser's office' FROM PAGE 16 said he neither attended the meet-

ing nor was aware of the said meet-

section of newspapers mentioning

the name of Home Secretary SM

Jahurul Islam in a list of 17

in-service and retired government

officials who allegedly joined a

A report headlined 'Uttara con-

spiracy: Jalil told names of 17' was

published in the Daily Sangbad and

another one headlined '14-party

submit a list of 17 bureaucrats

involved in Uttara conspiracy' in the

daily Aiker Kagoj while some other

newspapers presented the news

from different angles, a home minis-

name of the home secretary in the

list of 17 in-service and retired gov-

ernment officials saying that they

attended a secret meeting at a

house in Uttara is incorrect, base-

"The fact is that the home secre-

tary did not go to Uttara that day. He

went straight back to his residence

from his office and stayed there on

that day. But the home secretary's

less, deliberate and imaginary.

The rejoinder said inclusion of the

trv reioinder said.

secret meeting at a Uttara house.

Iraq Study Group -- a high-level bipartisan panel of experts headed by former secretary of state James Baker -which is due to pass its recommendations to President George W. Bush this

But on Sunday a leaked memo from former defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, written in his last few days in office before resigning last month, revealed the administration has long known of the need for a change in the

Iraqplan. Rumsfeld's rambling three-page memo cites a shopping list of possible tactical and strategic changes, some of them mutually exclusive, but admits: "In my view it is time for a major adjust-

"Clearly, what US forces are currently doing in Iraq is not working well enough or fast enough," Rumsfeld wrote, in a document passed to the New York Times and later confirmed as genuine by the Pentagon.

In particular, Rumsfeld favours placing more US trainers directly with Iragi units, withdrawing other American troops from combat into five large bases by July next year, and sending commandos to hunt down al-Qaeda and Iranian agents.

political party, sources said. He also implicitly criticises other US government departments when he pressed the FBCCI president to be says the Pentagon should "give up" more vocal against the activities of the asking them for help and hire retired caretaker government. soldiers to advise Iragi ministries.

Instead of spending money rebuilding cities like Fallujah that rebelled and were recaptured by US forces --- "rewarding bad behaviour" ----Rumsfeld suggests paying off political and religious leaders "as Saddam Hussein did"

Judging by leaks to the US media, Baker will also recommend increasing the number of US army trainers, while withdrawing troops from combat and by early 2008 leaving only 70,000 in raq in a support role.

The White House may well be receptive to this idea, but seems opposed to another: that of reaching out to US foes Iran and Syria to persuade them to use their influence to calm the unrest in Iraq.

Yunus

FROM PAGE 16

Since 1976, Grameen Bank has leant billions of dollars in collateralfree small business loans to 7 million poor Bangladeshis, mostly women.

The idea behind it is that many people are held back from productive lives for lack of small amounts of start-up capital. The bank's success contributed to Dr Yunus being awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in October.

The tie-up was announced at the opening of the International Telecommunications Union's (ITU) trade show, World Telecom 2006, which will be held in Hong Kong throughout this week.

ITU is backing the scheme, which will see villages linked to the net and other international networks via telecentres. Cisco vice-president Tae Yoo said

access to network connections would bring opportunities to poor communities

in his third appearance and his patient "It could offer farmers access to 111-ball knock had four boundaries.

Coast Guard officer FROM PAGE 16

Battalion (Rab) and another by Iran's role in Iragi affairs will come Bangladesh Coast Guard-- were up for discussion when Hakim meets formed on Saturday to probe the Bush in Washington on Monday, incident. According to sources, Talabani meanwhile rejected Annan's committee members will reach idea of an international peace confer-Mongla today.

The entire Sundarbans area has been put on red alert after receiving information on presence of several gangs of gunrunners.

The body of Kabir, son of Hatem Ali of Buiztara village under Mirzapur upazila in Tangail, has been sent to Jessore Combined Military Hospital for autopsy.

Search for missing Platoon Commander of Rab-6 Kanchan was still going on late in the evening vesterday

Commander of Coast Guard Mongla (west zone) Abu Taher Golam Mohammod Sarker claimed that three or more pirates were killed during the gunfight.

However, the bodies of the pirates could not be recovered as vet

Director General of Bangladesh Coast Guard Rear Admiral Nizam visited the spot on Saturday.

Earlier on Saturday, a team from the Navy, Rab and Coast Guard recovered the body of Amirul, a Coast Guard member, from Pashur estuary near Mongla seaport.

Amirul hailed from Ghopghata village under Madhukhali upazila of Faridpur.

4-party FROM PAGE 16

in Badda, Demra, Mirpur-Pallabi, Tejgaon, Shyampur,

The business leaders expressed Mohammadpur and Khilgaon areas deep concern over the situation at of the city. Chittagong port and said the govern-The four-party alliance will ment should pay the surcharge continue the same programmes in the city today.

They also urged the political leaders to keep Chittagong port free from Japanese The FBCCI leaders felt the govern

FROM PAGE 16 Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) would be strengthened further as Japan has become its observer.

The Japanese ambassador mentioned joint work of Bangladesh and Japan in different forums, including the United Nations. "Cofollowed his 105-run knock to smash operation of Japan would be contin-67 and his partner Mehrab. also a ued for the development of southpaw, struck his maiden half-Bangladesh," he said. century with 54 as the home team

Masayaki Inoue reaffirmed Japan's support to the pre-election caretaker government of Bangladesh.

At one stage of discussion, the envoy voiced concern over the recent political violence in Bangladesh and said, "If the violence continues, it may affect Japanese investment and cooperation with Bangladesh.

The president and the ambassa-dor both hoped that the political violence would be stopped forthwith and the upcoming election held with narticipation of all the political parties of the country.

Mahfuz Anam FROM PAGE 16

The lawyers made oral submissions Young Mehrab got the half-century saying that Mahfuz Anam, publisher of the weekly magazine, could not

Lanka asks Norway to snap LTTE contacts

Nationalists exert pressure on govt to outlaw Tigers

But amid an escalation of violence 2006, the 25-member European AFP. Colombo Union banned the Tigers in May this Sri Lanka asked peace broker Norway year. The guerrillas face bans in to suspend contacts with Tiger rebels several other countries, including the pending a review of relations with the US and Britain. guerrillas, a top Sri Lankan official said /esterday.

Colombo's approval, said Palitha

Kohona, the top Sri Lankan official

Sri Lanka's government faces

growing pressure from nationalists and key allies to declare the Tamil

Figer rebels a terrorist group and end

Norwegian-backed peace efforts,

Anti-Tiger groups held rallies and

put up posters in the capital over the weekend demanding that the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

(LTTE) be banned following a Friday

assassination attempt by suspected

issue on Saturday and there was no

finality on the matter," a top govern-ment source said. "There is a strong

feeling that we can't ask others to ban

the Tigers when we ourselves have

2002 ahead of the first round of peace

talks with them, in line with the

Norwegian-backed peace initiative.

ceasefire in the bitter ethnic conflict

that has claimed more than 60.000

The move paved the way for a

A ban on the Tigers was lifted in

"The government discussed the

rebels against the defence secretary.

coordinating with Norway.

officials said vesterday.

them.

Officials here said Sri Lanka outlawing the Tigers could mean an end Norwegian envoy Jon Hanssento the current peace process. Bauer was told that his planned visit to the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi Tuesday would not meet with

The nationalist JHU -- or National Heritage Party of Buddhist monks, which is a key ally of the government staged a demonstration Saturday demanding an end to the current peace process and a ban on the LTTE.

"The cabinet of ministers will The Marxist JVP, or People's Liberation Front, made the same review the government's relations with the Tigers on Wednesday," Kohona demand of President Mahinda old AFP. "Until then, we don't want the Rajapakse. One of Norway's top peace Norwegians to have any contacts with

Jon Hanssen-Bauer, was envoys, currently in Sri Lanka to hold talks with both sides in a bid to salvage the eetering peace process, diplomats said.

Hanssen-Bauer is due to travel to the rebel-held town of Kilinochchi Monday for talks with the LTTE. Press reports speculated he had been asked cancel his visit, but there was no immediate word from the Norwegians nere to the effect.

A Friday suicide bomb attack against Defence Secretary Gotabava Rajapakse, the president's brother, came as Hannsen-Bauer was in Colombo meeting with officials. Two guards were killed and 14 others were wounded, but Rajapakse escaped unhurt.

The attack followed a speech by rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran or Monday that the Oslo-arranged 2002 truce was "defunct" and that he was resuming his campaign for an inde-pendent homeland for minority Tamils.

Samannoy Parishad staged demon-

strations at Motijheel near the Biman

As part of simultaneous movement

Communist Party of Bangladesh

staged demonstrations in areas

In Mirpur, police and Rapid Action

Battalion (Rab) chased and clubbed

blockade supporters more than once

when the demonstrators vandalised

davlong rallies and performed patriotic

Police constable Nazrul Islam was

seriously injured as a brickbat hit him

on the head. He was rushed to Dhaka

Medical College Hospital and later

The blockade supporters retaliated

adjoining the Paltan crossing.

running vehicles

programme.

JCD man killed

FROM PAGE 1

lives since 1972.

not done it."

different private clinics in Sylhet city.

The capital remained isolated from office. They also sang folk songs and the rest of the country as demonstraparodies to inspire the participants. tors took to streets since morning on the first day of the fourth round blockwith the 14-party alliance, leaders and ade while normal life and businesses workers of Islami Oikya Jote, Jaker were hampered. Party, Liberal Democratic Party and

Blockade supporters set ablaze a car at Dhanmondi in the capital and damaged 10 buses in other areas. Like the previous programmes, the 14party alliance's major demonstrations n Dhaka were in downtown Gulistan. Muktangon, Bangabandhu Avenue and Noor Hossain Square, Russel Square, Shyamoli, Mirpur, Gabtoli,

Mohakhali and Jatrabari. by pelting the law enforcers with brick-Educational institutions remained bats around Mirpur-10 roundabout open yesterday as the 14-party comwhere the 14-party activists held bine kept them out of the purview of the blockade. But presence in the government offices, autonomous bodies and songs in support of their blockade private offices was thin while transaction in banks and other financial institutions was reported to be usual.

Our staff correspondent from

At about 12:15pm, as a truck

procession led by Muhibur Rahman

was passing through the said venue,

AL and BNP men got locked into

clashes. They exchanged brickbats

while about 10 gunshots were heard

during the chase and counter chase

stage. JCD and Jubadal men put

Muhib's house under siege for some

time. The police charged baton and

fired 20 tear gas shells and brought the

situation under control by 2:00pm. The

Rab men reached the area at about

activists from the house of Muhibur

Later, police arrested three AL

As a JP nominee, former upazila

chairman Muhibur Rahman lost to

BNP candidate M Ilyas Ali in the 2001

elections. Their rivalry took a serious

In Dhaka, activists joined the

gatherings at different places with

placards inscribed with slogans and

cartoons against President lajuddin

Ahmed and BNP Chairperson

Leaders of the 14-party addressed

the gatherings from open trucks. Folk

and patriotic songs as well as parodies

were being sung on the podiums all

the roads, but a large number of rick-

shaws and a few buses and CNG-run

scooters plied defying the blockade

President and Chief Adviser lajuddin

Ahmed to resign from the post of

caretaker government chief for his

'failure' to act neutrally. Sammilito

Nagorik Andolon and Peshajibi

Most of the automobiles staved off

day long to inspire the demonstrators.

turn after Muhib joined the AL in 2003.

3:00pm.

Rahman.

Rahman on their rally.

ALmen, Muhib added.

Khaleda Zia.

programme.

Sylhet reports: BNP, JCD and Jubadal

contents of the note, published by the New York Times, in which Rumsfeld, a leading planner of the Irag war, outlined several options but endorsed none. It was sent on November 6, a day before voter dismay over Iraq handed control of Congress to President George W. Bush's Democratic opponents.

Among options mentioned by Rumsfeld were reductions in US forces and bases and a recasting of the US goals there. He suggested cutting US bases to just five from 55 by mid-2007.

The presence of 140,000 U.S. troops and the loss of more than 2.800 American lives in the past 3-1/2 years has failed to end bloodshed in Iraq.

Sectarian violence between Saddam Hussein's once-dominant Sunni minority and the newlyempowered Shi'ite Muslim majority claimed a record 3,700 lives in October, the United Nations estimated, and the latest Iraqi data suggested civilian deaths rose by more than another 40 percent last month.

Fifty-one people were killed at a busy Baghdad market on Saturday by a triple car bomb attack, 10 days afte the worst attack of the conflict killed over 200 people in the capital.

ADB FROM PAGE 1

The report estimated that output of aus, the first rice crop of the year, would be 24 million tonnes lower than it was in the previous year. It. however, expects higher aman harvest this year compared to the previous year as farmers have brought more lands under aman cultivation, though they experienced scanty rainfall and fertilizer crisis.

(See also page 8)

Ctg port

FROM PAGE 16 tainers by \$200 for each TEU

(Twenty Equivalent Units) effective from December 1, according to sources.

The freight was increased mainly due to delays in discharging of goods there. The ships had to wait weeks at the outer anchorage before getting permission to enter the channel due to heavy congestion at the port, the sources pointed out.

The political deadlock and dockworkers' agitation last month demanding cancellation of agreement with a private company aggravated the situation further.

B Chowdhury led the procession and meeting at Moghbazar.

of the acting chief election commissioner, two newly inducted election commissioners and election commission secretary and correction of the voter list that contains 1.40 crore fake voters.

The JOF would hold same programme at Moghbazar today at 11:00am, party sources said.

Blockade

FROM PAGE 1 Jalil, also the AL general secretary, said he has heard that three advisers are to meet both the AL and BNP party chiefs. "But, we have neither got any response from them about meeting our demands nor any information about meeting us yet," he said.

Jalil made these remarks when three advisers had ended the meeting with BNP Chairperson Khaleda at Hawa Bhaban in the capital and were on their way to meet AL chief Sheikh Hasina. The 14-party alliance reduced

their demands to five points from their previous 11 points. Their fivepoint demand also include the demand for updating the voter roll again in accordance with the High Court directives, announcement of fresh polls schedule, correcting and publishing the updated voter list and neutralisation and depoliticisation of the administration.

Protesting the killing of a Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Rajshahi by members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab), the AL leader demanded the activities of Rab be kept suspended during the election time.

Thanking all for making yesterday's blockade programme successful, Jalil protested at the attacks on 14-party leaders and activists in different parts of the country during the blockade programme

Senior 14-party leaders Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim, Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Hasanul Haque Inu, Nurul Islam were present at the briefing.

After the briefing, many of the leaders rushed to Hasina's residence where the three advisers Justice Fazlul Haque, CM Shafi Sami and Mahbubul Alam were supposed the hold a meeting with 14-party leaders.

Mahfuzur said it is not that there are no errors in the list and the voter lists The leaders demanded removal of other countries are not flawless

either but they can be corrected. He, however, pointed out that the EC would not be able to correct the errors or duplications in the voter list of 2000, as there is a Supreme Court bar to correcting it.

recently.

"We're not saying that the list is completely flawless but we're trying our best to correct the updated list, he said.

Owen Lippert said, "We're not saying that these are fake voters, these are excess and duplicate names. and it's because of migration from village to cities."

"We didn't find any fictitious names in the voters' list," he added replying to a question.

Lippert said the flaws of the list could be addressed by several methods and the EC would make a special effort to address the problem

Microcredit

FROM PAGE 1 of focus to the opportunities in 'new architecture of aid', where new schemes such as the global premium bonds and new airline taxes are examples why the focus on development finance has to move from the micro to the macro level.

He also urged for new ways to reduce dependence on external funds and stressed the need for greater evaluation of programmes to make all policies more 'evidence based'.

Cornell University's economist Ravi Kanbur presented the keynote address, titled 'Membership based organisations of the poor Concepts, experience and policy' where he noted a greater need for the poor to be included in public

policy making. International academics, policymakers, bureaucrats and development workers have gathered to participate in the three-day meet to share their knowledge and experience in the fields of health, knowledge, elite perceptions of poverty, education, and programmes in addition to micro-credit.

The Daily Star is one of the media partners of the conference along with Channel i. while the sponsors are the UK's Department for International Development, Canadian International Development Agency, and Aga Khan Foundation.

online information on crop strate gies," said Yoo. "It will also allow us to give the resources to the entrepreneurs who can best address the different issues to which information and communication technology can

best be applied." Qualcomm senior director for government affairs in Southeast Ásia, Shawn Covell, said giving villages access to technology was

empowering. "If you empower individuals, then that empowers the community, the region and the country," Covell said.

CJ's stay order

FROM PAGE 1

The order came minutes before a High Court bench was to make its ruling on the petitions. It enraged a section of lawyers, leading to ransacking on the court premises.

Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay Parishad, the lawyers' wing of the 14party alliance, yesterday declared that they will resist the pro-BNP lawmen's "attempts to close down the SC"

The pro-BNP lawyers have urged the chief justice not to open the SC until the ones responsible for Thursday's incident are brought to book

The Parishad lawyers yesterday held a meeting at Shahid Abdul Ahad Hall and reiterated their demand for resignation of the chief justice and attorney general for issuing what they said was an unjust stay order.

Former and present SCBA leaders including Subrata Chowdhury, Ozair Faroog. Enavetur Rahim. Ali Haider Khan, KM Saifuddin, Abdul Baset Majumder, Abdul Matin Khashru, and MAmin Uddin spoke at the meeting.

"They [lawyers loyal to BNP] are out to pull the plug on the Supreme Court as we always object to misdeeds in the court," said SCBA General Secretary MAmin Uddin.

Pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Ainiibi Forum (JIB) too held a meeting vesterday afternoon at Shahid AJM Siddique Hall and demanded punishment to the AL-backed lawyers for Thursday's vandalism.

Forum leaders said they will carry on their demonstrations for cessation of the SC activities until a contempt rule is issued against the 'culprit lawvers'

Chaired by JAF Convener and BNP standing committee member Khandakar Mahbubuddin Ahmed, the meeting was addressed among others by Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Aminul Islam, Shahjahan Omar, Nitai Roy Chowdhury, BNP Law Affairs

Sakib Al Hasan (36 off 28 balls) and Bashar (31 not out) then batted with assurance to ensure the home

side's easy win. Earlier, the Zimbabwean innings were built around Williams's -- later adjudged man-of-the-match -- 70-ball 61 to post 217 for seven after being

sent into bat by Tigers skipper Bashar. Pacer Mashrafee Bin Mortuza, left-arm spinners Mohammad Rafigue and Sakib Al Hasan captured two wickets each for the hosts.

Secretary Joynul Abedin, Shah Khasruzzaman and Saidur Rahman. Meanwhile, officials of the Attorney General's Office yesterday held a

meeting to protest the rampages inside the SC building. They later held a press conference and placed demands similar to those

The film was screened on November 24 and 29 in the Asian-African-Latin American competition section, but Sayeed could not be present to introduce his film to the audience as he reached there a little

"I'm very happy to get the award

Sayeed said the award, a cash reward of Rs 5 lakh (about seven and half lakh in taka), will help partly finance his next movie to be shot in Bogra early next year. Inspired by a short story by Russian author Fyodor Dostoevosky, his next film is about the fissures in relations between two families in a village due to political, social and professional

"Nirontor" is the third feature film "Sankhanad" had won severa national awards in Bangladesh.

Mumbai today.

appear before the court due to political unrest.

The lawyers of complainant Tension went high as the venue is Abbas submitted a petition saying close to the house of AL leader Muhibur that their client could not appear Rahman, an arch rival of immediate before the court due to political past BNP lawmaker M Ilyas Ali. programmes.

After hearing both the sides, the court granted bail to the three upon a bond of Tk 2,000 each with two guarantors and issued a warrant of arrest against the publisher.

The same court also issued warrant of arrest against editors, publishers and reporters of the Ingilab, the Janakantha and weekly magazine Shirsha Kagoj for the same reasons.

Meantime, an investigation into the service of the summons upon the defendants found that the process survevors did not go to the addresses of the defendants.

The surveyors prepared the service of summons upon the defendants at the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, even though they are bound to go to the addresses of the defendants, sources of an official, posted at the Nezarat branch of the CMM Court, said on condition of anonymity.

When reached, CMM Jalal Ahmed told the court reporters that due to shortage of process surveyors, there are irregularities in serving summons and arrest warrants upon the defendants.

Process surveyors Mohammad Wazi Ullah and Mohammad Kader prepared the service of summons at the office, without going to the addresses of the defendants, sources said.

Following the hearing, Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mojibul Haq on November 9 recorded statements of the complainant, took the complaints into cognisance and served summons on all the defendants to appear before the court yesterday. The editors, publishers and

reporters are from the Jugantor, Inqilab, Janakantha, Bhorer Kagoj Weekly-2000 and Shirsha Kagoj.

The complainant filed five cases against the Jugantor and five against the rest.

In his complaints, Abbas mentioned that the dailies and the weeklies had run a series of defamatory news items at different dates that had damaged his reputation, name and fame in the society as well as in the political field.

BNP's youth front) men started a rally snitted to Rajarbagh Police Lines near the BRAC bank at the upazila Hospital. headquarters at 11:00am yesterday.

The blockade supporters vandalised at least seven buses and two CNG-run three wheelers including one of daily Prothom Alo at Pallabi, Senpara, Sheorapara, Darussalam Road and Mirpur-10.

Rab and police chased and clubbed some demonstrators when they attacked a double-decker BRTC bus and threw stones at a vehicle of the Rab at Mirpur-10 at 9:15am, witnesses said.

between the warring activists. Bullet-hit Police detained one Ripon during JCD leader Foyez succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital. At a the incident.

The demonstrators also damaged a CNG-run three-wheeler of a newspaper prompting the law enforcers to chase them. The blockade supporters threw stones at the policemen.

Activists of 14-party combine took to the streets at around 9:00am and started gathering at Mirpur-10 roundabout, Pallabi Bus Stand and Majar Road intersection near Gabtoli.

Biswanath upazila BNP President The local leaders of the combine Muiahid Ali, who sustained wounds addressed the rallies held at Mirpur-10 and is undergoing treatment at a and Pallabi Bus Stand. At intervals private clinic, alleged that the AL men cultural activists sang patriotic songs to fired from the house of Muhibur keep the demonstrators lively all day long.

Muhibur Rahman, on the other Our Chittagong correspondent hand, said the BNP men opened fire in adds: Vehicles of long routes remained a planned way on the AL activists as off the roads during the blockade while they were on the truck procession. The plying of vehicles in the city was as BNP men took possession of the area usual. near his house in the morning in the name of holding a rally to provoke the

Port sources said the loading and unloading of goods inside the port ran as usual but cargo delivery to and from the port remained suspended since the morning due to the disruption of road and rail communications.

During the blockade, Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, also the Chittagong divisional coordinator of the 14-party combine, at a rally at Nimtala asked to keep the shutters of all the garment factories in the city down from today until the demand for reconstitution of the Election Commission was realised.

Mohiuddin said a syndicate of businessmen and garment owners was acting against the demand of the people and was interfering with the ongoing political movements. Mohiuddin also addressed several other rallies at Olanker intersection and

Anderkilla. In the rallies, the 14-party leaders Liberal Democratic Party also held vowed to continue the blockade until a rally at the city's Boropole. their demands were met. They asked

Meanwhile, BNP-led four-party alliance organised rallies in different areas of the city including Kazir Dewry and Dewanhat protesting the block-

of the pro-BNP leaders. Bangladeshi film FROM PAGE 16

which will encourage independent filmmakers' struggle to make meaningful movies in Bangladesh," the 48-year-old director said immediately after the five-member jury headed by noted Australian director Rolf de Heer announced the awards

at the closing ceremony of IFFI in Panaji, Goa last evening.

reasons, he added. by Sayeed whose previous two works "Kirtankhola" and

Sayeed's movies are well known in the festival circuit in India as they have been shown in festivals in Kolkata, Thiruvananthapuram and Delhi. The director will be back in Dhaka tomorrow after a day's halt in