Second day of non-cooperation

Sporadic bomb blasts, clashes in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: The port city and its surrounding areas faced a total shutdown amid sporadic bomb blasts and gunshots today on the second day of non-cooperation move-ment called by the Opposition. However, no casualty was reported from anywhere today.

Gunfights between the activists of Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal took place at Momin Road, Badurtola and Pahartali area this afternoon, police and wit-

nesses said Both the clashing groups at Momin Road used fire arms. blasted cocktails amid chase and counter chase for about an hour from 2 pm. witnesses

added. Similar clashes were reported from other places. Besides, sporadic bomb blasts occurred at New Market, Anderkilla, Lalkhan Bazar, Agrabad, Chowmuhani, Badamtoli and Alanker Cinema crossing, witnesses said.

Truck loads of police and BDR were seen patrolling the trouble-torn spots of the city. In Chittagong port all ac-

tivities including cargo handling and delivery of goods. came to a standstill as the stevedores, employees and workers abstained from duty for the second consecutive day today due to non-cooperation movement, port sources said.

Over 40 cargo vessels remained stranded at the port jetties and outer anchorage due to the ongoing shutdown. Moreover, 7,000 dock workers who used to get their pay on daily work-basis, were thrown

into unemployment as the stevedores stopped gangbooking for cargo handling operations, port sources in-

Consequently, a simmering discontent was prevailing among those workers and their leaders expressed resentment to the port authority today, port sources added.

On the other hand, all the business centres at Agrabad Khatungonj. Korbanigonj and Chaktai remained closed. Shops and markets, business houses, banks and offices, both public and private, were

The mills and factories at the industrial belts of Nasirabad, Khalurghat, Patenga and Sitakundu could not operate due to absence of workers. local sources said.

All types of motorised vehicles stayed off the roads and highways. But rickshaws plied after 10 pm, though number of passengers was very poor as people hardly dared to come out of their houses due to panic created by sporadic bomb blasts.

Meanwhile, city markets saw a very scanty supply of caused price spiral.

Meanwhile, some scattered processions were brought out in the city this afternoon by the supporters of Awami League and Chhatra League when a message reached here about the order of release of mayor and AL leader Mohiuddin Chowdhury.

However, he is expected to reach Chittagong tomorrow. family sources said.

Gano Forum Chief Dr Kamal

Hossain led a 10-member

party delegation. Other party

leaders present at the meeting

are: Saifuddin Ahmed Manik

Major General (retd) Khalilur

Rahman, Begum Nurjahan

Murshed, Zeaul Huq, Tahirul

Islam, Shamsud Doha, Dr

Hakim, Pankaj Bhattacharya

leader Rashed Khan Menon led

an eight-member front delega-

tion which included Haider

Akbar Khan Rono, Bimal

Biswas, Hasanul Huq Inu, AFM

Mahbubul Huq. Moinuddin

Khan Badal, Dilip Barua and

led by Shaikhul Hadith Azizul

Haque, included Moulana Obai-

duł Hug, Moulana Mohammad

Ishhaq, Principal Masud Khan,

Prof Ahmed Abdul Kader, ABM

Abdul Matin, Abdul Latii

The Islami Oikya Jote team.

Naveem Jahangir.

Left Democratic Front

and Mostafa Mohsin Mentoo.

Opposition leaders

Amir Hossain Amu. Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Abdul

Jatiya Party acting Chairman of his party, which included . Moudud Ahmed. Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Moazzem Hossain. Yousuf Hussain Humavun. Shamim Al Mamun, Abdus Salam. Monirul Hug Chowdhury, Advocate Fazle Rabbi Shafiqul Islam Bakul.

Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary

Biharis hoist Pak flag in Khulna!

KHULNA, Mar 10: Tension was prevailing in Karimabad coloney at Farazipara as some non-Bengalees, who had migrated from India, hoisted the National flag of Pakistan soon after the quarterfinal of the World Cup Cricket between India and Pakistan began at Bangalore on Saturday.

· However. young Bangladeshis residing in the colony pull down the flag and tore it off.

Since then, the part of the colony, where non-Bengalees reside has been gheraoed by the young men.

BNP team

From Page 1 gards the Opposition demands, he categorically said. "We've given them all possible concessions."

In this regard, he denied reports published in a section of the press that the ruling party was ready to negotiate onthe Opposition demand for cancellation of the results of the February 15 parliamentary

"We want that whatever is decided in the negotiating table on the structure of the proposed non-party government would have to be passed in the sixth parliament," he said. "If the election was cancelled, then how would the caretaker bill be passed," he posed the question.

Asked what would be the BNP formula for formation of the non-party government. Mannan Bhuiyan said. "Since its a national issue and it would be made for ever, we want to decide it on the basis of opinions by all concerned."

Commenting on the AL Chief's 24-hour ultimatum to the President to form a caretaker government through promulgating an ordinance. the BNP spokesman said that caretaker government could not be formed through ordinance. Any fundamental change in the Constitution re-

duires passage of a bill by twothird members of the parita-

Mannan Bhuiyan also reiterated his party's call to be agitating opposition parties to withdraw their on-going programmes considering the sufferings of the people and damage to the national economy as the process of dialogue, initiated by the President, has already started.

Earlier in the evening, the rime Minister discussed with in r senior party colleagues the President's invitation from talks and the party's suggestions to be placed in today's liscussions.

essential commodities that

Jalil and Mohammad Nasim.

Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury led an 11-member delegation Gulam Sarwar Milon and

General Matiur Rahman Nizami led his party's 10-member delegation. It included Ali Ahsan Mohd Mozahid, Mohd Qamaruzzaman, Moulana Abdus Sobhan, Mohd Shaffqullah. Advocate Sheikh Ansar Ali. Abdul Qader Mollah, Prof Mujibur Rahman. Advocate Nazrul Islam and ATM Azharul

Chowdhury and Moulana Mohammad Shafiquddin. Tribals protest

killing in From Our Correspondent

 Khagrachhari KHAGRACHHARI, Mar 10: Hundreds of tribal people demonstrated in fig., of the Deputy Commissioner's office here today protesting Thursday's killing in the hill town. reports UNB. Members of three tribal or-

ganisations - The Pahari Chhatra Parishad, Gano Parishad and Hill Women's Federation also submitted a memorandum to the DC, demanding immediate handover of the bodies of three people killed in police firing on Thursday.

Jamaat

From Page 1 initiative successful."

"Any delay will push the nation to a disaster," the-Jamaat leader quoted himself as saying to the President. while briefing newsmen at the party's city office. Nizami said: "We are hope-

ful about the success of our discussion with the President who gave us a patient hearing." He said the Jamaat leaders emphasised that the discus-

sion should give a "rational outcome" and should not be foiled on the pretext of the Constitution. Nizami said such an envi-

ronment could be created in the country only by scrapping the February 15 polls and also by the Prime Minister's resignation and ending the "ruling party-sponsored terrorism." Jamaat leaders Ali Ahsan

Mohammad Mujahid, Muhammad Quamaruzzaman, Abdus Sobhan, Muhammad Shafiqullah, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Abdul Qader Mollah, Mujibur Rahman, Nazrul Islam and ATM Azharul Islam were in the delegation which called on the President.

The delegation alongwith the President offered a 'munajat' (prayer) seeking divine blessings for those killed in violence during the February 15 polls and repolling.

2/BCL leaders

From Page 1 demonstrators and both sides exploded about 50 handmade bombs during the melee. At least three rounds of gunshots were also fired.

The injured were identified as Arif and Mannan of the Awami League, Mannan of JP and Dollar of JCD.

Meanwhile, Shamsul Alam, an independent candidate from Sirajganj-4 (Ullapara) seat, was unofficially declared elected today. The repolling in the constituency was held on



Jatiya Party leaders outside the Bangabhaban after their meeting with the President yesterday. - Star photo

Jatiya Party

From Page 1 opposition called indefinite non-cooperation was continu-

Prior to the meeting the JP leaders held a rally in front of Shilpa Bank Bhaban, at Matijheel to seek approval of their

workers and supporters. BSS adds: A party press release later said. Chowdhury in a letter to the President thanked him for his letter for talks with him on current political crisis.

In the letter, he said cancellation of the Feb 15 elections and an end to the repolling in different centres. compensations to the dead and injured in the election process and elections within 90 days under a neutral government after the resignation of the Prime Minister and the government are necessary.

Chowdhury said his party raised those issues not as a pre-condition for the talks but to make the discussions fruitful with a view to resolving the lingering political crisis.

He also called for the release of party chairman H M Ershad, who, Chowdhury said. could make important contribution to the on-going talks.

Young man shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent A young man was shot dead during a clash between two local groups of mastaans in Juraine area under Demra thana in the city late Saturday.

Zakir Hossain alias Jahangir, 25, an employee of a motor workshop at Juraine, was shot dead during the clash near Balur Math at around 10

Police recovered the body early yesterday morning. The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Impasse at Ctg Port BGMEA concerned as buyers

cancelling export Country's readymade gar-

ments manufacturers expressed deep concern as the political turmoil rendered the Chittagong sea port inoperative affecting them seriously, reports UNB.

in a statement vesterday Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) President Red wan Ahmed said several shipping lines refused to carry inbound containers in view of the situation. Some ships are also not

coming from Singapore and Hong Rong and several shipping lines suspended their service to the port for indefinite period. Ahmed pointed

The BGMEA chief said export orders valued hundreds of crore taka were being cancelled by foreign buyers be cause of uncertain transporta tion situation and inoperation of the Chittagong Port

"A number of garments fac tories is facing serious finan cial crisis as export is not being possible for the situation creating stock lot in different factories," said the BGMEA president. Ahmed regretted the

overall situation and said no political parties did extend helping hand to protect the readymade garments sector although BGMEA had informed both the Prime Minister and opposition leader about the debacle. "It will be very unfortunate

if the readymade garments in: dustry as well as the economy of the country collapse, whoever, may be in power. He pointed out that country's economy would further

suffer for long if the garments

factories turn into sick indus-

tries. "It will also be very tough

to reactivate the sector if it loses the foreign market."

He once again appealed to all the political leaderships to keep the garments sector out of every political programme to protect it as well as the

economy of the country Meanwhile, in a separate statement, Bangladesh Handicrafts Manufacturers and Exporters Association (Banglac raft) urged PM Khaleda Zia and opposition leader Sheikh Hasina to resolve the ongoing political crisis for the interest of the economy.

Armed men attack video game shop

By Staff Correspondent A 10-year-old boy received fatal bullet wounds when gang of armed men -opened fire inside a video game shop

at Lalmatia in the city last night. Three others were also Arif. 10, of Lalmatia Block B. who was playing video game received serious injuries in his

head. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hopsi-(DMCH) in a critical con-The gunmen entered the shop at around 9 pm and started an altercation with one of the yougmen who reportedly run the shop. At one stage the

gang started indiscriminate firing, police sources said. The other injured, who are the residents of the locality were identified as Zahid, 18 Sohel, 20, and Ibrahim, 13 They were also under treatment at the DMCH till last

The reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

Jamaat-e-Islami leaders leaving Bangabhaban after their meeting with the President yesterday. - Star photo

Thana gheraoed in Mirpur

From Page 1

A number of passersby were movement passed off amid tivists. activists exploded crackers on the streets.

Makbul Ahmed (35) was wounded at Chankharpool. Morshed (8) at Shahid Nagar, Monira (28) at Golapshah Mazar, Amanullah (31) at Banglamotor, Emdad at Motifheel, and Chunnu (30) at Kamrangeer Char when bombs were thrown on the roads.

'A number of buses, mostly empty, autorickshaws and tempos were seen plying on selected roads in the city. A small number of shops remained open, but business

houses and banks remained closed. Rickshaws plied as In Narayanganj, Abdul (35). passerby, received bullet wounds in the leg at Sonakanda Ghat at around 12:30 pm in clashes between

the BNP. A Dhaka-bound truck from Narayanganj came under bomb attack by opposition activists at Kanchpur Bridge at about noon. Hafizuddin (28), a helper of the truck was injured. Our correspondent reports

from Khulna: The second day

activists of the Opposition and

also injured when Opposition sporadic bomb blasts; picket- In Sunamganj district ing and chase and counter chase by the Opposition and ruling party activists in the city, Normal life was paralysed. Work in government offices remained suspended and banks did not operate. Educational institutions also remained closed.

> A jeep (Khulna-Ka-853) of the Social Services Directorate was set on fire by pickets. Four powerful bombs were exploded on the Jessore road when a BDR patrol vehicle was passing. Opposition activists exploded bombs at the premises of the PWD office and ransacked it.

> Our Staff Correspondent reports from Sylhet: Ten people were injured in a clash between the activists of BNP and Awami League at Mirpur bazar under Bahubal thana of Habiganj district yesterday. Additional police force has

> been deployed in the bazar

Rupali Bank branch came un-

along the Dhaka-Sylhel Highway. In Nabiganj thana headquarters, the Opposition, activists burnt 4 vehicles. In Habiganj district town,

yesterday of, non-cooperation der attack by Opposition ac-

headquarters. BNP MP Nozir Hossain was manhandled at the district Fishery office where he went to make a telephone call. The Opposition activists also locked him in a room for some time.

Our Jhenidah Correspondent reported that the second day of non-cooperation was marked by sporadic incidents of violence and bomb blast in Jhenidah. At Sailkupa, opposition ac-

tivists went on rampage and damaged the office of the TNO and his car. They also ransacked Sailkupa Government College students union office. Rover Scouts office and college hostel.

Police said when they went the spot, some activists students threw brick bats. OC Abdus Salam was injured, police added. Witnesses said, the BNP activists ransacked the house

of local Jatiya Party president. At Kaliganj, opposition activists damaged the Sub-Registrar's office and the Railway office and attacked the

40 more injured in N'ganj gunfight

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ. Mar 10: More then 40 persons were injured during a gunfight between two rival groups at Son-akanda under Bandar Thana ior

the second day today. Seven of them who received bullet injures were, sent to different clinics and hospitals in Dhaka. The are: Sohel 18. Mazid 29, Alauddin 25, Mafizul 34. Belaet Hossin 22. Tuhin 16. Moklesh 21.

The gur fight first started on Saturday over teasing a girl. The clash started again today at around 12:30 am when the armed youth group of Chowd-hury para attacked the group of Panir Tanki area, witnesses

Both groups used sowed-off rifles, revolvers, hockey sticks and sharp knives during the fight which continued for about two hours.

At least 200 cocktails were blasted and 40 rounds of gunshots exchanged. Police lobbed tear gas shells

and fired gun shots to bring the situation under control police said In a separate incident, Abdul Hye 40, an employee of

Narayangani Pourashava, received bullet wounds while he was passing through the Panir Tanki area at about 11 am. He was sent to Dhaka Medi-

cal College Hospital in critical condition. The people of Panir Tanki

area a alleged that Hye was at tacked by the group of Chowdhury Para.

Bangladesh army officer killed in Georgia blast A member of the Bangla-

desh Army observer group in the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) was killed in Ghali Sector on Saturday, reports UNB.

Lt Colonel Mohammad Hossain was in a routine patrol when his vehicle hit landmine killing him on the spot, said an ISPR official vesterday. Hossain joined the UN Mission on September 14.

Eight Bangladesh Army officials are now working as military observers in the UNOMIG. the official said.

Chhatak Cement Factory resumes production

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. Mar 10: Production in the Chhatak Cement Factory resumed today after being suspended for ten days due to the stockpiling of huge quantities of cement in the

The loss caused by the suspension of production has been estimated to be about

Taka seven crore. An official of the factory said, the authorities were compelled to suspend the production as the dealers stopped lifting of cement from the factory since February 15 to protest the increase in the price of cement.

The BCIC raised the price of cement produced in the factory at Taka 242 from Taka 220 per bag from February 14. The dealers immediately stopped lifting the cement. It caused stockpiling of huge quantities of cement in the factory sile.

The authorities first re-

duced the production from February 15 and totally suspended the production from February 29 causing a loss of Taka 30 lakh per day. The factory management at ting today with the leadf the Cement Dealers

Association and the Factory

CBA decided to refix the ce-

ment price at Taka 230 per

bag with immediate effect. Hasina

From Page 1

and Abdur Razzak. The President was requested to stop the Election Commission from conducting further repolling in different constituencies.

should be released. I requested the President to take steps for ending harassment of all polit ical workers," Hasina said at "We are aware that the people are suffering because of the

"All political prisoners

movement, but this government must be removed for the greater interest of the people, Hasina noted. Earlier. Sheikh Hasina. prior to her meeting with the

President, held a rally in front of the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday. At the rally, Hasina sought permission from the party supporters for her meeting with the President. The jubilant crowd supported her decision to meet the President

From Page 1

by raising their hands.

cost of Taka 15 crore, setting up of imam training academy at an estimated cost of Taka 22

crore, purchase of equipment to repair and development of the reads under Dhaka City Corporation, strengthening of activities of Dhaka Shishu Academy at a cost of Taka 23 crore, construction of disaster shelters under Saudi grant project and improvement of water supply situation interim project two.

The Midnight File

China expels 5 journalists on espionage charge

BEIJING. Mar 10: China expelled five Taiwanese and Hong Kong journalists today, accusing them of spying near a southeastern coastal area where the People's Liberation Army (PLA) is holding military exercises, the Xinhua news agency reported, says Reuter.

Lankan forces on alert in N Jaffna

COLOMBO, Mar 10: Government forces have been alerted to a possible major attack by Tamil rebels in northern Jaffna Peninsula, a staterun newspaper reported today, says AP.

The alert was sounded after a 16-year-old Tamit girl, Murthalingam Sathyawari, escaped from a rebel training camp in eastern Batticaloa district and surrendered to police, the Sunday Observer newspaper

Military officials declined comment on the newspaper report which also said the rebel attack could take place in the next two weeks.

A large number of rebels are being trained in two camps in the jungles of Batticaloa for an attack on military camps, police quoted Sathyawari as saying.

"Sathyawari and four other teenage girls had escaped, but they were intercepted by the rebels ... Sathyawari managed to escape and made her way

Citizens' rally demands resignation of PM

By Staff Correspondent Prominent citizens of the country yesterday demanded cancellation of the February 15 elections and urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to

Prime Minister of the state.' said the citizens at a rally held at the central Shahid Minar square. The rally was presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury. The rally also demanded immediate formation of a neu-

tral, non-partisan caretaker

government for holding na-

She is no more the legal

tional elections as early as pos-"We must not stop our movement unless the government falls," said Kabir Chowdhury while conducting a public-oath at the rally to continue the struggle till the fall of

the government. The rally was also addressed by Advocate Gaziul Huq. Major General (Rtd) Shafiullah, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury, Borhan Uddin Khan Zahangir, Ferdousi Majumder, Shahrier Kabir and Abdul Mannan. They urged the government officials not to cooperate with the autocratic

From Page 1 Australia also has its share of problems. Star leg break bowler Shane Warne is nursing a hamstring injury but he bowled at the nets this morn-

West Indies have ruled out all rounder Ottis Gibson from playing tomorrow. If West Indies fail to win

Richardson's international ca-After being deposed as captain and replaced by Courtney Walsh, Richardson indicated he will retire from interna-

tional cricket after the World

over South Africa, it will mark

the end of skipper Richie

While West Indies, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa geared up for their quarterfinal contests, dejected England was busy licking its wounds after a humiliating lose to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka cricketers weren't the only ones to take aim at the England side, the press from Britain also took their shots.

The Observer said: From W

G Grace to disgrace seems a

fitting epitaph to English

cricket today. The Independent today spared the players nothing. calling the squad 'Hapless. Hopeless, Humiliated. The paper added: 'England

are on their way home from

the World Cup, and judging by

the standards of recent per-

formances, no one will be

more relieved than the players hemselves. This was the first time in five World Cup both England

and Pakistan have failed to qualify for the semifinal.

home," the Observer quoted

The military captured the rebel stronghold of Jaffna City last December after a 50-day siege. Since then the rebels have been launching sporadic attacks on the soldiers in the

shot dead near a military post at Moolai village in the area. The navy also destroyed four rebel boats, killing at least two rebels, the military said today.

The guerillas are fighting for a homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils since 1983. They allege widespread discrimination by the Sinhalese, who control the government and military. More than 40.000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Crackers hurled at Ilias Ali's residence

led at least five crackers and pelted stones at the residence of Ilias Ali, newly elected MP. the city last night.

ing the attack at around 9:30 pm, sources added.

crisis: Menon By Staff Correspondent

government. It is now the constitutional imperative that he (President) should act in resolving the crisis by using his good office. LDF leader Rashed Khan Menon told newsmen at the

on return from Bangabhaban. tion has no political, constitutional and legal validity, the President should immediately form a caretaker government

comprising non-party men. They also urged the President to immediately instruct

Special Powers Act. The hour-long meet with the President was also attended by Hasanul Haq Inu. Bimal Biswas, Haider Akbar

President From Page 1

leaves enough room in the office of the President to play a It seemed that the President was concerned about the sufferings of the people and his patience reflected that he was sincere about finding a solution to the lingering political impasse in the country, said Abdul Quader Mollah, the Ja-

delegations meeting with the President. Rashed Khan Menon, the secretary general of Workers Party (WP) who also met the President yesterday, said the meeting with the President

President Abdur Rahman Biswas held separate meetings with the leaders of AL, JP, Jamaat. WP in delegation at his official Bangabhaban residence

QULKHWANI

Dr. Momtazul Haque Khan, one of the veteran specialists on tuberculosis, of the country and a former regional director of World Health Organisation (WHO) died in the city on Friday following a stroke.

A heart patient for long, Dr. Khan collapsed while preparing for Jumma prayers. He left behind his wife, two sons and two daughters and a host of relations and admirers to mourn his death

His Qulkhwani will be held on Friday, March 15 after Asr prayers at his Gulshan residence, Khan Lodge, House # 507, Road # 98, South side of Gulshan 2, DIT Market.

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police officials as saying.

On Friday, one rebel was

By Staff Correspondent Unidentified persons hur-

at Ring Road near Shyamoli in None was, however, injured in the attack, police sources said. A former leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD). Ilias, was not in the house dur-

Now President can resolve

The leaders of Left Democratic Front (LDF) yesterday told the President that he was now constitutionally empowered to resolve the political crisis by forming a caretaker

Workers Party office in the city They told the President that as the 15 February elec-

the Election Commission to stop re-polling, remove the Chief Election Commissioner, promulgate ordinance barring the loan defaulters and collaborators of 1971 war of independence from participating the elections and repeal the

Khan Rano, AFM Mahbubul Haq. Naim Jahangir.

might help resolve the ongoing crisis, as the Constitution

role in such situations. maat publicity secretary who was present during his party

was cordial, while describing it as a positive beginning.

yesterday.

He was buried at Banani Graveyard on Friday, after Namaz-e-Janaza at Guishan Azad Mosque

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