

# Angry factory owners

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Chairing the meeting Acting President of BGMEA Abdus Salam Murshedy lost control over it as the members were repeatedly asking for an immediate solution to the problem.

Some members shouting in the meeting warned that they will be forced to close their factories if the government fails to take necessary actions against the ongoing attacks.

BGMEA leaders drew flak from the agitated factory owners who said the leaders of the association should resign since they failed to take actions against the attacks and to involve the government in the process properly.

Some said as the government failed to save their property, it should provide compensations.

BGMEA leaders alleged that they went to the Prime Minister's Office in the morning but they were not allowed to meet her.

Top leaders of the association had to interject repeatedly in an effort to calm down the angry members but they did not succeed. Finally, the acting president was forced to wrap up the chaotic meeting after having suggestions from the leaders of different trade bodies but short of any specific decision.

Later, the members took to the street at 1:40 pm and gathered at the Sonargaon Hotel intersection obstructing vehicular traffic.

Former BGMEA presidents Redwan Ahmed, Quazi Moniruzzaman, Acting President Abdus Salam Murshedy, BGMEA Director SM Fazlul Hoque and other leaders and members stayed there for half an hour.

Earlier, speaking at the emergency meeting, Anisur Rahman Sinha, former president of BGMEA, stressed the need for bringing an immediate end to the attacks on garment factories, adding that it has become necessary to have discussions with workers' organisations and to work jointly to avoid more damage.

"We have to look into a long-term solution to the problem. We have to talk to the workers to find out whether it is an issue of outburst of the workers' accumulated grievances," he said.

The reality is that the overall situation in the garment sector is much better than the past, Sinha said adding that the improvement in social sector had been highlighted enough.

Redwan Ahmed said he did not hesitate to take a position against the government in 1996 despite being a ruling party leader. He urged the prime minister and the leader of the opposition to have discussions with their workers' organisations and to take a common stand on the issue.

Quazi Moniruzzaman urged the government to deploy the army to tackle the situation immediately.

MA Momen, president of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) said the attacks on garment factories are not only a bad indication for the RMG sector but also for the national economy.

Terming the incidents very unusual, he underscored the need for finding out the reasons behind the attacks and identifying whether the problem is a deep-rooted one.

The DCCI president urged to form a national body to identify the reasons, adding that it should be neutral, acceptable to all and should include the representatives of workers.

Sayeful Islam, former president of DCCI, said business leaders need to be united to face the situation and all trade bodies should make a joint statement about the present situation.

AK Azad, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said the way the media presented the issue made the workers angry. Sitting with top political leaders and finding a way out has become imperative, he said.

**CHAMBER LEADERS' VERSION**  
Some factory owners were crying and shouting how they have lost millions of dollars in products ready for shipment. With the factory owners gathering, the BGMEA office turned into a place of grief and sorrow expressed in outbursts of anger. Garment factory owners chanted slogans demanding that the government tackles the situation immediately.

In the afternoon, business leaders from different chambers came to the BGMEA office to express their solidarity with the association leaders.

They urged the government to take immediate steps to save the country's highest foreign exchange earning sector.

Latifur Rahman, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) said it is very natural to have disputes between workers and owners. But the incidents that took place during the last two days are not normal. The real reason of why the workers became violent is not clear, he said.

Any dispute between workers and owners should be solved at a table, he added.

He said, "It could be a conspiracy against our economic growth, which has been growing for the last few years."

He urged the government to ensure law and order so businesses could operate in a peaceful environment.

Mahbubur Rahman, president of International Chamber of Commerce Bangladesh (ICCB), said it is not a workers' unrest. "It's a calculated mechanism against our growing garments industry."

The demonstrators destroyed not only garment factories but also textile mills, medicine shops, packaging factories and dying factories, which proves that it is a planned formula to destroy the country's industries, he said. A deep conspiracy could be lurking behind the mechanism, he alleged.

He urged all business leaders to come forward to save the garment industry.

Abdul Awal Mintoo, former president of FBCCI said, "It is a planned incident." He said it is an industry which has to maintain buyers' requirements and lead time. In this situation government should take proper initiatives, he added.

Former president of MCCI Kutub Uddin Ahmed urged the government to give proper compensations to the factory owners whose factories have been damaged.

**BGMEA'S VERSION**  
A highly placed BGMEA leader requesting anonymity said a number of workers' forums like Jatiya Garments Sramik Kalyan Federation, Garments Sramik Oikya Forum, Sramik Sangram Parishad, Garments Sramik Sangram Parishad, and Garments Sramik Trade Union Kendra patronised the violence.

He said leaders of these organisations were present at the scenes and led the rampages. He also guessed that the leaders of these organisations could be patronised by internal or external powers.

In a rough estimate, BGMEA Vice-president (Finance) Shahadat Hossain Chowdhury Arun said 300 factories including 21 factories in

Savar EPZ were damaged during the two-day violence. The total loss of the garment industry is around Tk 400 crore, he claimed.

**BGMEA BOARD MEETING'S DECISION**

An emergency board meeting of BGMEA presided over by its Acting President Abdus Salam Murshedy yesterday decided to call an emergency general meeting (EGM) at 11:30am today. The meeting will be held in the Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management (BIAM) auditorium. BGMEA leaders urged all garment industry stockholders to be present at the meeting.

Following the board meeting Murshedy said, "We will announce our programmes after discussing with all stockholders in the EGM."

He said all garment factories will run as usual from today. "But if further incidents occur we will be forced to call for tough programmes," he said. He also threatened to shutdown all garment factories indefinitely if the authorities fail to calm the situation.

**MEETING WITH LGRD MINISTER**

A number of BGMEA leaders met LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday and asked him to do something about the violence. The minister assured them of tackling the matter within an hour but BGMEA leaders alleged that even after the minister's assurance violence went on.

**BKMEA NEWS BRIEFING**  
Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) leaders in a news briefing yesterday threatened to shutdown their factories unless the ongoing violence is contained by today.

"We will have an emergency meeting tomorrow (today) where we will decide on what to do if the situation does not improve. If needed we might shutdown our factories," said BKMEA President Fazlul Haque at the briefing after an emergency meeting in the association's Dhaka office.

The knitwear manufacturers also sought deployment of the army at different garment industry hubs like Savar, Gazipur, Ashulia, Mirpur, Tejgaon, Mohakhali and Narayanganj.

They accused intelligence agencies of failure to predict the spate of violence. "After analysing some incidents we hinted to the intelligence agencies that something fishy was going on and requested them to take necessary steps. But they failed and could not find who were the culprits involved," the BKMEA chief said.

Terming the attackers as outsiders, he said the situation is so awful that the attackers are announcing the time in advance when they will set a factory on fire. In case of Universal Knitting, Haque said the attackers threatened the owner over the phone that they would set fire to the factory and after an hour and a half they carried it out.

"Even though we informed the police and fire department just after the phone call the factory could not be saved," he said.

On security measures he said, "Steps taken by the government were not enough and also did not work."

He feared the RMG sector will face an approximately Tk 1,000 crore loss and urged the media to present correct information on the situation.

# Jamaat leader

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They also submitted a memorandum to the prime minister through the deputy commissioner (DC) to press home their 10-point charter of demands.

The rally organised by Sathkira Samprodaiyik Samprity Rakha Committee was held at Shaheed Abdur Razzak Park with the committee's district convener Kazi Riaz in the chair.

It was addressed by Advocate Mostafa Nurul Alam, Kalyan Banerjee, Madhab Dutta, Sudhangshu Sekhar Sarkar, Sheikh Hasanuzzaman, Krishna Munda, Parimal Munda, Benu Munda, and Manzila Munda among others.

The speakers alleged that a group of attackers led by Monzur Rahi, a local leader of Jamaat, a key partner in the four-party ruling alliance, attacked the people of the indigenous community on April 17 at Kashipur under Shyamnagar upazila leaving 12 people injured.

Protesting and condemning the attack, the speakers demanded arrest of the perpetrators.

They alleged that the attackers also cut a channel on the embankment of a safe drinking water pond used by the indigenous community.

The channel made way for saline water to enter the pond making its water unsafe for drinking.

Though there is a ban on trans-

ferring lands of indigenous communities, a group of land grabbers had occupied their lands using false deeds and later they pressured them to leave the place with threats, the speakers said.

A group of local land grabbers led by Monzur Rahi, who is son-in-law of a local Jamaat MP Gazi Nazrul Islam, and his elder brother Kamruzzaman have been hatching conspiracies to evict the indigenous people for the last four years, the speakers alleged.

They also alleged that police instead of taking action against the attackers, rather sided with them by recording a case against the Mundas. They urged the authorities concerned to ensure security for the lives and properties of the Munda community.

Their demands include ensuring security for about 1992 people residing at about 18 villages under Shyamnagar upazila, returning back the lands occupied by the vested quarters through false deeds, punishment for the attackers, increased allotment in the national budget for the Munda community, distribution of government lands among indigenous people, and stopping of harassment of the Ahmadiyaas.

When contacted, Monzur Rahi denied the allegations and said a section of people is hatching conspiracies against him to tarnish his image in the society.

# Bhuiyan

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violence in the last few days in Gazipur, Savar and Dhaka.

In a country, Bhuiyan said, disputes between workers and owners are obvious, the incidents that happened in the last few days are unprecedented in national and international arenas. "Those who have indulged in arson are enemies of the country," he said.

Bhuiyan said it is deplorable that workers of a particular factory launched attacks on other factories on the plea of realising their demands. "I personally feel that a worker cannot burn or damage his own factory...I have reports that outsiders have staged the violence."

The BNP secretary general urged the workers to place their demands and assured them of settling those through negotiations. "We'll cooperate with you in realisation of your demands," he said, urging the owners to accept their demands through discussions.

In response to the owners' demand for providing security, the minister said the government has arranged security for them.

Asked about police inaction during arson and violence by mobs, he said the police were liberal but were asked to take appropriate steps to control the situation.

He said adequate security measures have been taken for safety and security of the production units, and life and property.

# Wahiduddin

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their failure to pay the workers as per their demands while trying to enhance their competitiveness." Prof Mahmud told journalists after a seminar hosted by Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies.

In a quota free world where the capable organisations will survive, it is possible to be in the competition even after paying just salaries to the workers and maintaining quality of goods, he said.

The RMG sector has created a lot of job opportunities and has been doing pretty well even after the MFA phase out while many other sectors have performed poorly despite taking 30 per cent subsidy from the government, he said.

Prof Mahmud urged all to make sure that this sector does not face troubles due to political unrest and bad governance.

**DEBAPRIYA FOR QUICK CONTROL**

Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya said the government should take immediate steps to bring the situation under control as it may have long-term effects on the country's economy.

"It is also time for the owners of the sector to think whether there is any internal causes for the workers' anger that flared up in last two days," he said in an interview with a satellite TV channel.

Referring to the fact that many of the factory owners do not encourage the trade union, Dr Bhattacharya asked the owners to rethink whether they have taken necessary steps to develop the sector as a modern one compatible with the present world.

It will be audacious if anyone tries to politicise the issue, he said.

# No need for army

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Babar said that the recent spate of unrest began from a grievance in a factory on Monday due to problems with payment of wages. "Starting with it, a good number of employees and outsiders damaged some 100 factories and set fire to some others, including the factories that regularly make payment of salaries and allowances."

He said the government is digging into the matter why the agitating workers attacked other factories -- furniture and blade factory and motor showroom -- yesterday. "Why other factories and industries will be attacked, when a particular factory failed to make payment?" he asked.

The government has to deal the issue with patience as it involves the interest of both the owners and workers, he said. "There should be no Awami League-BNP-Jamaat here. All the people will suffer if the industry suffers. We all have responsibility to protect this industry," the state minister added.

# JS body

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a disbursed to destitute people in the state ministers constituency Bhola through an NGO and TK 45 lakh was disbursed to an arsenic mitigation in water supply project of an NGO in Manikganj. The report also said funds were also disbursed for poverty reduction programmes.

"The committee chairman hurriedly ended the meeting without any discussion on the report while there are serious allegations of misappropriation of jakat fund," Shahjahan Khan alleged while talking to reporters after the meeting.

"The state minister distributed money to the people of his district depriving the people who deserve it," he said adding that the state minister is also the founder of the NGO, Bandhujam Parishad, which received the fund in Bhola.

Committee members State Minister for Religious Affairs Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan, State Minister for Civil Aviation Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan, Amjad Hossain, and Matiar Rahman Talukdar were present at the meeting.

# Black Tuesday

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Industry Ltd. The demonstrators said the factory management forced its workers to work night shift Monday and did not show any "sympathy for or respect" to their demands.

Over 50 people including some policemen were injured in sporadic clashes between police and thousand of workers during the four-hour bedlam from 9:00am. Police lobbed 10 to 15 teargas shells and charged baton to disperse the demonstrating workers.

The mobs of workers also beat up five journalists and put up barricades on Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Tongi-Ashulia-EPZ highways disrupting traffic movement. All shops and offices on both sides of the highways remained closed.

When the workers put Little Star Knitting Industry on fire, law enforcers including Rab lobbed teargas canisters at 10:30am to disperse them, triggering a series of chases and counter-chases.

A fire-fighting vehicle was set ablaze when it attempted to extinguish the fire of the factory. Workers assaulted a reporter of Bangladesh Television and Manikganj correspondent of the daily Prothom Alo received head injury.

At 9:15am, the agitators ransacked an underconstruction factory of Mascot Group and set fire to some of its parts, as security guards locked in an altercation with them over continuing with production.

Three of the guards -- Saiful Islam, Abdur Rahim and Shibi Shankar -- were stabbed, while a private university student was injured here. The demonstrators also set fire to the guards' shelter and office.

As police took position at all intersections leading to the highways, workers in groups vandalised at least 10 vehicles. They pelled bricks at the law enforcers, who charged baton and lobbed teargas shells in return.

At 10:00am, the workers set fire to P&D Attires at Jamgora where the guards on duty fired two blank shots to prevent workers from entering the factory.

At 11:30am, a band of 40 to 50 unidentified workers wearing green helmets and black T-shirts set fire to Universe Knitting Industries Ltd at Jamgora, locals and law enforcers said. Some workers also looted various goods from the factory.

Garment workers also attacked and injured daily Ittefaq Senior Photo-journalist Mohammad Alam and Mahabub Matin of Channel I. They also set up daily Jugantor Photo-journalist Aminul Islam and snatched his camera and cellphone.

Three fire-fighting units led by Selim Nawaz Bhuiyan reached the scene at noon and started working to douse the roaring flames. A large contingent of police was deployed in the area, while Rab patrol cars patrolled the highway.

The agitating workers also ransacked the factories in Ashulia Road, Shimoltola, Zirabo, and adjacent areas. The factories damaged include Shine Embroidery, Five Brothers Designwear, Nile Knitwear, Continental Garments, Pickard, Active Composite, Irish Garment, Southern Garments, AnnysheStyle, a factory of Sharmin Group, Designtex, and Leatherex Footwear.

As activities in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) came to a halt on Monday after the EPZ authorities called a two-day shutdown.

A large number of police, armed police, and Rab were deployed in and around DEPZ and on Dhaka-Aricha highway beside the EPZ. Rab members were closely guarding the DEPZ maingates and allowed no one including the journalists to enter the area. Almost every factory set up a notice at its entrance reading "factory closed".

**TONGI & GAZIPUR**  
Several thousand garments workers yesterday vandalised vehicles and roadside establishments from one end to the other end of Tongi upazila and kept the Tongi-Gazipur road blocked for several hours.

More than a thousand workers gathered in Tongi Colliery Gate area at about 8:00am and launched the mayhem, witnesses said.

Chanting slogans against the garment factory owners, they ransacked scores of vehicles plying the Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway, creating panic among the commuters and markets in the adjacent areas.

The angry mob set six vehicles of Nippon Garments Industries Ltd on and vandalised machinery of TLRA Holdings Ltd in Tongi.

The mangement of some factories alleged some "external terrorists" broke into their factories at about 9:00am and started the rampage.

Police and Rab members later charged batons to clear the highway and took control of it about noon.

Duty Officer Jinat at Tongi Police Station admitted the widescale vandalism but could not give details about any casualties. "Only two garment factories and several owners of vehicles reported attacks on them to the police station," she told The Daily Star.

In Gazipur, workers vandalised a number of garment plants, over a hundred vehicles and looted some shops and houses, our correspondent reports.

Police arrested Garments Workers Oikya Forum President Moshrefa Mishu at Chandina intersection.

Five left-leaning parties had called a hartal in the district yesterday, protesting the killing of a garment worker at

Sripur. Police arrested more than 100 workers during picketing.

Our Mymensingh correspondent reports the road communication between Dhaka and Mymensingh remained suspended from early morning yesterday.

**UTTARA**  
Around 500 workers barricaded the Mymensingh Road near Rajlaxmi Shopping Complex, Amir Complex, and Abdullahpur at about 9:00am, disrupting traffic until 1:00pm.

Police charged batons on them at about 10:00am.

During the clash with the police and Rab, the workers vandalised vehicles and some shops of the shopping complexes. They also set fire to a vehicle at Abdullahpur bus stand.

Hundreds of vehicles got stuck in the airport area causing trouble to thousands of commuters.

Officer-in-Charge Akhtaruzzaman of Uttara Police Station told The Daily Star that the communication became normal after 1:00pm.

At least 50 workers were injured in Uttara and Tongi but no one was held, said police sources.

**MIRPUR**  
Agitating workers partially damaged more than 40 garment units and 10 cars including a Volvo double-decker. During the three-hour long clashes on the Begum Rokoya Sarani and at sections one and six of Mirpur and Pallabi, 15 people were injured.

Around 4,000 workers took part in the procession at 9:30am chanting slogans for increasing their wages. The furious workers threw bricks at the glass walls of roadside establishments including banks, Chinese restaurants, community centres and other business units.

Witnesses said, the workers of SQ Sweaters Ltd, another unit of SQ Fashion of Moana Sripur, declared a programme on Monday evening protesting the incidents at Savar and Gazipur.

At 8:30am, the workers of SQ Sweaters at Sheorapara brought out a procession and started heading towards Pallabi where they met another group of workers. The procession went to different factories calling the workers out to join them.

The management of different factories shut down their factories within 11:00am for indefinite time.

The traffic movement from Mirpur section 12 to Agargaon remained stalled from the morning to 1:00pm.

At one stage local people and businessmen drove the workers away from the street, witnesses said.

**TEJGAON-MOHAKHALI**

Some garment workers brought out a procession at Tejgaon and called the workers of different garment factories. They threw bricks and started vandalising cars.

They also tried to involve the workers of Samah Razor Blade Factory in the movement but failed. The agitating workers then committed an arson on the factory. They also set fire to eight cars parked on its premises.

Another car was burnt in front of the National Shooting Complex at Gulshan at noon.

Police, Rab, and Ansars were deployed in the area at noon to bring the situation under control.

Factory authorities claimed that the attackers damaged and looted machines worth over Tk 20 crore.

# Trade bodies

**FROM PAGE 1**  
involved in the violent activities," the signatories said and put the blame on some people, who are in the guise of workers.

They urged all to work together to save the garments sector that contributes 76 per cent of export earnings and employs around 20 lakh people.

If the crisis persists, the garment sector would be destroyed, leaving millions of workers unemployed, the leaders apprehended.

Signatories of the statement included presidents of International Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI), Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI), Bangladesh Association of Bank (BAB), American Chamber of Commerce (ACC), Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), Bangladesh Employers' Federation (BEF), Bangladesh Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) and chairman of Bangladesh Terry Towel and Linen Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BTTLMEA).

Meanwhile, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) held an emergency meeting at its office yesterday to discuss the situation after massive destruction at a number of garment factories in Savar, Gazipur and in the capital.

Presided over by its acting Vice President Mohammad Ali, the meeting asked the government for stern action to contain the situation. "All political parties must unite on this issue," said a statement of the apex body issued after the meeting. It also requested all political parties to cooperate in dealing with the situation in the greater interest of the country.

President of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFEEA) Muqsudur Rahman in a statement yesterday also protested the act of vandalism by unruly people at different parts of the city.

He said the act of violence is carried out by the vested quarters at home and abroad as the country becomes self-reliant with the rapid development of private sector.

# Update current voter roll

**FROM PAGE 1**  
division in the impugned judgement and order."

Meanwhile, the HC issued a contempt rule on CEC MA Aziz, the two election commissioners and acting secretary to the EC Secretariat to explain within three weeks why the contempt charge should not be brought against them for their non-compliance with the January 4 HC directives, observations and findings regarding preparation of the voter list.

Terming the SC verdict "very significant", legal experts told the press yesterday that the draft voter list will be considered illegal now and the EC will have to update the electoral roll by making necessary corrections and additions to the existing one prepared in 2000. The SC modifications of the HC judgement have also strengthened it, they said.

The SC verdict said the EC should prepare the electoral rolls taking into consideration the existing one under section 7(6) of the Electoral Rolls Ordinance 1982.

"If there is a computerised database, the commission should make the best use of it and if not, a computerised electoral roll with database should always be maintained to avoid further controversy, costs and labour," it said.

The SC also directed that the persons whose names are already on the existing list cannot be dropped unless they are dead or have been declared to be of unsound mind or less than 18 years of age or ceased to be citizen of Bangladesh, or ceased to be deemed by law to be residents of the electoral area/constituency following sub-rules 3 and 4 of the rule 20 of the electoral rolls 1982.

The HC gave directives and made some observations on January 4 following two writ petitions filed by Awami League (AL) leaders and lawmakers Abdul Jalil, Rahmat Ali and Asaduzzaman Noor on December 12 last year, challenging the CEC's "unilateral" decision to prepare a fresh voter list.

The CEC on February 1 filed a leave to appeal with the SC against two points of the HC directives that the EC should prepare the voter list on the major basis of the existing electoral roll prepared in 2000, and that it should publish some of the HC observations in the media.

The SC on April 17 granted the leave to appeal but did not stay the operation of the HC judgment. The hearing on the appeal started on May

14 and concluded on Monday.

After the verdict, counsel for the petitioner Dr Kamal Hossain said the SC judgment has freed the nation from the uncertainty created by the EC over the electoral roll for the next general elections.

"The EC was going on a wrong path regarding preparation of the voter list. It will now have to correct its wrongs," he said.

The SC has not only upheld the HC judgement but also made it stronger by making some modifications, Dr Kamal said.

"The draft voter list the EC published on May 3 is not legal. Those who made this serious mistake should step down from their positions. The CEC and the commissioners should ask their conscience if they can hold their positions even after making such big mistakes," he said.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud said the draft electoral roll prepared by the EC is not legal, acceptable and effective and no election can be held on the basis of this list.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said the EC has committed contempt of court by making and publishing the draft voter list.

Counsel to the CEC Advocate TH Khan declined to make any comment on the SC verdict.

Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud and Barrister Amir-Ul Islam moved for the petitioners while Barrister Sara Hossain, Barrister Taniya Amir, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury and Barrister Tanjibul Alam assisted them.

Advocate TH Khan and BNP lawmaker Advocate Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed moved for the CEC while Advocate Toufique Inam Tipu and Barrister Nasiruddin Asim assisted them.

Attorney General AJ Mohammad Ali took part in the case for the state.

**CONTEMPT RULE AGAINST CEC**

Following the contempt petition filed by AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on Monday, an HC bench yesterday issued rule on CEC MA Aziz, election commissioners Mahfuzur Rahman and SM Zakaria, and Acting Secretary to the EC Secretariat Mohammad Zokoria to explain why contempt proceedings should not be drawn against them.

Jalil brought the contempt of court allegations against the three for non-compliance with the HC direc-

tives, observations and findings regarding preparation of the voter list.

He brought the allegations against them for ignoring and obstructing implementation of the HC order and for frustrating the order by way of publications of the draft electoral rolls.

Jalil in his petition said the accused made contemptuous comments on the HC observations undermining the court's dignity, honour and prestige.

"The High Court had directed the respondents to publish the full judgment in the media, but they did not do that. Rather, they published a draft list of false voters on May 3 violating the High Court judgment," the petitioner alleged.

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam moved for the petitioner while Barrister Taniya Amir, Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury, Barrister Shamsul Hasan, and Moir Firozee assisted him.

# Hasina

**FROM PAGE 16**  
Bar Association President Amir-Ul-Islam, economist Dr Abul Baraqat and Barrister Tania Amir.

Dr Kamal Hoss