

# More violence

**FROM PAGE 1**  
several shops at Oskhali, Tamruddi, Sonadia, Boyarchar, Nolerchar, Jahajmara, Nijhumdwp and Char Ishwaryesterday.

In Majidi, 14-party activists vandalised a local UCBL Bank and some business houses owned by BNP members and supporters, prompting police to fire rubber bullets and tear gas canisters.

Twenty of 14-party men and some policemen were injured during the incident.

**MAGURA**  
Zinarul Islam, general secretary of Choulia union committee of AL, died on his way to Dhaka for better treatment after being injured in Saturday's clash between BNP and 14-party coalition men at Dhaka Road Bus Stand in Magura town, bringing the number of death in the clash to two. The other victim was Jamaat-e-Islami's town committee associate member Arafat Hossain.

**BARISAL**  
BNP worker Abul Kalam, 24, who was injured in Saturday's clash between BNP and 14-party coalition at Shorupkathi in Pirpurid died in Barisal Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Unknown people vandalised the offices of Workers Party and Chhatra Maitree while rivals vandalised houses of AL leaders and activists at different parts of the district.

The local administration imposed section 144 in Barisal city for an indefinite period from 4:00pm yesterday.

**NARAYANGANGJ**  
A cadre of Islami Chharta Shibir, Farhad, 20, who had been injured in an AL attack at Siddirganj on Saturday, died in Ibne Sinha Hospital in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

Some shops and houses were plundered in violent incidents across the district when four-party alliance activists moved in processions.

**NILPHAMARI**  
About 50 people were injured in sporadic clashes between Jammat and AL activists amid section 144 in Jaldhaka upazila yesterday, while two commercial banks were burnt during the rampage.

The clash in Jaldhaka began when AL activists pelted a Jamaat procession with stones yesterday morning, prompting them to burn Sainik League office. The AL men later burnt a local Islami Bank alleging that it has been fronting for Jamaat.

Jamat men then set fire to houses of two AL leaders and a local Sonali Bank, while AL activists burnt several houses of Jamaat leaders.

Fire engulfed the whole area and went out of control, while the so-called activists also looted around 30 shops and business establishments.

**SIRAJGANJ**  
Over 100 persons were injured, two of them critically, including police and journalists, in sporadic clashes among Awami League, BNP, Jamaat and Police in Belkuchi, Ullapara and Sirajganj district town yesterday.

AL and BNP-led alliances got locked in daylong clashes, and later operatives of both the parties had small battles with police when the law enforcers tried to disperse them.

Seven shops, five vehicles, two houses and a large number of signboards, nameplates and business establishments owned by ruling BNP men, were also damaged and looted, said police.

**GAZIPUR**  
Activists of 14-party coalition vandalised National University and Open University in Gazipur during their siege programme yesterday.

**SAIDPUR**  
Around 70 people were injured in clashes between the activists of BNP and AL amid section 144 in Saidpur yesterday which led to looting and damaging of business establishments.

Defying section 144, both AL and BNP men burnt the offices of rival parties on Saturday night.

**BRAHMANBARIA**  
Twenty-five activists of BNP and 14-party were injured during clashes on Saturday night and yesterday morning.

AL activists vandalised a BNP office at Bancharampur upazila headquarters, burnt a motorcycle and damaged several vehicles on Bishwa Road. BNP activists vandalised and ransacked a number of establishments in the district. Five platoons of BDR were deployed in the town.

**DINAJPUR**  
At least 40 people were injured in a clash between the operatives of 14-party and four-party alliances. AL demonstrators torched offices of BNP and Jamaat, and an inter-district train.

The local administration imposed section 144 from yesterday at Birampur, Ghoraghat and Hili under Hakimpur upazila as the rival alliances had called public meetings at the same place and time.

**KHAGRACHHARI**  
At least 37 activists of BNP and AL were injured, and many business centres, government offices, rickshaws and houses were ransacked and torched in attacks by the activists of the two archrivals in different parts of the hill district. The local administration imposed section 144 for an indefinite period to avert further violence.

**MYMENSINGH**  
At least 30 people including two journalists were injured in sporadic clashes between the activists of 14-party and BNP in the town yesterday afternoon.

**NETRAKONA**  
At least 20 activists of both AL and BNP were injured in a clash in Mohongonj municipality area in Netrakona defying section 144 in the area.

Defying the ban yesterday noon, both the parties brought out processions and clashed in front of a local Sonali Bank. Eight rounds of bullets

## Chiefs of 3

**FROM PAGE 1**  
government's five-year tenure.

They expressed gratitude to the prime minister for her guidance and patronage in the activities of the armed forces as the defence minister and her government's support, cooperation, initiative and various schemes for development of the three services and welfare of their members.

The outgoing prime minister thanked the members of the three services for their role in various activities of government and building a "good image of Bangladesh in international arena with their extraordinary performance".

Khaleda urged the chiefs of the three services to keep up the effort to uphold the image of Bangladesh at home and abroad.

She also wished welfare of the three chiefs and members of the armed forces.

## EU, UK, India

**FROM PAGE 1**  
an acceptable setup of the interim caretaker government, resulting in violent clashes across the country.

The United Kingdom deplored the tragic events of the last few days in Bangladesh's political arena and called for calm and an end to the violence.

"We regret the tragic events of the last few days and call for calm and end to the violence," Acting British High Commissioner to Bangladesh Stephen Bridges said in a statement yesterday.

"We encourage all parties to reach agreement on the formation of the interim administration, which is consistent with the constitution of Bangladesh," the envoy said.

Our Correspondent from New Delhi writes: India yesterday said it wanted to see stability in Bangladesh and hoped the people of that country would be "allowed" to exercise their franchise in a "free and fair manner".

External Affairs Ministry spokesman Navtej Sarna said it is "closely watching developments in Bangladesh".

"As a friendly neighbour we are naturally interested in Bangladesh remaining peaceful and stable," he said.

Sarna said India hopes that the "people of Bangladesh will be allowed to exercise their right to choose their own government in a free and fair manner in the forthcoming elections in accordance with their constitution".

The comments came a day after Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon discussed the Bangladesh developments with West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya in Kolkata on his way back from Bhutan.

External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee had also held discussions with officials of his ministry about the situation in the neighbouring country.

## CEC's village

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Breaking the window of Aziz's room on the ground floor on the west side of the house, they sprinkled kerosene and set fire, she said. The room is usually kept locked.

As the intruders fled the scene soon, members of the family who already woke up raised an alarm.

Locals and the family members extinguished the fire.

The family members said Aziz used to live in the house when he was a school student. He still stays in the house whenever he visits home. His cousins now live there.

When contacted, Barisal Deputy Commissioner Sheikh Alauddin said he heard that somebody set fire to a pile of hay beside the CEC's house.

## Dhaka

**FROM PAGE 1**  
of shops were kept down. The shops at the bends of neighbourhoods continued their business on a very limited scale.

Gulistan, Bangabandhu Avenue and Purana Paltan stood silent, bearing the scars of Saturday's violence.

Chittagong too continued its deserted look. The non-stop hartal continued to paralyse the normal life and trade in the port city. Labours of Chittagong port ceased loading and unloading from 1:00pm. The AL-led 14 party and BNP held rallies in close proximity amid heavy deployment of police, Rab and BDR members.

The 14-party combine continued their agitation at Janatar Mancha at Lalidighi Maidan defying the section 144 yesterday.

They held rallies also on the Darul Fazel Market premises and Olonkar intersection on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Pahatali.

Meanwhile, BNP-led four-party alliance held a rally at Gonotantra Mancha at Kazir Dewri intersection in the afternoon.

During hartal hours, there was little vehicular movement on the city thoroughfares.

Like the other landports, Benapole was inoperative. Sources said some 2000 trucks laden with goods were stuck in the border.

# Opposition to watch

**FROM PAGE 1**  
"We will watch his activities and his activities will help us decide whether we would accept him or not," she added.

After the president's oath taking ceremony, the AL and its 13 allies held an emergency meeting at Sudha Sadan.

Hasina said their earlier announced blockade programmes and movements for reform demand will continue.

Earlier, terming President Iajuddin Ahmed 'partisan', the AL-led 14-party alliance said the 'politically appointed' president could not be the chief adviser to a non-partisan caretaker government as per the constitution.

"You [the president] are nominated and appointed by a political party. A partisan president can never be the chief adviser to a non-partisan caretaker government and it disqualifies you," 14-party coordinator Abdul Jalil told at a press conference at AL's Dhanmondi office following a meeting with the president in the afternoon.

During the meeting with the president, the AL leaders gave the president a letter in which they termed his attempt to hold discussions with major political parties an "unconstitutional move" as per the constitution's 58 Ga (5) sub-article.

In the letter, they also termed president's proposal to become the chief adviser to the caretaker government "unconstitutional". President Iajuddin Ahmed on Saturday called upon AL general secretary and BNP secretary general and told them he himself wanted to be the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

Before meeting the president, AL held an emergency president meeting with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair and finalised AL's four representatives -- Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofail Ahmed and Abdul Jalil -- to meet the president. Later, the leaders sat in AL's Dhanmondi office before holding discussion with president.

Reiterating that the ongoing blockade programme would continue, Jalil, also AL general secretary, urged the president not to be in such a position that makes him a controversial person.

Saying five names of constitution experts -- Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Zahir, Barrister Amir-ul-Islam, Barrister Shafiq and Barrister Rafiqul Haque -- he urged the president to consult them and find a solution over the ongoing political crisis.

Referring to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's Saturday's remarks about AL and its allies, Jalil said she told a public rally that everybody would have to accept the president's decision over the appointment of the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

"Following her speech you gave us a proposal. We believe there is a link

## 100 'killed'

**FROM PAGE 16**  
A spokesman for the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) confirmed the incident involving an aircraft of the privately owned Nigerian airline ADC, but he declined to give details.

"There was a crash this morning involving an ADC passenger plane. The plane crashed and burst into flames at the outskirts of Abuja. No information yet on casualties," Ibrahim Farinloye told AFP.

Sunday's crash was the latest to hit Nigeria's aviation industry in recent months.

Last month, 14 military officers, including 10 generals, were killed when their small aircraft plane crashed into the hills in central Benue State.

# Bangabhaban

**FROM PAGE 1**  
military secretary that he will not feel embarrassed and was rather prepared for the responsibility. The Bangabhaban has not since called home. His cousins now live there.

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when your proposal and Khaleda Zia's speech," Jalil said.

The AL leader said they also pointed out who would not be eligible for the post of chief adviser to the caretaker government as per the constitution.

"We have also told him [president] that we are not proposing any names. We have not come to do advocacy for anyone," Jalil said urging the president to follow the constitution and end the ongoing political crisis.

### AL'S STATEMENT TO THE PRESIDENT

In the letter to the president, AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil said, "You [the president] rather than taking measurers according to the constitution's 58 Ga (2), (3) and (4) sub-articles, proposed yourself for the post according to the 58 Ga (6) sub-articles."

"After discussions with AL and 14-party, you have been informed that your proposal is unconstitutional," Jalil said in the letter. Referring to the president's letter for holding discussions with the major political parties, Jalil in his letter said, "We observed in that letter that you called for discussions with the major political parties according to 58 Ga (5) sub-article in a bid to repeat the similar unconstitutional move."

Saying that there should be a list of names of former chief justices and former justices of Appellate Division, Jalil said only one former chief justice has declined to be the chief adviser to the caretaker government. But it is your constitutional responsibility to ask the others, the letter read.

Jalil urged the president to follow the 2 Ka clause of the constitution and to call for former chief justices. He also urged him to form the caretaker government yesterday by appointing a justice of Appellate Division who is not holding any other constitutional post, if former chief justices are not available.

"Our party and the people expect you [president] will take measures according to the constitution," the letter signed by Jalil stated.

## 70 Taliban

**FROM PAGE 16**  
endanger civilians by hiding among them.

"Sadly, in asymmetric warfare, when you're battling an insurgency, typically the insurgents do not play by the same rules that we would like to play by," US Gen James L Jones said.

The New York-based Human Rights Watch complained Friday that Nato's recent operations have killed dozens of civilians, but it also criticised the Taliban and other insurgents for putting civilians at risk "by using populated areas to launch attacks on Nato and Afghan government forces."

Jones, the Nato commander, expressed regret for civilian deaths but said Taliban fighters use civilians as human shields and said that in the heat of battle it can be difficult to separate the two.

The death of a civilian "is something that causes anybody in uniform to lose a lot of sleep," Jones said at a news conference at Bagram, the largest US base in Afghanistan.

His comments came four days after clashes between Nato-led troops and insurgents in the south that Afghan officials said killed 30 to 80 civilians, including women and children. Nato said its initial investigation found 12 civilians killed. east in the worst upsurge of violence since the 2001 US-led invasion ousted the Taliban.

not agree about me, I do not think it would be wise of me to take the chief adviser's responsibility."

Although the language of Justice Haque's opinion was clear, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday morning told the press that Haque has expressed his "embarrassment" to become the caretaker government chief.

"I never expressed embarrassment," Haque told The Daily Star, adding, "I did not even write any word like 'inability' or 'disagreement' in my letter...The military secretary's call was not an offer. I was never offered the responsibility."

So, the Bangabhaban practically skipped these steps of the constitution before coming to the conclusion that the president must himself head the caretaker government, which is not even the fifth option but the sixth and the last.

During a meeting with the AL and BNP top leaders Saturday afternoon, President Iajuddin Ahmed offered that he himself will head the caretaker government. The AL rejected the idea at that time.

However, the president resorted to the fifth option yesterday by holding a meeting with the four main political parties--BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the AL. At the meeting, the AL said all steps must be taken according to the constitutional provisions while the three other parties talked about other issues of the caretaker government.

The president himself could have suggested any eminent citizen's name and sought the views of political parties, which he did not.

Finally, the president himself became the chief adviser to the caretaker government last night.

## Jamaat says its 9 activists died in 2 days

**UNB, Dhaka**

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh at a press conference yesterday furnished the identities of nine Jamaat-Shibir men killed in a series of clashes with Awami League across the country in the last two days.

Of the nine, five died on Saturday during the daylong clashes in the city's Paltan area, ravaged by the worst incident of violence in recent times.

They are Mujahidul Islam, president of ward no 10 unit of Chhatra Shibir and a student of Stamford University, Jasimuddin, a Jamaat worker of Jurain area, Golam Kibria, a Shibir activist of Basabo area, Al Amin, a Jamaat worker of Badda, and Hamidul Islam, a Jamaat worker of West Mirpur.

Those died in different districts are Ruhul Amin, office secretary of Jamaat Gazipur district unit, Faisal, a Jamaat worker of Narayanganj district, Rafiqul Islam, a Shibir activist of Kurigram district, and Arafat, a Jamaat activist of Magura district.

Over 500 Jamaat workers were injured during the clashes, the news conference was told.

## Blockade

**FROM PAGE 16**  
"Keep continuing to occupy the streets and highways across the country," Jalil, also the 14-party coordinator, said while addressing a meeting at the city's Zero Point arranged by the city 14-party in the afternoon.

Presided over by Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, coordinator of the city 14-party, the meeting was also addressed by the leaders of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) and Workers' Party from a makeshift stage on a truck.

A tense situation arose when five bombs exploded near Pir Yamen Market while the meeting was proceeding.

Jalil also asked the Army, BDR, Police and Ansar not to clash with the common people. "Don't stand against the people following any order from any vested quarters," he said adding, "do your job impartially."

The AL general secretary also warned the state-owned television and radio not to behave as the stooges of the outgoing government, adding, "we have identified those who were against the people and action would be taken against them." Jalil, however, asked the combine activists not to go for confrontations.

AL leaders Abdur Razzak, Mohammad Nasim, Suranjit Sengupta, Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon, JSD President Hasanul Haq Inu were present at the meeting among others.

## Tarique

**FROM PAGE 1**  
country including The Daily Star was not informed of the briefing.

Dhaka city BNP will hold a rally in front of its central office today to protest the chaotic situation created by the opposition. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address the rally as chief guest. Abdus Salam, city BNP secretary, urged party leaders, workers and supporters to make the rally a success.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders and workers brought out processions and held rallies at different places in Dhaka yesterday evening protesting the anarchy created by the opposition.

City Mayor Sadek Hossain Khoka led a procession from Matsya Bhaban and Maj (retd) Kamrul Islam led another procession from Gulshan. Another procession was also brought out from Madhubagh.

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal organised a rally in front of the party's central office and former minister Mirza Abbas attended the rally as chief guest.

Later, Jubo Dal and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession and tried to enter the Paltan area. But their attempt failed due to police barricade.

Sources said, BNP high ups already sent the direction to their grassroots level leaders -- mainly to the district level ones -- to ensure their presence on the streets and hold series programmes in their respective areas. They were also instructed to treat the opposition the same way they are treated by the opposition.

## Leaflets

**FROM PAGE 16**  
But they left the spot quickly fearing arrest when they found police and other security personnel approaching. Some of them allegedly misbehaved with the journalists, especially from the TV channels, and obstructed them from discharging professional duties.

There was no business at the secretariat yesterday and the very few officials present were seen busy discussing the current political situation, sources said.

The visitors' room at the secretariat remained empty as no one came to meet anyone.

# President sworn

**FROM PAGE 1**  
Jatiya Party (Ershad), were also not seen at the ceremony.

Reserved seats for the former caretaker government advisers were also seen empty. Former chief adviser to caretaker government Justice Habibur Rahman, however, attended the function, but he declined to make any comment.

BNP Chairperson and immediate past prime minister Khaleda Zia also declined to make any instant comment over transferring power to a caretaker government. "We will keep meeting each other from now," she told the reporters.

UNB, however, reported that Khaleda expressed her satisfaction over the power handover. "I am very happy about transferring the power democratically and peacefully," UNB quoted Khaleda.

The immediate past PM made a courtesy call on the president soon after he was sworn in as the chief adviser to the caretaker government.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan also declined to make any comment.

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad said the president had no alternative but to assume the office himself. He said his party will participate in the next parliamentary elections, no matter which political party contests or not.

Replying to a question, Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary General Ali Ahsan Muhammad Muzahid said it does not matter whether any political party accepts the president's assumption of the post of chief adviser.

US Ambassador Patricia E Butenis, who attended the oath-taking ceremony along with other diplomats, declined to make any comment.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Moin U Ahmed in his instant reaction told reporters at Bangabhaban that they are happy.

### DAYLONG TALKS

The president assumed the office of the chief adviser to the caretaker government last night following daylong talks with the four major political parties, BNP, AL, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party, to resolve the ongoing stalemate.

After the talks, the Bangabhaban spokesman told the media yesterday afternoon that the president would give his decision as 'other options for appointing the caretaker government chief from retired judges of the Supreme Court had been exhausted'.

In the talks however, BNP, Jamaat and Jatiya Party informed the president that they have objection to Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury as the chief adviser, and Bangabhaban claimed that Justice Hamidul Haque had declined to assume the post of the chief adviser.

Justice Hamidul Haque yesterday noon however told reporters that he had not declined to assume the office of the chief adviser.

The JP delegation after holding talks with the president told reporters that the president informed them that Justice Mahmudul Amin had agreed to accept the post if it would be offered to him, but BNP and Jamaat had reservation about him.

On receiving the letter from former chief justice KM Hasan declining the job offer on Friday night, the president held a meeting with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and AL General Secretary Abdul Jalil on Saturday afternoon and he offered himself as

the chief adviser.

AL-led 14-party coalition rejected the president's proposal outright. The president then again sat with BNP, AL, Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party yesterday.

AL in the talks submitted a written statement to the president opposing his intention of assuming the office of the interim government chief and urged him to follow the constitution while the other three political parties apparently gave consent to the president's proposal.

Finally, the president last night assumed the office of the chief adviser to the caretaker government that is supposed to provide all out cooperation to the Election Commission to hold the next parliamentary election scheduled for next January.

### SCENE AT DARBAR HALL

On receiving the invitation to attend the chief adviser's oath taking ceremony at 8:00pm, many expressed their astonishment and were confused who is going to assume the post of the caretaker government chief, while many other invitees rushed to Bangabhaban to attend the ceremony.

The invitation letters sent to important persons did not carry any name of the probable chief of the caretaker government. Even while entering Bangabhaban many had no clue as to who was going to take the oath.

President Iajuddin Ahmed entered Darbar Hall at 8:00pm and took his seat. The oath taking ceremony began in absence of most of the political parties and many seats in the hall were vacant.

Ending all speculations, the cabinet secretary announced that the president was going to assume the office of the chief adviser and the chief justice would administer the oath.

The chief justice completed administering the oath within three minutes and the dignitaries present at the ceremony welcomed the new chief adviser with applause.

Darbar Hall was however not filled with invited dignitaries, as many of the invited guests did not attend. Even the seats reserved for the family members of the president and the prime minister remained vacant.

Khaleda Zia who entered Bangabhaban as the prime minister last night left the president's residence as the immediate past premier.

## Jai Jai Din editor

**FROM PAGE 16**  
However, a press release of the Jai Jai Din last evening stated that the editor took quick decision to fly for London following his physician's advice.

Following proposal for a negotiation by Taleya Rehman, wife of Shafik Rehman, three unit chiefs of the Jai Jai Din sat in a meeting with Taleya yesterday afternoon that continued as of filing this report late in the evening.

Meanwhile, the terminated staff of the Jai Jai Din filed a forgery case against Rehman with Teigaon Police Station on Saturday night.

On behalf of the nine terminated journalists and staffs, who were working at Jai Jai Din's Chittagong Bureau, former chief of the bureau Faruk Iqbal also filed a cheating case against Shafik Rehman with Kotwali Police Station yesterday afternoon.

"We were suddenly terminated without any reason. That is why we lodged this case," Iqbal said in the complaint.

The terminated journalists also told the British High Commission in Dhaka not to help Shafik Rehman, who holds a British passport, sources said.

# Businesses stop

**FROM PAGE 1**  
premier Chittagong seaport.

Capital Dhaka remained isolated from the rest of the country as the Awami League-led 14-party combine enforced a siege programme from Saturday morning demanding implementation of their electoral reforms agenda.

The loading and unloading of goods at all sea and land ports came to a standstill yesterday following two days' continuous political unrest in the country.

Responding to a call by Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Choudhury, labourers observed a work stoppage programme at Chittagong port.

As there is no room for newly arrived containers at the port yard, the Chittagong port authorities, unable to handle more containers without releasing the existing ones, verbally requested the shipping agents not to bring any more containers.

Around 20,000, containers -- three times more than the usual capacity -- have already been stockpiled at the port yard.

The shipping agents informed the ship owners in Singapore and a decision from the owners' main platform -- Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) -- is likely to come today, sources said, adding that the CFTC may impose additional surcharge on Chittagong-bound containers again.</