

# 4 killed, 300 injured

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The city's Shahab Bazar, Kumarpura, Ganakpara, Mianpara, Sona Dighi square, and Hatim Khan areas turned into battlefields in the afternoon.

The battling parties traded around 50 shots and exploded 20 crude bombs. They also vandalised over 50 shops, offices and banks at Shahab Bazar area. Law enforcers lobbed 70 tear-gas canisters and resorted to charging truncheons on them to quell the situation.

The clashes erupted when Shibir cadres hurled two crude bombs on a Workers' Party, a coalition partner of 14-party, procession near a police barricade set up to protect a Shibir rally at Shahab Bazar Zero Point.

Workers' Party Politburo Member Fazle Hossain Badsha, who was leading the procession from Ganakpara, received splinter injuries in his leg.

Awami League (AL) activists rushed to the scene with oars in their hands following the attack. Shibir cadres then fled towards the Sona Dighi intersection area.

The Shibir cadres returned a little later and attacked the 14-party workers there. A large number of Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) men rushed to the spot and charged truncheons indiscriminately. Photojournalist Rumi and Rajshahi Bureau Reporter of Dainik Inqilab Adil were injured during the truncheon charge.

Over 100 Rab members and several hundred policemen cordoned off the area. They raided houses, shops, hotels and even the Rajshahi Metropolitan Press Club following the clash.

Badsha told reporters that the Shibir attack on them was pre-planned.

Shibir Publicity Secretary Emajuddin Mondol, however, claimed that 14-party men attacked the Shibir men and around 20 Shibir activists were injured in the incident.

Swechchhaebak League Publicity Secretary Subhas Sarkar, Rajpara Maitree President Alfaz and Bangladesh Chhatra League worker Babu were treated at a city clinic while 15 people were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Additional forces of Rab and police were patrolling the city following the clash.

**KISHOREGANJ** One Jabo League leader was shot dead while 100 others were injured, eight critically, during a gun-battle between AL and BNP activists at Bajipur upazila in Kishoreganj last evening.

Around 200 BNP men attacked the residences of AL men leading to the clash that left Arman, the Jabo League leader, spot dead.

At least 30 AL and BNP activists were injured in sporadic clashes between the parties at Durgapur upazila in the district from Sunday night to yesterday midday.

Around 100 activists of 14-party and four-party were injured in a clash that triggered after AL leaders beat up a BNP activist at Chatkhil yesterday.

**TANGAIL** Around 15 activists were injured, one motorcycle torched, 17 shops vandalised and burned, during clashes between AL and BNP supporters at different places in Tangail.

**NOAKHALI** Around 10 activists of 14-party and four-party were injured in a clash which triggered after AL leaders beat up a BNP activist at Chatkhil yesterday.

**THAKURGAON** At least 100 people were injured in Pirganj upazila in Thakurgaon following a clash between BNP and Jatiya Party when BNP former minister Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alampir appeared to inaugurate a bridge in Pirganj.

# Carry out 11 tasks

FROM PAGE 1  
League (AL) chief Sheikh Hasina that all possible steps will be initiated for holding a free and fair election.

"If the chief adviser fails to prove his neutrality by this time, we will declare our next course of agitation programmes from a rally at Paltan Maidan on November 3," Hasina told newsmen after their meeting with lajuddin at Bangabhaban yesterday afternoon.

"We categorically told the chief adviser that he will have to prove himself neutral through his activities," Hasina said. She urged people to get ready for launching agitation programmes if implementation of their demands goes otherwise.

President lajuddin Ahmed assumed the office of chief adviser to the caretaker government on Sunday night ignoring severe opposition from the 14-party alliance. The AL-led alliance, however, neither welcomed nor rejected lajuddin's new role.

Asked what lajuddin told her at the meeting, the AL chief said, "The president assured us that he will maintain neutrality and look into our demands."

The president assured the 14-party alliance of "all possible steps on his part to stage a free and fair election" and said several steps have already been ordered towards that end, state-run news agency BSS reported quoting the president's Press Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury.

The 14-party leaders urged the president to play a "historic role" to ensure a free and fair election by recalling his background as a respected university teacher and leaders' leader.

"I believe we can stage a free and fair election joining our hands as we worked together in the pro-democracy campaigns when I was the president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association," the Bangabhaban spokesman quoted the president as telling the 14-party alliance leaders.

The atmosphere of the meeting was "very cordial" and the 14-party leaders wished the president good health and long life, Mokhles said.

Hasina, who visited the Bangabhaban for the first time in the last five years, placed the demands in writing before the caretaker government.

The 14-party alliance demanded immediate reconstitution of the EC through removal of the chief election commissioner (CEC), three other election commissioners and the EC secretary.

Their demands also include cancellation of the "political" appointments of upazila election officials and the controversial updated voter list, and

night, our Satkhira correspondent reports.

The dead was identified as Zobed Ali, 55, of village Kapsanda and Jamaat president of the Khazura union of the same upazila.

Quoting locals, police said the assailants attacked Zobed and his son Abu Bakar in front of Gadaipur Primary School as they were returning from a party meeting in Ashashuni on a motorbike. The miscreants hacked them indiscriminately and left the scene. Zobed was severely injured.

He was taken to Satkhira Sadar Hospital where on-duty doctor declared him dead around 12:30am.

Contacted, Ashashuni Upazila Jamaat leader Prof Abdus Sabur accused the AL activists of the murder and demanded arrest and punishment to the killers.

However, Ashashuni Upazila AL president and former lawmaker Mokhlesur Rahman and General Secretary Shahidul Islam Pintu refuted the allegation and demanded punishment to the killers after a fair investigation.

Meanwhile, the incident triggered widespread violence in the town yesterday when Jamaat activists ransacked local AL office at Katia Bazar and several shops at new market.

Section 144 was imposed in Parulia Bazar in Debhata upazila for an indefinite period after the BNP activists attacked and torched the Parulia union AL office. At least 30 AL activists were also injured in the attack.

Local AL unit held a meeting at Katia Bazar yesterday afternoon to protest the vandalism by the Jamaat activists.

**KUSHITIA**

Unknown men called Jamirul out of his house over phone and asked him to come to a place known as Nishan Crossing, where they gunned him down around 9:00pm last night.

AL claimed BNP men killed him for his role in the 14-party programmes during the last three days agitation.

**NETRAKONA**

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## Graft case

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On the other hand, the prosecution could not produce witnesses except one since the charges were framed against Ershad on April 3, 1995 and on April 18, 2003, court sources said.

In the first case filed with Tejgaon Police Station, it was alleged that Ershad, while in power, directed the authorities concerned to purchase Electronic News Gathering (ENG) equipment worth about Tk 2.93 crore to be used by Ershad and his wife Rawshan despite all broadcasting facilities available in his secretariat.

Later, Ershad directed the authorities to set up these equipment in his secretariat and create eight new posts for the purpose, the prosecution said.

An official of the now defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) filed the case against Ershad on February 29, 1992 and the investigation officer (IO) pressed charges against him on September 15, 1994.

In the second case filed with the same police station, it was alleged that a decision was passed to accept the donation from Finland for setting up 'Microwave Telephone Lines' in 49 upazilas in 1989. But due to delay in receiving the donation, Ershad directed the authorities to accept the donation from France.

However, the work of setting up 'Microwave Telephone Lines' was not implemented. As a result, the government had to pay Tk 28 crore in interest to France from the date of receipt of the money.

Upendra Chandra Das, an official of BAC, filed the case against Ershad and two others on September 5, 1992. The IO pressed charges against Ershad and six others on July 31, 1995.

Earlier, Ershad was acquitted in four graft cases in a month, after his announcement to join the four-party alliance.

## Two bodies

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The body with lungi and fatua on, was sent to the Sir Salimullah College Morgue, police sources said.

The man might have been strangled to death, the morgue sources said adding that there were numerous signs of beating all over the body.

## US embassy

FROM PAGE 16

the statement said.

Welcoming the relative return of calm to the streets of Dhaka, the embassy urged political party leaders to "exercise maximum restraint and take effective action to prevent any resumption of political violence".

President's Press Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman Chowdhury told reporters yesterday that Hasina requested the president not to bring in former advisers again in the new caretaker government. He also said other parties already submitted lists of their proposed names.

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Jatiya Party (JP-Ershad) and Jamaat-e-Islami also proposed to the president several names. Talking to The Daily Star a JP leader said they also proposed names for advisers already.

He however declined to disclose the names and the number.

Eminent journalist Attaus Samad,

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