

January 8, 2007

Blockaders fight with law enforcers on first day

Hundreds of rubber bullets, tear gas shells fired in Adabor in capital, cops beat up activists elsewhere; communication breaks down

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

More than 200 persons were injured as blockaders fought pitched battles with law enforcers in the capital and elsewhere yesterday on the first day of the three-day countrywide blockade called by Awami League (AL)-led grand alliance.

The blockade cut off the capital from the rest of the country.

Military vehicles mounted with automatic weapons patrolled the streets of the capital yesterday. The army and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members were seen guarding different strategic points in the city.

Several hundred army personnel were drawn together in Adabor after the area witnessed the worst clash of the day between grand alliance activists and police leaving around 50 injured.

Besides, clashes and chases took place between the blockaders and police at Maghbazar, Russell

Square, Matshya Bhaban crossing, Zero point, Tanti Bazar, Lalbagh, and Badda.

Police arrested 106 activists of



Supporters of the Awami League-led alliance, left, throw brickbats at police at Adabor in the capital during the blockade that began yesterday. Policemen, right, chase the blockade supporters in the same area.

the grand alliance in the city. Pickets set fire to a private car and two buses, and damaged dozens of vehicles at different

places in the city. Presence of motorised vehicles including buses

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