

Don't transfer officials on 'political pressure'

Nizami asks CA
UNB, Dhaka

Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Matiur Rahman Nizami has urged the president and chief adviser to the caretaker government not to transfer any official or employee in the face of political pressure.

In a press statement yesterday, he said since the hand over of power to the caretaker government, a certain quarter is trying to identify the government officials and employees politically and demanding their transfer.

"This is a matter of concern. This might create obstructions for officials and employees to discharge their functions," Nizami said.

Mass transfer of officials and employees will remain as a bad example in the history of the civil

CTG PORT

No cut-off time for vessels piles goods

RAFIQ HASAN

In absence of any cut off time, the feeder vessels often spend long time for loading export items after discharging the import goods, adding to the ship congestion at the overburdened Chittagong port.

Due to lack of smooth supply chain, many ships wait at the jetty for 48 to 72 hours in getting export cargo that leads to the increase of the number of the ships waiting in queue at the outer anchorage, sources said.

The export items are supposed to be assembled earlier and loaded in the ship immediately after the discharge of import goods, but often it does not happen at Chittagong

port.

As there is no cut off time, the shipping agent can easily extend the expected time of departure (ETD) of a ship for loading more cargo.

The extra berth fare that a ship has to pay for spending additional time at the jetty is only about \$300 per day, an amount equivalent to the freight of one TEUs container cargo but a ship staying one-day additional time at the jetty can load 50-60 containers.

So, the incidence of delaying ETD and loading unscheduled cargo are very common in Chittagong port and sometimes containers are loaded with false declaration, said a high official of the

Chittagong port.

In May this year, a ship named Express Resolve leaned to one side after sailing as 26 unscheduled containers were loaded in it, making the weight of the cargo more than the declared weight, he said.

Later, the ship was tagged to the jetty again and the additional containers were off-loaded.

The turn around time at the port took up to 15 days as a ship had to wait 7-10 days at the outer anchorage before getting permission to enter into the port channel. Now 20 ships are waiting at the outer anchorage for getting berthing permission while nine ships are at different jetties.

Mob set ablaze bus after road crash killed 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A mob set fire to a bus on Airport Road at Chairmanbari in the city's Banani area after two garment workers were killed in separate road accidents within hours yesterday.

The outraged locals also blockaded the bustling Airport Road for an hour following the second accident at 1:30pm causing a severe traffic jam.

Witnesses said Shirin Akhter, 18, died on the spot when a covered van ran her over while she was on her way to her workplace in the area at around 7:30am.

Already enraged by her death, the locals broke into a violent protest when an airport-bound passenger bus knocked down workers of JNH Garments Dolna Akhter, 22, and her niece Champa Akhter, 20, six hours into the first accident while they



A view of the rally of BNP-led four-party alliance on Naya Paltan Road in the capital yesterday marking the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Israel gearing up for 2nd war with Hezbollah

AFP, Zarit

The Israeli military is preparing for a new conflict with Lebanon's Hezbollah militia if a truce that ended 34 days of war this summer does not hold, a top military commander said Monday.

"We are preparing for a second war," said Lieutenant Colonel Guy Hazoot, chief of the division responsible for the Israeli-Lebanese border.

"We are very optimistic, but on our side we must do everything to prepare for a worst scenario and we are readying for a scenario that Resolution 1701 will not succeed," he said, referring to the UN Security Council resolution that ended the fighting.

Hazoot was speaking to a group of reporters from the spot where Hezbollah seized two soldiers in July 12 cross-border raids that killed eight other servicemen and sparked Israel's massive assault on

CA failed to come out of Hawa Bhaban's influence

Says B Chowdhury
UNB, Dhaka

Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the president and chief adviser to the caretaker government has failed to come out of the grip of BNP, act neutrally and gain people's confidence.

"No election will be held if the President and Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed fails to come out of the influence of Hawa Bhaban. Any undemocratic election will not be accepted at home and abroad," said the LDP leader.

He was speaking at a function organised to welcome Jatiya Party and BNP leaders and workers to LDP.



A sales agent piles up sacks of rice on footpath while rickshaw vans occupy much space of this road in Uttar Badda in the capital.

Ctg mayor slates CA for retaining public holiday on 7th Nov

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday accused president and chief adviser (CA) to the caretaker government of being a loyalist of BNP by observing November 7 as a 'government holiday' and publishing supplements in newspapers on behalf of the government.

"The president and CA has exposed his affiliation blatantly

7 cops among 50 hurt in BNP factional clash

UNB, Dhaka

At least 50 people, including seven policemen, suffered bullet and splinter wounds during a clash between two factions of BNP at Nawabganj upazila headquarters yesterday.

The clash between the supporters of former BNP lawmaker Abdul Mannan and Dhaka District Jubo Dal President Abu Ashfaq erupted at noon to establish political supremacy in the area.

Witnesses said both the groups

Ortega on brink of return to presidency

REUTERS, Managua, Nicaragua

Nicaragua's former Marxist guerilla-president Daniel Ortega is almost certain to complete a long climb back to power yesterday with an election win that could upset his old Cold War enemy, the United States.

Ortega had a clear lead as results trickled in from Sunday's presidential vote and victory was expected to be confirmed with a final batch of returns on Tuesday. Thousands of his left-wing Sandinista party supporters celebrated in the streets on Monday night, some on horseback.

Ortega had 38.6 percent support with votes tallied from more than 60 percent of polling stations.

Nagorik Committee proposes amendments to RPO

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nagorik Committee 2006 prepared a set of recommendations for the caretaker government for bringing amendments to the Representation of the People Order (RPO) 1972 in an effort to ensure transparency in the electoral process.

The committee said influence of black money and muscle in elections could be reduced through bringing necessary amendments to the RPO.

The six-point recommendation calls for compulsory registration of political parties, bar on participation in elections by government officials within three years of their retirements, disclosure of information about assets and financial liabilities

of candidates, formation of 'disqualification commissions' for cancelling candidatures in cases of proven violation of electoral code of conducts and for resolving electoral disputes within six months of filing of the cases.

The recommendations were prepared on the basis of a dialogue among civil society members, professionals and representatives of other stake holders on November 4.

The committee thinks that the proposed amendments should be implemented through an ordinance. The committee also prepared a draft of the ordinance which will be handed over to the president for incorporating the recommendations in the law very soon.

Members of Nagorik Committee 2006 yesterday briefed journalists about their recommendations at a news conference in the National Press Club in the capital. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) worked as the secretariat of Nagorik Committee.

Executive Director of CPD Debapriya Bhattacharya said details of the recommendations were prepared through a dialogue at grassroots level. The people may get some benefit of the dialogue in the upcoming general election

Prayer Timing		
November 8		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-25	5-30
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation