

BGMEA asks CA to take move to end political crisis

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) yesterday urged President and Chief Adviser to the Caretaker Government Iajuddin Ahmed to take a personal initiative for ending the current political crisis, which has affected the 76 percent foreign exchange-earning sector.

In a statement, BGMEA President SM Fazlul Huq also urged the political leaders to find a solution to the deadlock on an emergency basis through dialogue.

"We further expect that the chief adviser to the caretaker government and his 10 advisers will be able to find a solution within 12 hours," the leader of the country's main export sector said, as a countrywide nonstop siege enforced by 14-party combine paralysed communications and ports and stalled export.

Fazlul Huq expressed his deep concern over the ongoing political crisis that also affected production. He said the garment industry, which employs 22 lakh workers and earns \$8 billion worth of foreign exchange, now faces uncertainty.

World's poor shown microcredit dream

Nobel hero Yunus travels to Halifax as microloan summit gets underway

AFP, Halifax, Canada

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, Queen Sofia of Spain and hundreds of campaigners met for a summit yesterday where they announced their lofty goal of attempting to lift 175 million of the world's poorest people out of poverty by 2015.

Campaigners at the second Global Microcredit Summit, which is being held in this east coast Canadian city between November 12-15, said the use of tiny business loans known as microcredit had already helped lift tens of millions of people out of poverty and improve their livelihoods.

About 2,000 delegates, including UN officials and microcredit specialists, have travelled to Halifax from some 100 countries

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Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus speaks at the opening ceremony of Global Microcredit Summit yesterday in Halifax in Canada.

Orders to appoint 23 municipality administrators cancelled

UNOs given charge

UNB, Dhaka

The caretaker government yesterday cancelled its earlier orders appointing administrators to 23 newly formed municipalities and gave the charges to respective upazila nirbahi officers (UNOs).

The Local Government Department under the Ministry of Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives issued a notification, cancelling the previous orders.

The municipalities are Birganj and Ghoraghat of Dinajpur district, Rayganj and Belkuchi of Sirajganj, Kaliakoir of Gazipur, Shibpur of Narsingdi, Madarganj of Jamalpur, Purbodhaha of Netrakona, Sreebordi of Sherpur, Nangalkot of Comilla and Comilla Sadar(south), Hatia of Noakhali, Faridganj of Chandpur, Nabinagar of Brahmanbaria, Baghaichhari of Rangamati, Sonatola of Bogra, Ranishankail of Thakurgaon, Noldanga of Natore, Puthia and Katakhalai of Rajshahi, Ajmiriganj and Chunarughat of Habiganj and Kanaighat of Sylhet.



A four-member advisers' committee meets a 14-party alliance delegation at the state guesthouse Padma in the capital yesterday in an effort to resolve the ongoing political stalemate over electoral reforms.

Bus bomb kills 20 in Baghdad

AP, Baghdad

A bomb tore through in a minibus in a largely Shia Baghdad neighborhood Monday, killing at least 20 people and wounding 18. Gunmen killed at least 10 people, including a television cameraman, a city councilman and a Sunni sheik, in executions and assassinations around Iraq.

Gen John Abizaid, commander of all US forces in the Middle East, met with the country's Shia prime minister, Nouri al-Maliki, to "reaffirm President Bush's commitment" to success in Iraq, the government said. The two discussed the effects Iran and Syria were having on Iraq's security, according to the Iraqi government statement.

Abizaid was the third top US official to visit Iraq since Oct. 30, and the meeting comes a day after al-Maliki promised to shake up his government in a bid to end the sectarian slaughter. Amid the violence, two US soldiers were killed Sunday in a roadside bombing in Salahuddin Province north of Baghdad, the military reported Monday.

Palestinians close to deal on new PM

AFP, Gaza City

The feuding Palestinian factions have selected academic Mohammed Shbeir to head a national unity government to replace the current Islamist-dominated administration boycotted by Western donors, sources from the two sides said Sunday.

Shbeir, a former head of Gaza's Islamic University, was chosen after intensive talks between moderate president Mahmud Abbas and Islamist prime minister Ismail Haniya, Abbas aides and officials of Haniya's Hamas party told AFP.

"Hamas proposed three names all of which were acceptable to president Abbas and Hamas indicated that their favoured choice was Mohammed Shbeir," an Abbas aide said.

The married father-of-six was careful when asked by AFP about his nomination.

"So far I have not been formally asked to take on the duties of prime minister but if I am I will be delighted to serve my people," he said.

Born in 1946, Shbeir has a doctorate in clinical biology from the University of West Virginia. Perceived as a Hamas sympathiser although never a party member, he served as head of the Islamic University from 1993 until September 2005 when he retired to pursue his research.

Shbeir served as a member of the Palestinian central election commission during the January parliamentary elections that saw Hamas upset Abbas's Fatah.

Haniya had vowed in a sermon Friday that he would not stand in the way of the formation of a new government capable of bringing back EU and US aid that has been frozen since March.

The announcement of a new premier-designate marks a major advance in the national unity talks which had been suspended for a month and a half before last week following deadly faction fighting in Gaza.

The head of Hamas's majority faction in parliament, Khalil al-Hayya, said the agreement on a

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Govt to import 65,000 tonnes of rice, wheat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With a view to establish a food grains market, the government yesterday decided to import 65,000 tonnes of rice and wheat.

Headed by the Finance Adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs

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Delayed aman harvesting may prolong Monga

HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, back from Lalmonirhat

The ongoing Monga in five districts of greater Rangpur may continue for one month more due to delay in harvesting of aman paddy.

While the Bengali months of Ashwin and Kartik are generally considered as the Monga period, this year's Monga may continue up to mid-Agrahayan, said officials of the Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) and local public representatives.

Cutting of early varieties like BIRRI-33 and BIRRI-39 has started but harvesting in large areas of the district will be delayed by at least 15 days due to the prolonged drought that led to late cultivation of aman paddy, Deputy Director of Kurigram DAE Mohsin Ali said.

Transplantation of aman was supposed to be complete within mid-September but at some places in five districts of greater Rangpur it was delayed up to the first week of October, said a senior DAE official.

More than four thousand people of his union have been suffering badly due to acute Monga that may continue up to the middle of Agrahyan, said Principal Abul Kashem, chairman of Ramna Union Parishad under Chilmari upazila of Kurigram district.

Some of the Monga affected people are living on arum and greens due to the food crisis, said Emdadul Hossain, former chairman of Moghalbash Union Parishad under Sadar upazila and a leader of Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal.

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Passengers are stranded at Tongi Railway Station yesterday as the 14-party blockade snapped rail communication between the capital and other districts.

Prayer Timing November 14

	Azan	
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-22	5-25
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

20 killed in South Africa train crash

AFP, Cape Town

Up to 20 people were killed near Cape Town on Monday when a train smashed into a truck carrying farm workers in one of South Africa's deadliest rail accidents in

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