

Police protection to be provided for carrying essentials

Says Akbar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the caretaker government Akbar Ali Khan yesterday said necessary support will be provided for the businessmen in carrying all kinds of goods, including vegetables and export-import goods, across the country during the ongoing blockade.

"I have directed the commerce secretary so that he communicates with the home secretary for providing police protection in carrying goods, if the businessmen demands," he said talking to journalists at the secretariat.

The adviser, who is in charge of the ministries of finance and planning, said he himself would look

Ctg port operations partially resume

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Limited operations resumed at the Chittagong Port yesterday after two days' complete inactivity.

The business community and exporters are still worried as operations at the port could not be resumed fully and operations in other ports remained suspended.

In separate statements, a number of business organisations yesterday expressed their concerns over the closure of ports due to the existing political impasse and called upon political leaders to solve the crisis.

According to sources, full operation of the Chittagong port could not be achieved as the delivery of goods

in and out of the port yard remained suspended due to railway and port blockade enforced by the 14-party alliance.

The port workers resumed work and started loading and unloading of goods to clear the vessels, which were already at the jetty. But the activities may not continue for much long as export items are not reaching the port yard and unloaded imported goods are cramming the yard, according to sources.

The decision of resuming work at the port was taken with the consent of Chittagong City Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury after considering the situation that arose due to the closure of the seaport, according to sources.

Dozens of ships which have been waiting at the outer anchorage are unlikely to be allowed to berth and unload goods until and unless full-scale business activities resume with starting of the delivery of export import items from the port yard, the sources added.

Business activities at the Chittagong Port came to a standstill on Sunday afternoon as the port workers loyal to 14-party alliance stopped working and allegedly forced others to do so.

The 14-party workers also laid blockade around the port and prevented any trucks from entering or exiting the port yard.

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JUDGES KILLING DAY Judges again ask govt to ensure their security

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Judicial Service Association (BJSA) yesterday again urged the government to ensure their security and meet its 11-point demand.

The judges reiterated their demands while attending a condolence meeting commemorating the first death anniversary of two senior assistant judges in Jhalakathi -- Sohel Ahmed and Jagannath Pandey.

The two judges were killed in a suicide bomb attack on November 14 last year by a Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) member in Jhalakathi.

The meeting presided over by

World Bank ignores planet's poorest

Says Nobel laureate Yunus

AFP, Halifax

Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus urged the World Bank on Monday to change course by focusing more directly on the billion people living in the direst poverty.

Yunus, who is championed in his native Bangladesh as the "banker to the poor," said more of the global development lender's large infrastructure projects should be owned and run by poor local people, not by governments.

"This is an ongoing battle for us," he told a news conference at a global summit on microcredit initia-

tives being held in this eastern Canadian city.

"We've been raising this issue for a long, long time, that the World Bank repositions themselves where poverty is concerned, so far as development is concerned," Yunus said.

"I have very, very strongly tried to persuade the World Bank to pay direct attention to the poor people," added the Nobel laureate and managing director of the Grameen Bank, which offers loans to impoverished Bangladeshis.

Yunus, 66, said the World Bank's former president, James Wolfensohn, had shown signs of

wanting to support the microcredit community, but that "the institution didn't back him up."

The Nobel laureate has been working for decades in Bangladesh to combat poverty by extending tiny business loans, averaging around 100 dollars, so that impoverished individuals can expand a small food or handicraft business.

The Grameen Bank's loans are offered without collateral to people who are often illiterate and have had no contact with the formal banking system. Yunus claims that nearly 99 percent of its loans are repaid.

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DMP specifies separate spots for arch rivals' rallies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) yesterday assigned specific spots for the 14-party alliance and the four-party alliance to hold their political programmes in a bid "to avoid clashes and loss of public property and lives."

"As the two political alliances currently have opposite stances, clashes may erupt anytime if they hold rallies or meetings in close proximity. There is apprehension of loss of life and property," DMP Commissioner ABM Bazlur Rahman said in a videotaped address aired in different satellite television channels yesterday.

To protect public property and



PHOTO: STAR

The four-member committee of advisers formed by the caretaker government meets leaders of the four-party alliance yesterday at the state guesthouse Padma in the capital in a bid to resolve the present political stalemate.

GP to fund excavation of Narsingdi heritage site

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Limited yesterday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) in regard to sponsoring the excavation work of 2,500 years old Wari-Bateshwar heritage site in Narsingdi.

Under the deal, GP would provide Tk 30 lakh to Oitihya Onneshwan, an archaeological research centre, for the next one year to carry out the digging.

Kafil H S Mueyed, director, New Business Division of GP and Prof Sufi Mostafizur Rahman, executive

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2 outlaws killed in 'shootouts'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Two members of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) were killed in two separate 'shootouts' between the criminals and law enforcement agencies in Kushtia and Jessore early yesterday.

The dead were identified as Matiar Rahman, 36, from BCP and Akram Khan, 26, from PBCP.

In Kushtia, sadar police arrested Matiar from in front of Kushtia Government College at around 12:00 noon on Monday. He accused in eight different cases including

three for murder and three for abduction filed with Kumarkhali and Khoksa police stations.

According to police, Matiar admitted to have hidden firearms at Kushiibasha under Kumarkhali upazila in the district during interrogation at sadar police station.

Later police took Matiar along and headed out for Kushiibasha to recover the hidden firearms.

As soon as police reached Kushiibasha primary school at around 2:30am, the BCP men opened fire on police triggering an hour-long gun battle, said police.

Matiar died on the spot during

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58 UNO level officers transferred

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The caretaker government yesterday transferred 58 officials at the upazila nirbahi officer (UNO) level. The establishment ministry issued six different notifications and asked the transferred officials to join their posts immediately.

The ministry in its circular said the transfers were made in order to hold a free and fair general election.

Different political parties have long been demanded reshuffle in the field administration to remove the officers recruited by the four-party alliance government.

The previous caretaker governments also carried out such mass transfers to ensure a free and fair election.

ARMS CASE 7 JMB militants jailed for 80 yrs

UNB, Naogaon

A special tribunal in the district yesterday sentenced seven militants of banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) to 80 years rigorous imprisonment each for possessing arms and ammunition.

The convicts are Kawsar Sardar, Jalaluddin, Saidur Rahman alias Sayeed, Mosharrif Hossain alias Mosha and Akram Hossain alias Malek of Harirampur village under

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30 killed in attacks, 150 abducted in Baghdad

4 GIs die in bomb blasts

AP, AFP, Baghdad

Police and medical workers said at least 30 Iraqis were killed in clashes and bomb blasts yesterday in Baghdad and Ramadi, where US ground troops and warplanes have conducted a series of operations over recent days targeting Sunni insurgents.

Ten people were killed and 25 wounded in a car bomb blast Tuesday in the massive Shorja market in central Baghdad, a security official said.

The explosion at 2:00 pm (1100 GMT) in the center of the city near the Central Bank sent a huge plume of smoke high above the city, witnesses said.

Shorja market, one of the main shopping areas in the war torn city,

is a frequent target of bombers.

Also Tuesday, gunmen wearing Interior Ministry commando uniforms kidnapped up to 150 staff members from a government research institute in downtown Baghdad, the head of the parliamentary education committee said.

Alaa Makki interrupted a televised parliamentary session to say reports had been received that between 100 and 150 people, both Shias and Sunnis, had been abducted in the raid at about 9:30 a.m. He urged the prime minister and ministers of interior and defence to rapidly respond to what he called a "national catastrophe."

Police and witnesses said gunmen closed off roads around the institute in the downtown Karradah district at about 9:30

a.m., and loaded their handcuffed captives onto pickup trucks before driving away to an unknown destination.

Meanwhile, Ali al-Obaidi, a medic at Ramadi Hospital, said those killed were civilians who died in shelling by US tanks. A police spokesman said 20 people were killed, but gave no information about their identities or how they died.

The US military said it had no information on fresh Ramadi clashes.

Four US soldiers were killed in Iraq in two separate attacks, the US military said Monday.

A US military convoy was hit by a roadside bomb on the

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'Political men' to be removed from school, college bodies

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An education ministry circular yesterday directed the authorities concerned to withdraw all the political personalities from the school management committees and college governing bodies.

Following the provision of involving 'distinguished' persons in the management of schools and colleges, a number of MPs and ward commissioners dominated the activities of non-government schools and colleges during the last few years.

The education ministry circular ordered instating government officers and non-partisan persons at the committees while the authorities of the education boards are in favour of setting only the government officials including additional deputy commissioners and upazila nirbahi officers, sources said.

The education boards and institutions will have to inform the ministry of the implementation of the order by November 20, the circular said.

Prayer Timing		
November 15		
	Azan	
Fajr	5-05	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-21	5-24
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

