

Reshuffle civil admin for free, fair election

Civil Service Coordination Committee urges CG

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Placing a 16-point demand to the CG, the speakers said if these are not met immediately they will meet the president/ chief adviser to realise their demands.

The demands include cancelling all contractual appointments in civil administration and reinstating those who have been made Officer in Special Duty (OSD) due to partisan view of the immediate past government.

The speakers said those officials who were involved with the process of making their fellow colleagues OSD to serve their interest should not be made OSD and the establishment ministry should promote the officials who were deprived of getting promotion in spite of their seniority.

They said all the officers in ministries and secretariat who may influence the electoral process directly or indirectly should be removed and neutral and non-partisan officers should be reinstated.

Besides, field level employees of different ministries who were recruited under political consideration should be removed, they added.

The speakers also demanded separation of the EC and judiciary from the executive immediately.

While reading out a written statement, Secretary General of the committee Nazrul Islam said a total of 196 government officials were terminated under political consideration in last five years.

Besides, a total of 645 officials were made OSD who did not have any work to do but took a large sum of money as their salary from the public exchequer, he added.

Nazrul said the partisan reshuffling of the administration took place from central to grassroots level during the tenure of the immediate past government to serve their evil design.

The speakers said as the responsibility of the caretaker government is to assist in conducting a free and fair election, it is a must for the CG to restore discipline in civil administration.

Committee President Engineer Mohammad Nurul Huda, Vice-president Mohammad Mosaddek Ahmed and Joint Secretary General Shahid Motaahar Hossain were present at the press conference.



Engineer Nurul Huda speaks at a press conference organised by Bangladesh Civil Service Samannaya Parishad at the National Press Club yesterday.

Hostile politics leads country to impasse

Say university teachers' leaders

DU CORRESPONDENT

democratic culture, he added.

Prof Chowdhury said hostile politics is leading the country to impasse causing damage to society and economy.

Donor agencies, traders, teachers, students and people from all walks of life have expressed their concern over the recent blockades in the country, he said, adding that the country will suffer heavy damages if another blockade is announced again.

Former VC of Jahangirnagar University Prof Jasimuddin Ahmed, Dean of Arts Faculty of DU Prof Sadrul Amin, Dean of Business Studies Faculty of DU Prof Sirajul Islam, Provost of DU Amar Ekushey Hall Prof Dr Md Akhtar Hossain Khan, Prof Tahmina Akhtar and Dr Mamun Ahmed were present at the press conference.

WEATHER TODAY

Fall in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 31.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Sitakunda and lowest 13.4 degree Celsius at Dinajpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.12pm today and rises at 6:16am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in celsius	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	30.6	20.3	58	49
Chittagong	31.4	20.0	72	66
Rajshahi	29.4	16.5	91	91
Khulna	30.0	18.0	73	82
Barisal	30.2	17.4	81	83
Sylhet	31.2	18.5	67	60
Cox's Bazar	31.2	21.5	73	66

Container yard kept besieged for a week

FROM PAGE 1

"You are requested to restore the operation of four QGC (Quay Gantry Cranes) at CCT jetty ensuring securities within 24 hours from receipt of this notice. Otherwise, we will be compelled to take the shelter of law," said the notice addressing the CPA chairman.

"We demanded the compensation to the CPA as per our agreement," said Tarofdar Mohammad Ruhul Amin, managing director of Saif Powertec Limited. He said the CPA would have to give compensation as the operation remained stopped since November 14 without any valid reason.

"We can not operate the cranes as the port workers are not allowing gang booking against the container terminals for loading and unloading cargo from the container ships," Ruhul Amin told The Daily Star yesterday.

Mayor Mohiuddin's men did not allow the handling of containers by Quay Gantry Crane even after postponement of rail, road and port blockade programme by the 14-

party alliance on Tuesday, said a source.

The mayor, who wants running the cranes with port workers, reportedly asked his followers not to allow operation of the cranes until and unless the agreement with the company is cancelled.

The job of crane handling was awarded to the private company in June this year as the performance of the port workers was very poor. The private company handled 25-30 TEUs per hour against only 10-12 by the port operators.

The practice of bribery has also stopped after the private company took the charge of container handling.

The port authorities discussed with the mayor several times but failed to get his consent for resuming the operation while a section of port officials are working in favour of the mayor.

The Bangladesh Shipping Agents Association called on the newly appointed CPA Chairman Moseleh Uddin Ahmed yesterday

afternoon and urged him to take steps for immediate resumption of the gantry cranes operation.

They said the operation of gantry cranes should be urgently resumed for clearing the congestion and accelerating the port activities. The port is overburdened with huge stockpiled containers and long queue of the ships waiting at the outer anchorage for getting permission to berth.

"This type of negative attitude by the mayor is very unfortunate when dozens of ships are waiting at the outer anchorage for discharging essential raw materials for manufacturing export items," said a high official of the Chittagong Port Authority.

The mayor even ignored the request from the high-ups of his party Awami League to resume the handling by the gantry crane, sources said, adding that Mohiuddin left Chittagong for Bangkok on Friday night without resolving the crisis.

Condition of Hanif critical

Condition of former mayor and Awami League leader Mohammad Hanif, who has been undergoing treatment at Apollo Hospitals, turned critical yesterday morning, says a press release.

He has been placed on ventilatory support at the intensive care unit of the hospital.

He is now being monitored for multiorgan failure and other related complications of diabetes, hypertension, obstructive lung disease and anoxic ischmic encephalopathy, the release added.

Hanif was admitted to the hospital on August 24 after his return from abroad where he underwent treatment.

Fair probe into Nasreen's death demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Nasreen Huq Memorial Committee yesterday demanded a fair investigation into the death of Nasreen, then country director of the ActionAid, and speedy trial of the case.

No significant progress with the case has been made so far, although seven months have elapsed after her death, members of the committee said at a press conference at Naripokkho office in the city.

The committee organised the press conference on the occasion of her birth anniversary. Nasreen, also a prominent social activist, died when her official car crushed her at the car park of her residence at Dhanmondi on April 24.

There were a number of speculations surrounding the death of Nasreen as she had taken a strong position against the Asia Energy's contract for extraction of coal from Phulbari mine and was well known for her progressive views, but no attempts have been taken to solve the mystery, said the committee members.

Reading out a written statement, Kamrunnahar said the committee members had discussions with the chief of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) regarding the case and they came to know that there is no headway.

"We are completely in the dark about the progress of the case," said Geeta Das, assistant convener of the committee.

The CID, however, did not say clearly whether they are facing any obstacles to investigating the death and submitting the charge sheet, she added.

The information retrieved from her laptop could also not be disclosed, the committee members said.

Paying tribute to Nasreen Huq, they said she was an outstanding social activist who dreamt of bringing about changes in society, but her premature death has shattered everything.

"We, however, want to turn her dreams into reality. So, we have started holding discussions with individuals and different organisations with a view to working together to reach the goal," said Nilufer Banu of Women for Women.

"We have not yet designed anything concrete for this purpose. However, we call on all to put forward their suggestions in this regard," she added.

Committee members Rehnema Ahmed, Rina Roy and Habibunnesa were present at the press conference.

14-party, 4-party urged not to put pressure on CA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon both Awami League-led 14-party combine and BNP-led 4-party alliances not to create pressure on the president/ chief adviser to caretaker government so that he can act on his best judgement.

The discussion titled 'Free and fair national election and contemporary politics' was organised by Jatiyatabadi Peshajibi Parishad at the National Press Club in the city.

Parishad General Secretary Syed Rashedul Hasan said the 14-party alliance does not need any reforms for free and fair general election.

They kept on demanding reforms to place their chosen persons in different key positions to ensure their coming to power in the coming election, he alleged.

Hasan, also pro-vice-chancellor of National University, urged the BNP leadership to take decision carefully.

Former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Dr Anwar Ullah Chowdhury said some political quarters are trying to push the country towards a civil war and called upon all to resist them.

Parishad President Abul Kashem Haider chaired the discussion.

Body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered an unidentified body from the city's Uttara area yesterday. Sources said the victim aged around 32 was found lying near Ashulia road at Uttara sector no 10 at around 9:30am.

The victim was slaughtered and the body bore marks of injury on his left eye and was wearing a shirt and a brown pant when it was found.

Locals and police suspect criminals might have left the body at Uttara after killing.

The body was later sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for autopsy.

33 dists get new DCs, 18 withdrawn

FROM PAGE 14

Establishment Secretary AFM Soaliman Chowdhury on Thursday.

Following the agitation, the Cabinet Division decided that the SSB will sit Sunday afternoon to promote qualifying officers.

Yesterday's reshuffle and new appointments came following Friday's decision of the Advisory Council for Administrative Affairs to initiate a mass transfer of field-level officials for creating a congenial atmosphere for the upcoming general elections.

Those who were withdrawn and attached to the establishment ministry are the DCs of Madaripur, Jessore, Barisal, Comilla, Feni, Khulna, Naogaon, Rangpur, Sylhet, Dhaka, Sirajganj, Panchagarh, Lalmonirhat, Gazipur, Gaibandha, Patuakhali, Netrakona and Narsingdi.

The DCs of Joypurhat, Kurigram, Jamalpur, Thakurgaon, Chandpur, Laxmipur, Magura, Rajbari and Dinajpur were transferred to other districts.

An official announcement yesterday said Deputy Secretary of establishment ministry Md Abdul Halim was appointed DC and district magistrate (DM) of Magura, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) of Tangail Md Abdul Mannan DC/DM of Chuadanga, ADC of Dhaka Begum Touhida Bulbul DC/DM of Rajbari, Deputy Secretary of commerce ministry Md Ibrahim Khalil DC/DM of Sirajganj, Military



Young writers, poets and journalists form a human chain at Shahbagh in the city yesterday urging the president/chief adviser to prove his neutrality.

5 killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least five people were killed and 19 others injured in separate road accidents in Sirajganj, Thakurgaon, Moulvibazar and Brahmanbaria on Friday night and yesterday.

Our correspondent from Sirajganj adds: A bridegroom was killed and 17 others were injured in a road accident at Kawak on Bogra-Nagarbari highway at Ullapara upazila in Sirajganj on Friday night.

Police said the accident occurred at 9:00pm when a Raiganj-bound tempo with a bridal party from Sathia upazila in Pabna collided head-on with a truck at Kawak, leaving 18 injured.

Of the injured, bridegroom, Korban Ali, 25, son of Abul Hashem Ali of Chandaikona Bazar in Raiganj upazila, succumbed to his injuries at Ullapara Health Complex.

UNB reports: In Thakurgaon, two people were killed and a minor boy was injured as a bus hit a van and a bicycle from behind at Kochubari on Thakurgaon-Panchagar highway at 3:00pm yesterday.

Van driver Mobarak Ali, 50, of Kumarpukur in Sadar upazila, died on the spot while another unidentified injured man, aged 60, succumbed to his injuries on the way to a local hospital.

The condition of Ratan, 8, son of Jaidhar Barman, resident of Kumarpukur village, was stated to be critical.

Our Correspondent from Moulvibazar adds: A college student was killed and another injured in a road accident at Rajnagar on Friday night.

The dead was identified as Saifur Rahman Rahul 22, son of Abdul Hasim of village Dildarpur under Kulaura upazila and second year honours student of Moulvibazar Government College, police said.

The accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound bus hit Rahul's motorcycle at Gobindabati area on Moulvibazar-Kulaura road at around 11:00pm while he was going to his village along with his friend Suman.

Rahul, also vice-president of Jatiatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) Moulvibazar Government College unit, died on the spot while Suman

was rushed to Sylhet Osmani Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

The college authorities announced holiday on Saturday to show respect to the memory of Rahul.

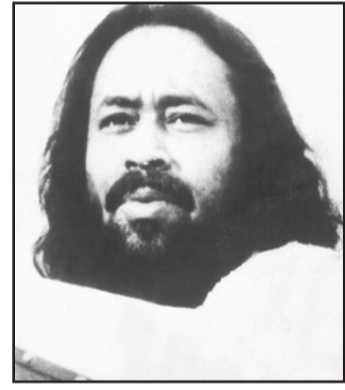
Our Correspondent from Brahmanbaria adds: One person was killed under the wheels of a microbus on Dhaka-Sylhet highway at Khariala village under Ashuganj upazila of the district on Friday night.

The dead was identified as Md Khurshed Mia, 50, of Panishyar village under Sarail upazila of the district.

According to eyewitness and police sources, a Sylhet bound speeding microbus ran over Khurshed, a matchmaker, when he was crossing the highway killing him on the spot.

The driver with his microbus managed to flee the scene.

The body was sent to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital for autopsy.



Maj (Retd) Jalil's anniversary of death today

Today is the 17th death anniversary of Major (Retd) MA Jalil, who was a sector commander at the War of Independence, says a press release.

On this occasion, a doa and milad mahfil will be held at Mirpur Freedom Fighters' Graveyard at 10:00am today.

Relatives and admirers are requested to attend the programme to pray for salvation of the departed soul.

To mark the occasion, Major Jalil Sangha will hold a discussion at his village home at Uzirpur in Barisal.

Disqualify black money holders from polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chartered Accountants yesterday urged the president/ chief adviser (CA) to caretaker government to declare the owners of black money disqualified for contesting the upcoming general election.

Addressing a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity office in the city, they also called on the CA to issue an ordinance in this regard.

In a written statement, AK Golam Kibria, former president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh (ICAB), said if results of earlier elections are observed, it is seen that the honest political leaders could not win in the face of evil power of black money holders.

As a result, owners of black money and dishonest businessmen captured about 60 percent seats in last parliament, he claimed.

Kibria also called for an ordinance declaring those owners of black money, who managed to make their money white by paying 7.5 percent tax, disqualified for contesting the election for next five years.

The speakers also criticised the way for making black money white as per government rules.

"While common people have to

pay 25 percent as tax, the black money holders could make their money white by paying only 7.5 percent as tax," said AK Chowdhury, another former ICAB president.

ICAB Vice-president SM Atiar Rahman and other leaders including MA Barea and Khairul Basher were present at the press conference.

New Russian envoy arrives

BSS, Dhaka

The newly appointed Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Bangladesh Gennady P Trotsenko arrived here yesterday.

Gennady P Trotsenko was born in 1948 and graduated from the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) in 1971. He worked at the Consulate General of the USSR in Karachi, Pakistan (1971-1977) and 1988-1993) and at the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Dhaka (1997-2001), said a press release.

'Exempt schools, colleges from hartal, blockade'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Guardians of school and college students yesterday urged the political parties to keep the educational institutions outside the purview of hartal and blockade.

Expressing concern over the current political stalemate, they said academic activities at every school and college have been seriously hampered due to hartal and blockade programmes.

Annual examinations, classes and admission tests have been deferred and now the announcement of a fresh blockade programme has heightened despair among all, said Dr Mursedul Azam, president of Bangladesh School and College Guardians' Forum, at a press conference.

The leaders insisted on forming a non-partisan governing body at each school and college.

They also said the Forum would meet the two major political parties and place its demand.

AFM Tojammal Hossain, secretary general of the Forum, also spoke.

On November 12, the Forum submitted a memorandum to President/ Chief Adviser Iajuddin Ahmed to express their concern over the current political impasse.

ARMED FORCES DAY Restrictions on vehicles in cantt area Nov 21

BSS, Dhaka

A number of programmes have been arranged at Dhaka Cantonment on November 21 on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day.

With a view to keeping the roads inside the Dhaka Cantonment (from Shaheed Jahangir Gate to Staff Road of the main road) free from traffic jam, all vehicles except those carrying cantonment residents and the invited guests have been requested to avoid the roads inside the cantonment area from 7:00 am to 10:30 am and 4:00 pm to 9:45 pm on the day, said an ISPR press release.

The Armed Forces Division regrets the inconvenience caused due to the restriction on vehicular movement through the cantonment area.

Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Hafez Maulana Abdul Mobin, an Islamic cleric, passed away due to a cardiac arrest yesterday at the age of 65.

He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters to mourn his death.

He was laid to rest at the university graveyard.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Altaf Hossain, Pro-VC Mannunul Keramat, Rajshahi unit of Comilla Janakalyan Samity President Prof Dr Zehadul Karim and Secretary Shafulik Islam expressed their shock at his death.

Maulana Mobin was tortured several times by Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres.

Meena Khanam



Meena Khanam Chowdhury, wife of late Dewan Tofazzal Ambia Chowdhury of greater Sylhet, passed away at Ibne Sina Clinic in the city on November 16 at the age of 69, says a press release.

She left behind her two sons and three daughters.

DHAKA TODAY

Haji training

A three-day-long training on Haji organised by Dhaka Ahsania Mission will begin. Venue: Dhaka Ahsania Mission. Time: 10:00am.

Human chain

Prajatantra Parishad will form a human chain demanding resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner. Venue: In front of National Press Club. Time: 12:00noon.

Art exhibition

The inaugural ceremony of a solo art exhibition by eminent artist Rafiqun Nabi titled 'Down memory lane' will begin. Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts. Time: 6:00pm.

Awareness programme

Sanofi-Aventis and Bangladesh Mahila Samity will organise an awareness programme on 'Breast cancer: Early detection is the best prevention'. Venue: Bangladesh Mahila Samity auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Lecture

Prof Jamal Nazrul Islam will deliver a lecture titled 'Crisis in Bangladesh and beyond'. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra. Time: 4:00pm.

Two held with arms in Gazipur

UNB, Gazipur

Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) held two youths along with two pipe guns from Bahadurshahi village in Kaliganj upazila on Friday night.

Police said acting on a tip-off, Rab men arrested Jomsad and Sohel at about 10:30pm and recovered the arms from their possession.

Later, they were handed over to police.