



Talks between govt, port users fail

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 30: A meeting between the government and port users over a dispute on implementation of incentive scheme, ended inconclusively today, meeting sources said.

State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya attended the meeting held at Chittagong Port office to resolve the dispute, Port officials said.

In the meeting, port users urged for allowing one month time before implementation of the scheme, but the minister turned down their request, meeting sources said.

The minister also threatened not to allow renewal of licences of those stevedores who would not abide by the decision to implement incentive scheme at Chittagong port from January 1.

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BNP, allies to demonstrate today

The BNP-led 7-party alliance will demonstrate across the country today protesting price hike of essentials, including rice, pulses, onion and edible oil, reports UNB.

As part of the programme, the city BNP will bring out a procession from Muktangan at 2:30 pm.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has urged the thana and district level leaders and workers of BNP and its organisations to make today's programme a success.

Jamaat will hold a protest meeting at Purana Paltan crossing after Zohr prayers.

Announcement

From today we launch a special weekly page dedicated to our young entrepreneurs and professionals (YEP). Through this page we hope to promote the cause of the young people so that they can truly help Bangladesh move into the 21st Century with confidence. We invite all young professionals to join the YEP forum and help the country move forward.

Read our special page and help our effort.

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Tales of Hopes and Pathos

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1996 share scam

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
11	31	-	5-26
12	Jan 1	5-16	5-27
13	Jan 2	5-17	5-27

Prayer Timings

December-31	
Azan	Jamaat
5-15	5-20
Zohr	12-45
Asr	4-00
Maghrib	5-23
Esha	7-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

Check For Your Copy Of The Rising Stars Today (Pickpocket Abul Pinching His Own Pocket)



(Your Dad Might Pinch It Before You do... You Never Know... People Are Even Pinching MPs Nowadays)

Rising Stars You Bet, You Can't Stay Bored!

The Daily Star

JP expels Manju

By Special Correspondent

Jatiya Party has fired from the party its lone representative in the government, communications minister Anwar Hossain Manju.

Anwar Hossain Manju has been relieved of his posts of President member and vice-chairman and primary membership of the party, for violating party discipline and coming up with audacious statement.

Asked if he would form a separate group of JP, he declined to say anything.

Golam Faruq Ovi, a JP MP from Barisal region and known

terse JP press release said yesterday without giving details.

"Yes, I am aware of the development. It does not affect my status as a member of parliament," Manju told The Daily Star without elaborating.

Asked if he would form a separate group of JP, he declined to say anything.

Golam Faruq Ovi, a JP MP from Barisal region and known

to be close to Manju, said his party MPs did not like the decision. "We are going to assess the situation soon."

Manju met the prime minister yesterday evening, one source said.

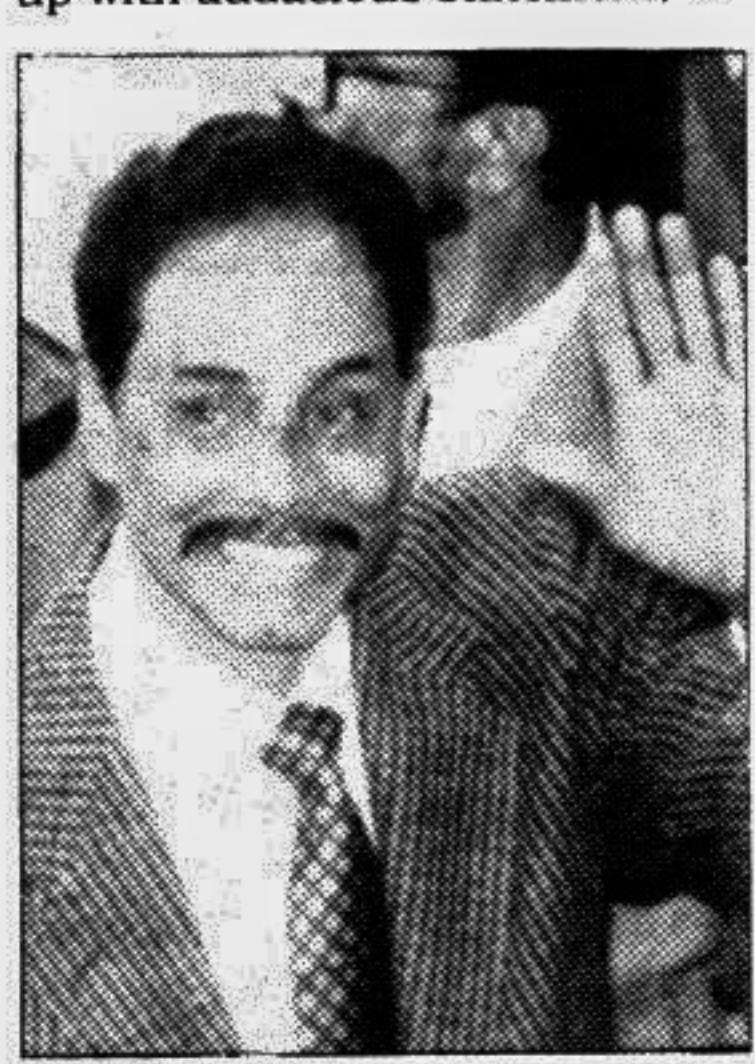
The unfolding drama in JP reached its climax on Tuesday when Manju blasted JP chairman HM Ershad for his overtures to join the opposition agitation including hartals, during the reunion of the party and its rebel faction led by Kazi Zafar Ahmed in the city on Monday.

Manju's remarks came at a rally addressed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Sirajganj where she said Ershad should choose between the 'street or the red brick home' (prison).

The development brought to surface differences between Ershad and the former JP secretary general, who played a key role in helping Awami League gain majority in parliament to form the government after the June 12, 1996 general elections.

He is also widely believed to have played behind-the-scene role to secure bail for the former president in a number of corruption cases filed after his

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H M Ershad



Anwar Hossain Manju

CEC must resign, demands Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday reiterated his demand for resignation of Chief Election Commissioner Muhammad Abu Hena 'to pave the way' for free and fair elections in future.

She said the present CEC and the Election Commission miserably failed to ensure free and fair election in the past and directly or indirectly helped the ruling party in rigging.

"There is no possibility of fair election under the incumbent CEC. Please show respect to the Chair and quit immediately," Begum Zia said.

Addressing the new comers to the BNP at her official residence, the Leader of the Opposition said the EC should also be reconstituted as there are people in it who were involved in various misdeeds in the past elections. "It has to be done by taking unanimous opinion of the parties represented in the Parliament, she added.

The former prime minister said the government in its two and a half-year rule completely destroyed the national economy.

BNP claimed that more than 500 leaders and activists from Jatiya Party, Awami League

and Jamaat from Bakshganj and Dewanganj thanas of Jamalpur district led by former Upazila chairman and JP leader Abdur Rouf Talukder joined BNP yesterday expressing their allegiance to the party and its leadership.

Begum Zia expressed the confidence that the ruling Awami League will never come to power again if the election is held in a free and fair manner.

Besides, she said, the BNP will put forward some pre-conditions before the next elections. She, however, didn't elaborate.

Turning to Pabna-2 by-election, Begum Zia said there is no self-satisfaction within the ruling party as it snatched away the victory of BNP through massive rigging, vote dacoity and capture of polling centres. "The government realised that it has lost public support."

The meeting, held at Jatiya Sangsad with committee member Dr Kazi Abu Yusuf in the chair, directed the authorities concerned to take necessary steps in this regard.

The committee also decided to collect the files and documents on development activities of the ministry from the Committee on Estimates for taking next steps in this regard.

The Human Organ Transplant Act '98 also came up at the meeting for discussion, said an official handout.

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