METROPOLITAN/NEWS

Call to remove controversial election commissioners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) yesterday urged the President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government not to act according to the blueprint of BNP-Jamaat alliance and remove the four controversial election commissioners including CEC MA Aziz immediately

Speaking at a discussion meeting, the JSD leaders said Aziz and three other election commissioners who were politically appointed, are the main obstacles to holding a free and fair general election.

The discussion was organised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

Leaders of local unit of AL-led 14-

party combine in a press conference

yesterday called upon the caretaker

government to prove its neutrality by

arresting political terrorists and

disarming the armed cadres of

Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in the

ist activities in the city within the next

three days by armed cadres of ICS

who, they alleged, were using

Rajshahi University (RU) halls,

different student messes and RU

Corporation (RCC) Mayor Mizanur

Rahman Minu for inciting those ICS

RU Vice Chancellor (VC) Prof Altaf

Hossain for helping ICS cadres

using university halls and ambu-

BDR-BSF flag

meeting Nov 6

A sector commander and deputy

inspector general (DIG) level flag

meeting between Bangladesh

Rifles (BDR) and Border Security Force (BSF) of India will be held on

Nageswari border of the district on

November 6, officials said here last

expected to discuss a wide spec-

trum of outstanding bilateral border

issues. The meeting will be held at

the conference hall of Rangpur-

Dinajpur Rural Service, an NGO.

Father-in-law

strangled

Hospital for autopsy.

over dowry

A CORRESPONDENT, Comilla

A man was killed allegedly by his son-

in-law over dowry at Nagish village

Ahmed, 55, in the next morning and

sent it to Comilla Medical Collage

25, went into hiding soon after the

Marzina Khatun, 22, frequently to

force her to bring money from her

father since they got married a few

months ago, police and local people

wife as she refused to bring Tk two

Ahmed came to her house at night

Ali and at one point strangled him.

On Monday, he again tortured his

On hearing the incident, Ali

But Kauas then started beating

Police recovered the body of Ali

His son-in-law Kauas Ahmed.

Kauas have tortured his wife

in Brahmanpara on Monday night.

BDR sources said the meeting is

Bss, Rangpur

They blamed Rajshahi City

They also demanded removal of

vehicles for terrorism.

They apprehended major terror-

by JSD at its central office in the capital to mark its 34th founding anniversary.

these controversial election commissioners, reconstitute the Election Commission and reshuffle the administration for proving himself neutral," said JSD chief Hasanul

He said reshuffling of the administration and re-constitution of the Election Commission are the principal tasks of the President as the caretaker chief to purge the two vital institutions of partisan influence.

"The President's neutrality will be

City Awami League (AL) General

Secretary AHM Khairuzzaman Liton

and Workers' Party (WP) polite

bureau member Fazle Hossain

Badsha spoke at the press confer-

city AL Vice President Rafik Uddin,

Jativa Samajtantrik Dal Secretary

Abdullah Al Masud Shibli and

Sammilita Sanskritik Jote Secretary

Dr Saved Shafikul Alam were pres-

caretaker or BNP-Jamaat govern-

ment is in power now". Liton said

Badsha. "Shibir cadres threw two

"We are still in dark whether

Other 14-party leaders including

face severe crisis if he fails to prove himself neutral and he will be responsible for the eventualities."

party leaders and workers to take mental preparation for launching

JSD General Secretary Syed Jafar Sazzad. Executive President Mainuddin Khan Badal, Vicepresidents Sharif Nurul Ambia and . Mir Hossain Akhtar, Joint Secretaries Shirin Akhtar and Nazmul Haq Prodhan also spoke on

the fixed date. Metropolitan Magistrate Syed Mohammad Mojibul Haq ordered the judicial probe into the matter after Range Officer AFM Sahab Uddin Ahmed filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka on October 8.

Judicial probe

begins Nov 6

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The judicial enquiry of the attempted

murder case against five police

personnel filed by the National

Shooting Federation for attacking

three shooters, including the

Commonwealth Games gold-

medallist Asif Hossain Khan on

October 2, will begin on November

Metropolitan Magistrate

Mohammad Shafiq Anwar yester-

day set the date and issued sum-

mons upon the complainant and

others to appear before the court on

The accused are: Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Police Obaidur Rahman Khan, Officer-incharge (OC) of Gulshan Police Station Mahbub Alam Khan, subinspectors Jasim Uddin and Faisal Zaman and driver to the deputy inspector general (DIG) of Special Branch Havildar Abdul Khaleg.

In his complaint, Sahab Uddin mentioned that Zumman Ali, one of the security guards of National Shooting Federation, asked the chauffeur of DIG Dr Sadigur Rahman to park the four-wheeldrive vehicle to another place when the driver was attempting to park it in front of the federation complex at

But Havildar Khaleq became angry with the guard and was locked in an argument with him, which soon turned into a scuffle. Other guards and employees of the complex came out and joined the confrontation while the chauffeur asked the on-duty patrol police of the area for

A three-member police patrol team led by Sub-inspector Jasim rushed to the spot with North Zone Deputy Commissioner of Police Obaidur Rahman Khan, Assistant Commissioner Zannatul Hasan and OC of Gulshan Police Station Mahbub Alam Khan.

As per direction of the DC and the OC, the policemen entered the complex and started beating up whomever they found before them.

Around 30 shooters, who were practising inside, came out hearing the commotion and fell victim to the ndiscriminate beating

Among them, internationally acclaimed shooter Asif, who was preparing for the Asian Games to be held in Doha in December, and another shooter Shoebuzzaman were seriously injured, the comnlainant said

Later, police arrested five, including the shooters and took them to Gulshan Police Station where they were beaten up again before sending them to a court charging them

'Include homebased workers in statistical yearbook'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a workshop yesterday demanded inclusion of home-based workers in the statistical yearbook

Bangladesh Homeworkers Women Association (BHWA) and Homenet Bangladesh jointly organised the workshop at Swanirbhar Bangladesh auditorium in the city.

Appreciating the role of homebased workers in the country's economic development, the speakers said the contribution of homebased workers would be proved if there was statistical record, according to a press release.

Presenting the keynote paper, Dilruba Anguri, general secretary of BHWA, said at present home-based workers are working at every village of the country and contributing to the national economy by producing different products and exporting

Fazlul Haque, maternity special-

ist. Selim Reza. coordinator of

Homenet Bangladesh and Abdul

Mukit Khan, noted labour leader,

Brac University

reopens today

holiday, says a press release.

Regular classes of Brac University

will resume today after a long Eid

also spoke at the workshop.

them to foreign markets There is a record of all professionals in the statistical vearbook: however, there is no such record of home-based workers, who also earn foreign exchange, Dilruba added

But the government took no confirmation of their services.

When the 4-party alliance came to power, it did not confirm the services of 15 additional judges

these judges had the chief justice's recommendations in favour of In addition to such recruitment,



Ramna BNP takes out a procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday as part of BNP's agitation programme.

Four killed in road accidents

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and 43 others injured in separate road accidents in Chittagong, Comilla and Cox's Bazar yester-

UNB from Chittagong reports: Two people were killed and seven others injured in separate road accidents on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sitakunda upazila Police said a maxicab driver

Frahad, 42, died on the spot and seven people were injured when the cab tumbled into a roadside ditch at Bhatiari in the upazila at

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College

Meanwhile, a Chittagongbound bus from Feni ran over a pedestrian at Fouzderhat at about

The dead was identified as Nurul Amin, 31, a shop employee of Fouzderhat Bazar.

Police sent the body to hospital morgue for autopsy.

A correspondent from Comilla

adds: One person was killed and six others were injured in a collision between a pick-up van and a cab on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Amangonda in Chouddagram yesterday.

The dead was identified as Jahangir Alam, 45. The head-on collision took place at about The injured persons were sent

to different clinics and hospitals in Chouddagram and Comilla. A case was filed with

Chouddagram Police Station. BSS from Cox's Bazar adds: One person was killed and 30 others were injured in a road accident at Ghorolia Bazar in Cox's Bazar Sadar upazila yester-

The dead was identified as Nurul Islam, 28.

Police and witnesses said the accident took place when a Chittagong-bound bus hit the railing of a bridge after its driver lost control over the steering.

Of the injured, 10 were admitted to Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital

BNP protests violence by 14-party

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City BNP and its front organisations yesterday took out processions and held rallies in every ward in the capital protesting the "violence and rampage let loose by the 14-party opposition combine.

Speakers at the rally warned Awami League-led alliance to be prepared for "stern reply" for killing people, torching vehicles and looting public properties

Rallies were held at Ward No 74 and 56. Commissioner

Commissioner Mozammel Haque Mukta led a procession at Ward No 75, Ahsan Ullah Hasan led a procession at Ward No 6 and Commissioner Magbul Islam Tipu led a procession at Ward

Processions were also taken out at Kafrul, Dhanmondi, Jatrabari and other different wards

Meanwhile, the BNP will hold rallies in the capital and all district headquarters today and in all upazilas tomorrow to protest the 14-party alliance's "anarchy"

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuivan has urged the party leaders and workers to attend the rallies in a bid to resist the anarchy.

Revolver, six bombs recovered on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered six crude bombs from Modhur Canteen, reportedly kept by Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and a revolver from Jasimuddin Hall of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday.

The bombs were found in a packet

in the kitchen of the comparatively lower-presence canteen as police raided it acting on a tip-off at around Only four to five JCD men and a few

left wing student bodies' activists and journalists were present at the canteen when police raided. However, many alleged JCD, in a planned way, compelled police to conduct the raid as

While police was conducting the raid, the JCD men left the canteen silently. No arrest was made in this

Meanwhile, in the early hours of yesterday police recovered a revolver from a toilet at Jasimuddin Hall of the

Arson attack on Dr Arslan's office protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Swadhinota Chikitshak Parishad staged a demonstration on the campus yesterday protesting the arson attack on the office room of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) Biochemistry Department Chairman and Parishad Secretary General Dr M Iqbal Arslan, says a press release

Later, members of the Parishad went to Central Shaheed Minar in a procession and held a rally with Dr Md Shafigur Rahman in the chair.

Speakers at the rally demanded immediate arrest of the culprits responsible for the attack. They blamed Pro-BNP Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) Chief Adviser Dr MA Hadi and Secretary General Dr AZM Zahid for the incident.

Dr Bodiuzzaman Bhuiyan Dablu, Dr Ehsanul Kabir, Dr M Nazrul Islam, Dr jahurul Haque Sachchu, Dr Zulfikar Ali LeninDr Quamrul Hasan Milan, Dr Sheikh Abdullah Al mamun, Dr Uttam Kumar Barua, Dr S Mahfujullah Chishti, Dr Humayun Kabir Bulbul and Dr Ariful Islam Juardar Titu spoke at the

Judiciary made to wobble on politicised track

various pretexts. The government faced stiff criticism from the Supreme Court and even contempt charges, but it shamelessly made the court understand that the court is helpless if the government did

In absence of an independent judiciary coupled with the 4-party government's arrogant manifestation of defiance of the SC order, the rule of law had been seriously undermined. As a result, the country saw many instances of politically influenced controversial verdicts or influences over the verdicts

For instance, the High Court imposed a stay order on opposition parties' Dhaka-siege programme on the night before it took place. Again, when the High Court declared the regimes of Khandaker Mushtague Ahmed to General Ziaur Rahman illegal, the verdict was stayed overnight and it was never reinstated.

Besides, there was severe politicisation of the judiciary like never before. This politicisation has resulted in the recruitment of many controversial and incompetent persons loval to the ruling alliance. as judges. These recruitments triggered protests at the Supreme Court and contributed to tarnishing of the neutral image of the judiciary.

Though the appointment of additional judges and confirmation of their services are supposed to be done in accordance with the recommendations of the chief justice, the government did not follow it. All recruitments followed its will, where some ministers having background as lawyers made the selections.

The alliance government appointed 45 additional High Court judges for two years in the last five vears. Of them, the government confirmed the services of 37 and made sure that the next government does not have the scope to cancel their appointments. In most of these appointments

there had been allegations of politicisation and nepotism. There are allegations that some of these judges had been active leaders of BNP. One additional judge used to be a BNP lawmaker in the sixth parliament and there is at least one judge against whom there was specific allegation of corruption.

action against these controversial iudges --rather rewarded them with

appointed during the previous Awami League rule, though most of

the government was also busy

protecting a judge against whom the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) brought allegation of tampering with his law certificate. Though there had been all kinds of protests and boycotts on the High Court premises, the government was determined to protect the

Mahmud Faizee. This went so deep that at one point in 2005, the High Court banned all kinds of demonstrations on the court pre-Moreover, the government confirmed Faizee's services as a

judge although the chief justice did not recommend him The BNP in its 2001 election manifesto promised establishment of a National Human Rights Commission and appointment of

an ombudsman. But it failed to do

service of additional judge Faisal

The law minister on September 19, 2004 at an international conference in Dhaka said that differences of opinion among ministers were blocking the efforts to set up the National Human Rights

"I had a great difficulty convincing my cabinet colleagues about the commission. We are committed to setting up the commission. I hope I will be able to convince my cabinet colleagues about its necessity," he told the conference.

The draft bill on the National Human Rights Commission, prepared in 2003, is now gathering dust in the Cabinet Division.

The government formed a cabinet committee headed by the then law minister on December 10, 2001 to prepare the draft bill. After a series of meetings, the committee finalised the draft and sent it to the Cabinet Division on January 23, The bill was eventually placed at

the cabinet meeting on January 29 the same year, but the cabinet sent the bill back to the law ministry for further scrutiny. Since then the draft bill is pending at the ministry. In 1980, the government passed

an act for installation of an ombudsman, and after 22 years, on January 6, 2002, the coalition government brought the act into force through a gazette notification. On February 11, 2002, the law

ministry proposed amendments of some provisions of the act. Then a cabinet committee was formed to make recommendations after further scrutiny of the bill. But the committee is yet to make any recommendations.

The BNP also promised to set up an independent Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), which it did, but kept it totally ineffective. Formed in November 2004, the ACC remains organisationally incomplete and incapable of performing its assigned tasks. The

three top members of the commission were appointed on the basis of their lovalty to the BNP-led alliance and they have failed to prove that

they are independent The additional judges, the ACC chairman and commissioners were selected on the basis of personal choices of the ministers -- Moudud Ahmed, Nazmul Huda and Aminul -- and Khandker Mahbub Uddin Ahmed MP who have lawyer's background.

Politicisation and weakening of the judiciary and an ineffective ACC directly contributed to the drastic rise of corruption in the government. Corruption remained unbridled, while officials or politicians accused of corruption went unpunished. There was not a single instance of any verdict in any noteworthy corruption case.

But, the nation witnessed how the government used the lower courts for its petty political gains and acquitted former military autocrat HM Ershad from a number of corruption cases. The deal with Ershad is that the former autocrat will join the BNP-led alliance to contest the upcoming election, in exchange for the acquittal.

In another instance of blatant politicisation of the judiciary, Dhaka divisional special judge Rezaul Karim Chunnu was seen addressing BNP's rally in Kishoregani while he was a sitting judge. But no action was taken against him. The High Court took a move against him, which prompted Chunnu to resign recently and formally join BNP.

The government played another dirty game with the Bangabandhu murder case at the Appellate Division. This case was not heard for a single day in the last five years because of 'lack of judges' in the Appellate Division. At one point, former chief justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury suggested appointment of a judge on ad hoc basis for the hearing of the case, but the government took no move. There are over six lakh civil

cases, mostly related with land disputes, pending with the courts for many years and this number is increasing every year. The government has failed to improve this scenario.

LAWS AND VARIOUS REFORMS The Law Ministry in the last five years got 185 laws passed in parliament. The law ministry itself drafted 55 laws while other ministries placed the remaining 130.

The promulgation of the Joint Drive Indemnity Act 2003 was severely criticised by all quarters as a "black law" that condones killing of 56 persons in custody during the Operation Clean Heart of the joint

Under this law, the families of the victims cannot seek justice from the court, though the then law

minister Moudud Ahmed, before framing of this law, categorically said that there would be no indem-

nity for custodial deaths. This is the second indemnity law of the country. The first such act was promulgated in 1975 to protect the killers of Bangabandhu.

Before the 2001 election, the BNP had pledged direct election for reserved women seats in parliament. But when the BNP-led alliance government dealt with the issue in 2005 and amended the constitution, it did not create the

provision for direct election. The BNP has been a staunch critic of the Special Powers Act (SPA), 1974. But during its 1991-96 rule, it did not repeal it and did not do so this time. Interestingly, BNP has always referred to the SPA as a proof of how anti-people the Awami League can be. BNP has used this law again and again in the 1990s

and during this term as well. The BNP repealed an antiterrorism law "Public Safety Act" promulgated by the AL government in the late '90s, but enacted a similar law titled "Speedy Trial Act (Law and Order Disruption)" spelling harder punishments for the

But unlike the Public Safety Act that gave a clear cut direction about which cases would fall under its jurisdiction, the speedy trial acts allowed the government to discriminate which case should be forwarded to the speedy trial courts and which should go to the conventional courts.

The government also failed to implement another good move to set up civil and criminal courts at three hill districts of the country.

The government for the first time made a separate law to deal with money laundering crimes titled "Anti-Money Laundering Act, 2002". But this did not achieve much success due to poor gover-

The government claims success in its dealing with the money loan courts. By amending some relevant laws, the government made it very effective in recovering Tk 3,700 crore default loans in five years. Before that this court was not very effective.

Some legal reforms generated good results. The Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) programme introduced in 2003 evoked good response in handling The government also took a

legal move to modernise the land system through the Registration (Amendment) Act, 2004. The government claims that this has reduced pubic harassment related to land issues, which is a dominant conflict issue with the courts.

Obituary

lakh from her father.

to save his daughter.

Mohammad Idris, principal programme coordinator of Proshika, passed away at the Cancer Institute of Lalmatia in the city on Monday at the age of 52, says a press release.

He was suffering from blood can-Idris left behind wife, three daugh-

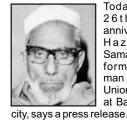
His namaz-e-janaza was held on

Proshika Bhaban premises at 10:00am yesterday. Proshika President Dr Faruk Ahmad in a condolence message prayed for salvation of the departed

Death anniversary

thy for the bereaved family.

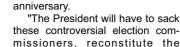
soul and expressed profound sympa-



26th death anniversary of Hazi Abdus Samad Bepari, former chairman of Satarkul Union Parishad at Badda in the

Today is the

On the occasion. Beraid Gonopathagar and Dhaka Mini Museum will organise a doa mahfil. Samad Bepari was one of the founders of Kurmitola High School



proved by his tasks. The nation will

lances in terrorism.

The speakers also urged the

fresh agitation from October 3.

the occasion.

Arrest political armed cadres Rajshahi 14-party urges caretaker govt

> Badsha demanded for immediate raids at RU halls, offices of Jamaat-e Islami and ICS and different student messes, where he said, Shibir men amassed huge number

> bombs aiming at Badsha, but police

officers present on the spot saved

of outsiders and arms. "We have specific information of arms hauling at different RU halls including Nawab Abdul Latif, Amir Ali and Martyred Shamsuzzoha halls", he said adding that Islami Bank Hospital was being used as a terrorists' hide-out.

They also demanded removal of

Dr Asaduzzaman and executive raising allegations that Shibir cadres used fire arms during Monday's director of Barind Multipurpose violence before the law enforcing Development Authority and brother of former post and telecommunica-He said, Monday's Shibir attack tions minister Barrister Aminul on 14-party procession that left Hague for corruption and providing some 100 injured was pre-planned shelter to political terrorists. and designed to kill Fazle Hossain

Workers' Party stages a demonstration at Muktangan in the city vesterday

Bullet-hit AL activist

protesting Shibir attack on leaders and activists of AL-led 14-party combine

dies in Barisal hospital

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal An Awami League (AL) activist, who received bullet injuries in his head during clashes with rival BNP activists at Borhanuddin upazila under Bhola district on Sunday, died at Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical

College and Hospital on Monday With the death of Motahar Hossain, 45, the death toll in clashes between two political rivals rose to two including Abul Kalam Azad of

Swarupkathi under Piroipur district. Barisal Kotwali Police Station sources said two separate cases have been lodged against hundreds of named and unnamed activists of 14-party alliance in connection with the attacks on BNP activists and

The accused included more than 20 activists of 14-party alliance including Patowari Shahin, Sohag, Sentu, Nakkata Khalek, Anis, Nuru

Molla, Tarin and Shahin. However, no police action has so

far been taken against them in this connection. Barisal City Corporation Mayor and district BNP President Advocate Maiibur Rahman Sarwar and BNP leader and Public Prosecutor Advocate Kamrul Ahsan Shahin said separate cases would be lodged against the ransacking of

Ashwani Kumar Hall and BNP

Humidity in



Light rain or drizzle likely

City/Town

Light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong, Dhaka and Sylhet divisions in the next 12 hours until

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said predicting slight fall in day tempera-

However, night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some

the country during the period. Highest temperature 34.0 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Chittagong and lowest 18.3 degree Celsius at Dinajpur. The sun sets in the capital at 5.19pm today and rises at

Temperature

major cities and towns yesterday were:

	III Oololdo		poroor	porcontago	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening	
haka	29.3	24.0	75	82	
hittagong	34.0	24.4	77	78	
ajshahi	30.8	22.0	74	75	
hulna	29.0	23.8	79	82	
arisal	30.4	23.4	89	91	
ylhet	31.0	22.5	75	76	
ox's Bazar	33.3	26.0	71		