

Reformation of EC, removal of CEC demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, an alliance of 38 rights organisations, yesterday demanded reformation of the Election Commission and removal of the politically recruited Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and other commissioners.

At a press conference at the National Press Club in the city, the speakers also demanded reconstitution of the administration from grassroots to policy levels for a neutral and fair election.

The constitutional sections were not properly followed in recruiting the chief adviser to the caretaker government. Rather the president has taken the position hurriedly from a partisan stance, raising question

on caretaker government system. Bangladesh Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanam said while reading out a written statement.

Besides, the ministries have been distributed to the advisers without considering their competencies and experiences. The president alone holds nine important ministries, which is not practical in any sense, she said adding that redistribution of the offices of the administration is a must and the chief adviser should not grasp responsibility of most of the ministries.

The speakers also urged the president to prepare a complete voter list immediately.

Meanwhile, the state-run Bangladesh Television and

Bangladesh Betar should be made free from partisanship and the media should provide neutral information.

The seven-point demand also includes improvement of the law and order situation by arresting the criminals.

Advocate Salma Ail of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA), Nasimun Ara Huq Minu of Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Kendra and Ranjan Karmakar of Steps Towards Development spoke at the press conference while representatives of Karmojibi Nari, Nijera Kori, Ain O Shalish Kendra, Bangladesh Nari Pragoti Sangha, Women for Women, Trade Union Kendra and Campe were also present.

All advisers are neutral Says Mahbul Alam

BSS, Dhaka

Water Resources, Information and Religious Affairs Adviser Mahbul Alam, yesterday said all advisers to the caretaker government are neutral.

"We are working to hold a free and fair national election, which will be acceptable to all," he told journalists while visiting a photo exhibition of litterateur Hasnat Abdul Hai at the Bengal Gallery of the Fine Arts in the city.

The five-day exhibition titled "Island in the sun: Glimpses of Cyprus" began on October 30.

Mahbul Alam, also appreciated Hasnat Abdul Hai for organising the excellent exhibition.

A total of 80 photographs, which depicted life, beauty and culture of Cyprus, were on display in the show.

Hasnat Abdul Hai was present on the occasion.



Awami League leaders offer prayers after placing wreaths at the graves of three national leaders on the occasion of Jail Killing Day yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



General Secretary of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam speaks at a press conference organised by Samajik Protirodh Committee at National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right is Shahida Parvin and on her left are Advocate Kohinoor Begum and Nilufar Banu.

PHOTO: STAR

Reception to architects of '72 constitution today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Forum for Secular Bangladesh will accord a reception to the architects of the constitution of 1972 on the 35th Constitution Day today.

On the occasion, a discussion on "Constitution of '72 is a unique document for humanity and world peace" will also be held at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium at 4:00pm, with Forum Advisory Committee President Professor Kabir Chowdhury in the chair.

Draft constitution writing committee chairman and eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain will be the chief speaker, while deputy commander in chief of the War of Liberation Air Vice Marshal (Retd) AK Khanaker will be present at the programme as the chief guest, says a press release.

Acting President of the Forum journalist Shahriar Kabir will present a keynote paper.

Writers of the draft constitution Barrister Amir Ul Islam, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdur Razzak, Advocate MAbdur Rahim, Dr Khatish Chandra Mondol, Professor Abu Sayeed, Awami League Presidium Member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin and Gonotantrik Ainjibi Samity President Barrister Shafiq Ahmed will take part in the discussion.

BBC Bangladesh Sanglap today

BSS, Dhaka

The BBC World Service resumes its discussion programme "Bangladesh Sanglap" today after a break for Eid.

The eighth programme in the current series will be held at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city at 5:45pm, said a press release.

Senior BNP leader Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain and Awami League presidium member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim will feature in a four-member panel.

Syed Manzur Elahi, who served as an adviser in the caretaker government in 1996 and 2001, and head of Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA) Munira Khan will also be on the panel.

Panel members will answer questions and debate issues raised by members of the audience. The programme will be presented and moderated by Shakeel Anwar of the BBC Bengali Service.

The programme, produced by the Bengali Service in conjunction with the BBC World Service Trust, will be broadcast on the BBC Bengali radio at 7:30pm on Sunday and telecast on Channel-4 at 8:00pm on Monday.

Housewife strangled over dowry

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Husband and in-laws strangled a housewife to death at Khilgaon in the city yesterday over dowry.

The victim is identified as Shahera alias Nishi Begum, 20, wife of Kamrul Islam Prince.

Nishi's father Anwar Hossain alleged that Kamrul, his father Abdur Wahab and mother Shamim Ara hanged her from the ceiling of their bedroom after strangling her to death.

Police arrested Kamrul and his parents yesterday morning after the victim's mother filed a case accusing them of killing her daughter.

"Kamrul admitted that he stran-

gled his wife at the dead of night following an altercation between them over dowry," said Investigation Officer of the case Sub-Inspector Nurul Islam of Khilgaon Police Station.

The victim's father Anwar said that he married off his daughter with Kamrul around one and a half year back. He said he provided Tk five lakh to Kamrul as he promised to send his son-in-law to Italy. The rest of the amount was supposed to be arranged by Kamrul's family.

Yet later they demanded Tk six lakh from Anwar. "As I did not give the amount, they often beat up my daughter," he added.

CPB urges measures for free, fair election

BSS, Dhaka

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday called upon the caretaker government to take necessary steps immediately to hold a free and fair election, which will be acceptable to people.

The party made the call at the last day of its two-day central committee meeting at the CPB office here with its President Manjurul Ahsan Khan in the chair.

CPB general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, presidium member Syed Abu Jafar Ahmed and central leaders Shahadat

Hossain, MM Akash, Mrinal Chowdhury, Altaf Hossain, Abdur Razzak, Emdadul Haque Millat, AN Rasheda, Rafiquzzaman Layek, Shahidul Islam, Biplob Chaki, Akhter Hossain Raza and Ismail Hossain addressed the meeting.

The CPB decided to hold rallies and bring out processions across the country on November 9 demanding a free and fair election.

The meeting also urged the caretaker government to immediately arrest those who are involved in terrorism, corruption and militancy, and in making black money.

DCC reception to Prof Yunus now on Nov 27

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has again changed the date for according a reception to Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The reception ceremony was scheduled to take place today, but it will now be held on November 27.

The ceremony will begin at 3:00pm at the South Plaza of Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, says a DCC press release.

However, it did not mention any reason for rescheduling the date for the second time.

Prof Yunus and Grameen Bank won the Nobel Peace Prize 2006.

Joint meeting of BNP today

UNB, Dhaka

A joint meeting of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held at the party's central office in the city at 11:00am today.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting, said a press release.

Party's joint secretaries general, Dhaka divisional organising secretary, Dhaka city unit president and general secretary, former MPs from the city constituencies, and presidents and general secretaries of central committee of all front organisations have been requested to attend the meeting.

Ex-army officials concerned at Khaleda's politics from cantt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thirty-six former defence officials have expressed deep anxiety and concern over BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's pursuing of party politics from her cantonment residence.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, they said this is not only illegal, but also poses threat to the security of the cantonment as well as the whole nation.

Such activities of Khaleda is brewing controversy and leading to the politicisation of the armed forces, said a press release signed by Col (Retd) Faruq Khan.

The defence officials said immediate-past four-party alliance government barred Sheikh Hasina, former prime minister and the then opposition leader, from entering the cantonment on many occasions during its regime.

Besides, many former defence officials, especially who joined the then opposition, were declared 'unwanted' and prohibited from entering the cantonment area, said the release.

But on the other hand, many BNP godfathers, terrorists, extortionists and armed cadres are entering the cantonment freely.

The officials urged the President and Chief Adviser to the caretaker government to restrain Khaleda from carrying out her party works and politics from the cantonment for the sake of the armed forces and the nation.

They also urged the President to withdraw all privileges and protocols that she used to enjoy during her premiership.

The signatories to the statement included Gen (Retd) Mostafizur Rahman, Major Generals (Retd) KM Shafiqul, Golam Maula, Abdus Salam, AMSA Amin, Subid Ali Bhuiyan, Ohab, Rear Admiral Nurul Islam, Brig Generals Abu Baker, Mahmudul, Enamul Huq, Abdul Aziz, Javed, Air Vice-Marshal Rafiqul Islam, Commodores AKM Azad and Moslehuddin, Cols Shawkat Ali, Noor Khan and Mostafa.

CHITTAGONG PORT PROJECTS

Investigation into corruption demanded

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Dock Bandar Sarbadaliya Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad called on the advisers of the caretaker government to conduct investigations into corruption in different projects of Chittagong port in the last five years.

At a press conference held at Chittagong Press Club yesterday the leaders of the Parishad placed a 15-point demand in this regard.

The leaders alleged that Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) chairman along with some officials and port CBA leaders amassed a huge amount from the projects through corruption.

They also demanded resignation of CPA chairman and exemplary punishment to people involved in the corruption.

Secretary General of the

parishad Md Mahfuzur Rahman Khan read out the written statement at the conference.

The leaders alleged that a huge area of land at Laidiar Char and Maizzar Tek was leased out for developing container terminal at private initiative instead of CPA's own initiative.

They blasted the decision of leasing out around 14 acres of land adjoining to the closed down Chittagong Steel Mill for recently inaugurated Karnaphuli EPZ. The land was actually earmarked for developing yards for handling increasing number containers of the port in future, claimed the leaders.

Parishad leaders also demanded for immediate cancellation of the agreement CPA signed with gantry crane supplier Mitsubishi Corporation of Japan and its local agent - Saif Power Tech.

They said that as per the agreement Saif Power Tech was to provide training to some operators of CPA for operation of gantry cranes at Chittagong port.

But, instead of providing training, Saif Power Tech engaged its men, also inexperienced hands, for gantry operation and was charging as high as Tk 470 for handling of each container while CPA operators used to charge only Tk 5.

Parishad Joint Convener Wahidullah Sarker, Jatiya Sramik League Secretary Md Ilias, Joint Secretary Md Shahidul Alam Bakul, Dock Sramik Union President Golam Mohammad Chowdhury, General Secretary Abdul Ahad, Merchant Sramik Union Joint Secretary Md Hasan, Coaster Haze Sramik League President Md Alamgir and Coaster Haze Sramik Union Secretary Mohiuddin Kabir were also present at the conference.

EDN MINISTRY CIRCULAR Non-govt teachers feel cheated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday said they feel cheated as a circular of the former education ministry issued on Thursday has directed the authorities concerned to deposit tuition fees to government fund.

They said in the face of their agitation, the immediate past education minister Dr M Osman Faruk assured them that the tuition fees collected from the students will not have to be deposited to the government fund.

"But the circular has proved that the former minister had cheated us," said Prof Quazi Farruk Ahmed, chief co-ordinator and convener of the National Front of Teachers and

Employees (NFTE).

He said they are urging the caretaker government to review the issue.

Quazi Farruk said they will also hold a meeting in the capital on November 9. It will be attended by the representatives from six divisions.

Under the circular, teachers and employees of non-government schools, colleges, madrasas and technical institutions will get 100 percent salary from the national exchequer, but they will have to deposit tuition fees to the government fund.

Of the 10 percent salary hike, five percent will be given from July 2006 from the budget of 2006-07 fiscal year and the rest five percent will be given as 'outstanding bill' from the budget of 2007-08 fiscal, the circular added.

10 JCD men hurt in factional clash in Sylhet

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Ten activists of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were injured in a clash between two rival factions of the student front of BNP in the city yesterday.

The clash erupted when a motorbike of Sanwar belonging to the faction led by Ziaul Gani Arefin Zillur hit that of Rajab, an activist of the faction led by Emran Ahmed Chowdhury.

Over 200 JCD men riding on motorbikes were returning to the city along with the motorcade of former finance minister M Saifur Rahman who reached Sylhet by a Biman flight in the afternoon.

The JCD men attacked each other with sticks when the motorcade had to stop at Ambarkhana area at about 5:15pm.

JAIL KILLING DAY 'Four-party alliance still trying to protect killers'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Awami League-led 14-party alliance yesterday held a public meeting at Shahid Hadis Park on the occasion of the Jail Killing Day with city AL President Talukder Abdul Khaleque in the chair.

Speakers alleged that the killers of four national leaders are still moving at large under the shelter of BNP-led four-party alliance.

Leaders of four-party alliance are still trying to rehabilitate self-proclaimed killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman by politicising the judiciary, they added.

Demanding reformation of the Election Commission, speakers said the next election would not be free and fair with Justice MA Aziz as CEC.

They also demanded immediate arrest of the corrupt ministers, lawmakers and criminals harboured by four-party alliance.

The meeting was also addressed by former lawmaker Begum Monnujan Sufian, President of district AL Sheikh Harun-ar-Rashid, General Secretary of city AL Mizanur Rahman, General Secretary of district Workers' Party Comrade Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan, City President of JSD (Inu) Rafiqul Huq Khokon, General Secretary of city NAP Fazlur Rahman and former lawmaker of AL Kazi Sikander Ali Dalim.

Cooperatives Day today

BSS, Dhaka

The 35th National Cooperatives Day will be observed in a befitting manner in the country today.

The theme of this year's Cooperatives Day is "Cooperatives in Small Investment and Development."

The day's programmes will start with hoisting of the national and the cooperatives flags at the Samabay Bhaban at Agargaon in the morning.

A discussion will also be held at the Samabay Bhaban at 10:00am on the occasion.



A bamboo pole is all there to warn passing vehicles and pedestrians as a manhole with no cover on Mirpur Road in the city poses danger.

PHOTO: STAR

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.9 degree Celsius was recorded at Sitakunda and the lowest of 19.0 degree at Srirongal.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:18pm today and rises at 6:07am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in in celsius	
	percentage		Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.6	22.4	69	53
Chittagong	34.6	24.0	70	86
Rajshahi	31.5	20.0	74	78
Khulna	32.4	22.5	81	75
Barisal	32.9	21.5	84	90
Sylhet	33.4	21.5	73	61
Cox's Bazar	33.6	24.2	76	61