# METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

Tea stall owner

for refusal to

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

pay toll

police said.

hacked to death

Criminals hacked a tea stall owner

to death near his residence at Jurain

Railgate in the city when he refused

to pay them toll on Friday night,

Police said a gang of extortion-

ists called Lal Mian, 18, out of his

residence at around 11:00am and

stabbed him indiscriminately as he

approached them behind Alam

Police arrested two alleged gang

nembers --Abul Kalam and

Mohammad Salahuddin -- from the

police that they have killed Lal as he

did not pay them tolls, police said.

Police, however, could not say how

much money the gang demanded

Govt employees

Leaders of Bangladesh Civil

Service Coordination Committee

yesterday held a view exchange

meeting in the city where they said

they are going to form a united

organisation of employees of the

government, semi-government,

autonomous, semi-autonomous

and sector corporations in order to

implement a democratic civil admin-

istration and to meet all the

to form united

The arrestees admitted to the

Market. He died on the spot.

area hours into the murder.

from the tea stall owner

body soon

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

# **'Launch united movement** to restore '72 constitution'

### Architects of constitution accorded reception

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a discussion vesterday called on all to launch a united movement to restore the constitution of 1972 in order to establish the sovereignty of the people.

The objective of the '72 constitution was to achieve total empower-

ment of common people, they said. They also called on all to forge a united movement with the spirit of the War of Liberation to build a prosperous Bangladesh.

Forum for Secular Bangladesh organised the discussion on 'Constitution of 1972 is a unique document of world peace and humanity' at the Supreme Court Bar Association auditorium in the city on the occasion of the 35th Constitution Day. The Forum also accorded a

reception to the architects of the 1972 Constitution at the programme. They are eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amir-ul Islam, Advocate Abdur Rahim, Suranjit Sengupta and Prof Abu

There were 34 members on the committee to draft the constitution. But only nine members are alive

Speaking at the programme, Dr Kamal Hossain said the objective of

Dialogueon

Syeduzzaman, Advocate Salma Ali and Monira Rahman. (Story on Page 1)

to create anarchy

Says Peshajibi Parishad

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Sammilita Peshajibi

Parishad, an alliance of profes-

sional bodies, yesterday

demanded proper investigation

and exemplary punishment to

those who were involved in political

violence across the country in

Addressing a rally at the

National Press Club, the parishad

leaders said the 14-party combine

had launched violent activities only

to create anarchy during the hand

over of power to caretaker govern-

Ahmed for heading the caretaker

government, they also placed an

eight-point demand for immediate

programmes like hartal, siege and

These include ban on political

Thanking President lajuddin

between October 27-31.



Forum for Secular Bangladesh accorded a reception to architects of the 1972 constitution in the city yesterday on the occasion of the 35th Constitution Day. From left are Suranjit Sengupta, AK Khandaker, Prof Abu Sayeed, Prof Kabir Chowdhury, Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amir-ul Islam and Advocate

the '72 constitution was to establish such a state where people would be able to play their role as the owners of sovereign power.

Awami League presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said that once the people's sovereignty is established, all the evil forces that rule the country through the use of only coercive powers would be

Eminent jurist Dr Kamal Hossain speaks at a dialogue on "Election 2007; Amendments for the Representation of the

People Order (RPO), 1972" at Brac Centre Inn auditorium in the city yesterday. On his left are Dr Shahdeen Malik, M

14-party resorted to violence

strike that cause sufferings to

people, and carrying of arms,

sticks and oars in rally and meeting

to ensure people's security and

stern action against those who

president and chief adviser to the

caretaker government to maintain

law and order and assist the

Election Commission and the

administration in holding a free and

beg pardon of the nation for recent

violence that caused huge loss of

life and property," said Mahmudur

Rahman, president of the

ment cannot ask the chief election

commissioner (CEC) to resign as it

Parishad Secretary General

is a constitutional post.

He said the caretaker govern-

"The 14-party combine should

fair election

parishad.

The parishad also urged the

threaten to halt land and sea ports.

eliminated

Prof Kabir Chowdhury chaired the programme while Air Vice-

Marshal (Retd.) AK Khandaker, Barrister Shafiq Ahmed, AL presidium members Abdur Razzak and Zohra Tajuddin, and Forum President Shahriar Kabir also

demands of the employees. They also urged the president and chief adviser to take necessary steps to make the administration free from political influence that will lead to a free and fair general election, says a press release.

Leaders also decided to submit a memorandum to the president

Nurul Huda, president of the BCS Coordination Committee, chaired the meeting.

### Remove political appointees

BFUJ urges CG

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) yesterday presented a 12-point demand before the caretaker government (CG) that include removal of political appointees from media organisations and immediate announcement of the 6th Wage Board Award for the

The BFUJ made a plea that all the politically appointed journalists and officials would have to be purged from all the mass-media-related organisations, including the Press Council, the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB), Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), the Film Censor Board, Bangladesh Betar and Shilpakala Academy. On the other hand, its leaders

said the caretaker government would have to reinstate all the journalists who were sacked from these organisations on political considerations in the last five years. BFUJ President Manzurul Ahsan

Bulbul placed the demands at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. The BFUJ leaders regretted that despite the 6th wage board having

been formed long ago, the alliance government didn't declare its award. They organised the conference to present some of their thoughts and demands before the media and the

nation in the context of country's existing situation. They review of the draft wage board report as per the demand of the Sangbadik Śramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP).

"The journalist community would be deprived of their rights if the draft wage board recommendations were implemented," Bulbul said.

He said the wage board chairman unilaterally submitted the draft report to the government at its fag end in Replying to a guery, he said they

would contact the Chief Advisor and his 10 advisors to discuss their demands. If their demands are not met, they would launch a countrywide tough move-

The BFUJ leaders protested the comment of the secretary of home affairs about journalists' entry into the secretariat. "To what level a secretary can be illiterate that he asked journalists not to come to the secretariat (after working hours) for collecting news. He doesn't have any idea about journalists' working style," Bulbul said

He demanded that the President and CA should remove his current press secretary, as he is a "politically appointed person"

Their 12-point demand includes immediate removal of all obstacles to a restart of the popular Ekushey Television as per court direction and freeing the terrestrial broadcasting facility for the private sector on the basis of free-market competition.

The demands also include ensuring justice in all the journalist murder cases and "repression" that took place during the tenure of the alliance government.
BFUJ Secretary General Abdul

Jalil Bhuyian, former president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Omar Farooque



BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia meets leaders of the four-party alliance at Hawa Bhaban in the city yesterday.

# 'Form citizens' body to review CG activities'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday called for forming citizens' committee to review the activities of the caretaker government (CG).

They said the advisers must work with utmost neutrality to ensure a free and fair general elec-

The press conference was organised by Serving Souls, a voluntary organisation of professionals at different levels, at the Dhaka Reporters Unity Hall in the

Firoz Ahmed, general secretary of the organisation, said the country's present condition is quite volatile after taking over the charge of the caretaker government by the president. Abdus Salam, adviser of the

organisation, congratulated the caretaker government for being able to avoiding further violence by political parties. The Serving Souls placed a 14point suggestion for implementa-

ahead of the general election. These included administrative reforms, banning nomination of corrupt candidates by political parties, and autonomy of the state-

tion by the caretaker government

run radio and television. The speakers called for computerised voter identity card and transparent ballot box to ensure

They also called for formation of more than one election observation committee at least one month

ahead of the election.

Rezaul Halim, vice-president, Shahidul Islam Ripon, organising secretary and Saiful Nabi Sagor, executive member of the organisation, were present at the press conference.

#### Withdrawal of false case against 83 doctors demanded

Shadhinata Chikitshak Parishad formed a human chain in front of the High Court in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of the false case against 83 physicians and protesting attacks on the office room of their secretary general at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, says a press release.

More than five hundred physicians yesterday joined the hourlong human chain that started at They demanded a non-partisan

administration, termination of director general and director of Health Directorate and principal of medical colleges as they were politically appointed, a press release said. They also demanded realisation of

the 14-party opposition combine's

# Dr Wajed hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

scientist and husband of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina, was admitted to Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital here on Friday night with chest pain. Dr Wajed has been suffering from cardiac problem.

Dr Waied Mia. a renowned nuclear

#### JCD, Shibir vow to resist AL **DU CORRESPONDENT**

Leaders of the All-Party Student Unity, a platform of student organisations backed by BNP-Jamaat coalition, vesterday vowed to resist Awami League (AL) blaming it for creating anarchy and crisis across the country.

At a rally in city's Muktangan, leaders demanded immediate removal of CM Shafi Sami and Advocate Sultana Kamal, two advisers to the caretaker government, "for violating the constitution". The Student Unity, consists of

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS), Islami Chhatra Mailish and three other student fronts, also demanded arrest and punishment to the killers of five leaders of the ICS at Paltan in the city on October 28. The rally virtually turned into a

programme of the ICS as it was buzzed with ICS's slogans, festoons and banners while JCD's presence was comparatively less enthusiastic

Addressing the rally, JCD Central President Azizul Bari Helal said the AL has been spreading anarchy across the country through hartals, general strikes, rampages and killings in a bid to foil the pro-

# strangled over dowry

Housewife

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife is allegedly strangled by her husband over dowry in the city's Shyampur area yesterday.

Police recovered the body of the victim, Ayesha Khatun, 20, from her residence at Japani Bazar at around

Police quoting local sources said the husband Maruf Mian strangled Ayesha at one stage of altercation.

The victim's father Ainul Hague filed a murder case with Shyampur Police Station accusing his son-inlaw, his father Ahad Mian and two other relatives.

Shahid Mian, a cousin of the victim, said that Maruf, an unemployed youth, married Ayesha four months back and since then he used to beat her for dowry.

He also alleged that since their marriage her father has already given Maruf Tk 1 lakh.

## Arrest of JCD. Shibir cadres demanded

**DU CORRESPONDENT** 

Pragatisheel Chhatra Jote (PCJ), a combine of left wing student organisations, yesterday laid a siege to the office of the Vice Chancellor (VC) of Dhaka University (DU), demanding a congenial atmosphere on the campus and arrest of armed cadres of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS). The Jote also submitted a memo-

randum to the VC to press home their demands.

At a rally in front of the VC's office. Jote leaders said country's educational institutions now have become a "terror state" of the JCD-ICS. They alleged the armed cadres of JCD and ICS are roaming on and around the campus at large but university authorities have turned a blind eye to them.

They said common students are passing their days amid fear of violence as JCD cadres are patrolling those places with arms.

PCJ leaders threatened to go for tougher agitation programmes if the administration doesn't take necessary initiatives.

## Obituary



Renowned businessman Syed Mahbubul Hague, son of late Syed Ashraf Ali of Beshnal at Bikrampur in 🖺 Munshigan

DAB Cardiac Centre at Shahbagh in the city at the age of 57. He left behind a wife, three sons,

district, passed away last Friday at

nine brothers, a sister and a host of admirers to mourn his death. His Qulkhwani will be held at his

Lalmatia residence after Asr prayers

# Urs

Annual Urs of Hazrat Shah Abdur Rahim (RH) Shah Saheb of Paribag will be held on November 7 on Paribag Mazar premises, says a press release

Munajat will be held at 11:00am

# CEC says he won't resign even if CG requests

decision yesterday, and decided to sit again tomorrow to take up the issue of reconstitution of the EC.

Noon School in the city yesterday.

"We are trying to reach a decision acceptable to all concerned regarding the Election Commission," Adviser Mahbubul Alam, in charge of the information ministry, told newsmen after the

Mahbubul Alam, who was authorised by the council to speak to the media about the meeting, said any sort of change in the EC is a matter of legal complexity. "The council of advisers is examining all the aspects." he said. As per the council decision, none

of the other advisers talked to the

But Adviser Dr Akbar Ali Khan

last night told BBC Bangla Service, "Reconstitution of the Election Commission is a very complex process. The two major political parties' stances contradict each other and their attitude is confrontational in this regard. So, it is difficult to reach a consensus as neither of them is coming forward for mutual assistance." He went on, "We think we should

Guardians wait in a long queue to collect admission forms for class I and VI under English medium section at Viqarunnisa

take a decision quickly. On the other hand, we also think the situation may deteriorate if we take any wrong decision. Asked if the major political par-

ties do not reach any consensus,

then what the caretaker government should do to reconstitute the EC, the adviser said. "Perhaps we will have to find out such a solution that nobody will like nor reject. We may

The advisers' council took the initiative to seek the CEC's opinion regarding resignation since he had said on Thursday afternoon that he would think about this if the advisers make such a request to him. But he categorically said the constitution does not allow the advisers to make such a request. On the second option, the advis-

have to think about it.

Sources said that since its first

meeting on Wednesday, the council

of advisers kept on looking for ways

to restructure the EC, but at yester-

day's meeting, it found the situation

complex as the CEC remained rigid

council request to the CEC to step

down, some advisers expressed

doubt about its success while some

others favoured making a request at

least to put the move on record.

Discussing the first option of

on his stance not to resign.

ers discussed the constitutional provision for the formation of Supreme Judicial Council for removal of the CEC, under whose leadership the EC's credibility for conducting a free and fair election has greatly eroded. Some of the advisers however

said it might take about a month to complete the inquiry by the Supreme Judicial Council whether the CEC is capable of staying in office. But the caretaker government will have to take a decision on making the EC effective within a week due to time constraint, sources said quoting them.

The advisers also discussed appointment of more election commissioners to make the EC effective

ahead of the next parliamentary

Several advisers expressed their disappointment over the political division on restructuring the EC, and said any move to seek opinion of legal experts on the issue would be a futile exercise due to the grouping among them. The council meeting focused on

creating a consensus among political parties on such a vital matter, meeting sources said.

The meeting also discussed reshuffling the administration and the controversy over two advisers' meeting with Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina.

The advisers opined that they should do everything very carefully to avert any controversy in future.

Sources said that on Thursday ight, the advisers also discussed the present status of the updated voter list. Some of them expressed disappointment at the updated list that triggered enormous controversy over the unusual rise in the

number of voters.

Referring to the census report prepared in 2001, they said it shows that the number of voters should not exceed eight crore but the updated voter list prepared in August has 9.30 crore voters on it. They suggested that the EC

should correct the voter list prepared for the next parliamentary

#### BNP for 'cautious' steps in admin reshuffle chief advisers also held all these

included Khondokar Delwar Hossain, Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain, Moudud Ahmed, Dr RA Gani, Chowdhury Tanvir Ahmed Siddiqui and Khondokar Mahbubuddin The BNP leaders also asked

the chief adviser not to go beyond the constitution to meet the demands of the 14-party alliance. "We do not want the president to bow down to the pressure and

demand of the Awami League," Bhuiyan told reporters. "If every demand of Awami League is fulfilled, then...we are also a big party and three big parties are with us," Bhuiyan said at the briefing, adding, "The president assured us of doing whatever

demands. Referring to the constitution, the BNP leaders reminded the chief adviser that the non-party interim government does not have scopes to do anything other than

is necessary regarding our

carrying out routine official work and helping the Election Commission conduct a free and

"The interim government is not supposed to perform any policymaking," Bhuiyan said.

The BNP also asked the chief adviser to make immediate arrangements for printing the updated voter list. Requesting lajuddin to start

working immediately for conducting the election, the BNP delegation asked him to complete the election at least 15 days before the end of the interim government's 90-day tenure. On identity cards and voter lists

containing pictures of the voters,

Bhuiyan told reporters, "We are

not against it, but it is not possible

to arrange all this within this short On 14-party alliance's allegation that the chief adviser is holding so many important ministries, Bhuiyan told journalists, "The past ministries. Only this time, the chief adviser is holding the education ministry, instead of the information ministry, along with the others.

Prof AZM Zahid Hossain moder-

ated the programme while Prof

Aminur Rahman Majumder, Dr MA

Mannan Mia, Journalist Ruhul

Amin Gazi, Mohammad Selim

Bhuiyan, Advocate Khorshed

Alam, Journalist Elahi Newaz Khan

and Dr Mostak Rahim Shapan also

DHÃKA

T O D A Y

View exchange meeting

Campaign for Good Governance

organises a view exchange meeting

titled 'Reforms in electoral laws and

charters'. Venue: National Press Club.

spoke at the rally.

interfere in this matter as it may hamper the work of the caretaker government," he added On the 14-party alliance's

demand for removal of the chief election commissioner and other election commissioners, Bhuiyan said, "Nothing should be done that goes beyond the constitution and hinders the election process." The BNP delegation urged the

Bhuiyan told journalists. The chief adviser reassured them of taking all steps for fair elections and sought cooperation of all political parties, said staterun news agency BSS quoting a

Bangabhaban spokesman.

"We political parties should not

president to identify those who were engaged in the recent killings, looting and destructive activities and bring them to justice,

also spoke at the press conference.



Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) President Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul speaks at a press conference at National Press Club in the city yesterday. BFUJ and Dhaka Union of Journalists jointly organised the press conference.