



CPD Executive Director Debapriya Bhattacharya presents a document titled 'Economic Programme: CPD's Recommendations for the Caretaker Government' at a press briefing in the CPD Dialogue Room in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 16)

'Reform EC to hold free, fair election'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a press conference yesterday demanded reformation of the Election Commission (EC) to hold a free and fair election.

They also criticised the present EC for its failure to publish a correct voter list even after spending Tk 60 crore.

The press conference was organised by Nari Odhikar Bastabayan Kendra (Centre for implementing women's rights) at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) office in the city.

In a written statement Shagufta Yeasmin Emili, general secretary of the centre, said as the head of the caretaker government is a political person and assumed the post by violating the constitution, he had to prove his neutrality but failed.

She urged the president and chief adviser to the caretaker government to implement the 11-point demand of 14-party combine within the stipulated time.

Shagufta said the bureaucrats loyal to four-party alliance have been reshuffling and distributing duties among them making the administration more biased.

The speakers demanded necessary measures to ensure the rights of franchise for people of religious minority groups and women as well as their security.

They also called for removal of Justice Fazlul Haque from the

council of advisers for his arrogant comment about the observing of its activities by 14-party combine.

Vice-president of the centre Mamtaz Farook, Assistant General Secretary Shimu Anwar, Prof Mamtaz Begum, Advocate Dr Shirin Sharmin Chowdhury and Advocate Monju Naznin were also present at the press conference.

Dhaka Book Fair Dec 1-16

BSS, Dhaka

National Book Centre (NBC), an organisation under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, will hold the 13th Dhaka Book Fair (DBF) from December 1 to 16 on the premises of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in the city.

An NBC source told BSS here yesterday that more than 100 publishers from home and abroad would participate in the fair. This year's theme of the fair is: "Books build a harmonious society."

Preparations are on to hold the fair to be opened for all from 2:30 pm to 8:30 pm everyday except on holidays. The main objective of the fair is to help flourish knowledge through establishing a close relationship among the writers, readers and the publishers.

Burnt CNG driver loses fight for life

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A CNG driver, who sustained burn injuries during a procession at Dholaiapar, died yesterday morning after fighting for his life for nine days at the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Md Abdul Mannan Hawladar, CNG driver, sustained burn injuries when some activists allegedly from a procession under the banner of BNP set fire to the CNG-run auto-rickshaw at Dholaiapar under Shyampur Police Station in the city at 7:00pm on 27 October.

Quoting Mannan, family members said the BNP activists intercepted his vehicle while he was going to Shyampur from Jatrabari. They set fire to the vehicle pouring petrol giving him no time to get off it, family members added.

Mannan was rushed to DMCH with burn injuries in his body.

Shyampur police, however, said the CNG caught fire while it was making a U-turn with a heavy speed to avoid processions of two political parties.



BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia shakes hands with Canadian High Commissioner Barbara Richardson when the envoy meets her at her residence in the city yesterday.

Sheikh Shahid visits Dr Wazed

Sheikh Shahidul Islam, secretary general of Jatiya Party (JP-Monju), visited ailing nuclear scientist Dr MA Wazed Miah at Lab Aid Cardiac Hospital on Saturday night, says a press release.

He prayed for early recovery of Dr Wazed.

Shahidul also visited Ruhul Amin Hawladar, secretary general of JP (Ershad).

T&T employee stabbed, robbed of Tk 1 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A gang of muggers stabbed and robbed of Tk 1 lakh from a T&T employee at Motijheel in the city yesterday.

Md Rony Ahmed, 30, said the muggers numbering three waylaid my rickshaw near AGB Colony at

Motijheel at around 12:30pm while he was returning home drawing Tk 1 lakh from United Commercial Bank at Motijheel.

Injured Rony at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said the miscreants stabbed me in my back and took away the money.



Iranian Ambassador Mohammad Beheshti Monfared called on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence in the city yesterday.

Provide 100 pc salary without condition

Say non-govt teachers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Teachers of non-government high schools, colleges and madrasas yesterday called for providing 100 percent salary to them without attaching any condition.

At a press conference, Bangladesh Shikkhak-Karmachari Oikya Parishad, a platform of eight teachers and employees organisations, also demanded the cancellation of a circular issued by the education ministry on October 31 and vowed not to deposit the tuition fees collected from the students to government fund.

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.

Terming the circular as an attempt to cheating them the teachers said in the face of their agitation,

the immediate past education minister Dr Osman Farruk assured them that the tuition fees collected from the students will not have to be deposited to government fund.

"The circular was issued after the expiry of BNP-Jamaat-led coalition government on October 29 as Dr Farruk did not want to be blamed for double dealings with the teachers, said Prof MA Awal Siddique, convener of Oikya Parishad and president of Bangladesh Teachers Association.

He said they will agree to deposit tuition fees to the government fund if the government nationalises the non-government institutions.

Awal also demanded formation of an enquiry committee to probe the corruption and irregularities of the immediate past education minister Dr Osman Farruk and state minister for education Ehsanul Haque Milon.

"How could the former education minister give approval of two private universities and bring eight educational institutions under MPO ignoring 7000 others on the last working day of the BNP-Jamaat alliance government?" he posed a question.

"We have prepared an eight-point education reform proposal which will be submitted to the chief adviser to the caretaker government after having an appointment with him," said Prof Dr M Akhtaruzzaman, president of Bangladesh College-University Teachers Association.

Bangladesh Assistant Teachers Association President Pradip Chakrabarty, Oikya Parishad leaders Shahjahan Alam Saju, Prof MA Bari, Abu Bakar Siddique and Chowdhury Khurshed Alam were also present at the press conference.

Meanwhile, National Front of Teachers and Employees (NFTE), another platform for 11 teachers and employees organisations, has announced fresh agitation programmes protesting the government circular.

As per the programme, NFTE will hold protest rally at district level and submit memorandum to the deputy commissioners on November 8, and representatives' meeting at Muktangon in the capital on November 9 to submit written proposals to the caretaker government.