DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 17, 2006

METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Daily Star

Form Supreme Judicial Council to remove CEC

Eminent citizens urge President

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent citizens at a roundtable vesterday urged the president to form Supreme Judicial Council immediately to remove the chief election commissioner (CEC) for resolving present political stalemate.

Expressing concern over the lack of congenial atmosphere for a fair election, they said the nation will plunge into an uncertain situation if a credible poll is not held.

The roundtable titled 'Necessary measures to reform Election Commission' was jointly organised by Shujan (Shushasoner Janney

Nagorik) and Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy at the National Press Club in the city.

prevails in the country as he has

grabbed all election-related vital

ministries instead of distributing

congenial atmosphere for free and

fair election will naturally go against

the interest of immediate past

government which had posted its

own men in all tiers of administration

নির্বাচন কমিশন সংস্কারের জন্য যা প্রয়োজন [']পা^{রক}

গোলচোৰল আলোচনা

ায়োজনে: সু**জন** - সুশ্বাসনের জন্য নাগরিক

They said measures for creating

them among the ten advisers.

including the EC

tution of the EC by removing the CEC and other commissioners "Otherwise an unexpected The speakers said the president situation like civil war will wait for the will be responsible if such situation nation," he said while presenting a

keynote paper at the roundtable. Mohammad Hafiz Uddin Khan, former adviser to the caretaker government, said the president will have to change the EC for holding a

free and fair election. Dr Kazi Kholikuzzaman, president of Bangladesh Economic Association, said the caretaker government will lose its justification if it cannot resolve the present crisis.

Dr Badiul Alam Majumdar, secre-Mir Nasir Hossain, president of tary of Shujan, demanded reconstithe Federation of Bangladesh

Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the whole election system will have to be reformed.

Abdul Matin Khasru, former law minister, said the president should resign from the post of chief adviser as one person cannot hold two most vital posts.

Ataus Samad, renowned journalist, urged the president to form Supreme Judicial Council to remove the CEC and take necessary measures for holding a free and fair election.

Dr Jafarullah Chowdhury, chairman of Gonoswasthya Nagar Hospital, said as the CEC will not resign voluntarily, the caretaker government should take action against him for the greater interest of the country.

Dr Atiur Rahman, noted economist, said people are happy with the performance of ten advisers, but they should be given more vital post for holding fair election.

Mujahidul Islam Selim, general secretary of the Communist Party, criticised the caretaker government for its slow pace of activities in creating a congenial environment for a fair election by making necessarv transfers in the civil and police administration.

Presided over by former adviser to caretaker government ASM Shajahan, the roundtable was also addressed by human rights activist Hamida Hossain, Jatiya Party leader GM Kader, Liberal Democratic Party leader Firoj M Hasan, film artist Illias Kanchan and lawver Shahdin Malik

police and witnesses.

STAR REPORT

At least four people were killed and

38 injured in separate road acci-

dents in Chittagong and

Chittagong: Three people were

killed and three others injured in two

separate road accidents in

An unidentified boy, 13, report-

Our Correspondent from

Brahmanbaria yesterday.

Chittagong yesterday.

The injured were rushed to Chittagong Medical College passenger Marium Begum, 40, succumbed to her injuries at around 4:00pm, said the sources.

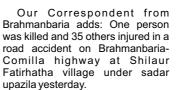
Marium's husband Farid Ahmed and two other rickshaw passengers Amin Uddin, 32, were undergoing treatment at CMCH, sources said. The truck was seized while the

driver managed to flee

Chittagong-bound truck knocked Rakib, 20, a van driver, on Hathazari Road at Chowdhury Hat under Hathazari upazila at 12:30pm.

Rakib, son of Ibrahim of Sandwip Colony under the same upazila. succumbed to his injuries on the way to hospital, said the sources

Qulkhwani



Trucks wait in a long queue to be loaded at the Chittagong Port yesterday as full operations of the port resumed on

Wednesday night following postponement of the 14-party's countrywide of blockade programme

The dead was identified as Md Nurul Haque, 45, of Urshiura village of Sadar upazila in the district. The accident occurred when a

Brahmanbaria-bound bus from Kuti Chaumuhani turned upside down around 12.30 pm at Shilaur Fatirhatha village, leaving 36 people

edly a garage worker, was killed and four others were injured when and fell into a roadside ditch at injured, police and witnesses said. Of the injured, Md Nurul Haque, 45, succumbed to his injuries on the

The truck smashed at least four

Hospital (CMCH) where rickshaw

identified as Abdul Matin, 50, and

Meanwhile, one speeding

30th anniversary of Bhasani's death today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 30th death anniversary of Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani a veteran political leader, will be observed today.

Born in 1880 at village Dhanpara in Sirajganj, Bhashani dedicated his life to establishing the rights of the oppressed and downtrodden.

Bhasani passed away in 1976. He was buried at Santosh in Tangail.

Different socio-political organisa tions will mark the day with elaborate programmes across the country. They will place wreaths at his grave at Santosh. Milad mahfil, discussion, painting competition and a fair will also be held in Tangail.

Outlaw killed in crossfire STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

PHOTO: STAR

A leader of New Biplabi Communist 4 killed, 38 hurt in road accidents his accomplices at Bharatia of Dumuria

upazila in Khulna yesterday. The victim, Sujit Kumar Mondol, 40, was arrested Wednesday night at Prashadpur of Tala upazila in Satkhira.

Police said Sujit returned to Dumuria from India on Tuesday with a view to regroup the armed cadres of his underground party and carry out subversive activities taking advantage of the current political situation. He had fled to India during Operation Clean Heart.

A police team around 4:00am vesterday took him to Bharatia in a bid to recover hidden firearms. But as the team reached the spot, Sujit's cohorts opened fire on the team in an attempt

to snatch Sujit. Police retaliated which led to a 15-minute-long gun battle. Sujit was caught in the line of fire during the battle. Police took injured Sujit to local health complex where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police recovered two pipe-guns, seven bullets and a large dagger from the spot. Three policemen including Sub-inspector Abdul Majid sustained bullet injuries. Sujit's accomplices however, managed to escape.

A large number of people brought out a procession around noon in Dumuria upazila yesterday celebrating Sujit's death. City Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami and former lawmake Mian Golam Parwar led the procession

According to Officer-in-charge Abdullah of Dumuria Police Station, the slain outlaw was wanted in 23 criminal cases, including eight murders cases recorded with different police stations of Khulna and Satkhira. He was the prime charge-sheeted accused of Dumuria BNP leader Siraj Mollah murder case, Abdullah said.

Woman killed in train mishap **OUR CORRESPONDENT,** Tangail

The victim was identified as

Witnesses said a Dhaka-bound

Chhaleha Begum, 45, wife of

Mohammad Shahar Ali of Razabari

village of the upazila.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

to remove CEC



way to hospital.

Critically injured Md Muslim Mia.

30, Md Abul Kalam Chaudhury, 30,

Ity Akter, 18, Omar Ali, 25, Md Nasir

Mia, 25, Fatema Begum, 27, Md

Abu Thaher, 60, Md Fuad Babu, 4,

and Md Kaharoo Mia, 60, were

rushed to Brahmanbaria Sadar

Hospital. The rest were given first

The driver and helpers of the bus

aid at different local clinics

managed to escape

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhrul Azam meets President/Chief Adviser lajuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban in the city yesterday.

Call to step up movement

Hearing of 6 to CHT council UNB, Dhaka As part of implementation of the peace

ASM Shajahan, former adviser to caretaker government, speaks at a roundtable titled 'Necessary measures to

reform Election Commission' jointly organised by Shujan and Reporters Forum for Election and Democracy at the

National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are M Hafiz Uddin Khan, GM Kader and Ataus Samad.

departments to the district councils of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Turning down the time extension plea Mashud Chowdhury said this when Santu Larma, chairman of CHT of the state defence counsel, the Supreme Court (SC) fixed Sunday for Regional Council, met him at his office hearing the petitions of six condemned

JMB militants, seeking leave to appeal On August 31, the High Court confirmed the death sentences of six JMB militants awarded by the trial court in the sensational Jhalakathi Institute (Rangamati), Nursing Institute

CG to hand over 8 depts UNB, Dhaka

PHOTO: STAR

accord, the caretaker government, during its tenure, will hand over eight Adviser Lt Gen. (retd) Hasan

yesterday.

The adviser told Larma that the Horticulture Centre, Chief Cotton Development Officer's office, Family Welfare Inspection Training Institute (Rangamati). Project Officer's (secondary education) office, Primary Training



Govt to procure 2.12 lakh tons

of foodgrains STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government would procure rice at Tk 16 per kilogram and Aman paddy at Tk 10 per kilogram during the current Aman season

Adv Ayeenuddin passes away Veteran politician advocate

Muhammad Ayeenuddin passed away due to renal failure at a city clinic yesterday at the age of 70.

Muslim League Leader Ayeenuddin left behind his wife, two sons, one daughter and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

One of the pioneers of the Language Movement in 1952 Aveenuddin was elected to the East Pakistan Assembly in early 60s and served as parliamentary secretary. He was also elected to the Jatiya Sangsad in 1986.

> His namaz-e-ianaza was held on the Supreme Court premises after Zohr prayers, which was attended by lawyers and judges including Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain

> > Fminen

a speeding truck ploughed through several rickshaws and pedestrians at Bayezid Bostami Sarak under Bayezid Police Station in the city at around 11:30am, sources said. The accident occurred when the truck loaded with wheat trying to

overtake an inter-city bus on its way to Rangamati from the city, said

rickshaws under its wheels.

A seven-member full court of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice Syed JR Mudassir Husain, passed the order yesterday, court sources said

against the High Court verdict.

judges' killing case.

condemned

JMB men's

petitions

UNB, Dhaka

tomorrow

In their petitions, the JMB militants rejected the established judicial system under the constitution terming it manmade and urged the Supreme Court to try them by constituting a court guided by Islamic laws.

and arrangements for holding free and The condemned petitioners are JMB chief Abdur Rahman, his secondin-command Siddiqul Islam alias Bangla Bhai, brother Ataur Rahman Sunny, son-in-law Abdul Awal and suicide bombers Iftekhar Hassan Al Mamun and Khaled Saifullah.

Senior assistant judges Sohel Ahmed and Jagannath Pandey were killed in a suicide bomb attack in Jhalakathi on November 14 last vear.

2 rapists get 30-yr jail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday gave 30 years' rigorous imprisonment to two people for raping a 16-year-old girl Salma in April 1997.

Judge Nurun Nahar of the Third Special Tribunal for Prevention of Women and Children Repression handed down the sentence in presence of one of the convicts.

The convicts are victim's uncle Awlad Hossain and Babu of Daiva village of Dhamrai in Dhaka. Awlad was present in the court during the verdict while Babu was tried in absentia

The punishment of the fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender, the judge said.

Earlier, the prosecution and defence completed their arguments and the court recorded statements of 10 prosecution witnesses.

According to the prosecution Awlad and Babu raped Salma and dropped her at a paddy field on April 23.1997

After the incident, victim's father Abdur Sattar filed a rape case against the two with Dhamrai police station under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

City/

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Cox's

The investigation officer pressed charges against Awlad and Babu on August 21, 1997.

Police arrested both of them but Babu became fugitive after getting bail from the court.

(Rangamati), District Education A total of 1.75.000 tons of rice and 37,000 tons of paddy would be pro-Officer's office and Vocational Training Institute (Khagrachhari) would soon be handed over to the district councils. He said the interim government was

trying to create a congenial atmosphere in Chittagong Hill Tracts as elsewhere in the country. Larma expressed satisfaction with the discussion he had with the adviser on implementation of the peace accord

cured during the drive beginning on December 1. It will continue until February 28. Food Planning and Storage

Committee took the decision at a meeting yesterday, with Adviser Hasan Mashhud Chowdhury in the chair

The Adviser instructed all concerned to make the drive a success



Canadian High Commissioner Barbara Richardson calls on Adviser to Caretaker Government Yasmeen Murshed at her secretariat office in the city vesterday



Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Light fog is also likely over the country's southwestern and northeastern parts and the river basins during the period, Met Office said predicting nearly unchanged night temperature over the country.

Highest temperature 32.8 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Cox's Bazar and lowest 18.0 degree Celsius at Dinaipur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5.12pm today and rises at 6:15am tomorrow.

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

/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
			in ce	lsius
entage				
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
ka	30.8	19.2	75	61
tagong	32.0	22.8	72	76
shahi	30.3	19.2	75	78
Ina	30.0	20.3	83	83
sal	30.5	19.4	86	_
let	32.2	20.4	58	61
's Bazar	32.4	24.4	68	73

He will be buried at his ancestral home in Rajshahi city.

Md Khalilur Rahman



Hospitals in the city at the age of 76, says a press release

He left behind his wife and two daughters.

His qulkhwani will be held at his residence at House #33, Road #18, Block # J at Banani in the city tomor row

Admirers have been requested to attend the gulkhwan

Obituary

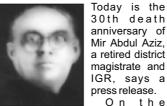


rhage at the age of 78 yesterday, says a press release

He left behind four sons, three daughters and a host of admirers to mourn his death He was buried at Azimpur

Graveyard. His aulkhwani will be held at his residence at House No-110, Road-17 Sector-14 at Uttara in the city after Zohr prayers tomorrow

Death anniversary



occasion, a milad mahfil and prayers will be held in Dhaka. Abdul Aziz hailed from Narayanpur village in Nabinagar, Brahmanbaria.

Qulkhwani of Lutfar Rahman an eminent photographer his city resishahi today, says a press release.

He passed away at a city clinic on October 11 at the age of 85.

will be held at dence at Mohakhali and at Fudkipara in

Jukta Front yesterday called on all to step up the movement to remove the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) and reconstitute the Election Commission (EC).

Most political parties and the people are in favour of the removal of the CEC and reformation of the EC, and even the advisers to the caretaker government are no exception, said Jukta Front coordinator Abdul Malek Ratan at a meeting at its

respects for the opinions of the A woman was killed as a speeding train Advisers, the CEC can be removed ran over her at Razabari area under anytime, he added Kalihati upazila in the district vesterday.

If the Chief Adviser shows

office in the city.

He also warned that the President/ Chief Adviser has to shoulder all the consequences for any untoward incidents that may arise during the movement to remove the CEC.

Nurul Amin Bhuiyan, Sharif Mohammad Khan, Nurul Akhter and Kamal Uddin Ahmed also spoke at the meeting.

inter-city train from Sirajganj run over Chhaleha at around 6:00am when she was crossing the Razabari rail crossing at Razabari area, leaving her died on the spot.

Croc farm sees first of eggs

FROM PAGE 16 Ahmed and Dr Sheikh Muhammad

aovernment

Entrepreneur Fund (EEF) of the

sources said there are 25 types of

rearing farms in some 40 countries of the world including China, Abdur Rashid jointly launched the Malavsia, Thailand, Cambodia, farm investing Tk 5 crore with 49 per Indonesia and Vietnam, said farm cent financial support as interest sources. free loan from the Equity and

Crocodile meat is consumed widely in Australia. Japan. Singapore, China and the Americas. One kilogram of crocodile meat is sold between seven to eight dollars in international markets, added the sources

Crocodile teeth, scrap hide and other by-products could be used for making fashionable commodities. garlands, ornaments or showpieces, which are in high demand in both local and international markets. Women's purse made of crocodile skin is sold at Tk 20,000 apiece in Australia, said Mesbahul Haque, chairman of the farm

2,500 saplings of 30 different varieties -- fruits, wood and medicinal plants -- have been planted to create familiar greenery for the crocs, the sources added.

The farm also has plans to start rearing other types of reptiles such as tortoise, snake and monitor lizards (locally known as guisap) in the future. "If our first endeavour succeeds, we would go for other projects," said an official of the farm.

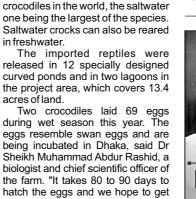
The authorities are also considering setting up a bird sanctuary and a butterfly museum in the future to offer recreational activities to the people.

The entrepreneurs thanked the locals and the officials of the local forest department for their all-out support to the farm.

Until recently, the project area was open to the public for several months when people would come from far away to get a glimpse of the crocs. However, the authorities restricted visitors from entering the project area as the movements of visitors disturb the breeding process of the reptiles

The farm sources also said longterm investments of around Tk 2 crore more is needed for infrastructure development of the farm. Special types of temperaturecontrolled ponds for the croc babies would be needed soon. The investors would have to wait five to seven vears to count profits from the project, said the investors.

An Australian crocodile-farming expert has been hired at the farm for a month to train the project staff on the latest technology of crocodile farming.



babies from the eggs this month. "Moderate rainfall is needed to stimulate the crocodiles for reproduction and we hope to get 2,500 to 3,000 eggs next year, provided favourable weather conditions," said Mushtaq Ahmed, managing director and chief executive officer of the farm. "We would get more eggs this year, but reproductive activities of crocodiles were affected due to almost 50 per cent less than

usual rainfall in this region." There are commercial crocodile

Charcoal made from crocodile bones is used in manufacturing perfumes throughout the world, sources said. Cost for rearing a crocodile for

four years till maturity is estimated at Tk 20.000 and it is expected to bring in Tk 40.000 to Tk 50.000 in revenues from export of each croc.

The crocodiles at the farm are fed with beef, fowl or other meat twice a week. On an average, each crocodile takes two kilograms of food at a time. The pond water has to be changed every month. In the vast area of the farm, some

Mr.AndrewL.Fawthrop,

Andrew L. Fawthrop, President and Managing Director of Chevron Bangladesh,

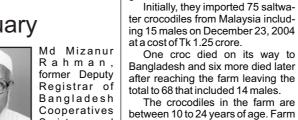
addresses a cheque handover ceremony in Sylhet recently. Andrew hands over

a cheque for Tk 13.23 lakh to Bangladesh Red Crescent Society's Sylhet unit to

support a Safe Blood Programme for the underprivileged people.

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RECEPTIO



Cooperatives Society, passed away due to brain hemor-