

CG urged to take steps to stop repression on minorities ahead of polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Human rights activists yesterday urged the caretaker government to take measures immediately to stop repression on minorities ahead of

the general election.

They also claimed that a total of 62 incidents of repression on minorities took place in the month of November.

The activists were speaking at a

press conference organised by Human Rights Congress For Bangladesh Minorities (HRCBM) and Global Human Rights Defence (GHRD) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

Leaders of the organisations also urged the government to include human right activists in the election monitoring teams and take effective measures so that minority people can cast their vote in the forthcoming general election freely.

They also demanded measures to form minority human rights commission and issue a circular banning any kind of communal slogans in the election campaign.

"The High Court issued a rule nisi on April 17 to show cause why repression on minorities would not be stopped and why compensation would not be provided for the affected minorities, but no effective measures have been taken in this regard yet," said Advocate Rabindra Ghosh, president of HRCBM.

He urged all political leaders, human rights activists and civil society members to take joint programmes to stop repression on minorities, especially in the next two to three months.

Human right activists Shyamoli Nasreen Chowdhury and Prof Ashoktar Saha were present at the press conference.

CU admission test begins

CU CORRESPONDENT

Admission test for first year honours courses under 2006-2007 session at Chittagong University (CU) began yesterday with the tests for 'Ja' unit (Biological Science) and 'Cha' unit (Forest and Environmental Science).

More than 5,500 candidates appeared in the tests.

The university authorities also beefed up security on the campus to avert any untoward situations.

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), Samajtantrik Chhatra Front (SCF) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) welcomed the newcomers chanting slogans on behalf of their respective organisations on CU Railway Station premises.

Tests for 'Ka' unit (Science) and 'Chha' unit (Institute of Marine Sciences and Fisheries) will be held today at 10.30am and 2.30pm respectively.

Around 15 admission seekers will vie for a seat under 'Ka' unit while 28 under 'Chha' unit.

A total of 6,908 forms were sold against 470 seats under 'Ka' unit and 1,110 forms against 40 seats under 'Chha' unit, university sources said.