

# 'Withdraw total ban on indoor politics'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum at its presidium meeting yesterday demanded withdrawal of the ban on indoor politics across the country and asked all political stakeholders to remain vigilant in order to maintain national unity.

They also demanded that the government rein in rising cost of living, take steps for immediate payment of salary and bonus to garment workers, and step up its rehabilitation programme in floodhit areas.

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain presided over the meeting at the party's central office, where the leaders said they would re-evaluate the effectiveness of the 14-party alliance.

The party said the ban on indoor politics should be withdrawn all

over the country.

"The countrymen are united for honest politics, and we think that a conspiracy could be planned to destroy this unity," said a party press release.

The presidium also decided to

hold reform talks with the Election Commission after discussing the matter with other parties and civil society members.

Gono Forum also urged the government to take steps to boost the economy.

## Science, tech promotion trust formed

BSS, Dhaka

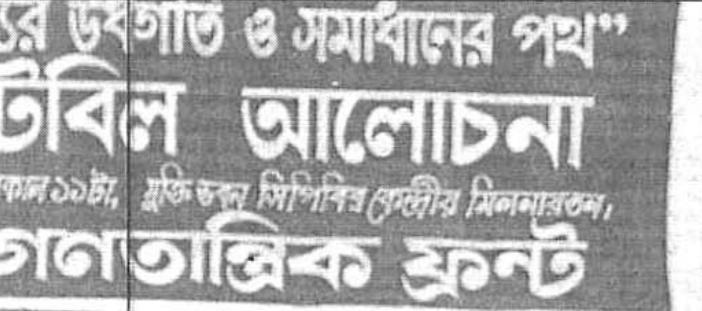
The government has formed a science and technology promotion trust under the Ministry of Science and Information and Communication Technology to promote scientific research and education in the country.

The chief adviser has approved the file of the promotion trust recently, an official handout said.

National Science and

Technology Museum will operate the trust. Science fair, seminar and workshop will be arranged by the trust with a view to popularising science at grassroots level.

The trust will also organise science and technology weeks on regular basis, provide financial and technical support to science clubs and award scholarship to students and non-professional scientists for their innovative works.



Economist MM Akash speaks at a roundtable on 'Price hike of essentials and the way out' in the city yesterday. Left democratic Front organised the event.

## KARMOJIBI MAHILA HOSTEL

### Withdrawal of increased seat rent demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Boarders of Nawab Fozunnissa Karmojibi Mahila Hostel have demanded the withdrawal of increased seat rent which was declared last month without any prior notice.

They already submitted memorandum to the dormitory authorities including director, director general and additional director of the Directorate of Women Affairs.

The boarders claimed that the authorities did not pay heed to their appeal and threatened to cancel their seats.

If the present boarders can be expelled, the dormitory authorities would be able to earn more money by allocating seats to students at the increased rate, one of the aggrieved boarders preferring anonymity told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

They claimed that they have been paying more than the seat rent of the dormitory directed by the Directorate of Women Affairs at Nilkhet since its inception.

However, the seat rent has been increased so much that it has become difficult for them to bear other expenses, they added.

The seat rent for two-seat room has been increased to Tk 1025 from Tk 725 and the seat rent for three-seat room from Tk

625 to Tk 825 from the last month.

On the other hand, the seat rent of Nilkhet dormitory remains unchanged.

The seat rent of two-seat room at Nilkhet dormitory is Tk 835 and three-seat room is Tk 610.

#### INT'L WOMEN QURAN CONTEST

#### Sajeda wins first prize

BSS, Dhaka

Hafeja Sajeda Khatun has secured the first position in the International Women Hifzul Quran competition held in Libya.

The competition was held in Tripoli from Ramadan 20 to 24, where contestants from 61 countries took part.

Sajeda Khatun is the first Bangladeshi woman who achieved this rare success.

She was awarded Tk 20 lakh in cash, a certificate and other prizes, a press release of the Islamic Foundation Bangladesh said yesterday.

Iran and Oman secured second and third position in the competition.

Dr Aysha Moamer Kadafi, daughter of Libyan President Moamer Kadafi, distributed the prizes among the winners.



Light to moderate rain likely  
UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely at a few places over Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi, Dhaka, Barisal and Khulna divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may rise by 1-2 degree Celsius over the country, Met Office said.

Highest temperature 33.6 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 5:36pm today and rises at 5:54am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in celsius	Humidity percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.4	23.5	82	67
Chittagong	29.8	24.9	79	90
Rajshahi	30.0	23.8	83	88
Khulna	33.0	23.6	87	84
Barisal	32.5	25.6	89	83
Sylhet	28.8	24.4	92	84
Cox's Bazar	30.0	25.0	96	92

## PALLABI MURDER CASE 4 arrested for involvement in gruesome killings

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective police have arrested four people for their alleged involvement in the gruesome murder of six people in the city last year.

They are Zakir Hossain alias Bahar, Masum Matobbar, Kamruzzaman alias Kamrul and Mohammad Azim.

Of them, Zakir, Kamrul and Masum have already given statements to the magistrate confessing that they killed the six people during a robbery at a house in Pallabi as the victims could recognise two of them, said the DB police at a press conference yesterday.

The gang slaughtered six people, a guard and five domestic helps of a house owned by contractor Kazi Sirajul Huq on October 13, 2006. The dead were guard Milon, 27, and domestic helps Munir, 11, Rizia, 35, her son Tofael, 15, Anna, 11, and Khadija, 14.

Police said they arrested Masum, former driver of Sirajul, from Gulshan on September 10 tracking his mobile call list.

At one stage of interrogation, Masum admitted his involvement in the robbery and killings.

Following his confessional statement, a high-powered DB team arrested Azim, an employee of Sirajul, Zakir and Kamrul recently.

The suspects said Azim and Zakir made a blueprint to loot Tk 20 lakh which Sirajul was supposed to keep inside his house.

To implement the plan successfully, Masum was assigned to collect two more aides and as per the decision he hired two of their associates Zakir and Kamrul.

As Sirajul went out of his house to join an Iftar party on the day of the incident, the criminals armed with two knives started their operation at 8:00pm.

But as the guard and domestic helps could identify Azim and Masum, they killed all the inmates in a bid to eliminate witnesses.

Sirajul filed a case with Pallabi Police Station on that day.

After the investigation, the then investigation officer Mesbahuddin told reporters that an outlawed group of Chuadanga had killed the six as the house owner refused to pay them toll.

But as Sirajul denied the investigation, saying that nobody demanded money from him, the case was transferred to DB police in May this year.

DB Joint Commissioner Abdul Jalil, Deputy Police Commissioner Mainul Hasan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Asaduzzaman, Assistant Commissioner Mehedi Hasan and Investigation Officer Forman Ali were present at the press conference.

The arrestee was identified as Liton Kanti Das, 35, son of late Mrinmoy Das of Banskhali.

Sources in Rab-7 said members of the elite force in a four-day raid with the help of Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) arrested one Jasim Uddin on charges of alleged involvement in illegal VoIP business from Chawkbazar area on September 26.

Meanwhile, Liton contacted Md Mujibul Haq, brother-in-law of Jasim, identifying himself as a Rab member and demanded Tk 2 lakh for Jasim's release.

Mujibul agreed and Liton received the money at around 11:30pm the same day.

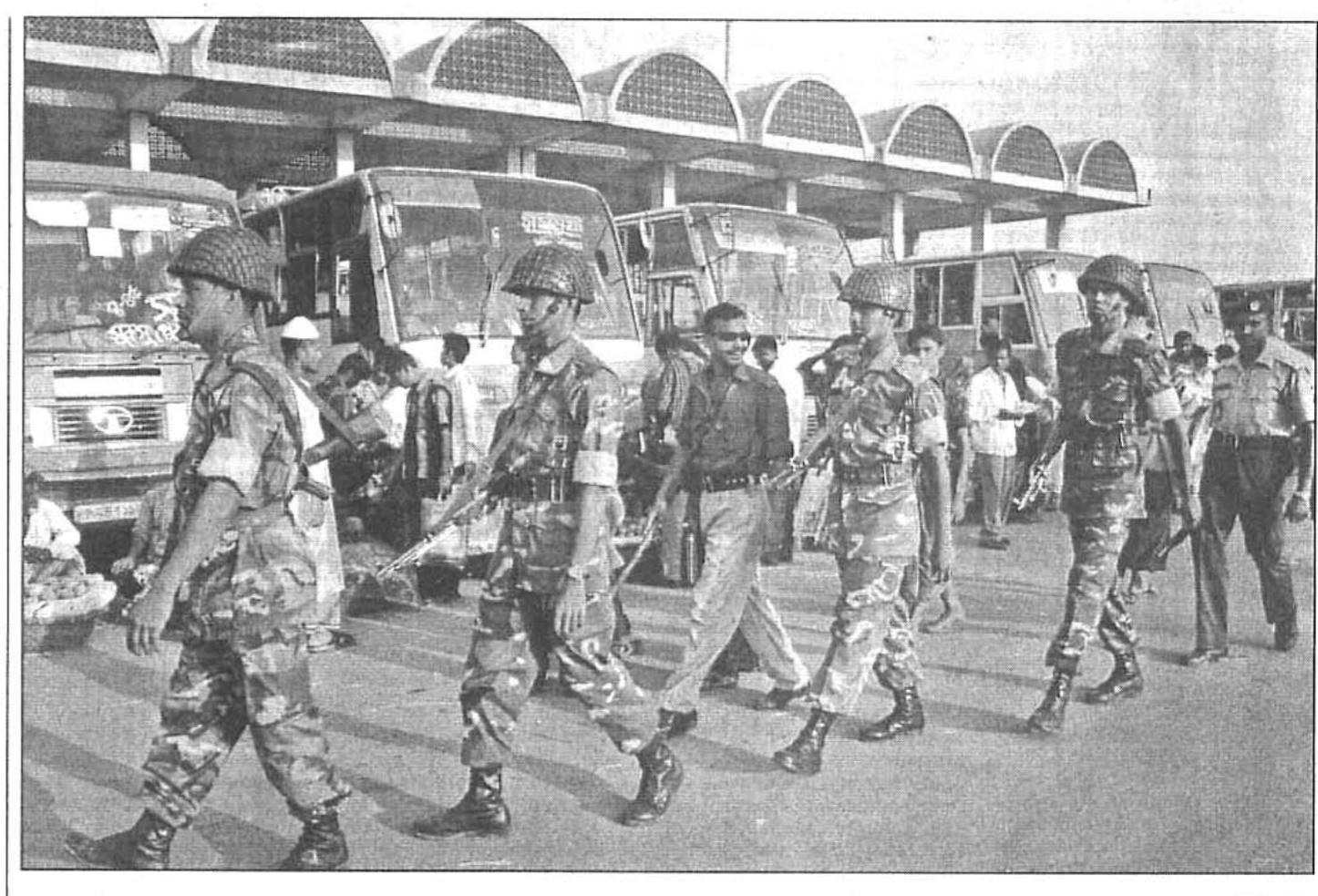
Meanwhile, Rab released Jasim at around 11:00pm on the next day as they got that he was not at all involved in the illegal business after quizzing him, said a senior Rab official.

Sniffing something unusual, his relatives informed the officials of Rab-7 about Liton on September 27.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of Rab-7 arrested Liton from the city's Muradpur intersection at around 3:30pm on Tuesday.

During interrogation Liton confessed his involvement in the incident.

Acting on his statement, Rab members raided his residence at Chawkbazar Urdu Lane on Tuesday evening and recovered Tk 1,40 lakh.



Members of the joint forces patrol Galtali Bus Station in the city yesterday to ensure safety of homebound people who are leaving Dhaka ahead of Eid-ul-Fitr.

## Pak general elections in January: PM

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said yesterday that general elections will be held in "the first part of January" next year.

The national parliament and provincial assemblies will complete their terms on November 15 and elections will be held 60 days after that, Aziz said.

"With the presidential election held successfully, the first phase of the election process has been completed and now general elections will be held in a transparent and free manner," he said.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has been embroiled in political crisis for months and has suffered a slump in popularity amid growing pressure for a return to democracy.

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## 'Nepal struggles with peace process'

AFP, Kathmandu

The top United Nations envoy to Nepal warned yesterday that failures in implementing key elements of the country's peace process were endangering the pact to end a decade of civil war.

The 11-month-old peace deal has hit major hurdles in recent months, with the former rebel Maoists walking out of a coalition government in September and last week forcing the cancellation of elections on the country's political future.

Nepal's political crisis is a result of weaknesses in the overall management in the peace process, particularly failure to implement agreements on certain key issues," said Ian Martin, the head of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMEN).

As part of last November's peace deal that ended a 10-year Maoist insurgency, the UN was asked to monitor former guerrillas walking out of a coalition government to camps as well as assisting in elections.

But the government's failure to resolve the future of thousands of ex-rebel fighters in camps has contributed to Maoist concerns that the government is not fulfilling its commitments," Martin told

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The emission of greenhouse gases -- on the rise across Europe -- has contributed to global warming, the report said, citing overfishing and damage to crops as key risks facing the continent as climate change upsets Europe's ecosystems.

The report also warned of the risks to the development of children.

Climate change is likely to affect seas and coasts, including marine organisms," the report said.

Emissions must be reduced by up to 50 percent by 20