



PHOTO: STAR

Participants at the inaugural ceremony of the Dutch Bangla Bank-Prothom Alo National Mathematics Festival organised by Bangladesh Mathematics Olympiad Committee held at the St. Joseph School in the city yesterday.

# 'Bring Prof Taher killers to book'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a sit-in programme at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city yesterday alleged that killing of teachers and journalists is increasing in the country due to government negligence.

The Sammilito Nagorik Samaj (SNS) organised the protest programme, demanding immediate arrest and trial of the killers of Prof S Taher Ahmed of Rajshahi University (RU). Distinguished citizens and cultural groups of the country participated in the two-hour programme starting at 10:00am.

Prof Taher Ahmed, 59, founding professor of the geology and mining department, had been missing since February 1 and was found dead in the sewer behind his RU residence on February 3. His body bore a number of injury marks.

The Rajshahi Metropolitan Police confirmed that five persons, including key suspect RU Islami Chhatra Shibir President Mahbulul Alam Salehi, have been found involved in the murder.

Expressing grave concern over the activities of the extremists, the speakers also demanded government action against these communal quarters that recently urged the country's people to form "alternative court" in every area of the country. The speakers described this as a clear violation of the constitution.

Presided over by SNS Joint Convenor Prof AAMS Arefin

Siddique, the programme was addressed by former Dhaka University (DU) vice chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, journalist Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, DU Teachers Association (Duta) General Secretary Dr Akteruzzaman, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Teachers Association President Prof Habibur Rahman, Prof Harun-ur-Rashid, Prof Sadeka Halim, artist Imdad Hossain, SNS Member Secretary Golam Kuddus and others.

Representatives of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote, Group Theatre Federation, Muktijoddha Sanghati Parishad, and Muktijoddha Sangsad also took part in the sit-in programme.

## Extortionist beaten to death

UNB, Faridpur

An extortionist was beaten to death while he was collecting toll from a house at West Khabashpur in the town on Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Sachchu, 25, leader of a gang of extortionists.

Police and witnesses said Sachchu along with four of his accomplices came to the house of a businessman, Nurul Islam, and demanded money from him. But the inmates refused to pay toll and raised an alarm.

Neighbours soon rushed to the scene and caught hold of Sachchu while the other gang members managed to escape.

They beat him up and also gouged out both of his eyes, leaving him seriously injured.

On information, police rushed to the spot and sent Sachchu to Faridpur Medical College Hospital where he died.

