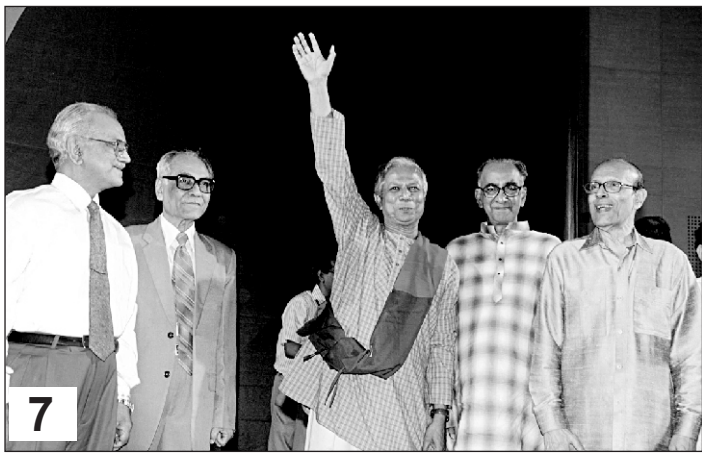
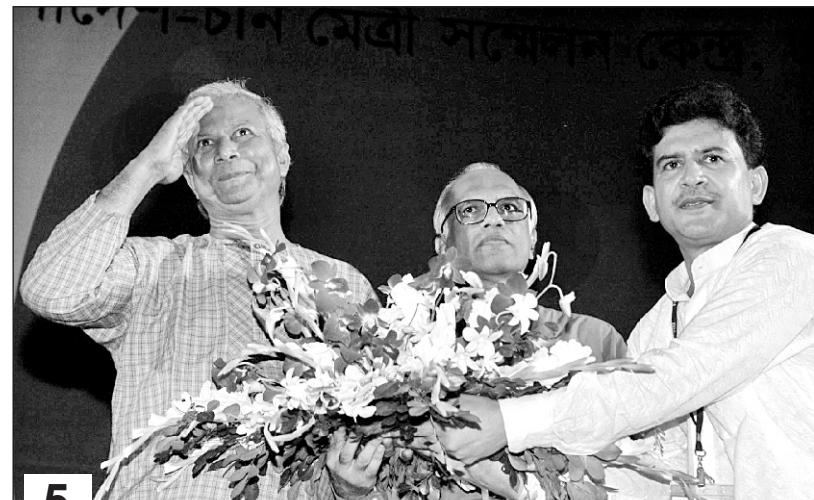
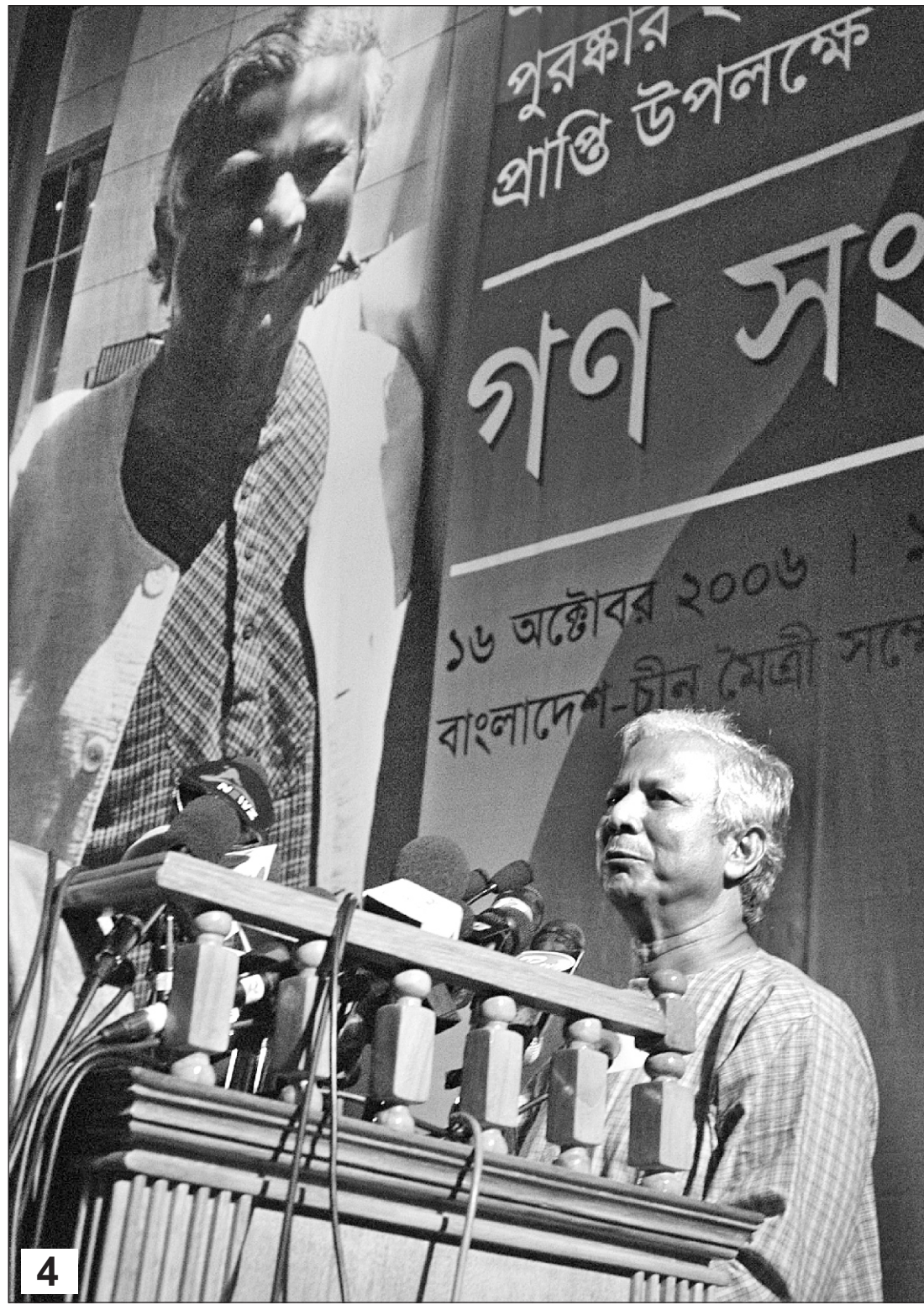


Nation honours banker to the poor



1) Nobel Peace Prize winner Prof Muhammad Yunus and British High Commissioner Anwar Choudhury hold their hands at a mass reception accorded to the banker to the poor at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the city yesterday. 2) Justice Habibur Rahman, former chief adviser of the caretaker government, congratulates the microcredit guru. 3) A section of the audience at the reception ceremony. 4) The Nobel laureate speaks at the programme. 5) Economist Dr Wahiduddin Mahmud and Advocate Shahdin Malik congratulate the banker to the poor. 6) An elderly citizen in wheelchair greets Prof Yunus with a bouquet. 7) The Nobel laureate waves at the audience. 8) Awami League leaders Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Motia Chowdhury greets the banker to the poor. 9) Ambassador of the European Commission Delegation in Dhaka Dr Stefan Frowein congratulates Prof Yunus. 10) Cultural personalities Ramendu Majumder and Nasiruddin Yusuf greet the Nobel laureate. 11) National Press Club leaders greet Prof Yunus. 12) Mamun Rashid, CEO of Citibank NA, congratulates the banker to the poor. 13) A school girl greets Prof Yunus and 14) Prof Yunus holds a national flag as singer Fakir Alamgir sings a song at the programme.

PHOTO: STAR

'Cancel new labour law'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Leaders of Sangbadik Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SSKOP) expressed concerns over the new labour law, as it does not protect the rights of journalists and other media workers.
At a meeting at the Jatiya Press Club, they said the government did not discuss with the journalists and other media workers before drafting the law, although their rights were ensured in the Newspapers Employees Services Conditioned Act 1974.
The SSKOP leaders in a statement also demanded cancellation of new labour law and drafting a new one after discussion with them.
The statement was signed by SSKOP Co-Convenors Mozammel Haq, Manzurul Ahsan Bulbul, Faziye Imam, member secretary Ruhul Amin Gazi, joint member secretaries Md Matiar Rahman Talukdar and Abdul Jalil Bhuyian, members Abul Hashem, Md Khairul Islam, Altaf Mahmud, Elahi Newaj, Omar Faruq and Sardar Farid.

'3 cr people live in absolute poverty'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
Three crore people live in absolute poverty in the country, speakers at a press conference said yesterday, quoting a study of BIDS.
Nineteen percent of people cannot afford three meals a day while 10 percent of families virtually starve for two or three months in a year, they added.
Although the GDP and per capita income are on the rise, poverty is getting worse nowadays, they said.
Campaign for Good Governance organised the press conference at the National Press Club in the city on the eve of the Poverty Alleviation Day.
It highlighted the status of Bangladesh regarding its progress and challenges in meeting the Millennium Development Goals.
Reading out a written statement, Ahmed Swapan Mahmud called on

Attack on Ctg journos protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong
Journalists at a protest rally here yesterday demanded arrest of the absconding criminals who attacked Bhorer Kagoj Chittagong Bureau Chief Omar Kaiser and others in 48 hours.
"Otherwise, the journalists community will announce tougher programme in another rally tomorrow," they said while speaking at the rally on Cheragi Pahar premises in city's Momin Road area.
Leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ), Chittagong Press Club (CPC) and Chittagong Metropolitan Union of Journalists (CMUJ) alleged that the linchpin of the criminals' gang Rezaul Karim Azad and few others are still at large. They criticised the lethargic attitude of the police administration in arresting the culprits.
CUJ President Shahid UI Alam chaired the rally.

Govt warns Baira against overcharging

FROM PAGE 1
"We will write to Malaysia for arranging the manpower employment deal at the government level if you continue overcharging the workers," a Baira source quoted the State Minister for Expatriates' Welfare and Overseas Employment Lutfur Rahman Khan Azad as saying.
Following the withdrawal of a ban after a decade, Malaysia in July this year entrusted Baira with managing the migration of the workers. As Baira started working on it, allegations were made that Baira had been overcharging the workers and many agencies in Malaysia started persuading the employers for issuing job demand letters in their favour.
Against this background, the Malaysian government on October 4 imposed a temporary ban on hiring manpower from Bangladesh. The Malaysian authorities, however, started issuing visas from October 13, which is an apparent move to withdraw the ban.
At a meeting with Baira executive committee at the ministry, the state minister said the government will also ask Malaysia to stop the activities of Baira office in Kuala Lumpur as since the Baira president's running an office in Kuala Lumpur without the resolution of Baira members is suspicious.
The state minister said they have intelligence reports that Baira has been charging an additional 1,800 Ringgit (equivalent to Tk 36,000) from each worker.
In response to the minister's allegations, Baira President MAH Saim said that on behalf of Baira he himself got 10 per cent share of Baira office in Kuala Lumpur, while three other Malaysians own the rest of the share.
The Malaysian government will not agree to re-start the management of manpower employment at the government level, the Baira president told this correspondent.
Asked about his share of Baira's Kuala Lumpur office, Saim said, "According to Malaysian law, Baira as a trade body cannot have any share in Malaysia. Therefore, I, as the president of Baira, took the 10 per cent share."
On the allegations of overcharging the aspirant workers for Malaysia, he said in addition to the \$1200 that is fixed by the Malaysia and

DHAKA TODAY

Discussion
Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) will hold a discussion on 'The government legal aid programme: Perspective 2006'. Venue: Cirdap. Time: 2:00pm.

Roundtable
Mass-line Media Centre (MMC) will hold a roundtable on 'Role of the media in ensuring the information right at grassroots level'. Venue: LGED Bhaban auditorium. Time: 9:30am.

Discussion
Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP) will hold a discussion to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Venue: CUP secretariat. Time: 3:30pm.

Roundtable
Shujan-Shushashaner Jonno Nagorik will hold a roundtable on dialogue and reform. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 10:00am.