



Residents of Chittagong take out a protest procession yesterday with symbolic foundation stones of five major projects laid by the alliance government in the port city. PHOTO: STAR

### A unique protest

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Hundreds of people here yesterday organised a rally and brought out a procession with replicas of the foundation stones of five projects to stage a unique protest against their non-implementation during the five-year rule of BNP-led coalition government.

The projects are Karnaphuli Third Bridge, Asian Women's University, Mohara Water Treatment Plant, Motel Saikat Complex and Chittagong Education Board.

Speakers at the rally on Chittagong Press Club premises said the government had laid only the foundation stones of the projects which were the heartfelt demands of local people.

But in reality, none of the projects has so far been implemented despite the four-party alliance have completed their five-year tenure, they added.

This is nothing but cheating with the people of Chittagong in the name of development, and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and her ministers and lawmakers are to be blamed for this," the speakers said.

Sachetan Nagorik Samaj, a platform of conscious citizens, organised the programme with its President Shahriar Khaled in the chair.

Prof Dr Gazi Salehuddin, Advocate Rana Das Gupta, Dr Iftekharuddin Chowdhury, SM Jamaluddin, Jasmine Sultana Paru, Prof Kanai Lal Das, Komollesh Das Gupta, Kamrul Hasan Badal and Masud Bakul addressed the rally.

### Present govt believes in deeds, not in words: Saifur

UNB, Sylhet

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the present government believes in deeds, not in words.

"For changing the lot of the people, the government worked tirelessly in the last five years and implemented record amount of development work, including construction of schools, colleges, madrasas, roads and bridges across the country," he said.

He was speaking as the chief guest at a function to inaugurate the VIP road here. Sylhet City Corporation constructed the road at a cost of Tk 9.61 crore.

Earlier, he laid the foundation stone of M Saifur Rahman Complex Bhaban at Nurjahan Memorial Women's Degree College.

Education Engineering Department will construct the building at a cost of Tk 21 lakh.

Later, Saifur laid the foundations stones of Central Muslim Sahitya Sangsad, Academic Building of Blue Bird School and Abashan City Shopping Complex.

## RU desperate to confirm jobs of controversial recruits

### Two members walk out of syndicate extraordinary meeting giving 'note of dissent'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) authorities, desperate to confirm jobs of 544 politically recruited employees, held an 'extraordinary' syndicate meeting violating provisions yesterday while two syndicate members walked out placing a 'note of dissent' in protest against the meeting.

The dissident syndicate members are Pragatisheel Shikhhak Samaj Convenor Dr Abdus Sobhan and Prof M Saiful Islam.

They said the authorities called the extraordinary meeting during Eid vacation without any important agenda and it was called only to 'bizarrely confirm controversial jobs of 544 employees and some teachers and officials'.

The letter said on November 1, the reopening day of the university, the syndicate called a general meeting which does not match the general norms, convention and tradition of the university.

Besides, no critical situation has yet arisen on the campus to call such a meeting.

The letter said all the agendas of yesterday's syndicate meeting were regarding the recruitment process of the staff and employees of the university.

It also added that agenda 1 and 4 dealt with staff recruitment while recruitment of an additional registrar was listed in agenda 11.

A lawyer of Supreme Court on October 16 issued a legal notice to RU VC and registrar asking suspension of the appointment of an additional registrar.

The notice also asked the univer-

sity authorities to answer the legal notice within seven days before the court.

The letter said, any matter cannot be placed as an agenda which is under trial and if the rules are not followed, it would be a contempt of court.

The two syndicate members also requested the university authorities to exclude the agendas those are under trial.

Our RU Correspondent adds: recently university authorities published 11 newspaper advertisements for recruiting 673 class III and IV employees and to legalise the previously recruited 544 employees.

Challenging the legality of those 11 advertisements, former RUCSU VP and Workers' Party Leader Advocate Fazley Hossain Badshah on September 11 filed a writ petition with the High Court.

Based on the petition, a bench on September 11 issued a stay order till October 15 and on October 19 the appellate division withdrew the stay order.

Badshah said he would again go to the court on recruitment issue after Eid.

Dr Abdus Sobhan and some other teachers said, apprehending to face another appeal before the court today, university authorities tried to regularise the jobs of the 546 employees by calling the meeting.

RU Registrar Prof Abdus Salam said university authorities can call an extraordinary meeting during vacation.

However, he refrained from making any comment on thether

recruitment related issues can be placed in the agenda.

Prof Altaf Hossain could not be reached as he was engaged in that syndicate meeting.



Bangladesh Hindu Buddhist Christian Oikya Parishad forms a human chain at Muktagangan in the city yesterday protesting the move to occupy Madan Mohan Bigraha Mandir in the old part of Dhaka. PHOTO: STAR

## 300 injured as villagers clash in Habiganj

UNB, Habiganj

At least 300 people were injured in two separate clashes at Baniachang and Bahubal yesterday and on Friday night.

Police said supporters of Sahed Ali and Abdus Salam fought about two hours over previous enmity at Majlispur village in Baniachang upazila at about 10:00am yesterday. Both sides used sharp and lethal weapons leaving about 150 people wounded.

About 150 people, including women, were wounded in another

clash between rival groups at Daulatpur village in Bahubal upazila on Friday night. The clash took place over alleged rape of a girl.

Traffic movement on Dhaka-Sylhet highway remained suspended during the three-hour fighting.

Police rushed to the spot and fired tear gas shells and rubber bullets to disperse the fighting groups.

Some 120 injured were admitted to the Sadar Hospital.

## CPA detains 23 vessels

Bss, Chittagong

At least 23 lighter vessels were detained and 30 lighter ships fined about Tk 10 lakh by the magistrate court of the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) in separate drives last week.

Legal measures were taken against the lighter vessels on charges of violating the CPA Act, overloading, not having safety equipment, anchoring dangerously, plying the ships by unskilled crews and passing the Bay of Bengal illegally, a CPA press release said.

Of the detained ships, overloaded cargoes of seven vessels were off-loaded while survey certi-

icates of six vessels given by the Mercantile Marine Department and the Department of Shipping were cancelled.

The CPA magistrate, Mohammad Munir Chowdhury, led the drives in cooperation with port security personnel in the port channel from October 12.

The CPA has intensified drives against defiant vessels at entire port channel following the sinking of overloaded lighter ship MV Shah Bandar at the estuary of Karnaphuli river on October 11 that endangered the ship movements to and from the port in a bid to restore discipline in inland ship movements, CPA sources said.



Shahanara Akhtar, wife of abducted businessman Abul Kalam, reads out a written statement at a press conference in Chittagong city yesterday, accusing law enforcement agencies of negligence in rescuing her husband. PHOTO: STAR

## KING CONGRATULATES PROF YUNUS

### Nepal wants further expansion of trade

UNB, Dhaka

Nepalese King Gyanendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev assured full cooperation in further enhancing bilateral trade and relations with Bangladesh.

The monarch of the Himalayan kingdom – now passing through a radical political transition also felicitated Prof Muhammad Yunus on his winning Nobel Peace Prize.

His assurances came when the new Ambassador of Bangladesh to Nepal, Imtiaz Ahmed, presented his letter of credence to the King at Narayanhity Royal Palace in Katmandu on Friday.

The ambassador conveyed warm greetings and felicitations on behalf of the President and the Prime Minister to the King.

Referring to the current state of bilateral relationship between

Bangladesh and Nepal, the ambassador underscored the importance

Bangladesh attaches to its relations with Nepal. He stressed the need for further expanding and deepening the existing relations through more active cooperation in trade and economic sectors.

He sought cooperation of the Nepalese government in this regard, and the King assured Imtiaz of his government's full cooperation.

The envoy referred to the King's

visit to Bangladesh during the 13th Saarc Summit and his contribution to making it a success.

The ambassador briefed the King about the ongoing development activities in Bangladesh, particularly the achievements in social sector, such as women's empowerment, women's education, access to drinking water, poverty alleviation, and micro-credit.

### Hathazari Parishad to accord reception to Prof Yunus

Bss, Chittagong

Hathazari Unnayan Sangram Parishad (HUSP) will accord a reception to Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus.

The reception will be held in the first week of next month after Prof Yunus returns from China, a HUSP press release said.

Prof Yunus started implementing the concept of microcredit in the village of Jobra under Hathazari upazila among some poor people in 1976.

The decision was taken at an HUSP meeting at its office yesterday with its President Prof Mohammad Musa Kalimullah in the chair.

## CD on 'Ekush Amar Ahangkar' released

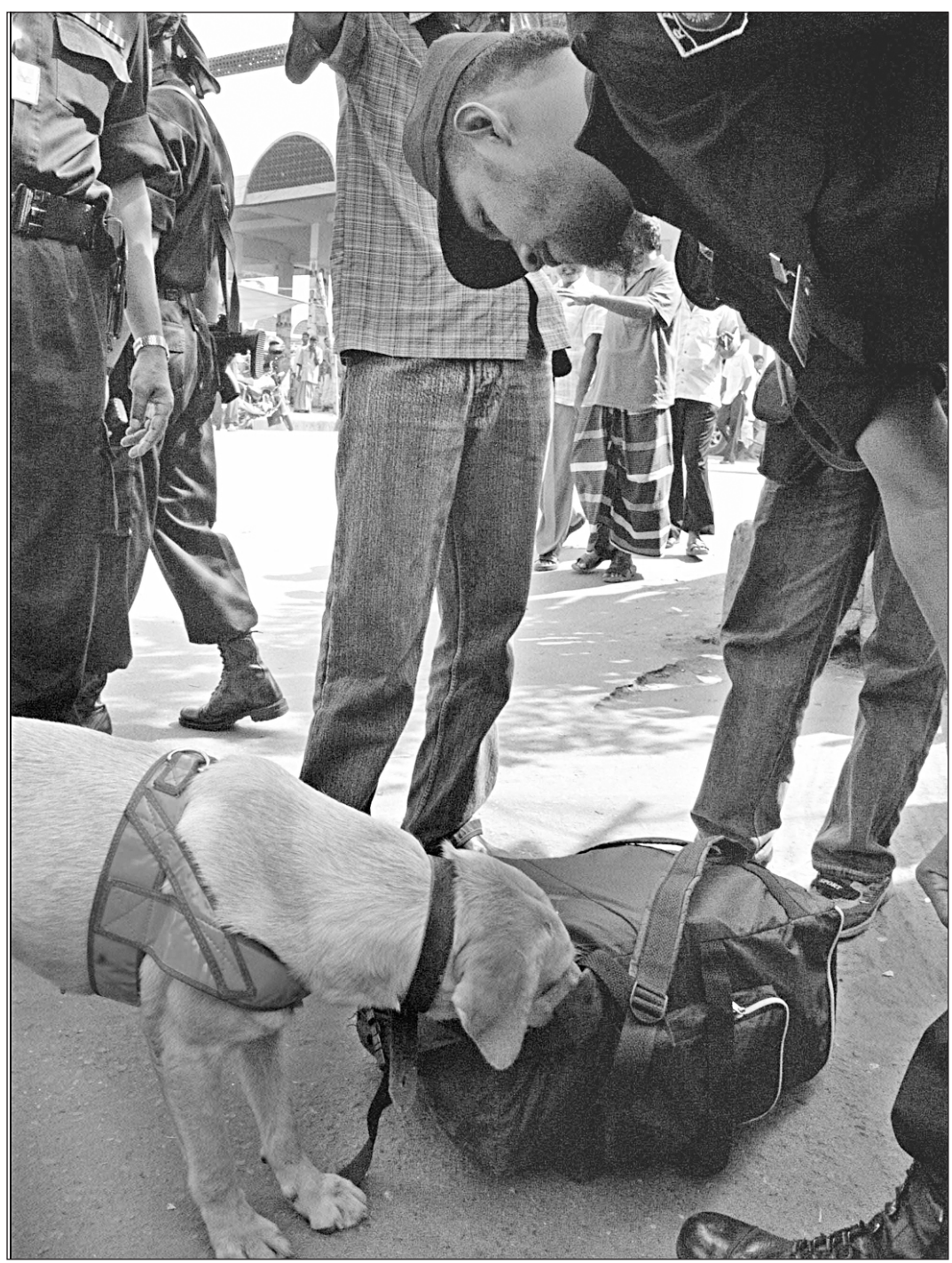
Bss, Dhaka

State Minister for Cultural Affairs Selima Rahman yesterday unveiled the cover of a CD titled "Ekush Amar Ahangkar (Ekush is my pride)" at the conference room of the Press Information Department (PID) at Secretariat here yesterday.

The cultural affairs ministry in association with the Daffodil Multimedia Ltd produced the three-volume CD based on eventful history of 'Amar Ekushy' marking the golden jubilee of the language movement.

Volume-1 of the CD contains history of language movement, language songs, still photographs, interviews, list of the Ekushy Award recipients, reports of newspapers, songs, poems, recitations, languages of different regions of world, messages and reactions of intellectuals.

There are interviews of 10 leading language movement veterans, including MA Matin, MA Gafur, Gazul Haque, Sufia Ahmed and Semon Ara, in Volume-2, while the third volume carries the chronological events of language movement, including recognition to Ekushy February as the International Mother Language Day.



Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) members use a sniffer dog to check luggage of homebound people at Mirpur Bus Terminal in the city yesterday as security has been tightened at strategic points ahead of Eid. PHOTO: STAR