

Prokrichi urges govt

## Repeal admin cadre promotion orders

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Prokrichi-BCS Action Council, representing professional cadre of officials, yesterday urged the government to repeal the mass promotion orders of 1992 and 1995.

Addressing a press conference at BMA Bhaban, the Council Chairman Dr M A Majid warned that they would launch an action programme if their 17-point demand was not met by November 16.

"The government will have to shoulder all responsibilities if the Council members leave their institutions, paralysing activities in hospitals, power, gas, post and telecommunications", he told the newsmen.

Demanding implementation of the order of January 9, 1994 to eliminate anomalies in pay-structure and recommendations of Dr Matin Committee, Dr Majid urged the government to provide 50 per cent selection grade at the initial stage of all cadres.

Criticising the government for allowing mass promotion in Administration Cadre, the BMA leader said the government had become hostage in the hands of members of a specific Cadre. Referring to their October 1 meeting with the PM, Mazed said the PM specifically assured them that no "mass promotion" would be

made and all promotions would be determined on the basis of merit and competency.

But 201 officers of the BCS (admin) cadre had been promoted on October 9 bypassing rules and regulations, Majed said.

The Prokrichi programmes include organisational tour, publicity and rallies throughout the country from October 16 to November 10, mass leave and day-long token hunger strike in Dhaka on October 26, representatives' conference at Engineers Institution on November 15 and day-long work stoppage and rally in the city on November 16.

The demands of the Prokrichi-BCS Action Council also include implementation of the order of January 8, 1994 regarding removal of discrepancy in pay-scale, providing 50 per cent selection grade at the beginning of all cadres, withdrawal of deputy commissioners (DCs) and thana nirbahi officers (TNOs) from different committees excluding those related to land and magistracy, measures for implementation of the 17-point demand as assured by the PM and withdrawal of repressive measures taken against Prokrichi members.

## JMB construction

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the bridge, had already been completed while the work on the main bridge started today just one year after Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation stone.

The communications minister also inaugurated the work on guide bund, a major part of river training, at the Sirajganj end of the bridge earlier in the morning.

Oli Ahmed said most modern technologies are being used in constructing the Jamuna bridge and about Taka 1,000 crore has already been spent.

Some 720 million US dollars will be spent to complete the project — of which, 120 million dollar will be funded by the government and 200 million dollar each by the Japanese government, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Recalling the early difficult days of the project, Oli said the donors once refused to provide funds for the bridge, pushing it towards uncertainty.

"But we have overcome all the obstacles and today the work on the main bridge is being started," he said.

The minister expressed firm hope that the bridge will be completed within its schedule time of December 1997.

The pile driving work started today with the help of a huge hydraulic hammer which presses pile with 1,000 tonnes of weight at each stroke. The construction of 121 piles will be completed in nine months.

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### 96-hr hartal

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phant Road or at Mouchak crossing.

There was a lesser number of rickshaws and autorickshaws on the city roads and rickshaw pullers and autorickshaw drivers were asking for higher fares on the pretext of the four-day hartal.

Several rickshaw pullers told this correspondent yesterday that many rickshaw pullers in different parts of the city had packed up and gone home.

There was also pressure in the city's kitchen markets as housewives thronged those to buy essentials for the next four days.

Many better-off people also left the city either for foreign countries or holiday resorts in the country. According to reports received from Cox's Bazar, the country's major holiday resort, most of the hotels there have been fully booked by holiday markers mostly from Dhaka.

The bus hit the rickshaw from behind, police said.

The driver of the bus managed to escape. The bus has been seized.

Meanwhile, S M Majibar Rahman, 45, a Tahsildar, was killed on the spot when a Jhalakati-bound passenger coach from Jessor hit him from behind at the C&B road crossing near the Govt Syed Hamed Ali College at Barisal at 5:30 am.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laying foundation stone of National Medical College in the city yesterday.

— PID photo

### New medical

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Referring to Dhaka National Medical Institute Hospital, she said it has been upgraded to 300 beds from only 65 beds. Now the hospital has been turned into a centre of modern treatment with the help of government grants as well as donations from philanthropists and grants from Japan and the USA.

The Prime Minister expressed her satisfaction that the hospital would offer free treatment to poor patients.

She said the government, in its efforts to expand medical care facilities in the country, has given permission to set up the Dhaka National Medical College inside the hospital. The MBBS course was introduced here from 1994-95 academic year.

The government has given an initial grant of Tk 45 lakh to the college. Begum Zia said assuring that the government will be giving grants to bear the expenses of the hospital. On this account, the government has given a Tk 1.20 crore grant during the current year.

### Dacoity at Comilla Zilla School

COMILLA, Oct 15: Dacoits looted Tk 81,900 from Comilla Zilla School on Saturday night, police said. They said a gang broke open the door of the office of the school and an almirah, and decamped with the cash at midnight. The school authorities filed a case with Kotwali thana, reports UNB.

The progress of work on the components has been estimated as 23.59 per cent, 25.80 per cent, 7.56 per cent and 7.76 per cent of the first four components respectively.

### PM's letter

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"If the group of five intellectuals can succeed to prepare the basis, we are ready to welcome that", the BNP leader said adding that the group should be allowed adequate time to work.

Meanwhile, the group of five has already sought their second appointment in a week with the Prime Minister. They were yet to get the appointment, a source close to the group told The Daily Star last night.

The group, comprising former Chief Justice Kalmudin Hossain, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Fakhrudin Ahmed and Fair Ahmed have already met Begum Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina in a move to arrange a dialogue between them to resolve the persisting political crisis arising out of the demand for a caretaker government.

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gauge railway line, power transmission line, gas transmission line and telecommunications line in the bridge.

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