

## What's on today....

**Prothom Alo roundtable:** Prothom Alo will hold a roundtable meeting on "Allocation for Education in the national budget." Venue: BUIS auditorium. Time: 10:00 am-5:00 pm.

**Democracy Watch dialogue:** Democracy Watch will hold a dialogue on "Impediment freedom and impartiality of the mass media and its prevention." Venue: Democracy Watch hall, 7 Circuit House Road. Time: 3:00 pm-5:00 pm.

**ADAB discussion meeting:** Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh will hold a discussion meeting on poetess Begum Sufia Kamal. The discussion will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Main auditorium of National Museum. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Children's exhibition:** A children's painting exhibition will be inaugurated. This will be followed by a cultural programme by children. Venue: Goethe Institut, House No 10, Road No 9, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Exhibition:** The 1st solo art exhibition of Rashidul Islam Khan will be inaugurated. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasim, Home and Telecommunications Minister. Venue: Drik Gallery, House No 58, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 5:30 pm.

**Job Fair:** Institute of Business Studies, Darul Ihsan University will hold a Job Fair. It will also hold a seminar on "Family Employment Micro Financing of Social Investment Bank Ltd." Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, Road No 7, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 10:00 am.

**Signing ceremony:** The signing ceremony of Texas Electronics Ltd and Tech Valley Computers Ltd with Electronic Transaction Network Ltd for supply of Diebold ATMs, will be held. Venue: Surma, Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 12:00 noon.

**ASB meeting:** Asian Society of Bangladesh (ASB) will hold its 5th monthly general meeting. Venue: Seminar room of ASB at 5, Old Secretariat Road, Nuntali, Ramna. Time: 4:30 pm.

**Speech:** World Peace Organisation will hold a speech on "Way of Everlasting World Peace." Venue: TSC auditorium, Dhaka University. Time: 5:00 pm.

**Satyajit Ray Retrospective:** Zahir Raihan Film Society presents a seminar on Satyajit Ray and *Shakha Prashakha* (the branches of the tree) on the last day of the retrospective. Venue: Indian High Commission auditorium, Road No 2, Dhammondi R/A. Time: 6:15 pm.

## Weather

## Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country with moderately heavy to heavy falls at places over Rajshahi, Barisal and Chittagong divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 32.5 degree Celsius at Chittagong and the lowest 23.9 degree Celsius at Sayedpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:12 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	30.4	24.7
Chittagong	32.5	24.4
Rajshahi	31.8	26.6
Khulna	29.5	26.0
Barisal	30.3	24.5
Sylhet	30.3	24.6
Cox's Bazar	30.0	24.5

Brahmanbaria  
14280 hectares  
to be brought  
under aus  
cultivation

19 schemes under implementation in C'nawabganj

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, June 23: Nineteen development schemes are being implemented in Chapainawabganj district in the current fiscal year, reports BSS.

Upazila-wise break down, 4500 hectares in Sadar, 1200 hectares in Nasirganj, 765 hectares in Sarail, 1045 hectares in Kasba, 5000 hectares in Nabinagar, 1750 hectares in Bancharampur.

Agriculture Extension Department sources said that 17300 tonnes of aus paddy are likely to be produced from these land.



The Ambassador of Russian Federation Nikolai Grigorievich signing the guest's book at the Bangabandhu Museum during his visit to the Museum recently.

## Death anniversary

The 19th death anniversary of Dr. Abul Matin Chaudhury, founder chairman of the Bangabandhu Parishad, will be observed today, says a press release.

Dr. Chaudhury was posthumously awarded the independence day award 1997 for his contribution in the field of education.

Women's seat in JS  
Mahila Forum  
urges direct  
election

The Bangladesh Mahila Forum Thursday urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of Opposition in the Parliament Khaleda Zia to ensure passage of the bill in the current session of parliament enhancing reserved seats for women to 100 from the existing 30 an direct election to those seats of the Jatiya Sangsad, says a press release.

Raising the appeal at the press conference at the Bangladesh Photo-journalists' Association, president of the Forum Ferdousi Sultana, said that over the last 10 years since its inception the Forum has been campaigning for introduction of a separate as well as direct voting system.



Daily Prothom Alo arranged a reception for the students who topped the list of successful candidates in the SSC examinations of this year at CIRDAP yesterday. Picture shows the students with the guests who included Professor Sirajul Islam Chowdhury (seated third from left) and Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud (seated fourth from left), Professor Mohammad Kaikobad (seated first from left), MA Mannan, Chairman of Butterfly company (seated fourth from left) and Principal Shahana Parveen (seated fifth from left).

— Star photo

## No subsidy

From page 12  
An expert committee recommended 10 per cent cash incentive and 25 per cent subsidy on freight for export of perishable goods, an official at the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) said.

He said the EPB in its proposal suggested to the government to give either cash incentives or subsidy for export of fruit and vegetables. The proposal has been forwarded to the Ministry of Commerce for approval, he added.

There is a huge demand for Bangladesh fruit and vegetables abroad, especially in ethnic markets in the Netherlands, England and France. A few such items are being exported to the USA, the official added.

A Commerce Ministry official said, "The ministry is considering the matter. We need to talk with the airlines as regards the subsidy for the perishable goods."

Bangladesh earned around 22 million US dollars by exporting agricultural products in the fiscal 1998-99. The earnings from the sector stood at 39 million dollars in 1997-1998 fiscal.

The export earnings from agricultural product fell by about 17 million US dollars in 1998-99 due to the devastating floods, which severely damaged the production in the sector, EPB officials said.

There is a pressure from fruit and vegetables exporters to announce incentives in export of perishable items, an EPB official said.

"We have to export perishable items under special arrangement which is very expensive. Sometimes we incur heavy loss since the perishable items can not be kept fresh for long," another exporter said.

Tk 3cr fertiliser  
factory

BOGRA, June 23: The first ever private sector fertiliser factory of the country is being set up here at a cost of Tk 3 crore, aiming to produce a new type of balanced fertiliser, reports UNB.

The factory is being constructed along Bogra-Shantahar highway in Duplechha upazila with financial assistance from Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank (RAKUB).

## Faulty taps, negligence of authorities alleged

Thousands of gallons of water go  
to drains from DU toilets, baths

When water crisis is an acute problem to the city dwellers as well as campus dwellers, thousands of gallons of water merely go to the drains from the toilets and bathrooms of Dhaka University due to faulty taps and negligence of the concerned quarters, reports UNB.

Campus sources said hundreds of toilets and bathrooms in the dormitories, Arts Building, Central Library, Curzon Hall and Administrative Building have faulty tapes through which water percolates continuously.

Most of the taps went out of order and they were not replaced or repaired for long time. As a result with coming of water in the reserve tanks from deep tube-wells, water starts flowing through the taps wasting the essential pure liquid.

Although there is an engineering department in the university for maintenance works, it hardly pays attention to the problems.

Everyday, on an average the DU authorities supply about 24-25 lakh gallons of water across

Country's first mobile  
hospital opens today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina formally inaugurates the Community Welfare and Health Care centre of Bangladesh Medical Studies and Research Institute (BMSRI) today.

The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the country's first mobile hospital to be used for community medicine by Bangladesh Medical College Hospital.

Bangladesh Medical College Hospital, a project of the institute, is the first private medical college in the country established in 1986.

As part of the 23 crore taka non-profit project, it has already produced over 300 doctors and the first batch of dentists will graduate by end of this month. The government also provided Tk 8.18 crore for the project in the last 3 years.

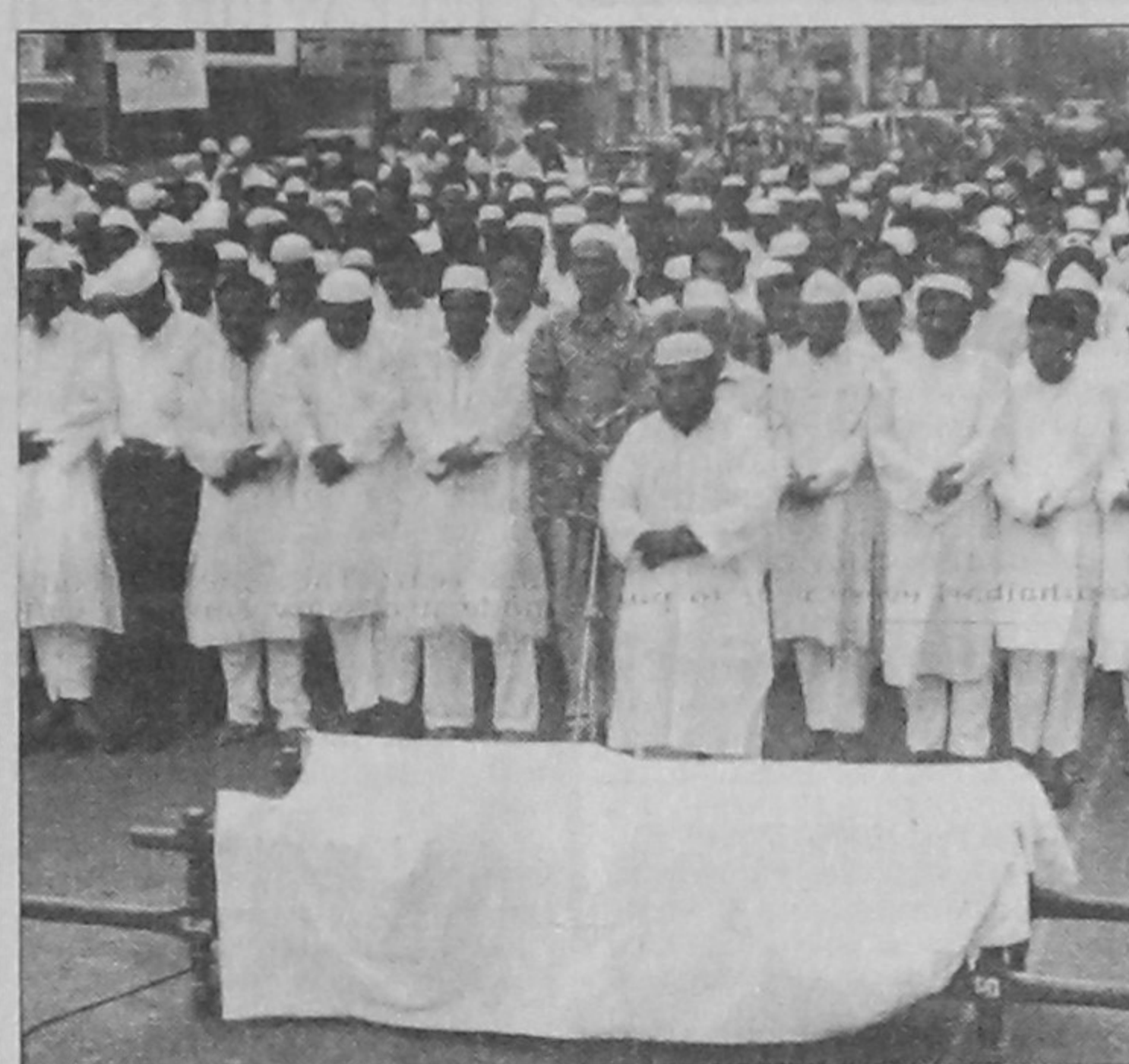
Briefing the journalists, Dr Mahbubuzzaman, Chairman of the hospital management

committee, said, "We are aiming to develop a centre of excellence where only quality doctors and dentists will graduate every year."

Dr Anis Waiz, Principal of the college said, "We have international recognition even by the WHO. But sadly there are many eligible students who do not get scope to study in medical colleges countrywide due to shortage of number of seats. Our project is supplementary to government effort."

He also said, "Every year we receive over 700 applications for admission but can accommodate only 100 including 20 foreign students."

Among others who were present in the press conference held at its hospital premises were Prof Abu Ahmed Choudhury, medical director of BMSRI, Prof C H Kabir, honorary secretary of BMSRI, Prof K A Quamruddin, honorary treasurer of BMSRI.



The first namaj-e-janaza of city BNP leader Ismail Hossain Miah was held in front of BNP's central office in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Separation of judiciary

From page 1  
"We need to retain power for another term to complete certain programmes we have initiated. So you have to work hard to make sure that the party wins the next general elections."

Giving a list of achievements of the government, Hasina instructed the party workers to faithfully propagate the success to the people.

Terming the BNP led four-party alliance a 'political calamity' for the people and her party, the PM said, "We have so far faced a lot of natural calamities successfully, and we will definitely face the political calamity too."

"But you have to make sure that the government's programmes for socio-economic development are implemented smoothly and there is no intra-party conflict."

She also warned the 'trouble makers' in the party of stern action and advised grass-roots level leaders and activists to resolve internecine conflicts.

The Prime Minister also told the party activists that Ujjayila and Jilapirshad elections would be held soon and asked the party activists to get prepared for that.

Speaking on law and order, she claimed that the situation is under control in most areas of the country. "But Dhaka and Chittagong cities are still witnessing certain amounts of terrorist activities", she said adding, "I shall not spare anyone involved in such activities even if he belongs to Awami League."

In this regard she warned the opposition parties 'not to make noise when criminals belonging to those are arrested'. She also urged the higher judiciary 'not to grant bail to criminals'.

Requesting the Opposition not to shelter criminals, Hasina said, "I have not spared leaders and activists of my party. I will not spare criminals of other parties."

On government steps against

corruption, the PM said investigation is on against 103 MPs. Without disclosing political identities of those MPs, she said, "Unfortunately, the problem is, whenever such cases of corruption go to court, those are sent to deep freezers," she said, urging speedy trial of the cases.

Claiming that people are living in peace under AL rule, she said, "Only the Opposition is not feeling comfortable."

Instructing party workers to remain alert against 'black patches of clouds in the political horizon', Sheikh Hasina said, "The vote-thieves, auto-crats and raskars who have got united against us are out to hatch conspiracy. However they will not succeed."

Referring to Opposition's token return to parliament on Tuesday, the Prime Minister said, "They came to the House with their heads down only to protect their red passports and privileges as MPs."

The PM ridiculed the Leader of the Opposition for her failure to stick to the decision not to return to parliament. "They said they would never come back to the House. They failed to stick to their decision. They do not have any principle. Those who can not stick to their decision can not deliver anything to the people."

She, however, once again made a 'clarion call' to the Opposition to return to parliament. "As you have entered the House leaving behind embarrassment, you better stay back to perform responsibilities towards those who voted you to parliament."

Earlier, she told the party councillors that they had given her four 'difficult tasks' when she was made president of the party back in 1981.

In 1981, you assigned me the four difficult tasks of consolidating the party, establishing democratic rights of the people, steering the party back to power and trying the killers of Bangabandhu. I think I have been able to perform the job."

UNB adds: listing achieve-

ments of her government the Prime Minister said the country is on the verge of attaining food autarky. She said fair prices of farm produces were ensured while landless people given khas land.

In the industrial sector, she said, 95,677 small and big industrial units were set up during AL rule this time. She said nine textile mills are being off-loaded making industrial workers their owners while the remaining recommendations of the Minimum Wages Commission would be implemented soon.

The Prime Minister said newspaper industry is enjoying full freedom. However, she requested journalists not to write 'false and misleading news'.

The literacy rate increased to 60 per cent. GDP growth to over 5 per cent, poverty level came down to 44 per cent from 47 per cent and per capita income rose to 386 US dollars.

She said the government took revolutionary steps in the social sector to improve conditions of the poor and the unemployed by introducing various schemes like old-age and widow allowances, housing projects and employment bank.

Steps are being taken to build more bridges including those over the Padma and the Rupsha.

She said police and the Army were modernized with financial benefits and logistic support. The gap between the Army and the people has been reduced and the Army has been working for people's welfare.

Regarding foreign policy, Hasina said Bangladesh has redeemed her image in the world by becoming members of different international forums, including UN Security Council and leader of D-8 Bloc.

Besides, she said, Bangladesh earned laurels in sports and the national cricket is going to earn the Test status.

The Prime Minister noted that as committed, her government did not renew the Indo-Bangladesh Friendship Treaty.

## AL council

From page 1  
"Your reaction shows that you don't want any squabbling inside the party. Then, why don't you stop doing such thing?"

The party president warned that troublemakers shall have no place in the party. "I am looking into the matter."

Rakhal Chandra Das, a councillor from Rajshahi, asked Hasina and other central leaders to deal severely with squabbles for the sake of holding the party together.

Only six of some 2500 councillors, one each from six administrative divisions, were allowed to talk about the report submitted by General Secretary Zillur Rahman. Rahman's report card on the party mainly focused on the government's performance.

All the four councillors looked unhappy over being given only two/three minutes to have their say.

The dissatisfaction became clear when Dhaka's mayor Mohammad Hanif protested the party chief's decision.

Hasina interrupted Hanif as soon as he started speaking. "I am yet to start my speech," said an annoyed mayor. Hasina retorted suggesting the mayor take on a countrywide to address the party men.

Mayor Hanif shrugged off the suggestion anyway and gave a brief résumé of the achievement of premier Hasina and her government.

Chittagong division representative Idris Mia suggested the ruling party face the opposition effectively. Councillor Mohiuddin Ahmed from Barisal urged the party chief to reward the workers who struggled a lot.

ANM Shafiqul Haq from Sylhet focused on the turbulent centre at the Shahjalal University.

Discussion on the secretary's report over, the special council extended the tenure of the central committee by two years. It also endorsed three amendments to the party constitution including one that provides for update of Awami League manifesto and its economic policies. It was agreed that the central committee will work out details of the planned changes in the two issues.

Sheikh Hasina then launched a membership renewal and collection drive by renewing her own membership. She said the general secretary Tk 2 as renewal fee. "But it's too little a money. It should be increased through changes in the constitution," Hasina said, smiling.

The president asked all the leaders and workers of her party to renew their membership and carry ahead the membership collection drive.

Hasina did not read out the written speech all along. She preferred to extemporize being aware of the time shortage. The general secretary and Amir Hossain Anu, chairman of the council preparatory committee, also touched only the highlights of their speeches.

Earlier, the council adopted an obituary reference on party leaders and workers, noted personalities at home and abroad who died since the last council of the party held back in 1997.

## Trawler sinks

From page 1  
The Bay near Behulgar Char, some seven kilometres from Kuakata.

Fishermen later recovered two bodies. They were identified as Idris, 28, and Soharab, 34. The rest remain untraced till writing of this report at 9:30 pm.

## Sadarghat terminal

From page 1  
for doing business on the pontoon.

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) has leased out goods handling for the year for Tk 1.34 crore to a labour cooperative. The BIWTA has prominently hung a price chart for porters. But in reality, innocent passengers are forced to hire porters who release up to Tk 100 from a passenger for carrying a medium size suitcase.

BIWTA's Deputy Director at Sadarghat terminal admitted that such harassment took place regularly. But he said the police have been posted at different spots of the port and whenever he receives a complaint he takes action against the unruly porters.

"I think the lease money is too high and that is reflected on the exorbitant kuli charges at the ghat," said a BIWTA official suggesting that reducing the lease money could help tackle harassment of passengers by the porters.

Sources said a BIWTA move to extend the length of the terminal by putting a new pontoon landed them in a bitter row with the Bangladesh Armed Forces recently. BIWTA sources said, to face the increasing pressure of passengers, they had to add a pontoon on the eastern side of the terminal.

As per law, 150 meters area around the port belongs to the

BIWTA. But an army pontoon has long been placed there without BIWTA's authorisation. Despite repeated requests by BIWTA, the Army refused to move the pontoon. Having no other alternative BIWTA placed a new pontoon last week but the Army asked it to remove it immediately.

"We also need to build an additional gangway to facilitate movement of passengers who now use five narrow gangways at the terminal," said a BIWTA official. The existing 1,000-feet pontoon facility is too inadequate for the volume of traffic, he said.

Army sources said that the pontoon was placed there to facilitate their 38 Northbrook Hall Unit nearby. They said the pontoon was necessary for their vessels to berth for training in the river. Moreover, they said, BIWTA has the option to place the new pontoon on the western side of the terminal.

During Eid and long holidays, up to one lakh people use the Sadarghat terminal daily. About 90 per cent of them arrive and leave the terminal between 4 pm and 8 pm.

In a recent move to bring some order at the terminal, BIWTA has banned use of loud-speakers on the pontoons to attract passengers. The authorities have also set a time table for each vessel to berth at the terminal and depart. This has lessened the race for a berthing place at the terminal.

## Prodipan sets example

From page 12  
bin in the area.

Prodipan, the local NGO, designed the layout for keeping the residential areas clean of kitchen garbage. It provided the locals with expertise on garbage collection the hygienic way and by year-end threw in the neighbourhood threw garbage from their windows, a practice until then seemed hard to quit.

"We got a tremendous response for this task in the community. However, initially we had to persuade people to participate in the programme. In fact, many ignored us thinking the task was impossible. But as we moved from house to house and motivated people not to throw garbage in the streets, it worked very soon," said Amin, another resident.

Two young boys have been employed for garbage collection. Both start early in the morning and by afternoon they are through making sure there are no kitchen garbage in the house. A rickshaw van is used to collect and carry the garbage for dumping at a selected site near a street where municipal vehicle can collect it before it decomposes.

"The idea (of the programme) is to encourage people to participate to keep their neighbourhood clean. When we started we noticed that no-one except for a few was willing to avail the facility of garbage disposal at a designated site in the area," said Monir Alam Chowdhury, Prodipan's project coordinator.

"That's why the garbage collection system of the city corporation has not been effective even now in most areas of Khulna city."

Inspired by the success, five other neighbourhoods next door followed suit and by now several other communities have shown interest.

It gained such popularity that several local NGOs are undergoing training at Prodipan.

Khulna City Corporation and about 20 clinics also showed interest to clean waste generated in clinics.

The project involves segregating hazardous clinical wastes from non-hazardous at clinics, an effort proved unsuccessful in other cities even in the capital.

A specially designed three-wheeler has been collecting the waste for dumping at a designated site in the city.

"The idea is to develop a mechanism that can sustain and be acceptable and affordable. We hope clinical waste management would be expanded and replicated in other cities," said a project officer.

Praising the role of Prodipan, World Bank's water and sanitation section team leader Babar N Kabir said, "What Prodipan has done can only continue if people take part in the initiative."

Swiss Development Cooperation's programme officer Rahmatullah Habib said, "Since SDC has a lot of experience in urban development in other countries and at the same time the situation of solid waste management in the country is stated to be very poor, it (SDC) decided to support the Khulna solid waste management project through WB's water and sanitation programme."

He said, "So a pilot project was taken up in Khulna after considering all aspects. The World Bank designed the project and is looking after the technical aspect of the project funded by the SDC."

Muktijoddha rally  
in Rangpur

RANGPUR, June 23: A big rally of Muktijoddha was held at Pirgacha Thana area on Sunday, reports BSS.