

## Ekushey programme at same venue JASAS, EMUP reach understanding in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Tension over holding of Ekushey programmes at the same venue in the Chittagong city finally subsided after the rival parties reached an understanding yesterday.

Tension swept through the city as the Ekushey Mela Ujjapan Parishad (EMUP) and the Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS) selected the DC Hill Park as the venue for their programmes.

However, at a meeting yesterday, the leaders of both the organisations agreed to allow each other to hold functions at the venue on different days.

JASAS, which has already started its Ekushey programmes at the venue on Saturday, will end the programmes today.

And the EMUP, which earlier obtained permission from the district administration, will begin its three-day Ekushey programmes tomorrow.

Earlier in the morning, CMP Commissioner Md Shahidullah Khan urged the JASAS and EMUP leaders to sit across the table for an amicable solution when they met him at his office separately.

At noon, the leaders met at the Buddhist Temple auditorium and came to an understanding on the issue.

Chairman of EMUP Abdullah al Haron Chowdhury, president of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) Mohammad Idris, general secretary of south district unit of Awami League Moslemuddin Ahmad, freedom fighter Dr Mahfuzur Rahman, convenor of Group Theatre Samonnoy Parishad Ahmed Iqbal Haider, city BNP general secretary Dastagir Chowdhury, and journalists Ahmed Karim and Aminul Islam attended the meeting.

## Book fair begins in Khulna

BSS, Khulna

A six-day long book fair began at the local Shaheed Haidar Park on Saturday to mark the International Mother Language Day.

Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Mohammad Ashraf Hossain inaugurated the book fair as chief guest while the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation Sheikh Tayebur Rahman attended as special guest.



Bangladesh Paribesh Raksha Adolon observed a token hunger strike in front of the Rajuk Bhaban in the city yesterday demanding steps to save Gulshan-Baridhara lake and other water bodies.

## 'Withdraw polybags from Mar 1'

BSS, Khulna

Environment and Forest Minister Shajahan Siraj yesterday urged all sections of society to identify polythene as the number one enemy of the environment and reiterated his call to people for its total withdrawal from March 1.

"We will be held responsible by

our future generations if we fail to ensure for them a pollution-free environment to live in," the minister said while speaking at a rally on "Discarding Polythene Shopping Bags" at the Khulna Circuit House Maidan as the chief guest.

Jatiya Sangsad Whip Ashraf Hossain, Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman and local MP M Nurul Islam were present at the rally as special guests.

It was also addressed by Central leader of BNP Rabiya Siraj, Vice Chancellor of Khulna University Abdul Kader Bhuiyan, Acting Chairman of Red Crescent Society Prof Gazi Abdul Hoque and leaders of BNP, Jatiya Party and Jaamat-e-Islami.

Later, a big colourful procession was brought out led by the minister. Different political parties, socio-cultural organisations, NGOs and boy and girl students of different educational institutions of Khulna with banners and festoon took part in the procession.

Siraj expressed the hope that the people of the country, including Khulna considering the harmful effect of polythene, would take part in the programme and contribute to the campaign for total ban on polythene shopping bags from March 1.

Information relating to the party and its weekly Ekota will be available on the web site addressed [www.cpbdhaka.org](http://www.cpbdhaka.org), a CPB press release said.

## Land Wanted

Dhaka Bank Limited is interested to purchase land measuring 1 to 1.5 bighas at Gulshan Avenue, Dhaka. Only genuine land owners interested to sell should send their offer with full particulars to Mr. Kazi Fariduddin Ahmed, Executive Vice President, Dhaka Bank Limited, Head Office, Biman Bhaban, 100 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka 1000. The offer should reach us by 15 March 2002

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## CPA yields to employees' pressure

UNB, Ctg

In the face of threat to cripple the port Chittagong Port Authority has decided to give Tk 48 lakh as incentive bonus to its employees despite objection from the Finance Ministry.

Port authority issued a circular Saturday about the incentives bonus and started payment yesterday.

Port sources said BNP backed CBA and 22 labour associations were pressing hard the authority to give incentive bonus on the income target of 2000-2001, which was not achieved.

The port workers handled 18.90 crore metric tons of cargoes in 2000-2001 financial year as against the target set at 17.60 crore tons and got incentive bonus equivalent to 75 days salary.

The workers argued that although the income target of Tk 482.45 crore could not be achieved they fulfilled the profit target and hence they should be given the incentive bonus also on account of

income.

The labour associations and CBA enforced strike in the port on February 12. Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain visited the port on Feb 14 and in writing directed the port authority to pay the bonus after a meeting with the employees.

But on February 15, the Ministry again raised objection. The port authority finally yielded to the pressure and payment made with-out approval of the Finance Ministry.

## RUTA polls Mar 14

FROM RU CORRESPONDENT

The election of the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) will be held on March 14.

Interested teachers have been asked to submit nomination papers by March 9. The deadline for withdrawal of nomination papers in March 10.

## Withdrawal of addl tax on iron steel products demanded

BSS, Ctg

Chittagong Steel Re-Rolling Mills Owners Association (CSRMOA) yesterday demanded immediate withdrawal of additional tax on the iron and steel products retail sellers.

The demand was made when a delegation of the association handed over a memorandum to the Commerce Minister Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury in the city yesterday morning.

The delegation led by its President and General Secretary Alhaj Jafar Alam and Alhaj Md. Yasin Chowdhury respectively pointed out that the imposition of 1.5% additional tax on the iron and Steel Products retail sellers and 15% existing VAT on the producers is a 'double taxation' and irrational that already led to witness an adverse impact in the market.

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3. Chief News Editor (Bangla Service) - One. Age limit 50 years.

The candidates must have requisite professional experience.

Applications along with full curriculum vitae and 2 copies of passport-size photographs should reach the Managing Director and Chief Editor by March 10, 2002.

D-152 **Managing Director and Chief Editor**

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