

## Cancellation of Gram Sarkar Act demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Workers Party (WP) demanded cancellation of Gram Sarkar Act and emphasised on strengthening Union Parishad as a core unit of local government.

Addressing a press conference yesterday WPB president Rashed Khan Menon said conflict of power would arise between the Gram Sarkar and the Union Parishad if the law is implemented. Polit-buro member Fazle Hossain Badsha read out a written statement at the press conference.

The WP leaders also demanded allocation from national budget for the UPs so that they could take development programmes independently.

We will go for greater movement if the law is not scrapped

within two months, they said.

Terming the existing UP system as nontransparent, they said under the existing UP system, the members and chairmen are bound to serve the interest of local Member of Parliament (MP) not the people.

The WP leaders also demanded allocation to the UP according to the ratio of population and backwardness of an area. The UP has to be given more power so that they can play a role in maintaining law and order of their area, they added.

They underscored the need for increasing the amenities for the chairmen and members and enhancing power of the village court.

The WP leaders urged the chairmen and members to observe 'UP Day' on August 1.

## Move to reintroduce drama control act protested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre and cultural personalities have protested the move to reintroduce drama control act.

In a statement yesterday, they said the information minister told the parliament recently that the act would be reintroduced to check vulgarity in films.

But there is no link between drama control act and the film, they pointed out.

And there is a censor board that can take actions against vulgar scenes in the films, they said.

The drama control act was repealed in 2000 after a long struggle by the cultural activists, they said.

They also warned that the cultural activists along with the people will resist any move to reintroduce the act.

The statement was issued by Sammilita Sangskritik Jote President Nasiruddin Yusuf and General Secretary Golam Kuddus, Bangladesh Centre of the International Theater Institute President Ramendu Majumder and General Secretary Ataur Rahman, Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Chairman Mamunur Rashid and Secretary General Liakat Ali Laki, and Bangladesh Street Drama Parishad President Mannan Hira and General Secretary Mizanur Rahman.

## Media library at BOU

BSS, Gazipur

A media library has been set up in the Department of Media at Bangladesh Open University (BOU).

Vice Chancellor Prof M Ershadul Bari inaugurated the library on the campus yesterday, a press release said.

Prof Bari said apart from the central library, specialised libraries would be set up in every school and departments of BOU in phases.

## Chehlum

Chehlum of Md Chan Mian alias Chandu Sardar, a prominent businessman and social worker of Narayanganj, will be held today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held at his family residence at 24/1, K B Saha bilane, Amlapara after Jumrah prayers.

Relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the milad and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Md Chan Mian died of cardiac arrest at Shikdar Medical Hospital in the city on June 16.



PHOTO: STAR

Awami League presidium member Abdus Samad Azad speaks at a meeting in front of the party office at Bangabandhu Avenue yesterday protesting Wednesday's attack on the convoy of party leader Tofail Ahmed in Bhola.

## Continued World Bank support to development efforts iterated

BSS, Washington

World Bank (WB) President James D Wolfensohn on Wednesday assured Bangladesh of bank's continued support and assistance to the development efforts.

The WB president, at a meeting here with visiting Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, expressed his willingness to support the development initiatives of the Bangladesh government in various sectors, a foreign ministry press release said.

He welcomed different reform and development measures of Bangladesh to attain macro-economic stability and revitalise the economy.

During the meeting, the finance minister focused on the successes achieved over the last 20 months by the present government in socio-economic sectors.

He informed the WB president that the present government introduced a bill in parliament to establish an independent anti-corruption commission which would help improve governance.

Saifur Rahman told Wolfensohn that the country would be able to fulfil the target of revenue earnings set for the current fiscal.

WB Vice-President for South Asia Praful C Patel and Country Director in Dhaka Ms Christine I Wallich, Bangladesh Ambassador to the USA Syed Hasan Ahmad and

Alternative Executive Director of Bangladesh to the WB Dr Akbar Ali Khan were present at the meeting.

Saifur Rahman said the government has finalised necessary guidelines for bringing transparency in the public procurement system.

The finance minister apprised the WB president of various measures to reform the banking sector including the Bangladesh Bank. Referring to recently initiated free floating of exchange rate, he said taka has proved to be a stable currency.

He sought WB assistance for development of physical infrastructures including railway, water, transport and education.

With the appointment of a new regional vice-president and a country director, the cooperation and working relations between the World Bank and the Bangladesh government would be strengthened further, the WB chief said.

## Seminar on budget at SU today

CU CORRESPONDENT

A seminar on "the budget of 2003-2004" will be held at the Southern University (SU) auditorium at Nasirabad in the port city today.

Dr. Mohammed Saleh Zahur of Department of Finance of Chittagong University (CU) will present keynote paper at the seminar. CU Vice Chancellor Prof AJM Nuruddin Chowdhury will be present as chief guest.

## Ensure safety of DU students

### JCD urges home minister

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday urged the home minister to ensure safety of the Dhaka University (DU) students on the campus.

The JCD, Ruling BNP's student wing, made the demand at a rally on the DU campus after murder of a youth on the campus on Wednesday night.

The rally was followed by a procession.

Addressing the rally the JCD leaders also called upon the university authorities and the law enforcing agencies to be alert so that the outsiders could not enter the dormitories and university easily.

The JCD leaders blamed the opposition Awami League's student front Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for the killing of the youth at AF Rahman Hall gate.

They said the BCL activists are trying to upset the congenial atmosphere of the Dhaka University Centre for Students Union (DUCSU) election in a planned way.

The JCD leaders reiterated their demand for the DUCSU election as early as possible.

Presided over by the DU unit President Amirul Islam Khan Alim, the rally was addressed by the JCD President Shahabuddin Laltu, Sultan Salahuddin Tuku, Safiul Bari Babu, Salimuzzaman Selim, Hasan Mamun and Golam Hafiz Nabin.



PHOTO: STAR

Workers' Party President Rashed Khan Menon speaks at a press conference in the city yesterday.

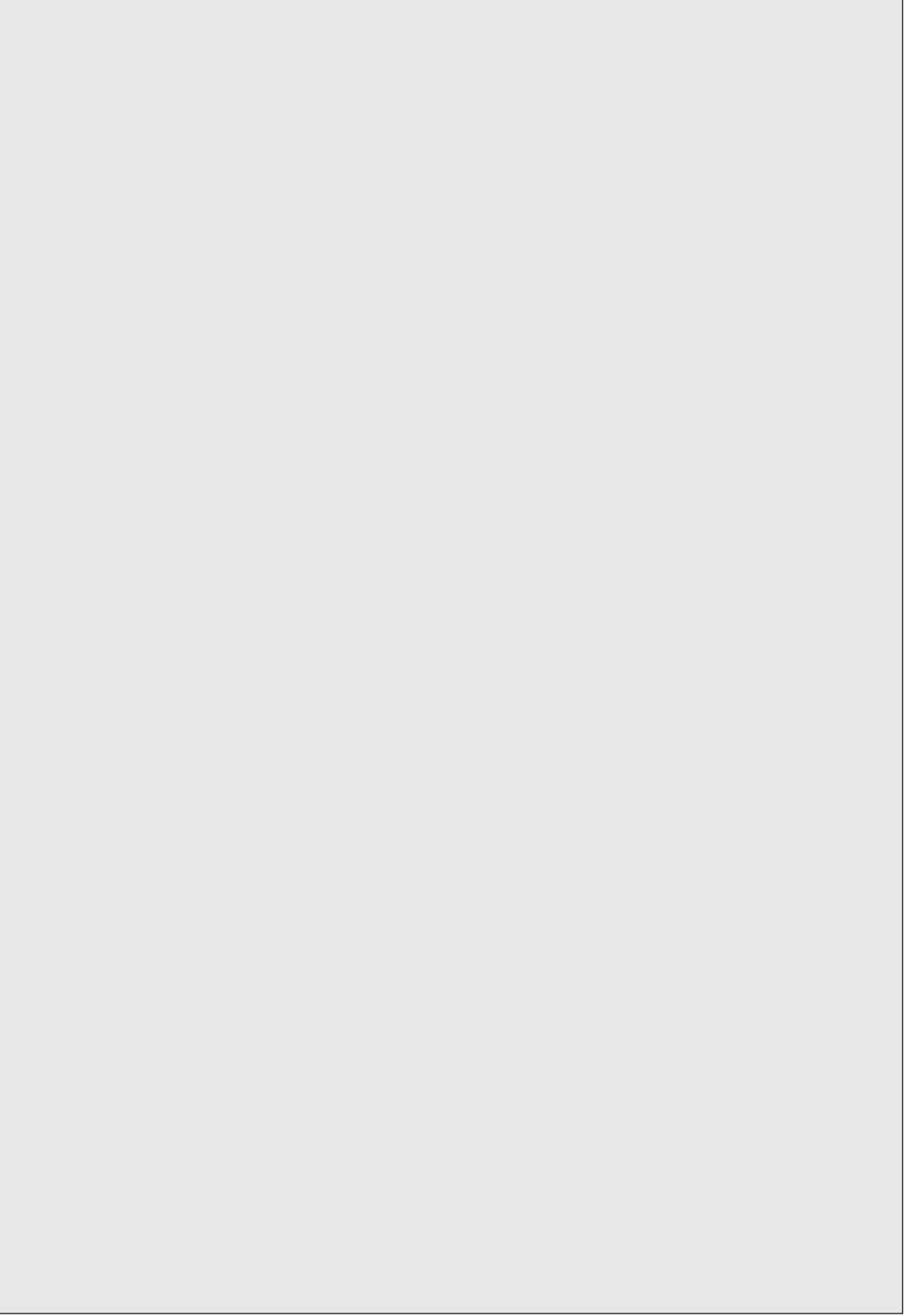
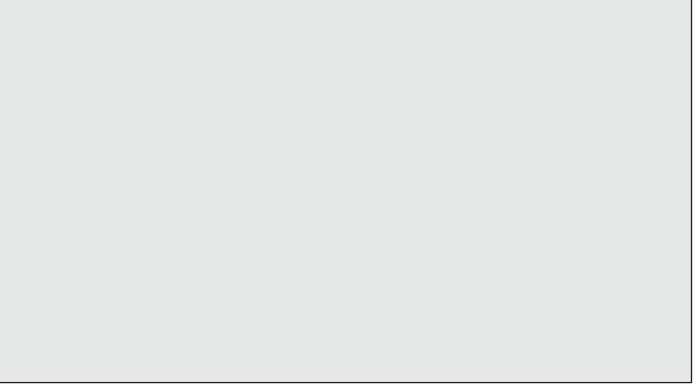
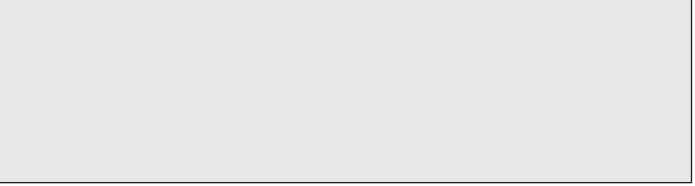
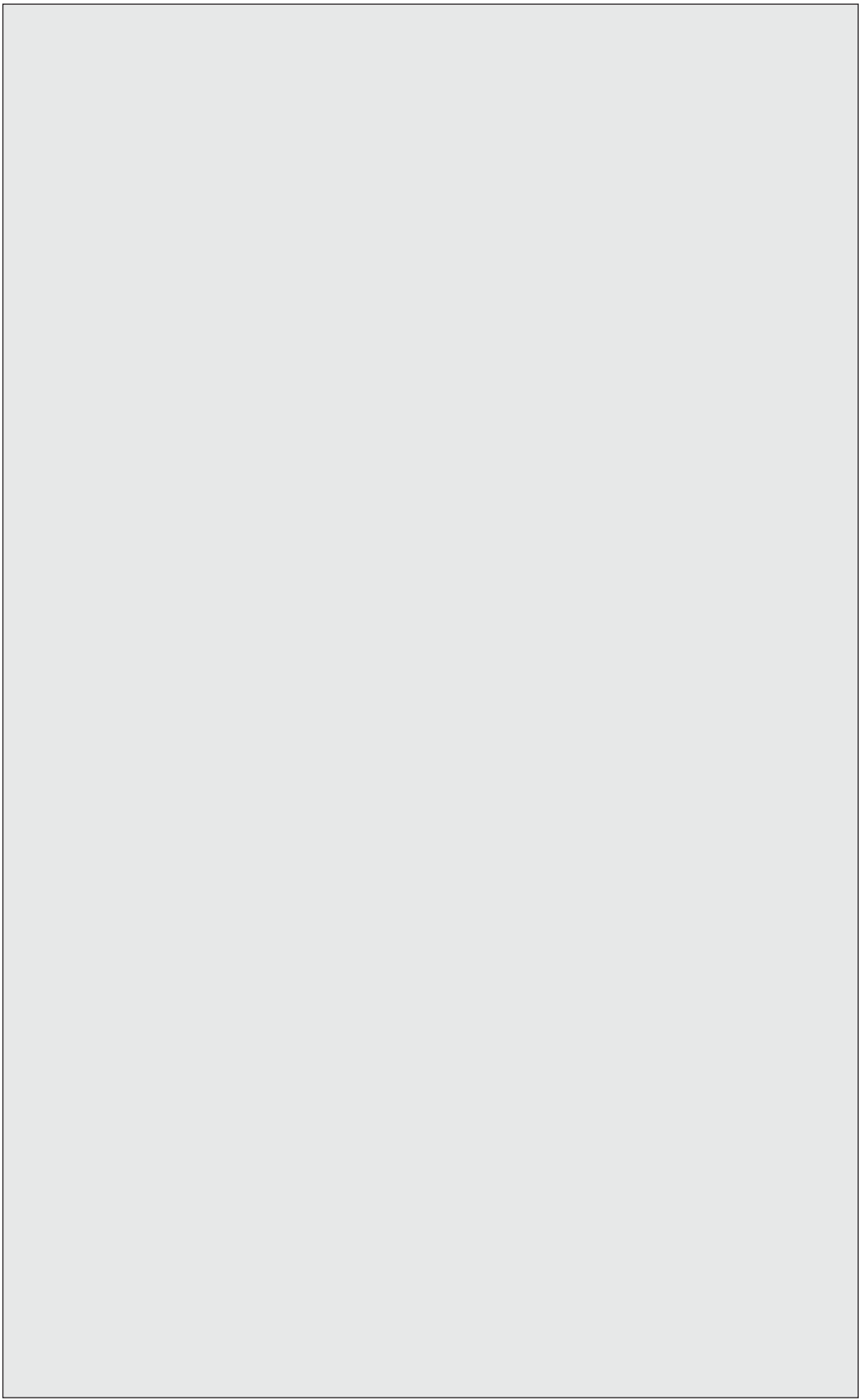
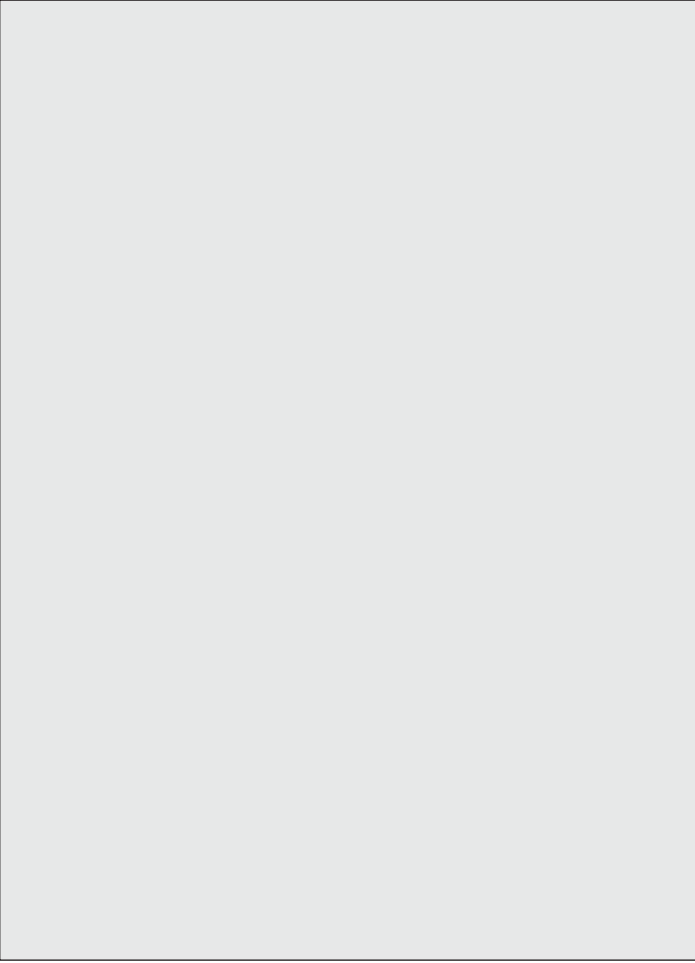
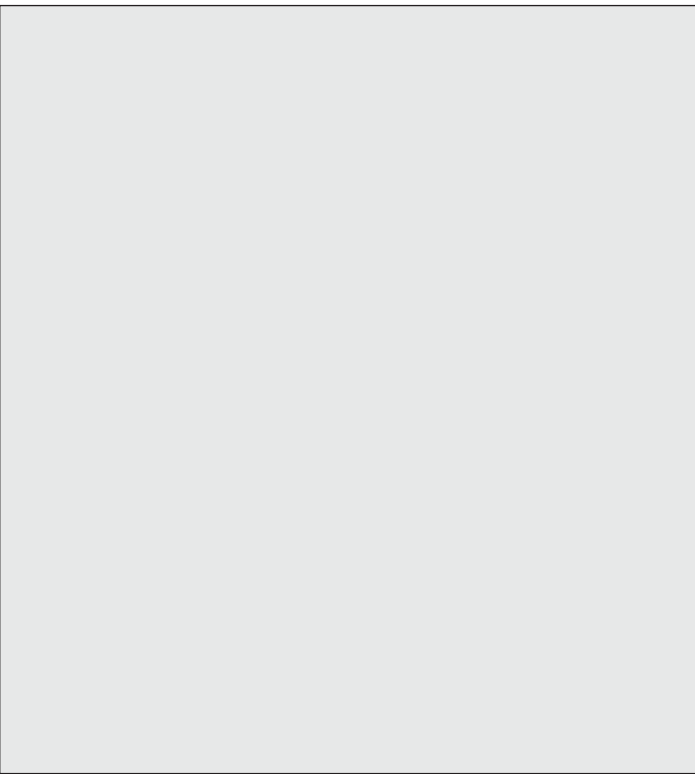


PHOTO: STAR

Bangladesh Teacher-Employee Coordination Council took to the streets of the city yesterday to press for its various demands.



DHAKA  
T O D A Y

Film show

Bishwa Sahitya Kendra will screen a feature film titled 'Open City' directed by R Rossellini. Venue: Bishwa Sahitya Kendra auditorium, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 5.00pm.

Movie show

Academy Film Society will screen an American film titled 'Miss Congeniality'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

French film show

The Alliance Francaise will screen 'Beaumarchais l'insolent' directed by Edouard Molinaro. Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium. Time: 10.30am and 6.00pm.

Drama festival

As part of the five-day drama festival organised by Mohakal Natya Sampraday to mark its 20th founding anniversary, it will stage 'Shikhandi Katha'. Venue: Mohila Samity auditorium, Baily Road. Time: 6.00pm.

Recitation

Swanar organises a session of recitation in memory of poet Subhas Mukhopaddhay. Venue: Natmandol of Dhaka University. Time: 7.00pm.

Sminar

A seminaer on 'Artha-Rin Adalat Ain 2003, organised by Rapport Bangladesh Limited, will be held. Venue: Rapport Seminar Hall, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 8.30am.

Art competition

Colonel Taher Sangsad organises an

art competition for children and juveniles on the occasion of Colonel Taher Day. Venue: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University. Time: 9.00am.

Discussion

A discussion, organised by Sonali Bank CBA, will be held with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as chief guest. Venue: Sonali Bank Head Office premises, Motijheel. Time: 5.00pm.

Blood donation

Quantum Foundation organises a voluntary blood donation camp. Venue: Hatirpool cell of the foundation, Free School Street. Time: 10.00am.

Film show

Academy Film Society will screen a film titled 'American Psycho'. Venue: 21/C, Jigatola. Time: 6.30pm.

Prize giving ceremony

The prize giving ceremony of Aluminium Extrusion Limited will be held. Venue: National Shooting Federation, Gulshan. Time: 7.30pm.

Launching ceremony

The launching ceremony of Punashcha will be held. It will be followed by the premiere show of 'Tiffiner Fanke'. Venue: House-10/B, Road-47/48, Gulshan-2. Time: 11.30am.