



A large number of devotees offer Juma prayers outside the Baitul Mukarram Mosque in the city yesterday, the first Friday of Ramadan, while a policeman keeps watch as part of stepped-up security.

### 'Bangabandhu Chair' vacant for 5 years

BDNEWS, Dhaka

The 'Bangabandhu Chair' at the Dhaka University History Department remained vacant for the last five years as no teacher was appointed stalling the research work.

The research chair was set up on behalf of the 'Mahbub Ullah and Zebunnesa Trust' at the Department of History of Dhaka University (DU) to carry out research on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1997.

The purpose of the chair was to conduct research on different aspects of the life of Bangabandhu and his activities. At the beginning, the chair began its journey with a fund of Tk 20 lakh.

As per the rule set at its inception, it was decided that the Trust will appoint a renowned historian every year as its professor to conduct research.

The trust accordingly appointed Professor Enayetullah Rahim, a scholar who was teaching at a US university, to the chair for the first time in 1998. After his departure, no teacher has been appointed to the chair over the past five years.

Regarding appointment of teacher, Trust member Kazi Zafrullah said though no teacher was appointed after the departure of Prof Enayetullah Rahim, it will be done very soon.

DU vice-chancellor Prof SMA Faiz could not be contacted for his comment about the matter despite several attempts.

### 'Take steps to save monga-hit people'

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) yesterday said the government is not taking pragmatic measures for people of northern districts, affected by the *monga*, famine like situation.

Due to the absence of the government measures, the CPB leaders said, the *monga*, which usually grips people in the month of 'Kartik' this year affected them in 'Ashwin'.

They made the observation while addressing a number of meetings in northern districts, organised as part of CPB's central programme of 'resist *monga*', bring down the price of essentials and save people."

The meeting in Rangpur was addressed by Ruhin Hossain Price, Abdul Jalil, Advocate Kazi Shamsuzzaman and Chandan Ghosh with Shahadat Hossain Laku in the chair.

Kazi Sajjad Zahir Chandan and Shafiur Rahman addressed the Panchagarh meeting chaired by Ershad Hossain.

In Thakurgaon, the meeting was presided over by Chowdhury Anwar Hossain. It was addressed by Aktar Hossain Rana, Fazle Khoda and Hossain Ali.

The Bogra meeting was addressed by Shahidullah Chowdhury, Hafizar Rahman and Dulal Kundu.

### Price hike of essentials protested

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Different organisations staged demonstration in the capital yesterday in protest against the price hike of essentials in the month of Ramadan.

Bangladesh Jubo Union at a rally also demanded resignation of the Commerce Minister.

Hafiz Adnan Riad, Zahid Hossain Khan, Golam Rabbi Khan, Nurul Islam Gazi and Asadullah Tito spoke at the rally.

Khelafat Chhatra Majlish, the student wing of Khelafat Majlish, also brought out a procession protesting the price hike of essentials in the month of Ramadan.

## Project to ensure food, livelihood security of one lakh distressed farmers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

ActionAid Bangladesh, a non-government organisation, is implementing a four-year-long project titled 'Foshol: ActionAid' in six remote districts in the country to ensure food and livelihood security for one lakh distressed farmers.

The project, financed by the European Commission (EC), will be implemented in Kurigram, Satkhira, Khulna, Patuakhali, Noakhali and

Sunamganj through six local partner NGOs from the middle of this month engaging 20,000 household farmers. The project will continue till April 30, 2009.

The NGOs are Jibika, Uttaran, Jagroto Jubo Sangstha (JJS), Speed Trust, Noakhali Rural Development Society (NRDS), and Voluntary Association for Rural Development (VARD).

Jibika will work at Ulipur and Sadar thanas of Kurigram, Uttaran in

Tala and Sadar thanas of Satkhira, JJS at Rupsa and Kawra thanas of Khulna, Speed Trust at Kalapara thana of Patuakhali, NRDS at Begumganj and Sadar thanas of Noakhali and VARD at Vishambhapur thana of Sunamganj districts.

As many as 80 members of six NGOs were given two-month-long training at Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADCO) at Kakraid under Modhupur upazila in Tangail district with a view to imple-

menting the project efficiently.

"We will build up 800 sustainable livelihood groups in these districts by giving training to poor farmers on on-farm and off-farm issues," said Nasreen Parveen Huq, country director of ActionAid Bangladesh, at the closing ceremony of the training course at Modhupur yesterday.

"To improve the food and livelihood security of agriculture dependant food insecure households in Bangladesh, EC is implementing Foshol project in

six districts by ActionAid, in Rajshahi, Nababganj and Habiganj by Care, in Jamalpur and Faridpur by Intermediate Technology Development Group, in Rangpur, Bogra and Sirajganj by Proshika. International Rice Research Institute will play as technical capacity building role," said Vianney Labe of EC delegation to Bangladesh while addressing the function.

Later, certificates were distributed among the participants of the training course.



A truck of the Dhaka City Corporation carries garbage without any cover, posing health hazards to the public, although such a practice is not allowed. The picture was taken from Shahbagh in the city on Thursday.