

# 15-day workers' agitation begins from tomorrow

## Rail-road barricade planned for reopening eight Khulna jute mills

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Workers and employees of Khulna jute mills will begin a fortnight long agitation programmes tomorrow to realise their eight-point demand including reopening of eight government owned jute mills.

The 15-day programme include 'coffin (wearing burial cloth) procession' on May 17, lathi (stick) procession on May 24, public meeting and day-long barricades on roads and railways on May 26.

It was announced at a big rally held at Khalishpur Sramik Munder Friday evening the banner of Khulna Jessore regional unit of Jute, Yarn and Textile Mill Workers and Employees' Action Committee. Convenor of the committee prominent labour leader Sarder Motahar uddin presided over the rally.

Speakers at the rally said a Kansat-like movement will be launched in Khulna from May 15 if the government tries to suppress their agitation to realise legitimate

demands of workers and employees of eight closed jute mills in Khulna Jessore industrial belts.

Other demands include allocation of fund for buying raw Jute, announcement of a wages commission and its implementation, payment of arrear wages and salaries, medical allowance and dearness allowance, payment of arrears of workers employed on adhoc basis and payment of money of workers who were retired under golden handshake programme.

Awami League-led 14-party alliance expressed its solidarity with the agitation of jute mill workers and employees.

The rally was addressed by, among others, former Awami League lawmaker Kazi Sikander Ali Daim, CPB (Communist Party of Bangladesh) leader advocate Feroze Ahmed, Workers Party leader Hafizur Rahman Bhuiyan and prominent labour leaders Shah Alam, Azizur Rahman, Lutfur Rahman, Jahangir Hossain and Shah Alam.

DEMAND FOR RANGPUR EDUCATION BOARD

# Civic bodies give 2-week deadline

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Leaders of different socio-cultural and professional organisations here yesterday gave the government a two-week ultimatum to announce a final decision to set up an education board in Rangpur, promised by it earlier.

The deadline was announced by Rangpur Education Board Implementation Sangram Committee at a press conference held at the Rangpur Bar Council auditorium.

Leaders of the committee said they will launch a tough agitation

Convenor of the Education Board Implementation Sangram Committee Gazi Rahman, Rangpur Nagorik Committee convenor Mohammed Afzal and professionals Rafiqul Islam Mukul, Moksuder Rahman and Shamsuzzaman Bakul spoke at the press conference.

They said people of Rangpur have long been demanding setting up of an education board here, which would cover eight districts in greater Rangpur and Dinajpur.

They said the education minister on May 11, 2003 announced in parliament that an education board

would be set up in Rangpur.

But Prime Minister Khaleda Zia during her recent visit to Dinajpur assured the people that an education board would be set up in Dinajpur, they said.

There can not be two education boards in the region, one in Rangpur for five districts and another in Dinajpur for three districts, they said.

## 6 outlaws held in Jhenidah

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kushtia

Police Friday night arrested six cadres of the outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) at Bonpara village under Kortchandpur upazila in Jhenidah.

The arrestees are Sohel Choudhury, 28, son of Anwar Hossain of Bonpara village, Sahin, 25, son of Abdur Rashid, Monir, 30, son of Shamsul Haq, Mannan, 35, son of Manik Ali and Rezaul Haq, 32, son of Monir Uddin, all of Kortchandpur and Mizanur Rahman, 28, son of Foteh Ali of Bherakhali in Harinakundu upazila.

Acting on a tip-off, Jibonnagar police arrested them after raiding a house at Bonpara village. They confessed to police that many firearms were hidden in different villages in Chuadanga and Jhenidah.



Trucks negotiating the Burimari-Paglapir road in Jaldhaka after a shower

PHOTO: STAR

# Agitation mounts for repair of road to Burimari land port

## Processions, rallies held on fourth day

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Nilphamari

Traders, joined by different organisations and cross-sections of people in Jaldhaka, continued agitation for the fourth day yesterday demanding repair of the 88 kilometre Burimari-Paglapir road, connecting Burimari land port with the capital.

As on previous three days, processions and rallies were held in Jaldhaka yesterday at the call of Jaldhaka Swartha Sangrakhakan Committee' (committee to safeguard interest of Jaldhaka) demanding immediate repair of the road.

Speakers at the rallies held at different points on the rugged road in Jaldhaka threatened of tougher agitation including an indefinite barricade of the road if repair work

does not begin soon.

On Wednesday, demonstrators barricaded the road for two hours and held a big rally at a vulnerable point of the road near Jaldhaka Bazar.

At that rally, president of Greater Rangpur Exporters Importers Association and convenor of Jaldhaka Swartha Sangrakhakan Committee' Shamsuzzaman Shamu declared that the road vital for export-import would be barricaded for an indefinite period to stop activities at Burimari land port if repair work is not started within 15 days.

Sources said, 58 kilometre portion of the road is under Water Development Board (WDB) and the rest 30 kilometers under Road and Highways (R&H) Department.

When contacted, WDB sources said they have no fund to repair the

road so they want to hand over the road to the R & H Department. But R & H authorities refused to take over it as they do not have funds for its repair, WDB sources said.

Repair of the road was an election pledge of Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, ruling party lawmaker from Jaldhaka.

When asked yesterday, he said wrote a letter to the prime minister in December last year to draw her attention.

The prime minister's office directed the WDB secretary to hand over the road to R & H Department, which was done without delay.

After that the R & H Department submitted a Tk 38 crore proposal to the Planning Commission. It is awaiting Planning Commission's approval, the lawmaker added.

3.5X2

2.5X2

6X2

5X2

1X1

1X1

1.5X1

2X1

5X3

6X4

6X1

6X3