



PHOTO: STAR

An employee of Bangladesh Railway Eastern Zone head office works at his desk by a rechargeable light yesterday as the Chittagong city has been experiencing unbearable power outages for the last two days.

### Go to madrasa if you can't afford

*RU VC's advice to admission seekers*

RU CORRESPONDENT

Students who cannot afford to buy admission forms "should not aspire to study in the university, they would rather enrol at madrasas". Thus spake Rajshahi University (RU) Vice-Chancellor Prof Altar Hossain when leaders of Progressive Students' Alliance met him yesterday to submit a memorandum protesting an increase in the price of admission forms.

The RU authorities fixed the price of admission forms at Tk 100 this year, up from Tk 90 in the last year.

The VC told the student leaders that those who cannot afford to buy admission forms should enrol at Kawami or Ebtadaee Madrasa, which provides education, accommodation and other facilities free of cost.

The leaders of Progressive Students' Alliance protested the statement at a rally on the campus.

Demanding withdrawal of the price hike of admission forms, they also threatened to enforce a strike at the university on November 4 if the demand goes unheeded.

Samajtantrik Chhatra Front President Shushanta Sinha, Secretary Sayeed Akhter, Chhatra Union President Promothesh Shil and Chhatra Federation leader Manjurul Alam were among the student leaders who met the VC to submit the memorandum.

### People urged not to vote for black money holders, loan defaulters

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Mahila Parishad has stressed the need for reforms of caretaker government and Election Commission (EC) in order to ensure free and fair polls.

At a view-exchange meeting at the National Press Club yesterday, parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanom urged people not to vote black money holders, loan defaulters, terrorists and their godfathers.

In a written statement she called for introducing voters' ID cards to protect people's franchise.

Ayesha said the equal rights of women must get top most priority in the election manifestos of all political parties.

Referring to the restoration of the National Women Development Policy '97 she also urged the political parties to establish the rights of women in all spheres of life including policymaking and equal share of property.

She also reiterated the demand for direct election of women to their reserved seats in parliament.

The statement demanded provision for participation of women representatives at different policy making levels of local government across the country.

It also urged the elected representatives to discourage frequent walkout culture during parliament session.

Acting president Khaleda Mahub, Vice-president Selina Khalek and Publicity Secretary Kazi Sufia Akhter were also present on the occasion.



PHOTO: STAR

Mahila Parishad General Secretary Ayesha Khanom speaks at a view exchange meeting with journalists at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On her right is Dr Makhduma Nargis Ratna.

### ANTI-ADULTERATION DRIVE Three eateries fined in Ctg

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in an anti-adulteration drive here yesterday fined two hotels and one restaurant Tk 2.25 lakh for producing, preserving and selling Iftar items in unhygienic condition.

The court fined Foyjun Restaurant at Chawkbazar Tk 1.5 lakh and arrested its owner as Iftar items were being prepared just beside a drain and left uncovered in a most unhygienic way.

The court also fined Hotel Kasem at Chatterswary Road and Hotel Khawaza at Kajir Deury Tk 75 thousand for the same reason.

It also seized and destroyed around 50 kg of rotten and stale foods kept in dirty environment at the restaurants.

Chittagong Port Authority Magistrate Mohammad Munir Chowdhury led the drive with the help of Chittagong Metropolitan Police and Bangladesh Standard Testing Institute.

### RU vacation begins Oct 11

BSS, Rajshahi

The 21-day vacation of Rajshahi University (RU) begins on October 11 covering Jamaatul Wida, Shab-e-Qadar and Eid-ul-Fitr.

During the vacation, examinations of various departments of the university will be held. Classes will resume on November 1.