

Ashraful Nahar, member secretary of Pratibandhi Nari Unnayan Foundation, speaks at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday.

#### No specific policy for 75 lakh physically challenged women

Speakers tell press confce

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Though there are around 75 lakh physically challenged women in the country, there is no specific national policy to protect their rights, said the speakers at a press conference yesterday.

They said the physically challenged women face two to three times more discrimination in the society for being women with disability.

The press conference was organised by Women with Disabilities Development Foundation (WDDF), a newly formed organisation, at the National Press Club in the city ahead of the National Day for Persons with Disabilities today.

In a written speech at the press conference Ashrafun Nahar, member-secretary of the organisation, said social insecurity, indifferent attitude and lack of the Ramna Park.

awareness do not let the physically challenged women take part in development activities.

They urged the government to provide due facilities to physically challenged women to ensure their rights to education and employment in government and private

They also called for awareness building programmes in mass

for physically challenged women to ensure their access to different modes of transport and institutions.

Foundation Chairman Sabina Hossain Kachi, Vice-chairman Shirin Akhter, Treasurer Anjuman Ara Begum and members Roxana Sherif and Lucky Akhter were also present on the occasion.

To mark the day, the WDDF will organise a handicrafts exhibition at

## RU students block Dhaka-Rajshahi highway

RU CORRESPONDENT

Around hundred agitating students of Rajshahi University (RU) yesterday blocked the Dhaka-Rajshahi highway for over an hour demanding exemplary punishment of the bus transport workers who severely beat up two RU stu-

transport workers severely beat up two RU students in a trifling matter at Rajshahi old bus terminal area. The two injured students are

under treatment at Rajshahi Medical Collage Hospital. The students blocked the road from 10:00am to 11:00am by felling

trees. They also staged sit-in dem-

\* Earlier, on Friday a group of onstration on the road demanding compensation of the injured stu-

The agitating students also tried to ransack some buses and trucks on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway but university Proctor Enamul Haque and high officials of police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

The students withdrew the blockade after getting assurance of arresting the responsible transport workers within 24 hours and ensuring better treatment of the injured

They also threatened to launch a tougher movement against the university authorities if the responsible bus workers are not punished.

#### Two antique statues seized

A CORRESPONDENT, Madaripur

Members of the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) seized two antique statues of Lord Bishnu, a Hindu god, worth about Tk 20 crore in separate drives at Kalkini in Madaripur and at Agoiljhara in Barisal yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-8 team, led by Maj Anowar-us-Sadat, raided Daghee village of Kalkini

and recovered a 120 kg touchstone statue worth about Tk 12 crore and arrested an alleged smuggler, Niranjon Bagchi, 50, son of Manahar Bagchi of the village.

In another drive at South Sihipasa village in Agoiljhara, a Rab team recovered a 62 kg touchstone statue worth about Tk 8 crore and arrested an alleged smuggler, Aminul Islam, 40, son of Abu Taleb.

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# Judicial probe body

FROM PAGE 16

Restrictions should be imposed on teachers without curtailing the through the elections." rights to express political opinion, so that they cannot engage themselves as member of a political party and propagate any ideology being influenced," the probe report said. According to the commission's

recommendations, teachers' organisations will have to be free. from political parties' influence, and will work for resolving internalproblems, for welfare of the teachers and good relations among the teachers and students. Similarly, students politics will

have to be de-linked from political. parties, and the parties must not control them. Elections to students bodies like the DUCSU (Dhaka University Central Students Union) and hall unions should be held regularly, it recommended.

dysfunctional student unions as one of the major reasons for the untoward incidents. There is a lack of accountable and non-political student leadership in the absence of representative central and hall unions, it said.

On elections to these bodies, the commission said, "No panel formed by student front of a political party can contest the elections to these organisations.

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Atmosphere conducive for creating the blessing of political parties. brilliant and efficient student leadership should be created

The commission's recommendations also include recasting the university's own security system and formation of a conciliation body on the model of traditional 'shalish bodies' for resolving petty disputes in the university.

FINDINGS OF THE COMMISSION The judicial commission, formed on August 25 last year following violence on and around the DU and other university campuses on August 20-22 last year, identified 24 major reasons for the incidents.

It found that the three day students protest was initially spontaneous but later 'a vested quarter and some politicians" instigated it.

Unruly behaviour of some army personnel and of a student, who was at the centre of the incident at The commission identified the university playground, triggered the violent incidents, the commission said.

It criticised Dhaka University Teachers' Association for supporting the students protest, which it said was not based on any ideology. "Teachers made provocative

speeches to put the students and army and law enforcement agencies face to face to tarnish the image of the army," it observed. The probe report said a vested quarter took the opportunities to

destabilise the caretaker government with the aim of spreading the agitation across the country. It should be mentioned here that some teachers of 'blue panel' wore black badges and brought out procession after Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was arrested. On the other hand, teachers under the 'white panel' engaged in the agitation apprehending that BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia might be detained.

The commission blamed the DU authorities for what it said not handling the situation properly. "Poor administration of Dhaka University and lack of cooperating attitude of officials engaged in the administrative activities triggered this incident, and such incidents also prevailed in the past," the report said.

DAMAGE ON RU CAMPUS

The acting registrar of Rajshahi University (RU), in a letter to the commission on September 2 last year, said the violent protests on the RU campus caused damage of

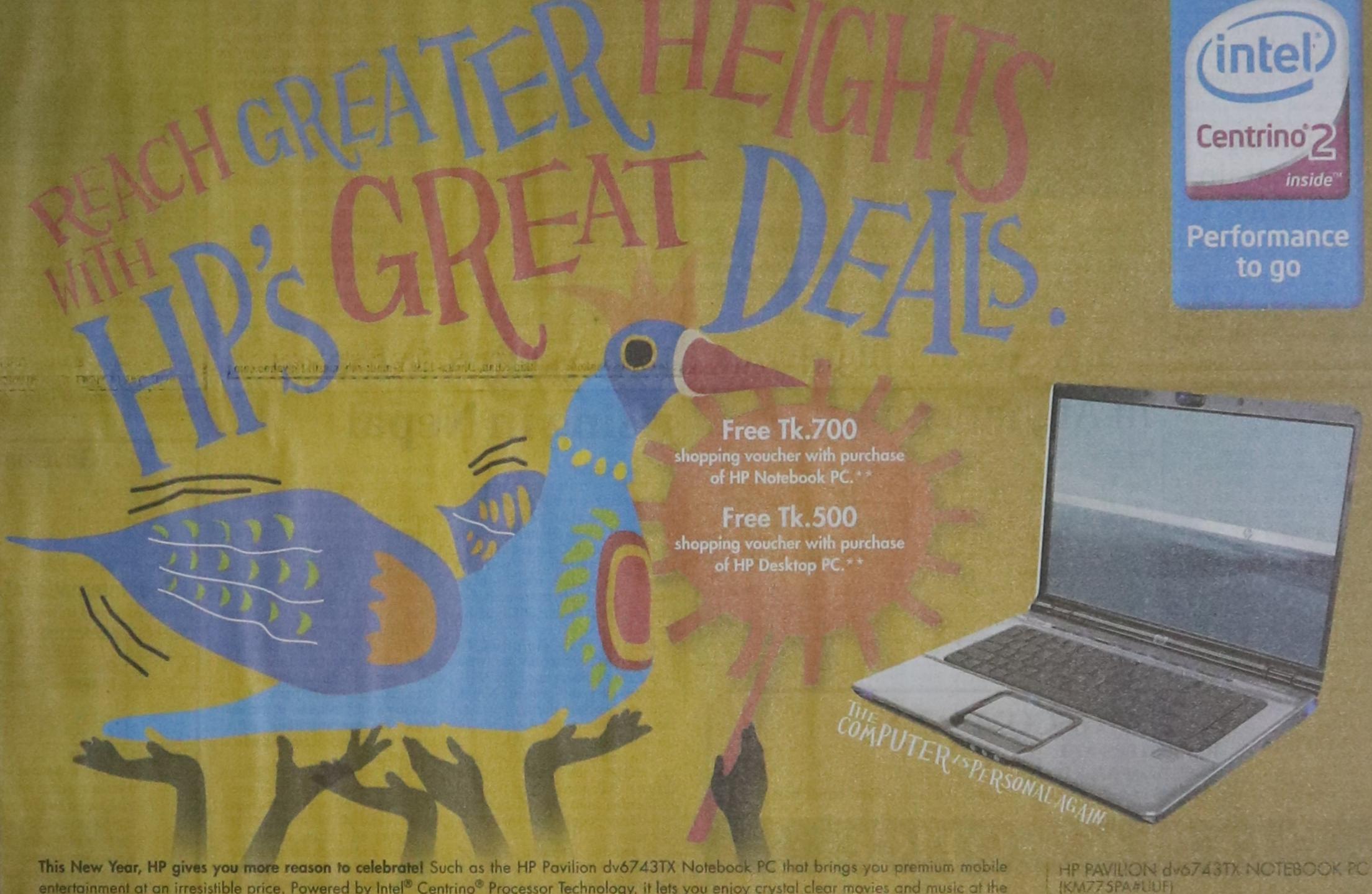
properties worth of Tk 46 lakh. Supporting the DU teachers and students' protests, RU teachers and students also went for protests and reportedly damaged properties of the university.

In his letter, the RU acting registrar gave a detailed list of the damaged properties with their estimated worth.

The commission report however did not contain any estimate of the worth of properties damaged during the DU violence. USEOFBULLETS

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Commissioner Naim Ahmed, in a report to the judicial commission, said police fired 2, 526 rounds of teargas shells, 1,886 rounds of bullets of shot guns and four rounds of bullets of Chinese rifles to protect public lives and properties and to control the situation.

The report gave details of properties damaged by the protestors during the campus unrest.



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