

# Vow to resist violence against women

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS

ARUN BIKASH DEY

Thousands of youngsters in Chittagong said "no" to violence against women at a mega concert at MA Aziz Stadium in the port city of Chittagong on Saturday.

When Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA) President Hamin Ahmed urged the audience to take oath to say "no" to violence against women, they all raised their hands and took oath for three times.

The audience, mostly youngsters, gathered at the stadium to enjoy the concert of 13 leading bands including LRB, Nagar Baul, Miles, Warface, Feedback, Aurtherohin, Prometheus, Artcell, Crypticfate, Black, Nemesis, Powersurge and Bedwin.

The concert kicked off at 3:30pm with the presentation of Bedwin.

Thousands of young people, boys and girls, enjoyed the concert waving their hands and dancing with the singers.

Not only the youngsters but also the elderly people were seen enjoying the concert.

Manjur Morshed, a senior police official, was captivated by the music for a while as soon as the popular band Feedback started performing the popular song "Mausumi." Manjur, who was on duty at the stadium, said it was one of the most favourite songs in his teenage life.

Actor Iresh Zaker was seen taking photos while Crypticfate was performing on the stage. "Apart from acting I love photography," Iresh said, adding, "And I also love music."

He said vocalist Shakib of Crypticfate is his friend and he wants to preserve his presentation in such a mega event in his camera. He said he had come here from the capital only for this.

About the impact of a concert titled "Say no to violence against women: Be a real man", he said the programme like mega concert is one of the most effective ways for inspiring the people, especially the youngsters, to show

respect towards women.

Flight Lieutenant Luthful Inam of Bangladesh Air Force enjoyed performance of his favourite bands LRB, Miles and Nagar Baul.

While Aiyub Bachchu was performing "Sei tumi keno eto ochena holey" Luthful was spellbound like other spectators. "After many years I have come to enjoy any such concert and I am enjoying the concert very much," he said.

Bachchu enthralled the audience with his natural mania. As a local, he asked the audience in Chittagong accent if they were committed to say "No to violence against women and want to be a real man". They replied positively.

Vocalist Suman of the band Aurtherohin said Chittagong always rocked for band music. He announced that he would release the next album of Aurtherohin from Chittagong.

BAMBA President Hamin, also a vocalist of

band Miles, said it was the first mega concert held in Chittagong with the participation of 13 leading bands of the country.

He said it was the second concert in the country with the slogan "Say no to violence against women: Be a real man" organised jointly by UNFPA and BAMBA. The first one was held in Dhaka last year.

He thanked the UNFPA officials for providing all sorts of facilities to BAMBA for organising such a mega concert. He also thanked the music fans in Chittagong for their support and cooperation.

"People coming to the concert will receive the message which we are trying to disseminate in society," Hamin said expressing hope that they would be able to organise such a mega concert in other cities of the country in future with the same slogan.

UNFPA Country Representative Arthur Erken said, "Every woman has the right to live with dignity and free of fear, violence and

discrimination. Today and every day, we, especially the men and boys, must speak out forcefully for zero tolerance of all forms of violence against women and girls. And we must recognise that this is not a woman's issue alone -- this is an issue that concerns us all."

UNFPA Operation Manager Afsana Taher urged men to be "real men" by saying "no" to violence against women and resist violence against women.

Minister for Primary and Mass Education Afsar Ameen said the people of Chittagong expressed solidarity with the slogan of the concert.

Saiful Majumder, an expatriate from the UK, went to the stadium to enjoy music performed by his favourite bands Feedback, LRB, Nagar Baul and Miles.

"After a long time I am enjoying such a mega concert at my home city and it is really amazing," he said.

## Faujdarhat-Baizid Bostami road to be made four-lane

PRABIR BARUA CHOWDHURY

Construction of the Faujdarhat-Baizid Bostami road will resume with a new design after five years. Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) has appointed a consultant firm to construct the two-lane road into a four-lane one. The firm has submitted a budget and plan in this regard.

The CDA officials said the four-lane road from the Nursing Institute of Faujdarhat to the BSRM Steel Factory of Baizid Bostami area will

be six kilometres in length.

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (Ecnec) approved a project of Tk 37 crore for a two-lane road in 1999. Accordingly, the CDA finished the work of land acquisition in 2004 and completed construction of three kilometres from Faujdarhat point to Salimpur area by 2006, sources said.

In the meantime, the government allocated about 104 acres of land for the Asian University for Women (AUW), including the road area.

Construction stopped midway as the gov-

ernment as well as the AUW authorities asked CDA not to make the road through the university area for security reasons regarding the students. Besides, it was a hilly zone.

Admitting the government's direction in this regard, CDA Chief Engineer Iqbal Hossain said after reviewing all issues they made a new design for the road. According to the previous design it was a two-lane road that has been developed into a four-lane.

Iqbal said the government would develop the Dhaka-Chittagong highway into four lanes and following the highway CDA would develop this road into four lanes.

The CDA would acquire about 22 acres of land for the project and the consultant firm SARM Associate submitted its report to them. Iqbal said, adding that the budget of the project was Tk100 crore for the six-kilometre road.

He said they would make a diversion road two kilometres away from the university campus, which would be financed by the government. The government assured of passing the revised proposal in this regard, CDA officials said.

City planner Engineer Ali Ashraf, former president of Institute of Engineers,

Bangladesh, Chittagong, said the road's construction would play a significant role in reducing traffic jam in Faujdarhat as well as the city area. The Rangamati, Kaptai or North Chittagong-bound transport from Dhaka would not need to use the city roads, he added.

If this road is constructed, it will be an outer ring road from Faujdarhat to Kuaish," Ashraf added.

He said CDA should not make the road by cutting hills so as to save the natural resources and give the road a good look.

## the week that was

### Call to expedite war crimes trial

Speakers at a meeting in the port city on Sunday urged the government to expedite the trial of the war criminals.

Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee organised the programme on the occasion of his 85th birth anniversary at Theatre Institute, Chittagong (TIC).

Premier University Vice Chancellor Prof Dr Anupam Sen presided over the programme where journalist Reaz Haider delivered the welcome speech.

They said poet Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury inspired the countrymen to go ahead through his poetry.

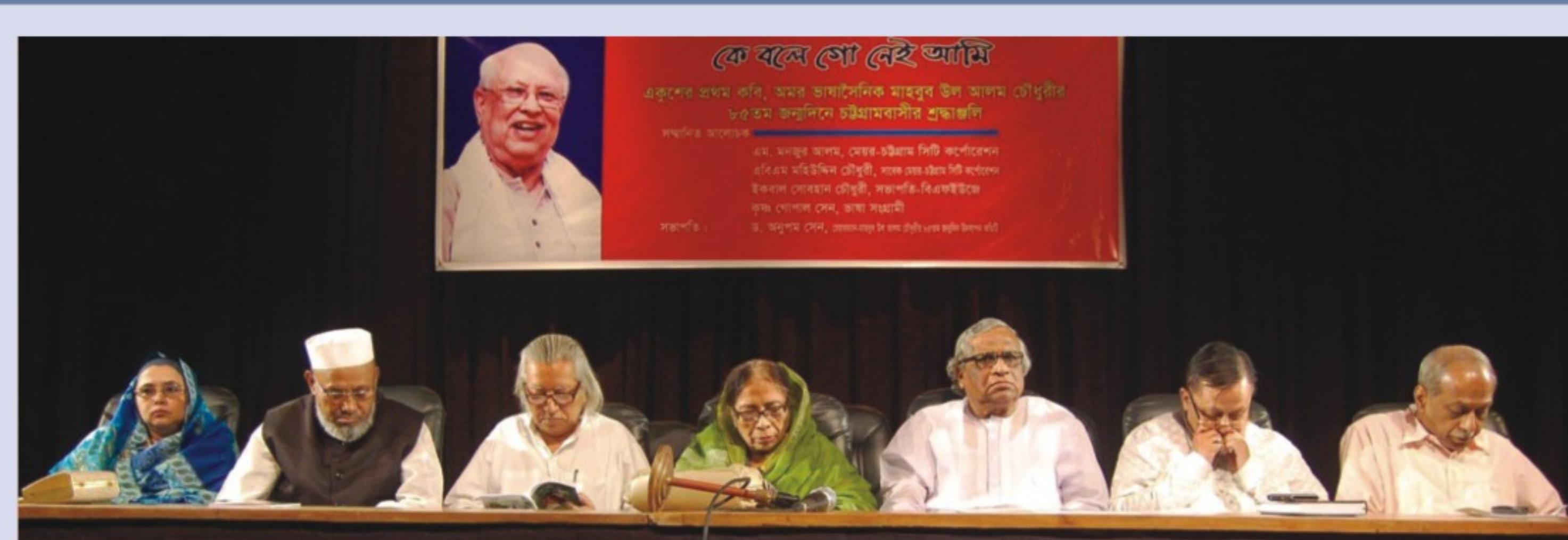
They said Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury, also a Language Movement veteran, is the writer of the first poem of 'Ekushey' (February 21, 1952), "Kandte ashini, phashir dabi niye eshechhi".

The speakers said Mahbubul Alam had dreamt of a prosperous, non-commercial and exploitation-free Bangladesh, which is yet to be materialised. They urged the young generation to fulfil his dream.

Awami League leader and former Chittagong City Corporation mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Chittagong Press Club President Abu Sufian, Women leader Begum Mushtari Shafi and poet Belal Mohammad, among others, also spoke at the programme.

### Discussion on liberation war held

The freedom fighters at a meeting urged the young generations to prepare themselves imbued with the



Guests at a meeting in the port city of Chittagong on Sunday. Mahbubul Alam Chowdhury Birth Anniversary Celebration Committee organised the programme on the occasion of his 85th birth anniversary at Theatre Institute, Chittagong.

spirit of the War of Liberation.

They made the call at the programme titled 'Days of '71' at the auditorium of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Government High School. Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsads, Chittagong district unit, organised the programme.

Mohammad Abdul Latif, Headmaster of Haji Muhammad Mohsin Government High School presided over the meeting.

The speakers said the freedom fighters should let the future generations know the real history of the War of Liberation.

They said the freedom fighters established the country by shedding their bloods and the young generation should take responsibility to protect it.

Mohammad Elias Mia, member of Chittagong City unit command and freedom fighter Advocate Fakhruddin Chowdhury also spoke at the meeting.

### AL asks Oli to beg pardon

Chandanaish upazila Awami League (AL) urged the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) President and lawmaker Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed to beg pardon to the people for his derogatory remarks about the woman lawmaker Begum Cheman Ara Tayeb.

They made the call at a press conference at Chittagong Press Club on Saturday.

AL leaders said being an elderly parliamentarian such a derogatory remark on a female lawmaker by Oli is the manifestation of his past fascist character.

Engineer Afzal Uddin Ahmed, Chittagong district AL leader and also a former parliamentarian, read out the written statement at the press conference.

Member of National Committee of AL Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, AL leader Advocate Ashab Uddin, General Secretary of Chandanaish AL

Oahiduzzaman Chowdhury and Chandanaish upazila AL member Mofizur Rahman were present at the press conference.

### Tribute paid to Syed

A meeting in memory of Md Abu Syed, former joint secretary of Chittagong District Newspaper Hawkers League, was held in the port city.

Speakers at the meeting urged all concerned to provide residential facilities to the newspaper hawkers in Chittagong.

They also expressed profound shock at the premature death of Abu Syed and prayed for his departed soul.

General Secretary of Chittagong Journalists' Union Nazrul Islam Shyamal attended the meeting as chief guest with Chittagong District Newspaper Hawkers' League President Md Sarwar Alam in the chair.

Adviser to the hawkers' league Ruhul Amin Ramjan, General Secretary Tapan Chowdhury, newspaper agent Harunur Rashid, Nazrul Islam, Md Saifuddin Jabed, Md Abdul Khalek and Md Shahjahan also spoke at the programme.

### Foundation of AK Khan law faculty to be laid

The foundation laying ceremony of "AK Khan law faculty" will be held at Chittagong University (CU) on December 3.

The building will be constructed on the northern side of the university medical centre.

The new building will be constructed at a cost of Tk 17 crore funded by AK Khan Foundation, said a press release.

Law Barrister Shafique Ahmed is expected to attend the programme as chief guest.

### Chattogram Samity's celebration ends on Dec 3

The yearlong celebration of 100th founding anniversary of Chattogram Samity, Dhaka will end through two day concluding programmes on December 3 at Dhamondi in the city.

The yearlong programmes that started on February 11 will conclude with a cultural evening styled "Chittagong Cultural Evening", and 'Mezban' (a traditional feast in Chittagong) on December 2 and 3 at Sultana Kamal Women's Sports Complex.

At the 'Mezban' about 25,000 guests will be entertained with spicy delicious dishes, especially with beef that will entice all of them. The samity has been holding various programmes representing rich cultural heritage and hospitality of the main commercial hub of the country through the year to celebrate the anniversary.