



Protests spark across the country yesterday against the recent attacks on houses and places of worship of the Hindus. Clockwise from top left, Sammilito Sangskritik Jote at the capital's Shaheed Minar; torch procession at Shahbagh; human chain in front of Jatiya Press Club; human chain in Chapainawabganj; procession in Sylhet city; human chain in Barisal city; blockade at Shahbagh intersection in the capital.

PHOTOS: STAR



B'baria attack sparks protests

Agitators demand judicial probe, removal of fisheries minister for his 'derogatory' remarks

STAR REPORT

Protests from various organisations and individuals poured in across the country yesterday for the attacks on the Hindus in Nasirnagar of Brahmanbaria and other places.

Holding protest programmes in different parts of the country, they demanded immediate resignation of Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sayedul Haque for his "derogatory" comments on the minority people and of Nasirnagar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) for his "failure" to tackle the situation.

Bangladesh Hindu Buddha Christian Oikya Parishad (BHBCOP), Bangladesh Puja Udjapan Parishad (BPUP), Bangladesh Jatiyo Hindu Mohajote (BJHM), Sammilito Sangskritik Jote and other organisations staged demonstrations, formed human chains and brought out processions in many districts, protesting all the recent attacks on the minorities, their houses and places of worship.

"We demanded that the minister resign

as he failed to perform his duties. Zealots accompanied by ruling party activists perpetrated the attacks in his constituency," BPUP General Secretary Tapash Kumar Pal told a human chain in front of the capital's Jatiya Press Club.

"What will be the fate of religious minorities if such attacks occur even when a party like Awami League (AL) is in power?" lamented BHBCOP member Amit Das Gupta. He demanded that the government ensure security of all minorities.

Meanwhile, protestors under the banner of the "General Students of Dhaka University" lay siege to AL Joint Secretary General Mahub-ul-Alam Hanif at Shabbagh intersection for around half an hour when they were staging a demonstration blocking the intersection from 12:30pm to 1:00pm.

Hanif, who was returning from Dhaka University after attending a programme, later got down from his vehicle and showed solidarity with them.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in its central office urged to form a judicial probe body to unearth reasons for the incident scrapping the ones of police and Brahmanbaria District Administration.

CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim alleged, "The incident in Brahmanbaria is not a stray one, but rather it was premeditated."

In the port city, cultural organisation Khelaghor formed a human chain at Cheragi Pahar, while BJHM's Chittagong chapter formed a human chain and held a rally in front of Chittagong Press Club.

The number of such attacks by bigots is increasing due to a culture of impunity, said the protesters in the city, demanding formation of a special tribunal to try the perpetrators.

In Chapainawabganj Sadar, forming another human chain and holding a rally at Baroghoria Bridge Square, the Hindu people demanded removal of the UNO.

They also wanted the government to

conduct an impartial probe and take stern actions against those involved.

In Sylhet, bringing out a procession, cultural activists accompanied by people from all walks of life, too, demanded justice and removal of the fisheries minister for his comments "demeaning" the minorities.

Meanwhile, in Lalmonirhat, the Hindus from different villages demonstrated, protesting attacks, rampage, and looting of their temples, houses as well as shops.

In Natore, hundreds of people forming a human chain in front of the district's press club, condemned the attacks and demanded Sayedul's resignation.

"How will we live in the country if a minister says it is not that big incident after visiting the spot?" said Bappi Lahery of Chhatra Jubo Oikya Parishad.

Other districts including Mymensingh, Rajshahi, Khulna, Manikganj, Pirojpur, Patuakhali, Munshiganj, Kurigram and Sherpur, too, saw widespread protests in this connection.

Restore '72 charter to avert minority attacks

Constitution Day discussion told

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Referring to the recent attacks on the Hindus in Brahmanbaria, speakers yesterday opined to restore the 1972 constitution to stop recurrence of such attacks on the country's minorities.

This type of attack might have not happened had the constitution been restored, they observed.

They were addressing a discussion styled "Restoration of '72 Constitution: What are the Barriers", organised by the Forum for Secular Bangladesh and Trial of War Criminals of 1971 in the Women's Voluntary Association auditorium at the capital, marking the 45th Constitution Day.

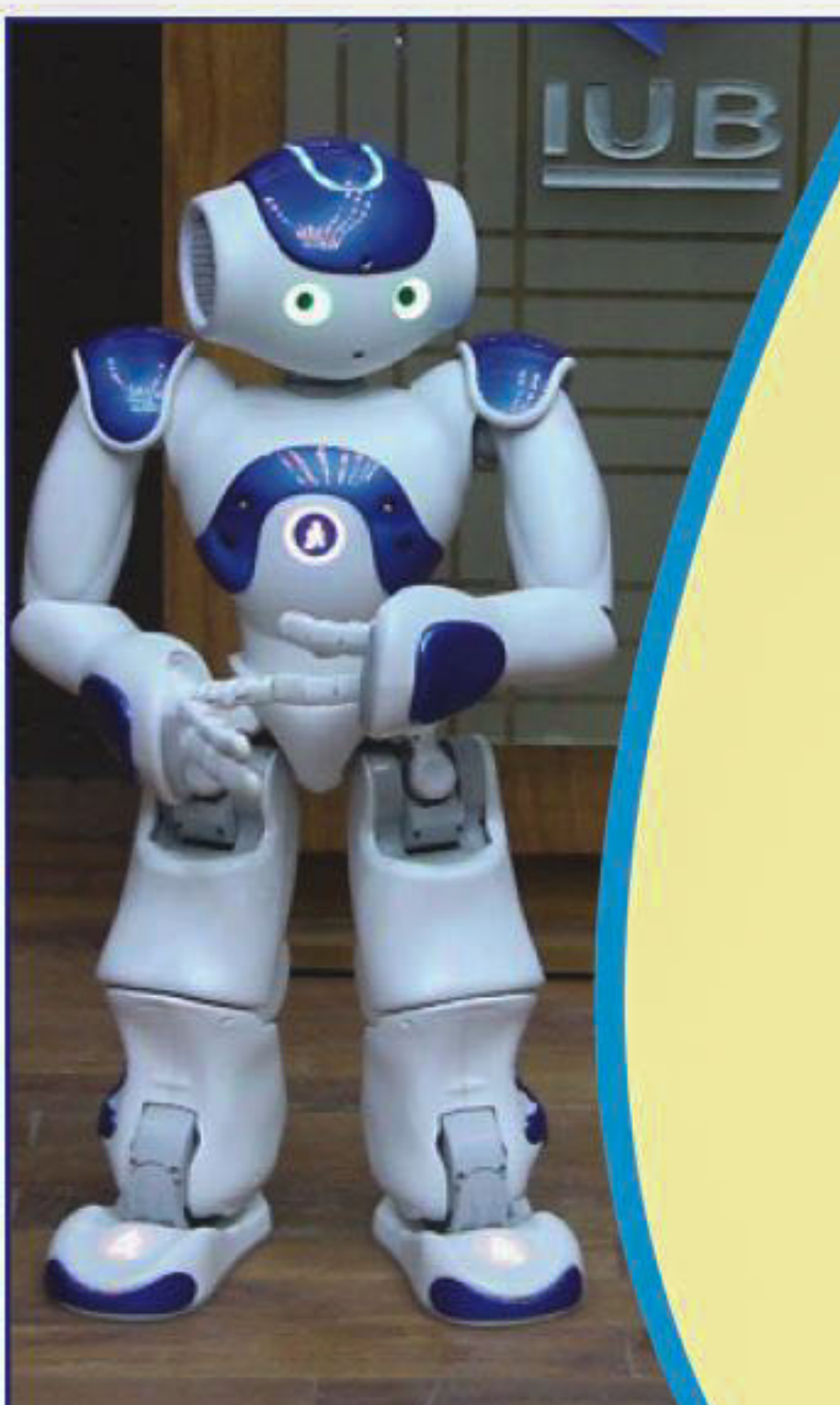
When addressing the discussion, Shahriar Kabir, the Forum's acting president, said, "I think there is no barrier other than the government's willingness to restoring it ['72 constitution]."

He underscored the need for "repealing Islam as state religion" from the constitution. People fostering anti-liberation spirit in the administration were involved in the attacks, he alleged. The Forum will visit the spot today.

Renowned jurist Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam said there would have not been any problem in running the country had any amendment not been made to the constitution.

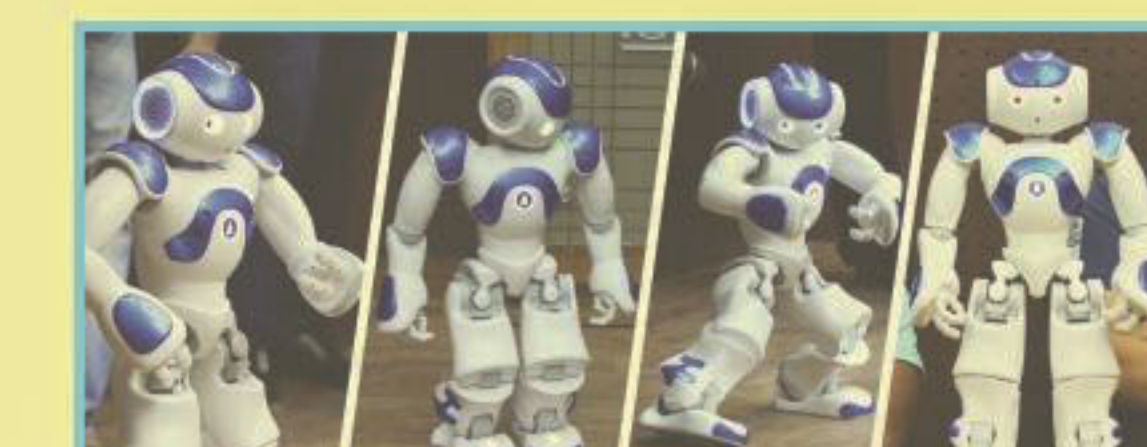
President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad Ayesha Khanam said, "What will we do with economic progress if there is no social progress and incidents like the Brahmanbaria attack continue to happen?"

SEE PAGE 5 COL 1



Andro Humanoid Robot NAO, and IUB

NAO, an autonomous programmable humanoid robot developed by Aldebaran Robotics, France was first brought to this country by Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB) in 2015. This robot was initially released to institutions in 2008 with the purpose of research and education. Later on, it was made publicly available in 2011. Presently, NAO robots are being used for research and education by famous academic institutions in various parts of the world. The Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) of Independent University, Bangladesh (IUB), by virtue of acquiring a NAO robot, has joined the NAO Project with a predominant focus on researching and developing the platform of NAO robot and promoting interests on robotics programming in Bangladesh.



IUB and Bangladesh are now part of the global community of institutions stimulating research on the NAO platform that is inter-connected by the cloud server of Aldebaran. During the recent "Digital World 2016" Fair, IUB was invited by the event organizers to participate and demonstrate the NAO robot to the visitors. On this occasion, this robot cordially requested the Honorable Prime Minister of Bangladesh Sheikh Hasina to inaugurate the "Digital World 2016" Fair. Subsequently, thousands of visitors witnessed various activities performed by the NAO robot at the IUB stall. EEE students of IUB are currently engaged in robotic research using the powerful NAO platform to improve human-robot interactions.

Where dreamers turn to doers **Imagine More**



INDEPENDENT UNIVERSITY, BANGLADESH
Plot-16, Block-B, Aftabuddin Ahmed Road, Bashundhara R/A, Dhaka-1212
Tel: +880-02-843 1645-53, 843 2065-76, Fax: +88-02- 8431991
e-mail: info@iub.edu.bd, web: www.iub.edu.bd

THE MOST INNOVATIVE EXPORT IDEA-GENERATORS

3 Masons
North South University

Brains of Castamere
IBA, University of Dhaka

Team Dark Horse
IBA, University of Dhaka

Eye
Bangladesh University of
Engineering and Technology

Team Metro
University of Dhaka

Minimum Wage
IBA, University of Dhaka

Tasdir
Patuakhali Science and
Technology University

The Good Guys
North South University

RISE HIGH BANGLADESH

To vote for your favorite ideas visit:
<http://www.thedailystar.net/risehighbd/>