W Weather

Rain, gusty wind likely

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty or squally wind is likely to occur at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions and the regions of Jessore. Kushtia and Comilla in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country, Met Office said yesterday.

It also said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period.

The country's highest temperature was recorded 38.4 degree Celsius at Dinajpur and the lowest 19.2 degrees at Rangpur. The sun sets today at 6:18 pm and rises on Saturday at 5:42 am.

Maximum and minimum temperatures and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were: Temperature in City/Town Humidity in percentage Morning Evening Dhaka Chittagong 25.6 Rajshahi 25.3 25.5 Khulna Barisal Sylhet

Nat'l Environment Award from next year

Government will introduce a National Environment Award from next year to persons or in-stitutions for their special contribution towards environmental development in the country, reports BSS.

Cox's Bazar

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting held here yesterday with Minister for Environment and Forest Sayeda Sajeda Chowdhury in

the chair. Various decisions were also taken in the meeting to observe the World Environment Day on June 5 this year to make the people aware about necessary measures against environment pollution in the country.

The slogan of this year's World Environment Day has been chosen as "Our Earth, Our Future, Just Save It" as proposed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

As per the decisions taken at the meeting, the directorate of environment will coordinate government and non-government organisations in implementing the inter-ministerial programmes to observe the day in a befitting manner.

The minister mentioned various government measures to check environmental pollution in the capital city and the country as well and asked government and non-government organisations to work sincerely

in properly implementing the day programmes for the day. The programmes on the day will start with a juvenile rally from the Bangladesh Shishu Academy to the Osmany Memorial Hall to be followed by seminars, environment fairs and cultural functions to uphold the significance of environmental

protection in the country.

Bangladesh Television and Bangladesh Betar will put up special programmes while national dailies will bring out special supplements on the significance of the day. The day's programmes also include postering, distribution of leaflet and painting competitions in light of this year's slogan on the World Environment

Besides secretary of the ministry of environment and forest Sayed Marghub Murshed, the meeting was attended, among others, by Director General of the Directorate of Environment, representatives from Bangladesh Television, Bangladesh Betar, Press Information Department, Dhaka City Corporation, Bangladesh Environment Journalists Forum, Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association, Bangladesh Shishu Academy and officials of the concerned ministries and organisations.

'Media can play key role in changing social attitude towards disabled'

Media can play an important role in creating the desired awareness for transforming the attitude of the society towards the disabled, reports APB.

The view came at a dialogue in the city yesterday organised as part of the three-day programme marking the first-ever National Disabled Day.

National Forum of Organisations Working with the Disabled (NFOWD) arranged the dialogue with eminent personalities drawn from different professions on "Persons with Disability in the Main Stream of Development: Limitations and Prospect" at LGED auditorium.

Awareness programme for the people associated with media should also be taken in hand, the speakers at the dialogue suggested adding that common people should be generated with the idea that the disabled are also equally capable like others.

Stressing the need for mainstreaming the disabled with the development process, they said that project profiles should incorporate the issue of benefiting the disabled. Planners should have detailed knowledge, information and conduct research on the disadvantaged group.

They also suggested that edu-

Basanta Mela opens in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 8: State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukder Abdul Khaleque today stressed the need for development of small and cottage industries in the country and said our economic development mainly depends on the flourishment of this sector, reports BSS.

The state minister was speaking at the inaugural function on the occasion of a weeklong 'Basanta Mela' being held at the local Zilla School

Presided over by the Chairman of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) Khorshed Ansar Khan the function was addressed. among others by KM Ejajul Huq, secretary, Ministry of Industries, the president of Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries S M Nazrul Islam, KM Abul Hassan, additional divisional commissioner, Khulna, deputy commissioner, Khulna Azhar Ali Talukder and deputy director of BSCIC Khulna region M Alimuzzaman.

Talukder Abdul Khaleque said the government has been relentlessly working to alleviate poverty and illiteracy from society.

He also said the government has already launched massive development programmes across the country to bring about balanced development and to make the country a real 'Sonar Bangla' to implement the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Shaikh Mujibur Rahman.

A total of 230 stalls of small and cottage industries were set up in the mela.

Later the state minister went round different stalls of the mela.

cation programme for the disabled should be looked after by Education Ministry and the disability issue be included in the human resources develop-

The participants called for taking concrete steps to provide equal opportunities for the disabled children in the general school curricula and the teachers be imparted special training for the purpose.

Participation of the disabled in cultural activities, necessary skill development and their access to micro-credit were also suggested.

Barrister Amirul Islam, renowned economist Dr Atiur Rahman, eminent personality in the cultural arena actor Syed Hassan Imam, Director General of Non-Formal Education Khandker Shahidul Islam. Journalist Abed Khan, Executive Director of PRIP Trust Aroma Goon, GM of Grameen Trust Mohammad Yehia and Director of Campaign for Popular Education (CAMPE) Rasheda K Chowdhury took part in the dialogue.

Executive Director of Centre for Disability in Development (CDD) AHM Noman Khan presented a theme paper on the agenda.

Indian parliamentary team calls on

Speaker

The visiting Indian parliamentary delegation led by Manoranjan Bakhta yesterday called on Speaker Humayun Rasheed Choudhury at his office and discussed matters of mutual interest, reports BSS.

During the discussion, they stressed the need for strengthening the already existing friendly relations between the two countries.

Manoranjan Bakhta, who is the chairman of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts of the Indian Lok Sabha, arrived yesterday leading his. country's seven-member parliamentary delegation on a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

The programmes of the Indian parliamentary delegation here include meeting with the members of parliamentary standing committee on public accounts, placing of wreaths at the Jatiya Smriti Soudha, visit to Bangabandhu Smriti Jadughar, Muktijuddha Jadughar, Central Shaheed Minar and places of historical interest.

Dada Bhai's 75th birthday today

By Staff Correspondent The 75th birthday of renowned child organiser and founder director of Kendryo Kanchi Kanchar Mela Rokonuzzaman Khan better known as Dada Bhai will be celebrated today.

On the occasion, a child rally will be brought out at the Mela office in the afternoon. Present and former members of the mela and wellwishers of Dada Bhai have all been requested to attend the rally.



Enrollment of students in schools up by 28.1 pc

Food for Education Programme (FEP) has successfully boosted the rate of enrollment. ensured more attendance and resisted alarming dropout rates in select elementary schools in different parts of the country, reports BSS.

"The programme, meant for the children of the abject poverty-ridden families, increased 28.1 per cent enrollment in the select institutions. The rate of attendance of the students prior to the introduction of the programme was 63 per cent which was increased to 77.6 per cent during the "primary appraisal," a key-noted paper presented in an evaluation seminar on FEP said adding, "annual drop-out rate in those select primary schools were 18.5 which was reduced to 10.9 following progress of the

Education Minister ASHK Sadique while addressing the opening session of the seminar in Planning and Development Academy auditorium at Nilkhet in the city yesterday said, "It is imperative that the teachers of the primary school along with administrators of the elementary education dedicate their service to ensure basic education for our children."

Seychelles, Thailand and the

ciation includes Australia, In-

dia, Kenya, Mauritius, Oman,

Singapore, South Africa, In-

donesia, Madagascar, Malay-

sia, Mozambique, Sri Lanka,

Tanzania and Yemen.

The Indian Ocean Rim Asso-

Dr Sadat Hussain, secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division (PMED), Muhammad Bazlur Rashid Khan, Joint Secretary of PMED and Syed Mohammad Hussain, Project Director of the Food for Education Programme (FEP) participated in the inaugural session. AHM Gaziul Huq. joint chief of the Planning, Commission presented the key-note

The education minister said the teachers and managers of the elementary education in the country should establish symbiotic relation with the students at the grassroots. "Most of the teachers are now city-centred and they have poor knowledge about socio-economic and psychological make up of the abject poverty-ridden elementary level students," the minister observed.

The Education Minister said there are many techniques and methods of educational motivation and the "Food for Education approach" is an interim arrangement. He said apart from this food aid approach, strong motivational works are needed for the poor families across the villages to increase the number of regular students in the elementary

"Food should not serve as a permanent incentive or method for the families battered by abject poverty," the minister said adding, "The aid-centred approach is not a permanent solution and ultimately it is the self-employment in the communities which should be promoted....

Referring to parochial mindsets of the guardians about women education, the minister said "It is the traditional mindsets (not willing to send girls to schools) of the villagers which create obstacles in the path of schools of the villagers which create obstacles in the path o the women education in the country.

He observed that even a section of urban people also holds this "parochial village mentality" about education of women and many brilliant girls are being deprived of their right of having academic education.

The education minister said the teachers and administrators of the Food for Education programme should not consider themselves as "government of ficials or employees only." They should develop visionary leadership and work as dutiful citi zens of the state," he said.

Bangladesh becomes 2-day seminar member of IOR-ARC on land reform Bangladesh has become a member of India Ocean Rim Asbegins today sociation for Regional Cooper-

ation (IOR-ARC), reports UNB. A two-day long seminar on Foreign Minister Abdus "Land Reform of Bangladesh: Samad Azad told reporters yes-Agriculture Economy and Farm terday that the second meeting Labourers" and "Labour Law of Bangladesh and Disorganised of the IOR-ARC admitted Industrial Labourers" begins at Bangladesh as a new member at Rice Research Institute at Joyits meeting held at Maputo in debpur today, says a press re-Mozambique March 30-31. The other states admitted with Bangladesh were Iran,

The seminar has been arranged by Bangladesh Krishi Farm Sramik Federation.

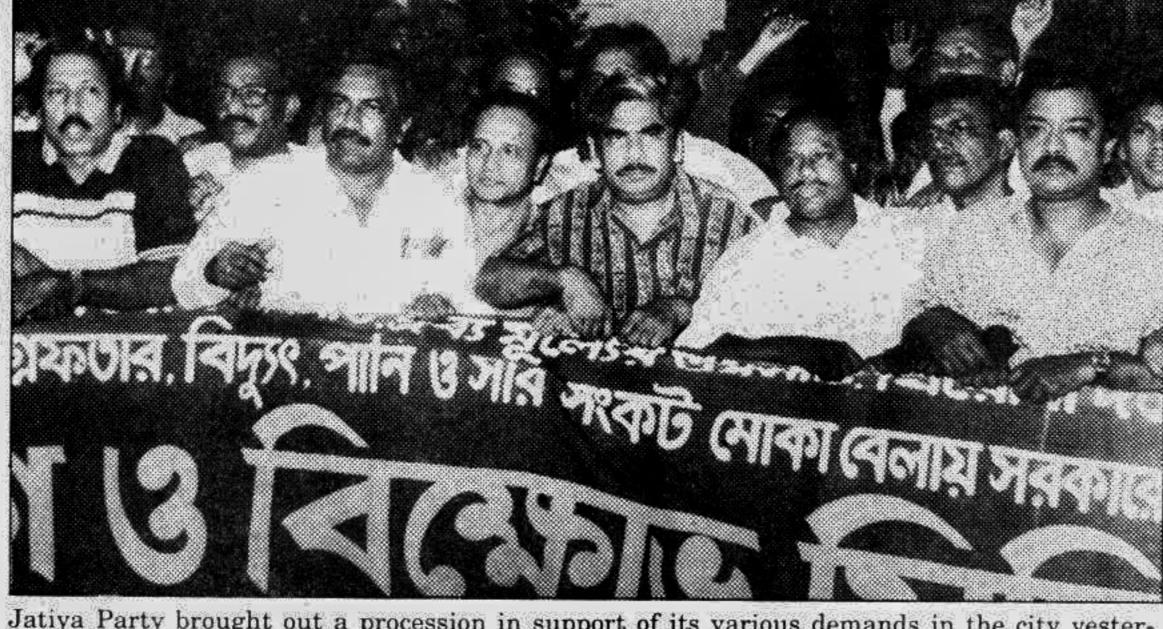
Delegates from Agriculture and Labour Ministry. International Labour Organisation (ILO), different labour organisations and NGOs will participate in the seminar.

5 illegal timber traders caught in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent PATUAKHALI, Apr 8: Forest guards caught hold of five illegal timber traders red handed and recovered 116 pieces of sundari wood logs from their possession from the river Paira here last night.

According to Forest Department, guards caught the lot while they were taking the wood logs from Saronkhola reserve forest of Sundarban to Swaroopkhati for selling. The guards also seized a trawler.

The miscreants were identified as Afzal (35), Nesaruddin (37), Seraj Gazi (42), Battchu (40) and Faruk (38).



Jatiya Party brought out a procession in support of its various demands in the city yester-- Star photo

HERE and THERE

AIUB

A workshop on 'Real Life Interviews' was held at the AMA International University, Bangladesh (AIUB) Campus — 3 at Banani under the auspices of its School of Business yesterday, says a press release. The key-note speaker was

the country's eminent educationist and business magnate S M Kamal, Group Director (Corporate Affairs & Human Resource). The seminar was an en-

counter between academic excellence and corporate vision in identifying the existence of highly prospective human assets of outstanding merit for employment opportunities at home and abroad.

BUET

The certificate awarding ceremony of three computer application courses organised by BUET Computer Centre was held on Wednesday at the seminar room of Civil Engineering building of BUET, says a press release.

Prof Dr M Lutfor Rahman, Director, Dhaka University

Computer Centre distributed certificates among the participants as chief guest. A total of one hundred and twenty participants completed the course.

RMMRU

Speakers at a seminar yes-terday emphasised adoption of policies that should aim at reaping advantages of migration on human development, while at the same time reducing possible adverse consequences, says a press release.

Dr Raisul Awal Mahmood, a

distinguished migration studies expert, said this at a seminar, titled 'Globalisation, International Migration and Human Development: Linkages and Implications', organised by the Dhaka University based Refugee and Migratory Move-ments Research Unit (RMMRU) at the university premises.

Participants underscored the need for maximising inflow of remittance, channeling remittance into productive uses and relocation of labour intensive industries to the labour surplus countries.

'Stern action will be taken against terrorists'

KHULNA, Apr 8: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf today said government would take stern measures against terrorists, trying to create unrest in the country by attacking innocent people, reports BSS.

The minister said this while visiting to Kachna Para village under Dumuria thana in Khulna district which came under attack by miscreants on March 31.

The minister called upon people to resist terrorists unitedly and in cooperation with police. During the visit the minister

distributed TK 15,000 among the affected people. Additional deputy commissioner, superintendent of police of Khulna, district relief and rehabilitation official accompanied the min-Later, the minister formally

two-story academic building of seized a car by which the Shaheed Smrity Women's Colcigarettes were being smuggled into Dhaka.

Earlier, the minister visited the Dumuria thana health

opened the newly constructed

Turkmenistan team calls on President

The visiting delegation of the Meijlis (parliament) of Turkmenistan, led by its chairman SN Muradov, made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming the members of the delegation, President Shahabuddin expressed satisfaction over the existing close and cordial relations between Bangladesh and Turkmenistan. He said their visit would

help enhance cooperation between the parliaments of the two countries.

President Shahabuddin referred to the recognition accorded to Turkmenistan by Bangladesh immediately after her independence and mentioned that she supported her in becoming member of the United Nations and other international organisations.

The President said that there exists vast potentials for strengthening the relations between the two countries in the socio-economic fields.

Leader of the delegation SN Muradov thanked the President for receiving him and the members of his delegation. He appreciated the warm reception accorded to them by the government of Bangladesh.

Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, members of the delegation, Secretary of the Bangladesh Parliament Qazi Monzur-e-Moula and Secretary of the President Secretariat Muhammad Ismail Hossain were present on the occasion.

Khaleda backs NATO's military action in Y'slavia

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has supported the military action in Yugoslavia launched by NATO, reports UNB.

"Bangladesh has consistently upheld the cause of people whose legitimate rights have been denied or transgressed ... This is why we strongly support the military action launched by NATO and feel that it must be carried to its logical conclusion ..., "said Begum Zia in a message to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

The former prime minister said the people of Bangladesh outright condemn the brutal massacre, persecution and forced expulsion of the ethnic Albanian population. There is a growing apprehension that the international community had not done enough to assuage their plight and alleviate their suffering.

The people of Bangladesh not only sympathise with the afflicted majority population of Kosovo but feel morally impelled to support and promote their cause," she said.

Begum Zia sought to force Yugoslavia to pull out its military and security forces from Kosovo, return all the refugees to their homes, deploy an international security force in Kosovo and ensure self-government for the Kosovars.

Call to resist anti-liberation torces

A two-day meeting of the central executive committee of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) began in the city yesterday with a call to resist the anti-liberation forces, reports BSS.

Party president Manjurul Ahsan Khan presided over the meeting while general secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim, presidium members MM Akash and Morshed Ali Khan presented the reports on political situation, organisational planning, review of congress reports and golden jubilee celebrations.

The meeting was also attended, among others, by Shahidullah Chowdhury, Shaikh Muniruzzaman, Shah Alam, Sunil Roy and advocate Firoz Ahmed.

The speakers called upon the people to be united against the anti-state conspiracies hatched by the anti-liberation forces. They expressed their deep

concern over what they called the activities of the so-called Talebans, Al Badars, Al Shams, Razakars and the fundamentalists terrorists. The meeting also discussed

the problems of electricity. countrywide drought, scarcity of pure drinking water, arsenic contamination of water and shortage of gas in the country.

Sergeant closed for attempt to rape woman

COX'S BAZAR, Apr 8: A traffic sergeant was closed here yesterday for his alleged attempt to rape a tribal woman working at a Parjatan motel, police said today, reports APB. The sergeant, Hannan, was

caught by the employees of Motel Shaibal when the woman raised a hue and cry as he allegedly attempted to violate her. He was handed over to police. He was closed after preliminary investigation and probe is going on, police said.

Cigarettes worth Tk 16 lakh seized in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Police seized 300 cartons of cigarette worth about Tk 16 lakh from Kattali area in Pahartali thana this morning, reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off, Pahartali police raided the area and

Two smugglers, however, managed to flee the scene. A case was filed with police.

2 get life term for murder in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: The Additional Sessions Judge, Abul Hossain, awarded here yesterday life term to two persons and fined them Taka 5000 each, in default to suffer one year more rigorous imprisonment on charge of murder, reports BSS.

The convicted persons are Muhmommad Iqbal and Musammat Rukhsana of Urkirchar of Rauzan thana under Chittagong district.

The prosecution story is that Shamsul Alam, S/o Munshi Mea of Urkirchar Rauzan was returning from his local work place Zia Bazar at 8 pm on September 12, 1994 by a bi-cycle. At one stage, Iqbal and Rukhsana stopped him and stabbed him indiscriminately. Shamsul Alam died on the spot. Iqbal and Rukhsana were involved in illicit love which

Shamsul Alam opposed.

A case was filed with Rauzan police against Iqbal and Rukhsana and police submitted charge-sheets against them. The judge examined 13 wit-

nesses in the case and convicted Iqbal and Rukhsana. Former APP Syed Hamidul Huq appeared on behalf of the state while advocate

Shahidullah defended the ac-

Delegates meeting of Jatiya Jubo

Sanghati Apr 15 A meeting of the delegates of Jatiya Jubo Sanghati, a front organisation of Jatiya Party, will be held on April 15 at Jatiya Press club auditorium,

reports BSS. Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju will attend the occasion as the chief guest and the special guest respectively.

An emergency meeting of the Executive Committee of the city unit of Jatiya Party will be held at 7 pm on April 12 at the party central office.

About 200 leaders and workers of Jatiya Party in Pabna Sadar, Sujanagar, Bera, Santhia, Faridpur, Chatmohor Bhangura and Ishwardi upazila have extended their support to Jatiya Party (Mizan-Manju).

Rina Das gets IBC nomination Rina Das, the



vice-princioal of Holy Cross College has been nominated for "Internation al Woman of the Millen nium" award of the Inter-

national Biographical Centre (IBC), says a press

IBC is one of the leading biographical reference book publishers of the world with more than 20 Who's Who titles in 132 separate editions.

Chehlum

The chehlum of former foreign secretary Mostafizur Rahman will be held today after Jumma prayers at his official residence at NEK 6, Road No. 89, Gulshan-2, reports APB.

Death anniversary The 5th death

anniversary of M A Mohaimen, renowned writer. social-worker. industrialist and ex-MP will be observed

today, says a press release. A milad-mahfil will be held at his residence at 373. Dilu Road, Moghbazar after Asr prayers.

Death anniversary of Prof Kabiruddin



anniversary of renowned surgeon Prof Dr M Kabiruddin will be observed today. says a press re-

The first death

A milad mahfil will be held today after Asr prayers at the deceased's Uttara residence.

Obituary

Khoshestha Akhter, mother of valiant freedom fighter and social worker K M Shamsedul Haque Khokon, died of cardiac arrest at her residence in city's Shajahanpur area at 7 pm yesterday. She was 75, reports

She was buried at family graveyard at Panchgaon in Araihazar thana under Narayanganj district.

She left behind six sons, two daughters, grand children and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Renowned physicians Dr K M Wahidul Haque and Dr K M Fazlul Haque are the sons of the deceased. Qulkhwani of Khoshestha

Akhter will be held on April 1 after Asr prayers at her 342. Uttar Shajahanpur residence as well as village home.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Shabjan Nesa, mother of Dr Mohammad Khalilur Rahman will be held today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil and feeding the destitutes (kangali bhoj will be held today after Jumma prayers at her residence in village Gopalpur under Saturia

thana. Shabjan Nesa, died on March 1 at the age of 98.

Port project

From page 1

the high officials of the USA and UK missions in Dhaka have continued to lobby with the government in favour of

their respective companies.
US ambassador in Dhaka John C. Holzman himself visited the Patenga container terminal site on October 19 last year and later met with top Ministers, government party leaders and also with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia and sought their support in favour of SSA.

In a recent interview, British High Commissioner in Dhaka David Walker expressed his dissatisfaction over the government decision to approve the SSA proposal.

He said the British-led consortium was also interested in the project and that it had submitted its technical and financial proposals to the Shipping Ministry, which were never considered.

In a dramatic move, PVL Director Richard Finch, who met with the State Minister for Shipping and port officials last month, said that they were pre-pared to construct the Patenga container terminal in joint

venture with the CPA. The proposal to construct the private received a new dimension following submission of a wide-range of proposal made by the Port of Singapore Authority (PSA).

The PSA offered to develop the existing port and its infrastructures, aid the proposed construction of a Newmooring container terminal and assist the private sector venture at Responding promptly, the

committee to explore the possible areas where the CPA and PSA could jointly work in the overall development of Chittagong Port. CPA sources said that it would soon finalise decision on

the PSA proposal upon instruc-

CPA formed a three-member

tions of immediate action by the Shipping Ministry. A high official of Chittagong Port said that PSA has shown keen interest in investing billions of dollars in technical assistance for terminal operation and supplying cargo handling equipment, joint collaboration in running the existing container terminal and setting of up new terminals at Patenga

and Pangaon. The official said that the Shipping Ministry had taken a keen interest in the PSA proposal, considering it better than

the others. Officials at the Ministry of Shipping said that the government was actively considering the PSA proposal in setting up Newmooring container terminal in joint collaboration with CPA. Three years ago, CPA submitted a plan to set up a container terminal at Newmooring with its own fund at a cost of Tk 732 crore. The plan is waiting

the approval of ECNEC. It may be mentioned that Chittagong Port is fully dependent on the Singapore Port for its business and cargo move-

Meanwhile, South Korean Ambassador in Dhaka, Tai Kua Han, said last month that ROK construction firms were keen to establish private container terminal in Chittagong.

The issue of approval given to SSA for construction of private container terminal came under severe criticism in two recently held meetings of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Shipping.

The members of the committee sought explanation from the Ministry officials regarding the decision to favour the SSA. The officials failed to give any satisfactory answers and further confessed that there were procedural faults in the approval of the SSA proposal.

The SSA was given permission by the Ministry of Shipping immediately after. submission of its proposal in December 1997. The Ministry also gave instruction to CPA and BIWTC to lease land to the SSA for implementation of its projects.

The BIWTC signed a land lease agreement with SSA on December 17 last year. Under this agreement, the BIWTC provided 88.48 acres of land at Pangaon for 99-years. However, the agreement was subsequently declared faulty as the authorities had allegedly rules and procedures. The agreement now has been sent to the Law Ministry to have its validity examined.

The workers of the BIWTC have severely censured its four top officials, including the Chairman, for signing land lease agreement with SSA. The employees and workers are yet to allow the four officials to enter their offices.

The CPA, however, failed to give lease of 211 acres of land to SSA in the face of serious opposition from the workers.

Meanwhile, the feasibility report submitted by the 5-member technical committee headed by Professor Hossain Ali of BUET was rejected by the trade unions of Chittagong Port as there was no river expert in the committee. The committee opined that there would be no siltation trouble if the private port is constructed at its pro-

posed site. Government sources said the Ministry of Shipping, besides considering a series of proposal on setting up of private con-tainer terminal, has sought suggestion from the Law Ministry regarding the crisis that has arisen following the approval given to SSA.

Two held for dacoity in Ctg CHITTAGONG, Apr 8: Police

arrested two persons in connection with the dacoity committed at the residence of Dr Shubhagata Chowdhury last night, reports BSS. The arrested persons Rezaul

Karim and Akhter Hossain confessed their involvement.