

## Cabinet meet in Ctg uncertain

NURUL ALAM

Holding of the much expected cabinet meeting in the port city has become uncertain as the government deferred its date for several times, sources said.

The government had decided to hold the meeting on January 13 this year when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited Chittagong to lay the foundation of Asian University for Women (AUW).

Some hectic preparations were taken and a preparatory meeting attended by the representatives from all government agencies, was also held in this regard. The Chittagong circuit house was given facelift as the venue for holding the meeting.

Last of all it was deferred and administration sources hinted at holding the same by the second week of February.

The date for holding the cabinet meeting for the first time in Chittagong was changed several times that is supposed to be held in March or April last year.

The government planned to hold such a cabinet meeting here in order to take some important decisions for the development of Chittagong as a commercial capital in true sense, administration sources said.

All major issues in line with the hopes and aspirations of the people of Chittagong were supposed to feature the discussion in the cabinet meeting.

The cabinet meeting in Chittagong was being delayed as the plan for construction of the third bridge on the river Karnaphuli could not be finalised, sources said.

The government reportedly decided to lay the foundation of Karnaphuli third bridge and hold the cabinet meeting in Chittagong on the same day and

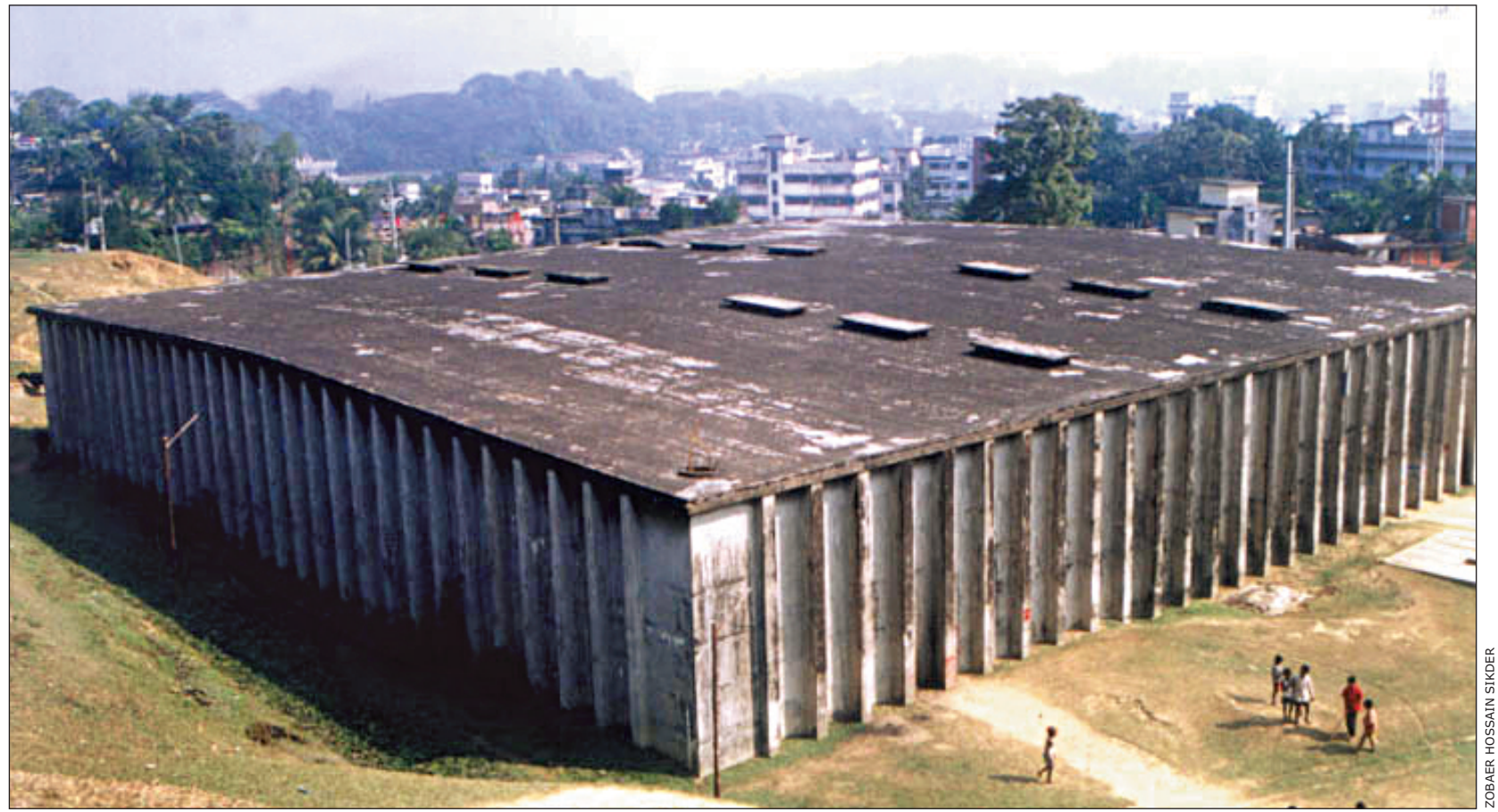
this could be the reason behind the delay, sources added.

Construction of the third bridge on the river Karnaphuli was a long felt demand of the residents of southern part of Chittagong.

The existing Kalurghat and Shah Amanat bridges on the river Karnaphuli linking the port city with southern part of Chittagong became almost worn out and risky posing a threat to communication.

The deputy commissioner of Chittagong Shafiqul Islam said, "No fresh date has yet been fixed and we have not received any other information so far from the higher authorities of the government in this regard".

"But we are ready in this regard as we have already completed the preparatory works. We will just make arrangement if the date is set finally," he added.



ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIDDER

The huge tank of WASA, Chittagong, constructed as a water reservoir on the hilltop of Tankir Pahar at Lalkhan Bazar had been lying idle for the last two decades. The tank virtually has no use as insufficient supply of water can hardly reach the tank after meeting only one third of the demand of the city dwellers.



Oikyabaddhwa Nari Samaj brought out a procession in the city on Wednesday demanding safety of women and an end to violence against them.

## Arduous journey keeps Sandwip away

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Arduous journey through difficult tracks and waterways deprived of any touch of development keeps Sandwip, an offshore island, isolated and detached from the mainstream of Chittagong.

Although Sandwip is three and a half hours away from Sadarghat of Chittagong, it takes seven hours to reach the island 45 km southwest of the port city.

Only three BIWTC launches and a sea-truck with capacity of some 400 carry over 4000 passengers from Sandwip to Chittagong daily.

The lone sea-truck of BIWTC operates everyday and completes a round trip in the

Chittagong-Sandwip-Chittagong route. The vessel in a round trip ferries a maximum of 800 people across Sandwip channel between Kumira and Guptachhara.

The three BIWTC launches that travel to Hatiya and Bhola enroute to Sandwip operate four days a week. They make four one-way trips from the city's Sadarghat terminal a week with some 600 passengers in each trip.

As such, most of the people from Sandwip are to depend on privately owned trawlers and speed boats at seven ghats along the coast from Faujderhat to Mirer Sarai for their journey.

The passengers are forced to walk miles after miles

through rough and muddy paths to catch a trawler or speed boat as many ghats have no approach roads and jetty.

It takes the passengers some three to four hours to cross the channel.

Abu Taher, an employee of Karnaphuli Paper Mill, said that he started from the Chittagong city at 11.00am and reached Fakirhat at 12.00 noon. "It took me two more hours to get to the shore and I have been for the trawler for around half an hour," he said.

And he started again for an over half-an-hour walk through the muddy shore with the clock striking at 3 in the afternoon.

One middle-aged Shahida Begum and her four children

also had the same experience. "We will have to face the same trouble on the other side too and the journey will take us almost the whole day," she said.

The passengers said neither the authorities concerned nor the lessee of the ghats cared for them.

The district council is supposed to lease out the ghats through tenders to lessees who are able to ferry people by their own transports.

Ferry movement at one ghat is now suspended following a legal fight between the district council and a lessee.

Operating at six ghats, 14 trawlers charge each passenger around Tk 50 while speed boats realise Tk 150.

Abdul Baten, General

Secretary of Sandwip Association in Chittagong, said that the official fare for trawler was TK 31.25 for a passenger while they realise over TK 45. "We drew attention of district council authorities to these problems at different occasions but in vain," Baten said.

"Our only demand is now to construct a jetty at Kumira-Guptachhara ghat to continue the ferry service during the rainy season," Baten said.

The chief executive officer of District Council, Chittagong, was, reportedly, on leave and not available for comment. The secretary of the district council expressed inability to tell anything about it.



STAR PHOTO

A model on the catwalk at a fashion show marking the inauguration of the 2nd Chittagong Apparels, Fabrics and Accessories Exposition organised by Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at CJKS Gymnasium Complex on Friday.

## the week that was

### Keep Chaktai Khal clean

Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at a meeting on Thursday urged the ward commissioners and CCC officials to keep the Chaktai Khal clean and free from pollution and silt-up. He also requested the inhabitants on

both the banks to be aware of dumping their household rubbish into the canal. "This canal is like a lifeline of the port city. It's responsibility of all citizens to keep its natural flow in order for the greater interest of Chittagong."

Mayor said many unscrupulous people have encroached on land properties adjoining the Chaktai Khal over the years and built up shops and other structures on both sides of the

canal. "We will take punitive actions through mobile courts against the grabbers unless they come to the terms and dismantle or remove their illegal structures soon," he said.

CCC Chief Engineer Abu Taher, Estate Officer Ahmedul Haq and ward commissioners Nurul Haq, Peyar Mohammad, Shahidul Alam and Golam Haider Mintoo also addressed the meeting.

books free of cost from Alhaj Mostafa Hakim Foundation.

Ward commissioner Monzurul Alam Monzu, also founder of Mostafa Hakim Foundation, distributed the books among the students at a simple ceremony at the school auditorium on Sunday.

Mostafa Hakim Degree College Vice Principal Mohammad Badsha Alam, Foundation directors Faruk Azam and Kauser Rabbi, school managing committee members Mobinul Haq, Abul Kalam, Sheikh Delwar, school teachers Saifur Rahman, Ainun Nahar and Tania Pia also addressed the function.

Station premises on Wednesday protesting the 'terrorist attack' on eminent writer Humayun Azad.

Shibir leaders at the rally demanded immediate arrest of the attackers and their exemplary punishment.

CJ Shibir President Jahed Hossain Bhuiyan chaired the rally. Badre Alam Didar, Mesbahuddin Nata, Anisur Rahman, Ismail Hossain, Golam Mowla and Delwar Hossain spoke.

### Green House lifts inter-class debate trophy

Speakers at the first Drishti-Starship Juice inter class debate competition stressed the need for more active involvement of students in debates and other extra-curriculum activities side by side regular academic studies to enrich their world of knowledge.

Organised by the Drishti Debate Club's Bangladesh Elementary School branch, the two-day competition ended on Thursday. Former president of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) Engineer Ali Ahmad and chairman of PHP Group Sufi Mizanur Rahman distributed the prizes among the winners as guests of honour.

Green House lifted the trophy in team event while Nabil Anjum of the same house became the best speaker in the competition.

School principal Nadira Banu Begum, principal of Cantonment International School Dilara Islam, Coordinator of Cider International School Doly Nizam, Professor Mahi Qudshi Noori of English Department of Chittagong University, director of Drishti Masud Bakul and organising secretary Mithun Mallick spoke.

### Primary school

### inaugurated

A new school named Sanwara Firm Primary School was inaugurated at Hatiakhola in Dohazari under Chandanaish Upazila on Friday. Mayor of Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury inaugurated the school as chief guest.

Noted businessman and Awami League leader Nurul Islam, chairman of Sanwara Group, established the school.

City Mayor lauded the initiative for establishing a school at such a remote place and hoped that the school would help spread education and enhance literacy rate in the locality.

Speakers at the function urged the teachers to discharge their duties with utmost sincerity and honesty.

General Secretary of Cox's Bazar district Awami League Salahuddin Ahmed CIP and social worker Professor Kamal Uddin also addressed the function.

### Discussion on importance of liberalism

Speakers at a discussion said that

liberalism could play an important role in building fair exercise of democracy in the country.

Liberal Forum, a German-based non-government organisation, organised the discussion on 'Importance of Liberalism' at Eton Grammar School in city's Pahartali area on Friday. Forum's Dhaka unit President Azizur Rahman Tushar was present as chief guest in the discussion with Dr Gazi Salehuddin of Sociology Department of Chittagong University in the chair.

Later, a 15-member new executive committee of the Forum was formed with Dr Gazi Salehuddin and Advocate Basanti Prabha Palit as its president and general secretary.

### Workshop on advertising at IUB



Aly Zaker, chief executive of Asiatic Marketing Company Limited (Asiatic MCL), a leading advertising firm, and a prominent drama personality, speaks at a workshop on 'Advertising and marketing communication' held on the Chittagong Campus of Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) on Saturday. The Business Students' Society (BSS) of IUB and Asiatic MCL jointly organised the workshop.

A workshop on advertising and marketing communication was held on the Chittagong campus of Independent University of Bangladesh (IUB) on Thursday morning.

Around 50 students participated in the workshop, jointly organised by Business Students' Society (BSS) of the university and Asiatic Marketing Communication Limited (Asiatic MCL), a leading advertising firm in the country.

Noted actor and Chief Executive Officer of Asiatic MCL Aly Zaker and an executive Rubaiyat Razzak conducted the workshop.

### Reinstatement of World Vision staffs demanded

The employees of World Vision, a non-government organisation, staged a demonstration in front of the Chittagong Press Club on Sunday protesting termination of over 100 staffs and school teachers.

Speakers at a rally during the demonstration condemned the termination and demanded their immediate reinstatement.

Chittagong Divisional Srani Dal President and BNP leader AM Nazimuddin, Jatiya Gonotantrik Front, Chittagong District President Air Mohammad, Trade Union Sangha leader Mohammad Mamun, Mahanagar Islami Oikya Jote President Abdur Rahman Chowdhury and Showkat Hossain Chatgami addressed the rally expressing solidarity with the demonstration.

### Books distributed to poor students

The poor and meritorious students from class six to class nine of Shahid Nagar City Corporation Girls High School in city's Lalkhan Bazar area received text

### Nari Samaj concerned

Leaders of Oikyabaddha Nari Samaj at a rally at the Chittagong Press Club on Thursday expressed concern over the current law and order situation in the country and the attack on eminent writer Humayun Azad and journalists.

Mustari Shafi, Jesmine Sultana Paru, Advocate Kamrun Nahar, Hasina Mannan, Rowshan Ara Yousuf, Farida Farhad, Shabana Sharif and ward commissioner Syeda Rehana Kabir Ranu addressed the rally with Begum Nilufer Kaiser in the chair.

The speakers condemned the attack on Humayun Azad and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits. They also criticised the attack on general students and journalists on the Dhaka University campus by ruling party backed goons.

### Shibir protests attack on Azad

Jamaat-e-Islami's student's front Islami Chhatra Shibir organised a rally on Chittagong University Railway



STAR PHOTO

Artists paint on a huge canvas on the road in front of Central Shaheed Minar in Chittagong on Thursday in a symbolic protest against the attack on prominent writer Humayun Azad.