

# RAB likely to start operation in Ctg this month

BSS, Chittagong

Work on the setting up of Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) camp started in Chittagong on Saturday.

The abandoned Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM) Hospital building will be turned into the camp and the office of Chittagong RAB.

Chittagong is the second city where the RAB is going to operate after it was first introduced in Dhaka. RAB Chittagong sources said the force is expected to start its operation in the last week of this month.

Lieutenant Colonel Quazi Emdadul Haque, who has been appointed commanding officer of RAB Chittagong, took over the charge of the building on Saturday.

Prior to his new assignment, the colonel was working as the Chief Instructor of School of Infantry and Tactical (commando wing), Sylhet.

Ten police personnel from the Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) started work on setting up the camp at the hospital building. It remained abandoned since the halt of production of Chittagong Steel Mills.

RAB Chittagong will have 688 personnel from Army, Navy, Air Force, Anser battalion and police. Of them about 200 personnel, including 60 officers, are from the CMP.

"We are now preparing the office and expect to get everything set before we receive order to start operation from the higher authorities," said the commanding officer.



PHOTO: STAR

Teachers and students of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University held a rally on the campus yesterday demanding arrest of and punishment to the culprits who issued death threat to Prof. AAMS Arefin Siddique, president of DUTA.

## Teachers, students protest death threat to Duta president

DU CORRESPONDENT

Teachers and students of mass communication and journalism department of Dhaka University yesterday demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits who last week threatened to kill Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique.

They brought out a silent procession and held a rally at the foot of Aparajeyo Bangla in the afternoon to protest the April 4 letter to Prof Siddique, Dhaka University Teachers Association (Duta) president.

The teachers and students asked the government to ensure maximum possible security of Prof Siddique. They alleged fundamentalist forces, who recently attacked and seriously wounded eminent writer Humayun Azad, have been giving such threats

in a bid to silence freethinking in the country.

Prof Shakhawat Ali Khan, chairman of the department, said they would take extensive programmes to protest such incidents and asked, "Why do we have to come out (on the street) to condemn such threats?"

Prof Golam Rahman said no-one is safe in the country these days. People want to express their opinions freely in a democratic manner, he added.

On April 4, Sarbahara Dal, a shady organisation, issued the threat to the Duta president and also asked him to pay Tk 50,000 in toll to Mohammad Kuddus Mian, store-keeper of GK Garment of Ullal Bazaar in Savar, to save his life.

## Husband masterminds killing of wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, N'ganj

The husband of Ayasha Akhter Anita, whose body was recovered from the Sitalkhaya river on Saturday morning, masterminded the murder of his wife.

Sujan Mahmud confessed before a magistrate that he masterminded the killing due to unhappy conjugal life and cooked up the story of abduction and killing of his wife by four unknown criminals to save himself.

Sujan, a salesman, married Anita, a Hindu girl, a few years ago. Anita, 18, converted to Muslim after the marriage.

On Friday, Sujan took Anita to his friend's house at Nabiganj in Bandar area. He also hired two criminals for Tk 10,000 who killed Anita when they were returning to their home in Pagla at night.

He gave the criminals Tk 2500, a

mobile phone and a wristwatch in advance.

Her body bearing stab injuries in the abdomen was found floating in the river the next morning.

## ATTACK ON HASINA'S MOTORCADE Revision petition against magistrate court order dismissed

UNB, Satkhira

District and Sessions Judge's court yesterday dismissed a revision petition against a magistrate court order in the case of attack on Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's motorcade at Kalaroa in August 2002.

Moslemuddin, former general secretary of Kalaroa thana Awami League, filed the revision petition on February 9.

After a lengthy hearing, Judge A K M Zahir Ahmed dismissed the petition in the absence of adequate evidence and upheld the verdict of the magistrate.

The case was filed on September 2, 2002 accusing BNP cadres of attacking Sheikh Hasina's motorcade at Kolaroa on her way to Jessore on August 30.

Public Prosecutor Syed Iftekhar Ali appeared for the state while advocate Abdul Matin Khasru and advocate Abdul Mannan appeared for the petitioner.

## Pakundia Samity installation ceremony held

The installation ceremony of the newly elected executive committee of Dhaka-based Pakundia Samity was held in the city recently, with its president Momtazuddin Bhuiyan in the chair, says a press release.

Minister for Housing and Public Works Mirza Abbas attended the function as chief guest and Prof. Dr Alauddin Ahmed MP and former vice-chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof. Dr Akm Aminul Haq were present as special guests.

Samity General Secretary Md Samsul Haq also spoke.

## Obituary

Dr MS Chowdhury, a retired radiologist of Bangladesh Railway Hospital, died at his residence at East Nasirabad in Chittagong at 2.10pm on April 10 at the age of 73, says a press release.

He is survived by his wife, one son and three daughters.

He was buried at the Garibunnesa Mazar Graveyard.

His qulkhani will be held at his residence at Hillview Housing Society, House # 14, Road # 2, East Nasirabad after Asr prayers on April 14.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the qulkhani.

## Death anniversary

BSS, Dhaka

The seventh death anniversary of national leader Mahiuddin Ahmed will be observed today.

Mahiuddin Ahmed Jatiya Smriti Sangsad has drawn up a day long programme including placing of wreaths and special prayers at his graveyard at Mirpur Intellectuals' graveyard.

Qurankhani and milad mahfil will also be held at his Dhanmondi residence after Asr prayers.

# Immediate trial of killers of journalists demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) has expressed resentment over the dillydallying policy of the government to bring under trial the culprits responsible for the killings of Manik Saha, Shamsur Rahman and other journalists.

Addressing the national representative council meeting at the National Press Club on Friday, BFUJ leaders demanded immediate completion of the trial giving exemplary punishment to the criminals, said a press release yesterday.

Speakers at the meeting demanded full implementation of the fifth wage-board, declaration of 60 percent dearness allowance and

formulation of the sixth wage-board.

They urged the government to take legal steps against those newspapers which are not implementing the wage-board properly.

Chaired by BFUJ President Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, the meeting in a proposal called for the reinstatement of 30 sacked journalists from the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha.

The meeting also supported the report presented by New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists (CPJ) and demanded security of the journalists and freedom of the press.

The meeting also urged the government to ensure proper distribution of advertisements among the newspapers.

# Jubo League chairman gets anticipatory bail

UNB, Dhaka

Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanak and two others were granted anticipatory bail yesterday for three months.

They were accused of abusing and harassing police at Gournadi in Barisal on April 2 during Awami League President Sheikh Hasina's visit.

A Division Bench comprising Justice M Awlad Ali and Justice Abdul Awal issued a rule upon the government to explain why the petitioners should not be granted regular bail.

The order came upon petitions filed by Nanak, Bangladesh Chhatra League President Liaqat Sikdar and Shechhashebak League President AFM Bahauddin Nasim who appeared before the court and sought bail.