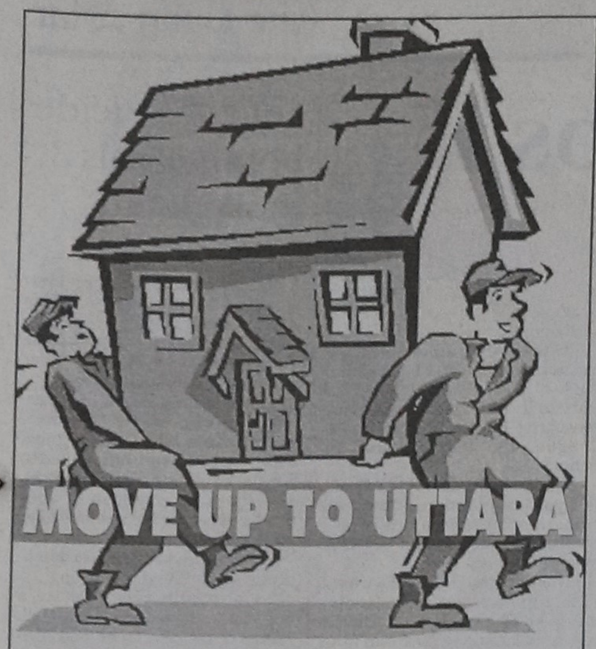

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US experts train SWAT men to fight hardcore criminals

UNB, *Dhaka*

A 23-member police team with combat training is being trained to conduct operation against hard-core criminals from next month, official sources said yesterday.

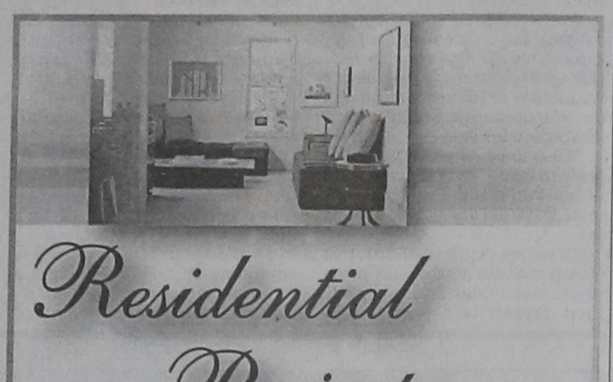
The special detective branch of police 'Special Weapon and Tactic Team (SWAT)' is being trained by nine experts from US police, military and FBI from the second week of January as part of capacity building to combat terror.

The sources said the high-skill training for police, the first ever in Bangladesh, will complete on February 28.

The SWAT will go for action whenever existing law enforcing agencies even the elite force Rapid action Battalion (Rab) would fail to deal with the criminal groups or any criminal.

The SWAT members equipped with sophisticated weapons will act as 'quick response' and conduct 'risky' operations in Dhaka City and even outside if requires.

The SWAT, a special wing of the Detective Branch, will work under direct control of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Commissioner.



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Premier University Vice-Chancellor Prof Anupom Sen speaks at a view exchange meeting titled "Inclusion of camp based Urdu-speaking community in the voter list and National ID card scheme" at Chittagong Press Club on Saturday.

Chinese spring festival celebrated

Chinese New Year party (spring festival) was celebrated at Confucius Institute at North South University (NSU) on Saturday, says a press release.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zheng Qingdian was present as the chief guest in the festival while Liu Sanzhen, cultural counselor of the Chinese Embassy in Dhaka, was present as the special guest.

NSU Vice Chancellor Dr Hafiz GA Siddiqi presided over the function.

Later, Chinese Ambassador distributed the semester-end certificate among the students of Confucius Institute.

A lively cultural programme followed the speech session, where Bangla and Chinese songs and dance, and instrumental music were performed by students and teachers of the institute and children of the Dhaka International School.

EC sets woman post

FROM PAGE 16

electoral reforms talks scheduled to begin on February 24, the EC will discuss the proposals with the parties again.

It will also inform the parties of its decisions on different issues before sitting with them.

EC sources, however, said the commission may not change its stance on the proposals even if the parties do not agree on them as the CEC had said the EC would do "whatever is good for the nation".

Once the proposals are made into laws, the Awami League, BNP, Jatiya Party and other political parties will have to amend their constitutions to de-link front organisations comprising teachers, students and workers to get registered with the EC.

"No registered political party shall form any front organisation with the students of any educational institution. No registered political party shall form any front organisation with the employees of government and non-government financial institutions, or commercial or industrial establishments, and a registered political party shall not engage in activities of any labour organisation," says the EC proposal.

Reviewing the political parties' opinions, the EC also decided to relax a few other conditions for registration.

The EC now says a political party that has not won at least one parliamentary seat in elections since 1973 will have to have offices and committees in at least 21 districts as well as the upazilas under those.

In its original proposal disclosed on April 5 last year, the EC had said a political party, which cannot meet the condition of having representation in parliament, will have to have offices and committees in at least 32 districts and their upazilas.

According to the EC roadmap announced on July 15, the electoral reforms proposals will have to be made into laws by March this year and political parties will have to get registered with the commission by June.

The EC has already asked the caretaker government to lift the restrictions on indoor politics countrywide, allowing resumption of political activities so that the parties can prepare themselves to get registered.

Apart from amending the constitutions through holding national councils, most political parties will have to elect new central committees to get registration as the tenures of those have expired.

The EC wants to make political parties' registration with it mandatory with provisions designed to ensure financial transparency and democracy within the parties.

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