Says Hanif

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior Awami League leader Mahbubul Alam Hanif yesterday said the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) needed reform to overcome its "weaknesses", and urged all political parties, and civil society and rights bodies to outline reform proposals. "The demand to disband the Rab is irrational and

absurd. But it can be reformed," the AL joint general secretary told reporters at his business office in the capital's Karwan Bazar. "They can come up with specific proposals for reforming the force." Hanif's comments came when the BNP and several rights

organisations are calling for disbanding the force following several allegations of its members' involvement in abductions, forced disappearances and killings.

The AL leader praised Rab's role in fighting terrorism and

militancy across the country.

About the recent killing of seven people in Narayanganj, Hanif said the prime minister was commit-

ted to ensuring stern punishment fro the culprits, regardless of their identities. Replying to a query, he said Bangladesh would continue good relations with the new government of India, which is

expected to be formed by the Bharatiya Janata Party.

Youth hurt in clash dies in Rangpur

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

A youth, who was injured with 108 others in a clash between supporters of two local ward councillors of Rangpur City Corporation in Kukrul area on Sunday, died at Rangpur Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The deceased was Babla Mian, 22, a supporter of Haradhan Chandra Roy, pro-Awami League councillor of ward no-4. Supporters of Haradhan and Mokhlechhur Rahman Taru, pro-Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal councillor of ward No-5, locked into the clash over establishing supremacy in the city, said police.

Babla's mother filed a murder case yesterday.

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lounge. H-53/C, Rd-6, Banani.

When the trio refused to leave for India, Majid became angry

and threatened to kill them, the joint commissioner said, adding that the trio then began screaming attracting attention of locals and patrolling police detectives.

Assistant Commissioner Mahmud Naser Johnny, who made the arrests, said Majid and others were employed by Chanchala Rani, 38, and Sri Gopal Mondal, 56, to recruit girls and young women for trafficking. The duo was at the spot. Police also arrested Rani's Indian partner Sri Nikhil Das. The arrestees confessed to trafficking about 20 girls.

Rab needs reform Voter list update starts

I saw a stage and arches were made on the upazila complex premises. When I asked some people, they told me that some toplevel government official would come for holding a meeting on the voter list," said Ripon Das, a youth of Namabari village.

No awareness campaign was conducted in this village, said Afzal Miah, a teashop owner of Shibrampur village.

Furthermore, how the voter list will be updated is not clear to the people. The electoral roll update programme

will continue till November 15 in three phases. Data collectors and supervisors will go from door to door for data collection and then people will have to come to the registration centre for taking photos.

Our Bramhanbaria correspondent reported that not only common people, but also the district's sadar upazila chair-

man and some candidates of Akhaura upazila did not know about the programme. As no registration forms and materials reached Bramhanbaria, the data collectors and supervisors could not start their job yet. Many voters in Kapasia upazila of

Gazipur, Rajoir and Shibchar upazila of Madaripur do not know about the voter list update programme, our correspondents reported from there. Talking to The Daily Star, Additional

Secretary of EC Secretariat Moklesur Rahman said they had taken all publicity measures, including putting advertisements in national dailies, sending messages in mobile phones, distributing leaflets. "As today was the first day, many may not know about it instantly. They will surely know within two or three days."

Road accidents kill FROM PAGE 5 in a head-on collision with another truck Our Pabna correspondent reports, a tractor

helper died when a soil-laden tractor skidded off in Mirkamari village of Ishwardi upazila of the district Wednesday night.

Rakib Pramanik of the village.

Bhorosa Ali of Nilphamari, died when a truck hit his bicycle on Chapainawabganj-Sonamasjid land port highway at Shibtala around 8:00pm. Meanwhile, yesterday Zahidul Islam, 50, of

Nayalavanga village under Shibganj upazila, died on the spot when a truck hit his bicycle on Chapainawabganj-Rajshahi highway. Our Gaibandha correspondent reports, a

HC summons

truck driver, Mosharraf Hossain, 28, died

at Chapriganj on Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday. The injured helper, Raju Mia is taking treat

ment at Gobindaganj Upazila Health Complex. A Comilla correspondent adds, four people were killed and twelve others were

injured in a triangular collision among a Chittagong-bound bus, a Dhaka-bound ambulance and a tractor on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Chauddagram upazila of the district yesterday afternoon. The dead are Parvez Hossain, 35, the ambu-

lance driver, Jahangir Alam, 35, Asma Akter Shilpi, 30, and her mother-in-law Rahima Khatun, 60, of Feni. The injured were rushed to local hospitals.

Biswojit Roy told The Daily Star. He also said the JU registrar had justified the April 25 advertisement by issuing May 14 advertisement.

None of the respondents replied to the

Administration, Economics Planning

Gas supply

FROM PAGE 5 in front of Deputy Commissioner's Office at Kachari Bazar in the city.

Lawyers Harun-Ar

Rashid, Dilruba Rahman, Kamrul Hasan Kajol, among others, spoke. They said supply of natural gas would be helpful for setting up agro-based industries in Rangpur to boost economy The forum will arrange a

road march towards Dinajpur, Nilphamari, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh on May 20 and Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Gaibandha on May 22.

SM Pial, president of the forum, said the gas supply had reached Bogra and it was still 100km away from Rangpur area.

Raushan FROM PAGE 3

emerging from a meeting with a Chinese delegation led by Yan Jungi, vicechairperson of National People's Congress, at a hotel in the capital. Raushan's remarks

came at a time when the government has been facing a lot of criticism for its failure to arrest the main accused of the murder, and three Rab officials, who were fired due to their alleged connections to the murder, till yesterday. She, however, admitted

that the Narayanganj incident had created a panic across the country. Disagreeing with the

BNP's call to disband Rab,

she said an organisation should not come under fire for one's misdeeds. The delegation team

proposed setting up an economic corridor through India, Bangladesh, China and Myanmar in the meeting, Raushan said, adding that she had supported the proposal as the Leader of the Opposition.

The dead is Sabuj Pramanik, 25, son of In Chapainawabganj, Boro Mia, 15, son of

FROM PAGE 5 Vice-chancellor of JU, its syndicate, registrar and director of its PRO have been HC rule, Deputy Attorney General

Japan to give FROM PAGE 5

ফ্ল্যাট ভাড়া

মনোরম পরিবেশে ধানমন্ডি ক্লাব মুখি

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Man 'commits suicide'

A man allegedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a ceiling fan at his Halishahar residence in Chittagong

Ashraful Islam, 28, of Jhenaidah, had mental illness, said police quoting his family.

Street vendors for legalisation In this regard, a meeting comprising of city corporation

city early yesterday.

officials and hawker leaders will be held in the coming week, he told The Daily Star. However, Mohammad Fashiullah, chief estate officer of

Dhaka North City Corporation, said the proposal should be considered positively. "The city corporation has its own plan to solve the prob-

lem of footpaths and traffic jam. But you cannot oust vendors from footpaths overnight as they are contributing to the nation's development as well," he said.

EU to continue policy FROM PAGE 3 Political Affairs Adviser HT Imam, International Affairs

Affairs Shahriar Alam briefed the diplomats. Head of the EU Delegation to Bangladesh William Hanna; ambassadors of eight EU countries -- Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, UK; and Foreign Secretary Shahidul Huque, among others, were present.

Adviser Dr Gowher Rizvi and State Minister for Foreign

The envoys apprised that the EU was now looking towards creating a more coherent and overarching framework for cooperation with the present government, which would include formation of a Joint Commission and a comprehensive dialogue partnership, higher two-way trade, stronger development cooperation and higher EU direct investment in Bangladesh.

The foreign minister assured the EU ambassadors that the government would provide all out support to the EU countries for realising their foreign policy goals in Bangladesh including trade, development and investment partnerships.

HT Imam said the EU would continue to stand next to

Bangladesh to counter the forces that ploy to destroy its

secular and democratic fabric and the values of 1971. Gowher Rizvi reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening of democratic institutions including a free media, space for civil society and the

NGOs, human rights, rule of law, Election Commission

PM to visit Japan

FROM PAGE 3 Japan.

In addition, Hasina is going to address a business seminar with a view to attracting foreign direct investment in

and parliament.

Bangladesh and promoting bilateral trade between Bangladesh and Japan. She will also address the students of Waseda University. Japan, the largest development partner of Bangladesh, has significantly contributed to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh through financial assistance in the

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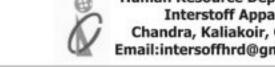
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fashion, huge depth of practical knowledge of yarn, knitting, dyeing and quality of knit fabric also negotiation skill for dealing with customers for developed and existing products (Fabric). The Job location is in Chandra, Gazipur Region-where Interstoff's Corporate Office



STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg