METROPOLÎTAN/NEWS

'Politicisation puts union level democracy at stake'

Animator training helps rural people attain self-reliance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT.

Politicisation, influence of ruling party lawmakers and subsequent corruption have put democracy at union level at stake.

The lowest tier of local government is losing its traditional grandeur over hindrances to develop-

Yet out of social responsibility, local people at some unions are using their own merit and resources to achieve a transparent and accountable local govern-

This was revealed by union parishad (UP) chairmen, members and local people while talking to a group of newsmen from different national dailies and electronic media during a two-day visit to Maria, Sardaha and Shilmaria

Extortionists

stab bank

officer, his

brother in

Munshiganj

unions of Raishahi

They said the achievement of their unions that they earned following one to four-day animator (Ujjibok) training in last three years could be an example for others.

The Hunger Project is developing the animators for imparting training to volunteers who mobilise others for self-reliant development and gender equality.

The animators told the reporters that they themselves were moved by the enthusiasm of the local people to transform their villages and end their own despair, hunger and poverty.

Chairman Sazzad Hossain of Shilmaria union parishad under Puthia upazila said his union has achieved 100 percent success in sanitation and birth registration, 93 percent in adult literacy and 71 percent in general education.

"Ninety-five percent children of my union now attend primary schools and all people are now aware of nutrition, health, evil effects of dowry and child mar-

riage, " he added. He said there is an avayaranna (sanctuary) for birds at Pachamaria village of the union where some 5000 guest birds always stay and a reading centre where around 100 people come everyday to read newspaper.

"All these developments have taken place thanks to 139 trained animators who mobilised their communities for self-reliant," said

"Political parties spend more than the annual budget of a union like Shilmaria on decoration over visit of their party leaders. Under this situation, people should act teur Hasan Azizul Hague

"UPs are now almost ineffective institution due to politicisation. Development funds are usurped by lawmaker and their henchmen,' said Motiur Rahman, chairman of Sardaha UP under Charghat upazila while exchanging views with local elite and journalists.

Motiur himself took animator training and along with 400 male and female animators, is working to alleviate hunger and poverty.

Chairman Abul Hossain Sardar of Mougachhi union under Mohonpur upazila alleged discrimination in development allocations over political consideration.

But hundreds of trained individuals are now engaged in changing their own fate as well as the society gradually, he added.

UNB, Munshiganj

A gang of extortionists stabbed a bank officer and his brother at Purbo Deobhog in the town yesterday, leaving them critically

The injured were identified as Ashrafuzzaman Mokhter, 28, an officer of Uttara Bank, and Ahsan Habib Monir, 26

Police said some local youths demanded toll from Ashrafuzzaman who was constructing a building in the area. As he refused to pay toll, the youths stabbed him and his brother around 12:00noon.

The injured were first rushed to Sadar Hosptial and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital as their condition deteriorated.

Mumbai blasts condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh-Bharat Sampriti Parishad has condemned the serial bomb blasts in Mumbai that killed about 200 people and injured several hundreds, says a press release.

In a joint statement, Parishad President Justice KM Sobhan, Vice President Advocate MA Bari and General Secretary Dr Nim Chandra Bhoumik said such incidents might cause instability in the entire subcontinent through fuelling fanaticism.

They urged all democratic forces and peace-loving people to work together against terrorism.

Gold smuggler held by CID

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) arrested a gold smuggler and recovered 39 Tola gold ornaments and Tk three lakh cash from Mouchak intersection in the city on Wednesday night, says a CID press

CID team led by Gias Uddin, inspector of east zone, arrested the smuggler Alim Uddin alias Md Ali, 42, following the confession of Abu Hanif Hawlader, leader of a gang of gold smugglers.

Ali was a mere employee of a jewellery shop but smuggling has seen him emerge as the owner of 'Ali Silver House' at Mouchak mar-

36 Khulna ward committees of Jubo League dissolved

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

All the 36 ward committees of Jubo League under five thanas of Khulna metropolitan city including Khulna city committee were dissolved on Thursday evening.

A new convening committee will be formed on Monday, said central organising secretary of the party Md Mahbubul Alam

We have taken this action failing to reunite two rival factions which were often locked in clashes, said the central organising secretary.

'Alliance govt will be forced to accept reform proposals'

opposition in the

next election

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Workers' Party of Bangladesh yesterday at a meeting said the BNP-led coalition government would be forced to accept the reform proposals before handing over the power to the caretaker government.

They also urged the 14-party opposition to take stern programmes by uniting the mass people of the country.

Rashed Khan Menon in the chair. They also emphasised col-

Workers' Party organised the meeting with its President order to stop use of black money

Reviewing the election preparation for selected 40 seats, the leaders said the victory would be achieved if the 14-party contest

They also said the people have lost trust in the BNP-

They said the people have to be organised and aware of the changes in national and public point demand.

life that are stated in their 23-Party leaders from different divisions also participated in the lecting money from the people in People will reject

Says Mosharraf

Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr Khondokar Mosharraf Hossain yesterday said people will again reject the opposition in the next general elections for its antidemocratic activities. "The opposition did not take

any initiative for strengthening democracy when it was in power. Now it is conspiring to destroy democracy in the name of anti-government movement,"

Speaking at a rally organised by local BNP on the Eliotganj High School premises, he criticsed the opposition's parliament boycott programme and said they are doing this for making the Sangsad ineffective as they do not believe in

The minister called upon all to put up a strong resistance to foil the conspiracy of the opposition against democracy.

Presided over by former chairman of Eliotganj Union Parishad Abdul Wadud, the rally was addressed, among others, by local BNP leaders AKM Shamsul Haque, M Jasim Uddin Ahmed, Shah Alam Chowdhury and Anwar Hossain. In another public rally at

Gauripur Union Parishad in the upazila, the minister called upon all to get the births of their children registered to establish their rights as a citizen Presided over by Upazila

Nirbahi Officer ABM Aminullah Nuri, the rally was addressed, among others, by Deputy Commissioner M Mizanur Rahman and Police Super Abdul Mannan.

The minister handed over sewing machines and sanitary latrines to the distressed people.

He also inaugurated scouts' rally at Daudkandi High School ground and led an anti-drug procession

WEATHER TODAY

No change in temperature

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Rajshahi, Khulna, Chittagong and Barisal divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Sylhet divisions during the next 24 hours as of 6:00pm today. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country,

Met Office said in a forecast. Yesterday's highest temperature of 35.5 degree Celsius was

recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 24.6 degrees at Sandwip. The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:20am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in

some major cities	and towns yes			coraca iii
City/Town	Temperature		Humidity in	
	in Celsius	percentage		
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.3	27.8	77	75
Chittagong	32.3	26.4	76	83
Rajshahi	35.0	26.6	81	76
Khulna	33.6	25.6	87	74
Barisal	32.4	26.7	94	81
Sylhet	32.2	25.4	80	65
Cox's Bazar	32.0	25.5	76	86

Eight shops gutted, 20 injured in Patuakhali fire

A devastating fire ripped through the Power House market in the town on Thursday night, destroying eight shops and injuring at least 20 people, including five fire fighters.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire started at a petrol shop, owned by Abul Mia, at about 11:45 pm and soon engulfed nearby shops following the explosion of petrol

The fire fighters with the help of local people extinguished the blaze after two hours of frantic efforts.

At least 20 people were injured during the explosion and while trying to put out the fire. Three of the injured -- Abu Mia, Saidur and Mohammad Mamun -- were sent to a hospital in Barisal in critical condition while 11 others to Patuakhali General Hospital.

Obituary

Ohider Nesa, mother of Aiyub Bhuyian, chief reporter of the daily Bhorer Kagoj, passed away on July 11 due to old-age complications at her house in Feni at the age of 90,

She left behind one son, four daughters and a host of relatives and admirers to mourn her death. She was buried at her family graveyard at Nurpur in Fulgazi.

In a statement yesterday, Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) President M Shafigul Karim and General Secretary Shahed Chowdhury expressed condolence at her death

Mizanur Rahman Titu

Mizanur Rahman Titu, president of Rajbari district Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), passed away at Padma General Hospital in the city yesterday at the age of 30. Titu, also a member of central

committee of JCD, had been suffering from cancer, a party press release said. He is survived by his parents

and wife

JCD president Azizul Bari Helal and general secretary Shafiul Bari Babu expressed deep shock at the death of Titu.

Selina Hag

11 Gravevard.

Selina Haq, wife of Ekramul Haq, a former journalist and retired income tax officer, passed away or Thursday night at the age of 48. She had been suffering from lung

Selina is survived by her husband, two sons and one daughter. She was buried at Mirpur Section

Death anniversary



sixth death anniversary of Advocate Kader Sarker, pro-vice president o Raishahi University

Today is the

Central Students Union and senate member of the university, says a press release. He was also the general secre-

tary of Bogra district Krishak League. On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and halquayezikir

will be held at his village home in Friends, relatives and admirers have been requested to attend the programme and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

GB honours five senior doctors

JU CORRESPONDENT

Five senior doctors were honoured for their contribution to medical science and teaching at a function at Gono Bishwabidyalaya (GB) in Savar yesterday.

The picture was taken from Mawa in Munshiganj yesterday.

The function was organised in connection with the celebration of the 8th founding anniversary of the Justice Mohammad Habibur

Rahman, chief advisor to former caretaker government, gave away gold medals to the recipients. Five students of GB also

received crests for their outstanding achievement. The honoured doctors-cumteachers are Prof Dr Kazi Shamsul Huq, Prof Dr Johora Begum Kazi, first female doctor in the subconti-

nent, Prof Dr S I M G Mannan, Prof

Dr A K Bakhtier Hossain and Prof

High humidity can increase the risk

of a heart attack in the elderly even

in relatively mild climates, accord-

ing to research published on

Scientists who studied deaths

from heart attacks in Athens,

Greece in 2001 found that humidity

was one of the most important

factors influencing average

monthly death rates from heart

attacks for people over 70 years

heart attack deaths," said Dr

Georgios Giannopoulos, of the

University of Athens. "It means that

higher humidity values were

related to higher death rates," he

The research published in the

journal Heart is thought to be the

told Reuters.

"It was linearly associated with

REUTERS, London

risk in elderly

Md Shamsuzzoha. The five students are Dr Md Zakir Hossain, Dr Tanvir Ahmmad,

Dr Aklima Akter, Dr Kazi Nuruddin Ahmed and Dr Dilshan Zahan. Speaking as chief guest on the occasion Justice Rahman urged the doctors to serve the patients

with missionary zeal. "Many countries have laws preserving the rights of patients to move legally if there is any misbehaviour or wrong treatment by doctors. Similarly there are criticisms and allegations about the

our country. So they must perform their jobs with more dedication," he "Many of our age might find that most of our dreams were shattered. But the youths have to keep dreaming until they materialise some of

first study to identify a relationship

between humidity and heart

attacks, which are a leading cause

between weather conditions

including temperature, pressure

levels and humidity with the 3,126

heart attack deaths that occurred in

age group the average daily tem-

perature during the previous week

was also a significant factor in daily

tent high temperatures could have

a cumulative effect on the hody

which raises the risk of heart attack

ity, especially combined with tem-

perature, increases physiological

stress on the body especially the

circulatory system," Giannopoulos

The researchers believe consis-

"We know that increased humid-

They found that in the elderly

Athens in 2001.

death rates.

The scientists analysed the link

of death in developed countries.

them," said Justice Rahman

way many doctors treat patients in

quality of life, but the objective will remain unfulfilled if quality of education is not ensured in private universities," said Prof Dr M Asaduzzaman, chairman of University Grants Commission.

"Education is to enhance the

Female workers are peeling fibres from water-soaked jute plants at the landowners' fields for which they will receive the jute sticks only as remuneration.

" We must perform our duty sincerely and give due respect to worthy sons of the soil who are making significant contribution to the development of the country," he Vice-chancellor of GB Prof Dr

Abul Kashem Chowdhury, Prof Dr Jafarullah Chowdhury, Prof Dr M R Khan, Prof Dr Mohammad Shahidullah, dean of society-based medical college at GB and Dr S A Hafiz were on the occasion.

A cultural programme was held

A heart attack occurs when

coronary arteries which carry blood

to the heart are restricted, reducing

supply. Each year in the United

States alone more than a million

people suffer heart attacks, many

Smoking, high blood pressure,

A family history of heart disease

and age also increases the likeli-

neak in heart attack deaths in

December, which they attributed to

the "Merry Christmas Syndrome'

or over-indulging in food, alcohol

and emotional stress during the

raised cholesterol, obesity, lack of

exercise and diabetes raise the risk

of a heart attack

and women over 55.

holiday season.

in the afternoon.

Humidity raises heart attack

BSS, Rangpur

Jailer M Nazrul Islam said Nuruzzaman, 61, son of late Tofir Uddin of village Dhatalipur in Joypurhat, suddenly fell sick at about 8:30pm. He was rushed to Joypurhat District Modernised

doctors declared him dead.

After autopsy, the body was handed over to his relatives yester-

hood. Heart attacks are more common in men over 45 years old Sadar Police Station. The researchers also found a

AFP, Cape Canaveral

Discovery's astronauts prepared Friday to inspect the shuttle for micrometeorite impacts before heading back to Earth from a crucial mission for US space ambitions. The crew have used the shuttle's

robotic arm to scan Discovery for possible damage caused during liftoff and Nasa analysts found nothing that would prevent the spaceship from safely flying home on Monday.

But for the first time in a shuttle

mission, the astronauts will conduct another safety check Friday before they pull out of the International Space Station to ensure that Discovery's heat shield was not cracked by space particles during just the second flight since the 2003 Columbia tragedy.

They will make one last inspection after they undock from the ISS Saturday.

"We are going to look at it one more time," Discovery pilot Mark Kelly told CBS News television from the ISS. "But based on what we have seen so far and on what the risk is, I think all of us feel really comfortable."

Before the inspection, the astronauts finished putting ISS trash and unused equipment into a container that they prepared to transfer into the shuttle's payload bay.

Tk 9.7 lakh received in donation for **AMCH** in June

A total of over Tk 9.69 lakh was received in donations from 11 people and one organisation for Ahsania Mission Cancer Hospital in June last, says a press release.

The total amount received so far stands at Tk 45 crore 30 lakh and 50 thousand which includes a general grant of Tk 10 crore from the social affairs ministry and an equipment grant of Tk 15 crore from the health and family welfare ministry. The donors of June were Nishat

Mahmood Tk 1 lakh, late Abdul Azim 10000, Rabia Sultana Chowdhury Tk 1000, Md Rahmat Pasha Tk 5000, Anwar Matin Choudhury Tk 1 lakh, Sirajur Rahman 1000, anonymous Tk 2 lakh, Jargina Ahmed Tk 50000 Arjumand Parveen Banu Tk 1 lakh, SN Abeda Begum Tk 50000, anonymous Tk 50000 and Addhayan Shishu Foundation Tk 3 lakh 2 thousand and 8 hundred.

Meanwhile, construction work of the hospital is progressing as scheduled. Presently the construction of the first floor is going on.

DHÂKA

Human chain Save the Environment Movement and

Guardians' Forum to protect the Rights of the Intellectually Disabled will jointly hold a human chain protesting construction of buildings on society's playground. Venue: In front of Fine Arts Institute. Time: 10:30am.

Phulki, an NGO, will organise a discussion entitled 'Setting childcare

Discussion

centres in factories will ensure participation of women in the job market'. Venue: Spectra Convention Centre. Seminar

will organise a seminar on 'Wages and productivity of garment workers'. Venue: Shaheed Asad auditorium. Time: Inauguration

Officers' Club, Dhaka will be held. Textile Garments' Workers' Federation

Disabled (NFOWD) auditorium. Time Literary meeting

Organisations Working with the

Bangladesh Lekhak Samity will organise its monthly literary meeting. Venue: Book Society Bhaban. Time: 5:00pm.

Regular meeting

The regular meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm

Annual General Meeting The 38th annual general meeting of

Venue: Club auditorium. Time: 4:00pm **Discussion** A discussion will be held to mark the first

anniversary of Bangladesh Adibashi

Union. Venue: Muktibhaban at Purana

The inaugural ceremony of a training Central meeting course for 20 disabled but promising people, jointly organised by Action Aid,

Paltan. Time: 5:00pm.

The central meeting of Jatiya Chhatra HSBC and IPSA, Chittagong, will be Samaj will be held. Venue: Engineers' held. Venue: National Forum of Institute auditorium. Time: 10:00am.

Rajshahi Gas Andolon Parishad, a social body, called 15 minutes token strike from 11:00am today demanding supply of gas through pipeline in Rajshahi city in the tenure of the current government. Rajshahi Gas Andolon Parishad Convener Mahtab Uddin called

RU CORRESPONDENT

Token strike for

Rajshahi today

gas in

upon Raishahi people to make today's token strike a success. The Parishad will also hold a rally at Shaheb Bazaar in the city ir the afternoon on the same demand

Earlier, the Parishad observed several strikes in Rajshahi city on the same demand.

Meanwhile, the government has recently declared to supply gas in Rajshahi, which was approved by

Prisoner dies of cardiac arrest at Joypurhat jail

A prisoner undergoing life imprisonment for murder in Joypurhat District Jail died of a massive cardiac arrest on Thursday night.

Hospital by the jail authorities.

After examining the patient, the

Jail authorities filed an 'unnatural death' case with Joypurhat

Discovery astronauts wrap up space station work