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UP Chairman to write reports on performances of govt employees

By Nurul Kabir

Proposed local govt system

The Local Government Commission (LGC) has proposed that the second tier of the local government should be at the union level and it could be called Union Parishad (Union Council).

The Union Parishad (UP) will be a 13-member elected body headed by a Chairman. The Council will be responsible for chalking out and implementing a comprehensive development plan for the area concerned.

The UP Chairman will write the Annual Confidential Reports (ACRs) or reports on performances of union level 'government employees'.

The Chairman will be elected directly by the people of the union through adult franchise. Of the twelve general members, nine will come from nine different 'wards' who will be elected directly by the voters of their respective 'wards'. Three women members, who will represent three wards each, will also be elected directly by the voters of their respective constituencies.

Three wards will constitute one constituency for a woman member. Apart from elected representatives of the people, one representative each from union level agriculture bloc supervisors, health workers, family planning workers or doctors, one each from government, semi-government and autonomous bodies operating in the union concerned, and one from Ansars and Village Defence Party will be there in the Union Parishad. They will take part in discussions but will not enjoy the voting right.

Besides, one representative each from Freedom Fighters, Co-operatives and the 'backward or ignored class and professions such as fishermen, weavers, landless peasants and distressed men and women,' will also be in the council. They will also have no voting rights. The Commission did not mention about any mechanism to choose the non-voting members.

The Union Parishad will meet at least once a month to review its activities.

The Local Government Commission has proposed that the Union Parishad will run its activities, through separate standing committees. On law and order, health and family planning, agriculture, irrigation and environment, education and social welfare, women and child development, sports, culture and youth development, fisheries and animal husbandry and other sectors.

The Chairman and the UP members — male or female — will work as conveners of standing committees while 'the remaining members or some of them' will work in the committees as 'general members'. The officials and employees of the government and semi-government bodies will work as member secretaries of the standing committees.

Activities of the Village Council will include agriculture extension and seed storage; setting up of exhibition fish farms for cultivation and sale of fingerlings; setting up of commercial poultry farms for supplying improved varieties of chicken, eggs and vaccine; implementation of primary health care programmes with the cooperation of health workers and co-operating with the Thana Health Complexes in cases of outbreak of any disease; providing the people with family planning materials and motivating them to implement the family planning programmes; and supervising the educational institutions in the areas as well as implementing the mass education programme.

The proposed activities of the UP will also include formulation of integrated plans for construction of embankments and sinking deep tubewells, making arrangements for loans for cottage industries and conducting training programmes jointly with the BSCIC; construction of roads, bridges and culverts and improving the

condition of rural bazars; implementing poverty alleviation programmes and cooperating with the NGOs and Co-operatives working in these fields and so on.

The Union Parishad will prepare its annual budget on the basis of the 'government approved budgetary guidelines'. The budget will be planned on the basis of project proposals from all the nine 'village councils'. The UP has to display the draft in a public place 'for the information and comments of the people,' while the 'council' will finalise the budget following analysis of peoples' opinions on the draft documents.

The Budget Controlling Officer in the Upazila Parishad will monitor the expenditures, and in case of any deviation from the original plan, the authorities concerned will enjoy the right to 'correct' those.

The LGC has left the issue of government grants for the Union Parishad with a Finance Commission, an institution to be created to put forward a comprehensive plan on the financial matters related to all the four tiers of the local bodies.

The LGC however proposed that the UP should get money from the lease of ferry ghats (up to Tk one lakh), water bodies (upto Tk one lakh) and haats and bazars (upto Tk three lakh). The Commission also recommended that one per cent of the property gain tax should go to the Union Parishad funds.

The LGC has endorsed a 'recent government decision' for constructing a Union Complex Building at the centre of each union, where there will be an auditorium for meeting, an office for the UP Chairman and office room for the officials and employees of the Union Council. There will be one secretary and one assistant secretary in the Union Parishad. The assistant secretary will work as accountant of the Council, while three or four part-time tax collectors will work under the assistant secretary. Besides, nine Mahalladars and one Dafadar will be there in the Parishad.

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Kidnapped girl rescued in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 13: A 14-year-old girl was rescued here five days after her abduction from Bhaibrab in Kishoreganj. Soheda Begum, 15, a class nine student of Shimulakandi High School of Bhaibrab, was kidnapped by a group of five youngmen on August 9 while she was returning home from school.

Fatullah police recovered her from a house, owned by one Abdul Gafur, at Delpara this afternoon and arrested one Bahar, 25.

Police said, one Khorshed married Soheda by force and took her to refuge at one of his in-laws' house.

Earlier, Soheda's father Nurul Mia filed a case with Bhaibrab thana accusing five men. The accused are, Bahar, Golap, Khorshed, Dilu and Mumim.

Donors to fund

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DDID will fund half a million pound sterling two-year project to be implemented in two phases from September 1997. This project will conduct an assessment study throughout the country and an arsenic source prediction and monitoring study. The aim of these studies will be to gain an understanding of the delineation of the arsenic affected areas, and assess the possible future changes in the levels of arsenic concentration in groundwater.

The WB expects to lend 20 million dollars for an umbrella project under which sub-projects are to be developed annually. The aim of the projects would be to develop water treatment facilities and to provide alternative arsenic free water supply options to the affected people. It would also aim at raising awareness about arsenic poisoning.

Babar N Kabir, team leader of the Regional Water and Sanitation Group, said there are still many facts about the nature and extent of arsenic poisoning to be established through research. "But it is now certain that the arsenic in groundwater is of geological origin."

He said arsenic poisoning is detrimental to health, but it would be more dangerous to revert back to drinking untreated surface water.

He said in order to prevent duplication of activities and to proceed in a more focused and systematic manner, the donor community requested the World Bank to coordinate arsenic related activities on behalf of donors.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Tareq's father resents slow investigation

By Staff Correspondent

The fate of Moinuddin Kaashem Tareq, a student of North South University (NSU) in the city, could not be known even a year after his mysterious disappearance.

Some friends of Tareq had said he drowned in Meghna but it could never be confirmed. Father of Tareq, M. A. Kashem, a businessman, told reporters yesterday that their agony knew no bounds as the fateful day returns today.

'Police investigation into Tareq's mysterious disappearance is slow. A police official is supposed to fly to London to talk with Lubna, the girl who was said to be accompanying Tareq on the night of his disappearance and who later flew to London,' he said.

The British Home Office has agreed to a visit by Bangladeshi police to interrogate Lubna, but the process is dragging on, delaying investigation, Kashem claimed.

Tareq had gone out with some friends to take food in a Chinese restaurant on August 14 last year. The next day, his friends handed over his outfits to his parents, saying he had jumped into the Meghna in a drunken state.

Despite repeated attempts by divers of the fire Brigade and the Navy, his body could not be traced.

2 killed in road accidents

PABNA, Aug 13: Two people were killed in separate road accidents on Pabna-Nagarbari highway today, reports UNB.

Police said Abul Khayer, 32, of Palashbari, thana in Gaibandha district was killed when a truck hit him at Daripur in Santhia thana.

In another accident a minor girl, Asma, was crushed under the wheels of a truck at Kallyanpur area in the morning.

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Cabinet body meets

Proposed JS (Privilege & Power) Act '97 examined

The second meeting of the Cabinet Committee formed to scrutinise the draft bill on powers and privileges of parliament, its committees and members, submitted to the Council of Ministers was held at Sangsad Bhabna yesterday, reports UNB.

The meeting examined various clauses and sub-clauses of the proposed Jatiya Sangsad (Privilege and Power) Act, 1997 and decided to submit a report to the Cabinet, said a press release.

Convener of the committee, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Kharsu presided over the meeting, attended by its members Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Education Minister A S H K Sadique. Additional Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat, Khondker Abdul Haque and other officials concerned were present.

Bangabandhu

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slain leader at the Bangabandhu memorial museum and the armed forces will present a guard of honour at 5:30 am on Friday.

A milad mahfil will also be held there.

At Tungipara, different programmes will be held at the mazar of the late leader. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will offer fatiha and place wreath at 10 am while members of the Armed Forces will present arms salute. Special prayers will also be offered.

The programmes at Tungipara also include a discussion titled "World History and Bangabandhu" at 3 pm.

Hostess Keeps food warm in 3 heat resistant glass dishes. Transcom Electronics Limited. Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993. Ctg: 716353, 725758, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Factory godown gutted in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 13: A devastating fire gutted a godown of a factory at Panchabati under Fatulla thana last night.

Fire Service sources suspected that the blaze originated from an electrical short circuit at the Shonal Aash Cotton Mills at around 10 pm.

Fire fighters from Haziganj and Mandapara rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control at around 2:30 am. According to the Fire Service sources, the extent of damage was yet to be ascertained. The mill's owner claimed the damage could be as high as Tk four lakh.

Prime Minister

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August 15, 1975, Hasina said Bangabandhu sacrificed his life for the people of the country, for establishing a poverty and hunger-free nation.

She said the dream and the future of the nation were killed through the killing of Bangabandhu and the conspiracy was started to destroy the spirit and values of the Liberation War as well as independence.

Addressing the meeting, eminent economist Prof Rehman Sobhan said: "We have to understand the economic plan of Bangabandhu to take forward the nation."

Prof Kabir Chowdhury, who chaired the meeting, suggested that the process of trial of the killers of Bangabandhu should be accelerated.

Bangabandhu murder case

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the deposition by PW-7.

Bashar told the court, "I reached Dhaka with one battery of force comprising about 105 persons and took over charge from the First Bengal Lancer under the command of Maj Farook."

"The main body of the force was located at the Ganabhaban under the command of Subedar Kabir, while a platoon of force manned by 25 persons under the command of Naik Subender Motabil was sent to guard Bangabandhu's residence and it camped at Rd No 31, Dhanmandi."

"As I did not find accommodation at the Ganabhaban, I stayed in my maternal uncle's residence at China building of Azampur with permission from Brig Mashrurul Huq, the then Military Secretary to the President."

"In the morning of August 15, 1975, the household help at my maternal uncle's residence returned from market and said bread is not available there and that martial law has been imposed in the country."

"Mohsinul Alam, my uncle, tuned the radio on. We listened to the radio: 'this is Maj Dalim ... Sheikh Mujib has been killed ... the government has been imposed ... martial law has been imposed,' etc."

"I then immediately contacted the Ganabhaban over telephone and asked for vehicle, which did not arrive. "Subedar Major Wahab Joarder came to my place in a

Jeep at around 10:30 am and told me that Lancer Forces encircled Bangabandhu's residence in the morning and was accompanied by Capt Bazul Huda. Later they killed Bangabandhu along with his whole family."

Bashar went on "Joarder also informed me that Naik Shamsu, a soldier of my Regiment, was also killed and another name was injured, whose name I do not remember."

"At last he told me, 'anyway everything is over now and it will not be appropriate to swim against the tide. "As I expressed my desire to visit the spot, Joarder said, 'Sir, you need not go now. Please go there when I send you a vehicle. "At around 11:30 am or 12:00 noon when the vehicle arrived I hurriedly left for Bangabandhu's residence."

"I saw the forces of Lancer and Artillery while on my way to the residence of Bangabandhu."

"When I met Capt Bazul Huda, near the lake on the southern side of Bangabandhu's residence, he said, 'sorry Bashar, I could not inform you earlier, for obvious reasons. "I also noticed Capt Huda wearing the insignia of a Major, while Subedar Major Wahab Joarder was wearing that of a Lieutenant."

"Huda also said, 'Subedar Major Wahab Joarder has been given a promotion for the job he had done. "I then entered the residence of Bangabandhu, accompanied

by Wahab Joarder and another NCO, who was probably Havildar Duddus. Bashar then told the court that he saw the bullet-hit body of Sheikh Kamal at the entrance of the reception room of the residence. The body of Sheikh Naser was in the bathroom attached to the reception room."

"I saw the body of Bangabandhu lying on the stairs. While going to the first floor, the body of Begum Mujib was lying near a bed room on the first floor, and inside the room, there were the bodies of Sheikh Jamal, Sheikh Russel, Sheikh Kamal and Mrs Jamal. Bashar said, "Wahab Joarder had told him, 'Begum Mujib was crying when Bangabandhu was killed. Some Lancer troops had fired at Begum Mujib and later they went inside the room and killed the rest."

"The PW-7 then said, 'I got puzzled and asked Joarder, 'what have you done.' He replied, 'things are over now adding that the Lancer forces also looted some valuables from the house after killings. "Then I came down and found the body of Col Jamil in a vehicle on the northern side of the residence. "An NCO also informed me that he had seen Maj Bazul Huda, Maj Noor, Maj Mohiuddin (Lancer) participating in the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members. "I saw Maj Dalim in that residence at about 4:30 pm."

Extortionists collect crores

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to paying a daily 'rent' to the local *mashtans*, they have to pay the police a weekly toll which is known as 'hapta'."

"Usually every thana has a constable who is responsible for collecting the 'hapta', and he is known as the accountant," said a hawkler in New Market area adding that the 'hapta' ranged from Tk five to Tk 100, depending on the size of the business."

"When asked what happens when one fails to pay the 'hapta' the elderly hawkler replied: "We are doing business here illegally so we do not fail to pay. Moreover they provide us with security."

"According to police and car dealers in the city, the criminals take vehicles by force from car showrooms. They never pay the dealers for the vehicles and use these for criminal activities."

"In one such incident in the city, the son of a Treasury Bench member of parliament had taken a car from a dealer and had not paid for it. He had taken a car worth over Tk seven lakh and gave a cheque as partial payment. But the cheque bounced when it was sent for encashment."

"The MP was approached for several months. He paid the dealer the amount for the cheque. But the balance amount of over Tk three lakh still remains unreturned."

An notorious criminal of Dhaka City, Joseph, who is now wanted for a number of crimes and carrying a reward of Tk 30,000 on his head, had also forcibly taken a number of cars from different showrooms in Dhanmondi, and Airport Road areas."

"In the latest case, a car dealer had filed a general diary with the Dhanmondi police station. But he has not got back his car. Nor the police are of

much help in recovering the vehicle, showroom owner pointed out.

"Very recently, four accomplices of Joseph were arrested with an unregistered car which was also forcibly taken from a showroom."

"Sources concerned said a few days before his arrest, Sweden Aslam, the most talked about criminal of Dhaka city, had taken away a car worth Tk eleven lakh from a showroom at Montipurpara area."

"We are completely helpless against these criminals," said a showroom owner in Dhanmondi area. "We have to do business, and so we have to meet their demands."

"I have talked with the police on various occasions," said another car dealer. "They promised to talk with the criminals to return my cars. But they could not do anything."

"Though the criminals take away the cars, the automobile dealers do not give up their claim in most cases."

"We do not give them the necessary papers for registration," said a car dealer, "I tell them to pay the price and take the papers. Meanwhile, we just inform the police about the incident so that we do not get implicated in any crimes in which my cars may be used."

"But it does not stop the criminals from driving cars which they do by using either a false number plate or a 'garage number'."

"For the city's real estate developers, any new project begins with payment of huge tolls to criminals. A number of developers told The Daily Star that they have to pay money to criminals from the day they purchase a piece of land."

The Daily Star investigation has revealed that this is the single highest paying sector for criminals."

"I had to pay Tk 40 lakh to

Lightning kills 3 in Padma

Three fishermen were killed and two others seriously injured by lightning in the river Padma in Sujanagar thana yesterday evening, reports UNB.

Villagers said Nagen Chandra, 56, Husal Mandal, 48, and Shamu Mia, 54, of Nischintapur in Sujanagar thana met the tragic end of their lives while fishing in the river.

"An NCO also informed me that he had seen Maj Bazul Huda, Maj Noor, Maj Mohiuddin (Lancer) participating in the killing of Bangabandhu and his family members. "I saw Maj Dalim in that residence at about 4:30 pm."

Ctg Port

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impose surcharge on container cargo at Chittagong Port from August 16, port sources informed.

The CFTC took the decision as a measure of 'cost-recovery' against the overstay of ships at Chittagong Port due to congestions.

The surcharge was fixed at the rate of 150 US dollars for a 20 feet long container and 300 dollars for a 40 feet long container, port sources said.

Chittagong Port is witnessing a congestion since the middle of June due to labour unrest and rainfall, port sources said.

But port officials said congestions is now almost eased as the Port was kept open round the clock to speed up its cargo handling operations.

DU Syndicate

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questioned Prof Khan to continue as Provost, a DU press release said.

Other members of the committee are Dr Nur-un-Nabi, Prof Bazul Haq Khondkar, Prof ATM Zahurul Haq, Dr Mohammad Abdul Aziz, Syed Ahmed, Advocate Gazul Haq and Prof Mosrafa Chowdhury.

The Syndicate condemned the incident and decided that action would be taken against those responsible for the incident as per the rules of the university.

Meanwhile, *bona fide* residents of JCD-dominated Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Ziaur Rahman Hall of the university were rehabilitated yesterday. The VC, teachers' representatives, Provosts and house tutors of the halls were present when the residents were rehabilitated after checking their identity cards.

Earlier, the halls were evacuated at 9 am. Police recovered nine cock-tails, six from Zia Hall and three from Bangabandhu Hall during a raid in the morning.

BNP must take long term view

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ported this position of the JCD. We did so to strengthen the confidence building process of the BNP student front and also in pursuance of our long-standing position that when understanding is to be reached it should always be the ruling party — or its front bodies, as in this case — which should give in more than the other."

Credit goes to the VC, once again, that he understood the above point and did actually start the rehabilitation process from Sir A.F. Rahman Hall, a stronghold of the BCL, followed by Mohsin Hall which is also dominated by the same group. Repeatedly the VC made the appeals to the JCD leaders not to break the understanding and to discuss any further points if there were any.

The JCD's duplicity becomes even more clear when we look back at the developments of the last few days. It is true that taking advantage of an intermeccine fight of JCD inside Surya Sen Hall, BCL occupied it. We think it was wrong, and so did the VC. To his credit, he was able to persuade the BCL to negotiate a settlement to give up the Surya Sen Hall.

Then he convinced them to restore a portrait of late President Ziaur Rahman just beside that of Bangabandhu. Then as a part of a deal, he erased both the portraits simultaneously. This meant two major concessions by the BCL. First, it equated Sheikh Mujib to Ziaur Rahman, which BCL workers have resisted all along and at very high cost. Second, to wipe out a portrait of Bangabandhu in the month of August, when he was so brutally assassinated, is another undeniable fact of the ruling party must not be lost to anyone. JCD, on the other hand, was able to reclaim its position in Surya Sen Hall to its satisfaction, restore Zia's portrait and have the BCL accept it beside that of Sheikh Mujib and then wipe out both together.

There is no doubt that Tuesday's events in the DU occurred more out of BNP's own political considerations than anything to do with DU affairs as such. BNP appears to have calculated that a continued state of unrest in the DU is to their advantage. In fact, more widespread the unrest, more bad the government will look. So lets have lots of them. To be honest, BNP cannot be blamed to be the originator of this view point. Our opposition parties always found it to their advantage to keep political unrest alive. Coupled with it, it must also be said that ever since AL came to power more and more halls in the DU have been captured by

them with the result that 7 halls are now controlled by BCL compared to 3 by JCD. It used to be the other way round when BNP was in power. The truth of the matter is that whoever comes to power uses it to their advantage, while the country, its economy and democracy can go to dogs.

But this will have to change, and change NOW. We think Prof. Azad made some genuine efforts to change things. Yes, he is the ruling party's choice to be the VC. To that extent BNP and JCD can suspect him to belong to the other side. But we think his track record entitles him to be given a chance.

BNP must seriously think in which direction it wants to take student politics. Is coming to power so important that can justify the destruction of the future of our premier university? When in opposition we warned Awami League about calling so many hartals. Now in power, it realises the correctness of our advice. Begum Zia, while in power, used to decry hartals, now she is itching to call them at the first opportunity she gets. She will obviously sing a different tune when and if she is back in power. Same thing holds true for student politics. Using them for narrow party political end will destroy education, destroy our students and destroy politics itself.

If our leaders are really patriotic and if they genuinely care about our people and the younger generation, then they should leave our students alone. The politics of shortsightedness is bringing us down and down, and soon there will be no further to go down. And then the world will just leave us behind and point to us as a country that went on a self-destruction mode just because its leaders could not see beyond their noses.

We conclude by repeating a suggestion we made earlier. Let President Shahabuddin Ahmed play the role of a true Chancellor of the University, and under his supervision let all student fronts of all political parties be disbanded. Let both AL and BNP agree to a moratorium on student politics for the next ten years — two terms of elections. Let students do politics on their own but not as fronts for any party.

We know many people will say we have a glorious tradition of student politics, so banning or putting a moratorium on it is anti-democratic. Well, many good things can and do turn bad in time. And our student politics has. Without stopping it for several years coming we cannot restore it to its original glory. And we think President Shahabuddin can help us do it.

Madrasah girl kidnapped in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 13: A girl student of a madrasah was abducted, allegedly by a Islamist Chhatra Shibir leader, from Kojuri in Shahjadpur thana at about 10 am today, reports UNB.

Police said Bina Khatun, 20, of Kojluri Madrasah was kidnapped at gun point by Shahjadpur College unit president of Shibir Abdul Khaleque.

She was whisked away on a motor-cycle.

Khaleda

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sovereignty to salvage the nation from the misuse of present government," she said.

The Leader of the Opposition told the newcomers that like them, other parties were communicating with BNP and showing their interest to build united resistance under BNP's leadership.

"BNP has taken the responsibility of raising voice against the government to realise the rights of the people. Inshaallah, we will not turn back from our goal," Begum Zia said.

The BNP chief once again called upon all nationalist and patriotic parties and individuals to assemble under the banner of BNP and protest government misdeeds.

She alleged the government was destroying each and every sector of the country's economy, including garments and leather industries, and fisheries.

The meeting was attended by Begum Selima Rahman, Maj (Retd) Hafiz Uddin MP, Anwar Zahid, Ahmed Nasir, Ehsanul Kabir, Jasmim Uddin and Jamaluddin Khan Milon.

Extortionists stab

From page 1

They were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Quoting local people, relatives of the injured persons at the hospital said that a gang of about four *mashtans* of the area came and demanded a toll of Tk one lakh from the owner of the under construction building.

Failing to realise the toll money, they stabbed the three persons and fled away.

A case has been lodged with Shabbubagh thana in this regard.