

# Establish dist govt to strengthen local bodies

Experts tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

District government will have to be established with a view to strengthen the local government institutions by infusing dynamism into its activities, said the experts at a seminar yesterday.

They suggested that the national government would be limited to some national functions working with few ministries and agencies employing a small bureaucracy.

A parliamentary commission will have to be formed for regulating and reviewing the local government at all levels but no ministry will have any authority on local government units, they added.

The seminar on 'Decentralisation of Local Government and Concept of District Government' was organised by the Coalition for Good Governance at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday.

Former minister for finance Abul Maal A Muhit said local government can never be pro-people and serve public interest without a revolutionary change in its structure and functioning.

"District government should be established for strengthening the local government. There should be three tiers of local government, Zila (district), Upazila and Union level. The division is an unmanageable unit and it could be considered only if we want to set up a federal government with several prov-



Former finance minister Abul Maal A Muhit speaks at a seminar at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is economist Dr Atiur Rahman and on his left is LDP leader Feroj M Hasan.

inces," he said while presenting the keynote paper at the seminar.

Muhit said each district government should have 40 to 80 members depending on the size of its population.

"These members will elect their leader and deputy leader who will be chairman and vice-chairman of the Zila Sarkar," he added.

Muhit also said the district government will be responsible for at least 60 percent of the national expenditure.

Noted economist Dr Atiur Rahman said district government should be formed to eliminate regional-based discriminations in

the country.

Prof Tofail Ahmed of Chittagong University said country's development will not be ensured without reaching modernisation at the grassroots level and for this reason district government is needed for making local government self-reliance.

LDP leader Feroj M Hasan presided over the seminar which was also addressed by Prof Syed Gias Uddin Ahmed of Dhaka University, Prof Dilara Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar University, and former chairman of University Grants Commission (UGC) Prof Asaduzzaman.

## MALIBAGH INCIDENT

### Dulal Mia confesses to involvement

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dulal Mia, now on a four-day remand in a robbery case, yesterday confessed his involvement with the Malibagh incident in which four people were gunned down six years ago.

Sub-inspector of Ramna Police Station Ahsanul Kabir, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, said Dulal admitted that he was in the procession with a gun. He gave the gun to one of his accomplices later, according to the IO.

Dulal said he does not know the whereabouts of the gun as his accomplice died after few days of the incident.

The IO said Dulal was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he fell ill yesterday morning during remand period. Later he was sent back to Ramna Police Station in the evening and the remand has started again, the IO added.

When asked whether the then Awami League lawmaker Dr HBM Iqbal will be quizzed since Dulal was seen carrying gun during the procession led by Iqbal, the IO said the case was filed with Motijheel Police Station. If Motijheel police want they can quizz him, the IO added.

## Verdict of arms case against Babar Oct 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The verdict of an arms case against former state minister for home Lutfozzaman Babar will be delivered on October 30.

Dhaka Metropolitan Special Tribunal fixed the date after hearing arguments from prosecution and defence lawyers.

Joint forces arrested Babar and recovered an unlicensed revolver with 25 rounds of bullet at his Gulshan residence on May 28.

Later, police filed an arms case with Gulshan Police Station against him.

A total of 14 witnesses gave statement against Babar.

## BBC launches The Next Big Thing 2007

UNB, Dhaka

The BBC has launched a major global music talent search - The Next Big Thing 2007, aiming at finding out bold and brilliant musical pioneers who really deserve attention, a BBC press release said.

Anyone can enter and it is completely free and unmediated, with just two rules, artists must be unsigned and perform their own original material.

Entries to this programme will be closed on November 18, and five finalists will perform for an all-star jury in London in December.

This year BBC World Television will join BBC World Service in the search for the Next Big Thing to expose the new and establish a platform for musicians to create and perform original music, the release added.

The BBC has selected a panel of international music experts, including editor of the Observer Music Monthly Caspar Llewellyn-Smith, music journalist for Mojo and the Guardian Will Hodgkinson and Features Editor of NME Paul Stokes to help choose five finalists.

One act will be crowned The Next Big Thing 2007 and perform to a live audience of 3000 people at London's O2 stadium to celebrate BBC World Service's 75th Anniversary in December, alongside some of the most exciting names in music.

For further details, interested people can visit [www.bbcworldservice.com/nextbigthing2007](http://www.bbcworldservice.com/nextbigthing2007).

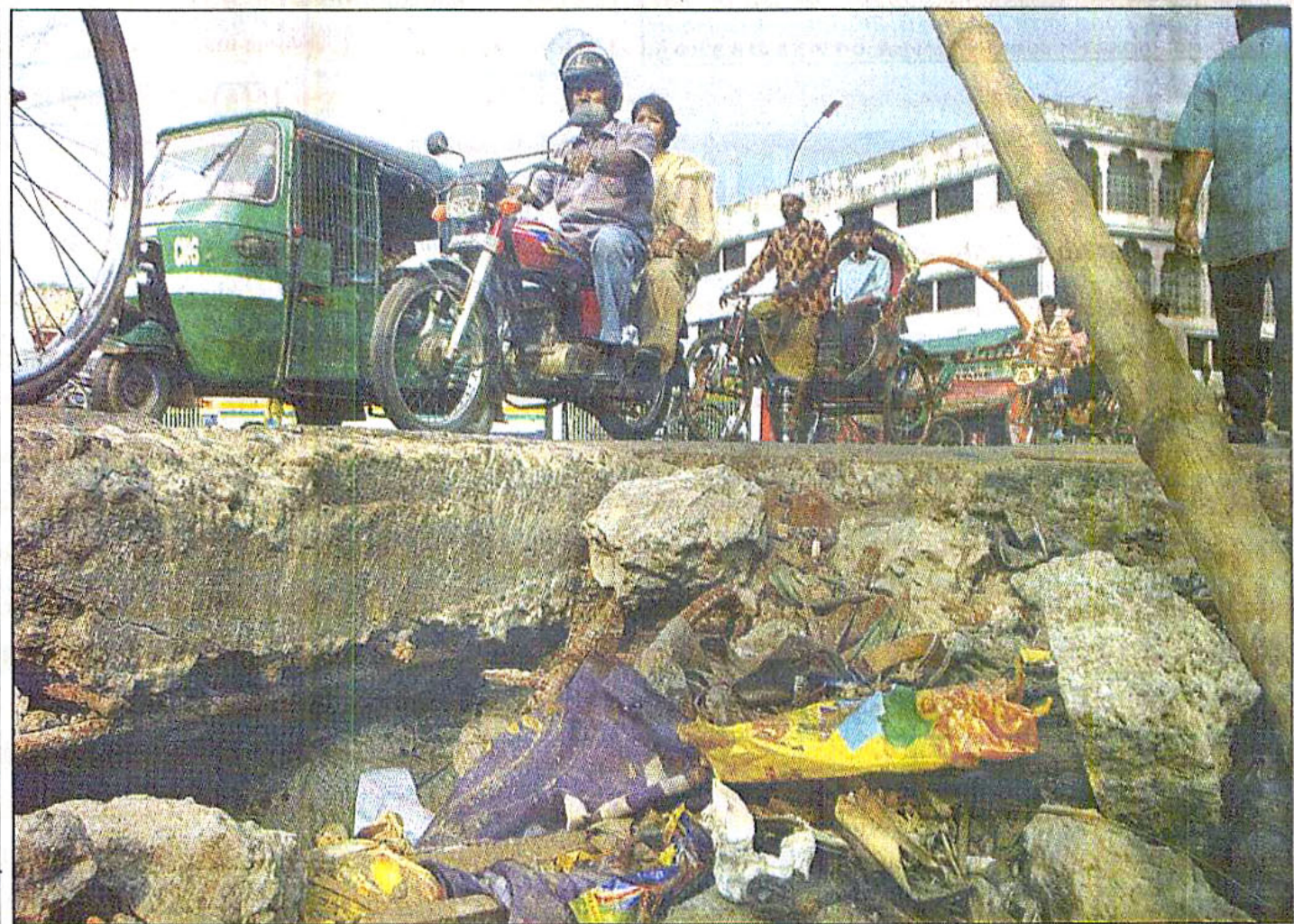
## President, CA greet Zambian president

UNB, Dhaka

President Iajuddin Ahmed and Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed felicitated president of Zambia Levy Patrick Mwanawasa on the occasion of the Independence Day of his country.

In separate messages, the president and chief adviser expressed their confidence that the friendly relations that so happily exist between the two countries would be strengthened in the days ahead.

They also wished him good health and happiness and the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the brotherly people of Zambia.



This roadside ditch in front of Dayaganj City Corporation Market poses threat to the commuters and vehicles but the authorities seem indifferent. The picture was taken yesterday.

## UN DAY TODAY

# UN's effectiveness depends on collective will of int'l community

Says chief adviser

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed has said the effectiveness of the United Nations will entirely depend on the collective will and commitment of the international community.

In a message on the occasion of the United Nations Day to be observed in the country as elsewhere across the world today, he urged the international community to come up to address the challenges and seize the common opportunities through the United Nations.

Fakhruddin will attend a programme, organised on the occasion by the Office of the United Nations Resident Coordinator in

Bangladesh, at Bangladesh China Friendship Centre today. Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury will be present at the function as the special guest.

In his message, the chief adviser said, "We join the world community to reaffirm our strong and unwavering commitment to the ideals of the United Nations."

He said the UN came into existence 62 years ago against the backdrop of a devastating World War, which pronounced its firm determination to ensure lasting peace, safeguard freedom and promote social progress.

"The UN Charter recognises the hopes and aspirations of the six billion people of the world to live in harmony and share the fruits of

development," he added.

He said the UN has been relentlessly working for advancing sustainable development and promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms. Besides, the UN is making efforts to ensure peace through peacekeeping, peacemaking and building processes.

He mentioned that Bangladesh has duly acknowledged our success in socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation through innovative inventions such as micro-credit," he added.

On the 62nd commemoration of the United Nations Day, he said, "Bangladesh reiterates the significance of the UN as the central and only viable organ for building of a safer and better world."

development," he said.

He said Bangladesh has made significant strides in the advancement of democracy, development and human rights despite challenges. "Moreover, we've made remarkable progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

"The international community has duly acknowledged our success in socioeconomic development and poverty alleviation through innovative inventions such as micro-credit," he added.

On the 62nd commemoration of the United Nations Day, he said, "Bangladesh reiterates the significance of the UN as the central and only viable organ for building of a safer and better world."



The first test-tube baby was born at Square Fertility Centre in the city on September 30.

## Prospect of greater Thai investment discussed

UNB, Dhaka

Outgoing Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Suphat Chitrakroh paid a farewell call on Foreign Adviser Iftakhar Ahmed Chowdhury at his office yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters of business interest, including the prospect of greater Thai investment in Bangladesh, particularly in oil and gas exploration.

The foreign adviser thanked the Thai Ambassador for his contributions towards strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries during his tenure.

The Thai envoy informed the foreign adviser of the growing interest of Thai businessmen about trade with Bangladesh and thanked Bangladesh for its support to Thailand in obtaining observer status in the OIC.

## SQUARE FERTILITY CENTRE

# First test-tube baby born Sept 30

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The first test-tube baby was born at Square Fertility Centre in the city on September 30.

Since its inception in December 2006, a large number of women sought treatment here and many of them conceived through intra-uterine insemination (IUI) method.

But Mrs Khan, 37, was the first mother who gave birth to a child through in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) or test-tube method.

She had been trying to have a baby since her marriage 18 years ago.

In association with an expert physician of Mount Elizabeth Hospital of Singapore and an Embryologist of Care IVF Centre,

Dr Zakiur Rahman, a consultant gynaecologist of Square Fertility Centre, had accomplished this difficult task.

Both the mother and the baby are in sound health now.

## LGRD adviser off to New Delhi

UNB, Dhaka

LGRD and Cooperatives Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal leaves Dhaka for New Delhi yesterday to attend the Saarc Home Ministers' Conference.

The adviser is leading a nine-member delegation to the four-day conference that began yesterday.



Anti-Corruption Commission official Zahurul Huda discusses about the investigation of Gatco case with Madhusudan Das, DTM of Chittagong Port Authority, at the Kamalapur Inland Container Depot in the city yesterday.



Bangladesh Navy Ship 'DARSHAK' leaves for UN Peacekeeping Mission in Sudan by a UN chartered transport vessel MV SCAN OCEANIC from Chittagong port yesterday.

## Assault on Brac teacher by husband in NY condemned

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Samajik Protirodh Committee, a platform of a number of rights organisations, yesterday strongly condemned the recent assault on Brac University lecturer Nadine Murshid by her husband Sajid Huq in New York.

Sajid was arrested in New York late September for sexually abusing and physically assaulting Nadine.

The committee statement, signed by 16 prominent rights leaders, strongly condemned the incident and urged the government and ministries concerned to ensure punishment of the perpetrator, proper treatment of the victim and security of the Murshid family.

"We are very shocked at the incident. We, on behalf of women and rights organisations, strongly condemn and protest the incident," the statement read.

The statement said Sajid's

father has been harassing the Murshid family by filing false cases against them and issuing threats in order to pressure the Murshid family into dropping the charges against Sajid in New York.

The statement signatories include Ayesha Khanam of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad, Sultana Kamal of Ain o Salish Kendra, Shaheen Anam of Manusher Jonno, Khushi Kabir of Nijera Kori, Shamsunnahar of Naripakkha, Shirin Akhtar of Karmajibi Nari, Sharmin Murshid of Brotee, Salma Ali of Bangladesh Women Lawyers' Association, Rokeya Kabir of Nari Pragati Sangha, Faustina Pereira of Brac, Aroma Dutt of Prip Trust, Ranjan Karmakar of Steps Towards Development, Mahbuba Begum Nitu of BAUSHI, Badiul Alam Majumdar of The Hunger Project, Nasima Akhtar Jolly of Girl Child Advocacy Forum, and Sharif A Kafi of Bangladesh Development Partnership Centre (BDPC).

## 3 contractor firms fined Tk 1 lakh

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A mobile court in the port city yesterday fined three contractor firms Tk one lakh for selling fuel wastes, which were supposed to be destroyed, violating port act.

Sources said, Torongo Traders, Masud Enterprise and Ejaj and Brothers got contracts for disposing 60 M tons of wasted fuel from merchant vessels - MV Orchid Ocean, MV Hansa London and MV Marker Bridge respectively, at the outer anchorage of the port.

But, instead of disposing off the fuel wastes, the firms sold those out taking outside the port in violation of port rules.

As per the rules such wastes have to be destroyed with permission from Environment Department, Chittagong City Corporation and the police station concerned, said the sources.

Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) Magistrate Muhammad Munir Chowdhury led the mobile court.

## 70 cops go to Ivory Coast for UN mission

UNB, Dhaka

A 70-member team of Bangladesh Police was scheduled to leave for Ivory Coast yesterday midnight to work for the UN peacekeeping mission.

A chartered flight of the United Nations carries the blue helmet peacekeepers, said a Police Headquarters release yesterday.

Another team of 90 cops will fly for Ivory Coast on October 26.

A team of 89 policemen has already joined the mission. They are being replaced by a 249-member Bangladesh police contingent participating in the peacekeeping mission in Ivory Coast.

Assistant Inspector General of Police (UN Desk) Zahurul Islam Bhuiyan and senior police officials are expected to see off the peacekeepers at Zia International Airport.

## Five Korean overseas volunteers in city

Five new Korea Overseas Volunteers (KOVs) under the sponsorship of the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) arrived in Dhaka on October 22 to render voluntary services for two years at various government organisations, says a press release.

Resident Representative of KOICA Bangladesh Office Kim Chang Sup and other KOICA officials received new volunteers at the Zia International Airport. They were taken to the Korean Embassy and accorded a warm welcome by His Excellency Park Suk Bum, Korean Ambassador to Dhaka yesterday.

The Ambassador encouraged the young volunteers to perform their voluntary services with devotion and do their best to contribute to the socio-economic development of Bangladesh so that the friendship as well as cultural ties of the two countries can be further strengthened through their continuous effort. He also hoped that the newly arrived young volunteers will be able to cope with the living condition in this country, which is quite different from Korea.

The new volunteers will be given a two-month long local adaptation training including Bengali language and culture in Dhaka before their placement in respective working sites.