

# Free local govt from politicisation, bureaucratic interference

Speakers tell seminar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Local government institutions should be made accountable to local people and free from politicisation and bureaucratic interference in order to strengthen democratic practices and ensure development at the grassroots level, experts said at a seminar yesterday.

They also called on the caretaker government to make public the proposed ordinance regarding the local government and take appropriate steps to implement the recommendations made by the local government reforms committee.

Governance Coalition and 26 other NGOs and citizens' organisations organised the seminar on



Justice Golam Rabbani speaks at a seminar at the Women Volunteers' Association auditorium in the city yesterday. On his right is Mohsin Ali and on his left is Zakir Hossain.

'Initiatives for Strong Local Government and Future Perspectives' at the Women

Volunteers' Association (WVA). The seminar was part of 'Global

Economic Justice Forum' that began in the city on Tuesday with the slogan 'Unite for global economic justice'.

Speaking as the chief guest, Justice Golam Rabbani said the local government cannot play its due role because it is controlled by the bureaucrats.

Presenting the keynote paper, Governance Coalition National Project Coordinator Abdus Shukur said that the upazila and zila parishad elections should be held simultaneously with the national elections.

Dr M Abul Kashem Majumder, chairman of public administration department at Jahangirnagar University, called on the government to increase the facilities for local government representatives in order to check corruption.

Nagorik Uddog Executive Director Zakir Hossain said the elected local government representatives are highly politicised, which raises doubts about how they would deliver services if they are given full responsibilities.

He, however, said, "We have to empower them as well as ensure that the elected representatives work for the welfare of all people in their areas, not only for those who worked in support of the representatives."

PRIP Trust Director Dr Kazal Chatterjee said all development plans should come from local level and contribute to the formulation of development strategies at the national level.

He also suggested that schools, hospitals and economic activities under local government units should be managed by the people at local level.

Population Services and Training Centre Director Dr Nitai Kanti Das and Nari Uddog Kendra Executive Director Mashuda Khatun Shefali also spoke at the seminar moderated by Governance Coalition Coordinator Mohsin Ali.

## 'Govt-NGO coordination a must to help people with disability'

BSS, Dhaka

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday underscored the need for effective coordination between the government and the NGOs to help the people with disability, especially children.

An inter-ministerial and inter-divisional network needs to be established and the network should be expanded up to the private level for undertaking a comprehensive programme to bring the disabled children into mainstream of the country's development, they said.

The roundtable titled 'Creating awareness and strengthening network for development of street and working disabled children' was organised by Centre for Services and Information on Disability (CSID) at Cirdap auditorium.

Social welfare Secretary MA Hye Hawlader spoke as the chief guest while women and children affairs Secretary Rokeya Sultana as the special guest.

Chairman of board of trustees of

CSID Monsur Ahmed Choudhury presided over the roundtable, moderated by its Executive Director Khandaker Jahurul Alam. CSID Director Robiul Hasan presented a keynote paper.

Hawlader said the present caretaker government is fully committed to turn the people with disability into human resources by providing them with all facilities including education and training.

The government has ratified the UN Convention on disabled persons' rights, taken initiative to make a database of people with disability and brought transparency in the activities of the National Disabled Development Foundation, he said adding that it also gave stipends to more than 50,000 students with disability last year.

He said media can play a vital role in creating awareness about rights of the people with disability and to change the mindset of the people as the people with disability contribute to the development, like other people.

Rokeya said her ministry would review the national work plan for children (2004-2009) to focus more on the children with disability, especially the working and street children.

She said a roadmap is needed to work through coordination with all stakeholders for mainstreaming the disabled children in society.

The private companies, she said, should get involved in helping the disabled through their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) schemes.

The other speakers demanded more budgetary allocation for disabled children, easing the enrolment process in the school and building required facilities for them.

They also demanded that a minimum care standard be set for disabled children and resources be given to centres for the people with disability run by the government and the NGOs to provide proper care for them.

A good number of high officials of the concerned ministries, representatives of NGOs and development partners attended the roundtable.



Participants of the inter-class debate competition of Cider International School pose for photograph at the prize giving ceremony on the school campus in the port city yesterday.

## STAR CAMPUS-DRISHTY DEBATE COMPETITION

# 'Debate makes students knowledgeable'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

The final round and prize giving ceremony of the inter-class debate competition of Cider International School titled 'Star Campus-Drishdy Debate for Generation Next' was held on the school campus in the port city yesterday.

Class IX-B clinched the title defeating Class IX-A in the final round of the competition. The topic was 'Scientists are mostly responsible for natural disasters'.

Shafkat Fahmid of the winning team was adjudged the best debater.

Eight teams consisting of the students of Class VI to Class IX participated at the competition that began on January 21.

Teachers of the school Shamim Ara Begum, Sadia Afroz

Chowdhury and Ibrahim Chowdhury and Drishdy Secretariat Member Afsana Rahman Chowdhury were the judges while Debleena Gupta was the moderator in the final round.

Professor Dr Iftekhar Uddin Chowdhury, member of the board of governors of the school, was the chief guest at the ceremony while Matir Rahman, another member of the board of governors, was the special guest.

Drishdy, a cultural organisation, organised the competition sponsored by The Daily Star. Radio Foorti was the radio partner of the competition.

Prof Iftekhar urged the students to participate at debate competitions, as it would give them the opportunity of acquiring the latest information and be knowledge-

able. Students through practicing debate from primary level could be familiar with different contemporary issues and various problems of modern age and this would help them address those issues and mitigate it easily in future, he said.

Acting Principal of the school Madhumita Das Gupta urged the students to participate in extra curricular activities side by side their studies in order to enhance the periphery of their knowledge.

She also thanked the organisers for arranging such an event.

Drishdy President Masud Bakul, General Secretary Saif Chowdhury and Vice President Kashshaful Hoque Shehzad were present at the programme conducted by senior teacher and coordinator of the school Alexious Serrao.



Poet Asad Chowdhury addresses a press conference on National Poetry Festival at the National Press Club in the city yesterday. On his right are Habibullah Siraji and Golam Kibria Pinu.

## Chittagong car importer, two others sent to jail

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chittagong

Three people, including a car importer, arrested on charges of taking delivery of 48 imported vehicles from Chittagong port submitting fake documents were sent to jail yesterday.

The Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) arrested the three -- Md Alamgir Hossain Khan, owner of M/S Surf & F

International, Md Shahjada Al Mamun, owner of Clearing and Forwarding (C&F) firm FH International, and Md Sohel, a staff of the C&F agent, -- on Tuesday for submitting forged Bills of Lading (B/L) of Tk 3.11 crore.

The police suspect that some officials of customs and the port authority might have been involved

in this incident.

A Chittagong court sent the three to jail after the police produced them before the court yesterday.

During interrogation, car importer Alamgir Hossain admitted that they submitted various documents, including the delivery order collected from the shipping agent, to the customs officials.

Mamun-ur Rashid, manager (Operation) of the shipping agent, Everett Bangladesh Limited, however, denied issuing any delivery order to them.

Officer-in-Charge of Bandar Police Station Jahangir Alam said the police were investigating the matter and would interrogate customs officials today.



# 7 Seater AVANZA




# YARIS

## BENEFITS OF BUYING BRAND NEW TOYOTA

- ✓ Affordable & Competitive price ....!!
- ✓ Covered by manufacturer's warranty
- ✓ Complimentary services up to 10,000 K.m.
- ✓ Quality service by Toyota trained engineers
- ✓ Genuine spare parts support
- ✓ Build to match Bangladesh road condition

**AVANZA** 7 Seater multi purpose vehicle, perfect for your family mobility.  
1.3L & 1.5L VVT-I

**YARIS** Smart, Stylish luxurious saloon which has all the desired features.  
1.3L VVT-I

\* Condition Apply

**NAVANA**

**Navana Limited**  
Mobile: 01678002131, 01678002113, 01678002116, 01678002141, 01678002120, 01678002119, 01678002132, 01678002145, 01678002110, 01678002133  
E-mail: info@amartoyota.com, Web: www.amartoyota.com

# I love my music

## The Exciting Walkman® Phone Collection from Sony Ericsson



**W960i**

- 8 GB internal memory
- Touch screen
- Walkman® touch player
- SensMe™ (Choose music to suit your mood)
- 3.2 Megapixel Camera
- Autofocus, 3x Digital Zoom
- Video Recording
- FM Radio

Tk. 43,500



**W910i**

- Shake to shuffle music
- 2 GB Memory card included (M2™ card expandable up to 4 GB)
- SensMe™ (Choose music to suit your mood)
- EDGE enabled
- 2.0 Megapixel Camera
- FM Radio

Tk. 29,900



**W580i**

- Shake to shuffle music
- 512 MB M2™ card (expandable up to 2 GB)
- EDGE enabled
- Stereo Front Speakers
- 2.0 Megapixel Camera
- FM Radio

Tk. 18,999



**W810i**

- 512 MB Memory Card (PRO Duo™ card expandable up to 4 GB)
- Walkman® Player
- Mega Bass™
- Disc2Phone 3.0 PC Software
- FM Radio

Tk. 13,790



**W200i**

- 128 MB M2™ card (expandable up to 1 GB)
- Bass Reflex Headphone
- Walkman® Player
- FM Radio
- VGA Camera, 4x Zoom

Tk. 7,649

**Sony Ericsson**  
sonyericsson.com/bd

**Authorized Distributor**

**MZ GLOBAL CELLULAR**

**Authorized Service Centres**

• Dhaka: Sheba, Bashundhara City, Level 6; House # 32, Road # 43, Gulshan - 2, 8832956-8 • Chittagong, Agrabad, 01711 159239 • Sylhet: City Heart Market, 01711 996996, 01199611017 • Rajshahi: Stadium Market, 01711 208090 • Barisal: Noor Plaza, 01711 733979 • Mymensingh: Mir Plaza, 01711 2550847 • Bogra: Roma Aja Complex, 01721 617306 • Rangpur: Chadima Complex, 01721 617307 • Saidpur: North Sher-A-Bangla Road, 01712 015656 • Khulna: Khan A Sabur Road, 01711 250450