Plaintiff injured

Form independent commission to strengthen local govt

Speakers tell roundtable

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government should hold local government election taking all political parties into confidence so that development can be achieved at the grassroots level, speakers at a roundtable said yesterday.

They also suggested forming an independent commission with a view to making the local government institutions stronger and infusing dynamism into its activi-

The roundtable titled 'Strengthening local government: The path the Rural Journalists Foundation added. (RIF) at the National Press Club in the capital.

ment can play a vital role in eradicating poverty, eliminating illiteracy, controlling population growth, curbing terrorism, developing agriculture and protecting the heritage and culture.

Awami League presidium member Suranjit Sengupta said politics should be allowed in local government for strengthening links with the central government.

"Local government is not antibodies of the central government. We want local government polls after the general election as the caretaker government's first duty is to development' was organised by to hold parliament election," he

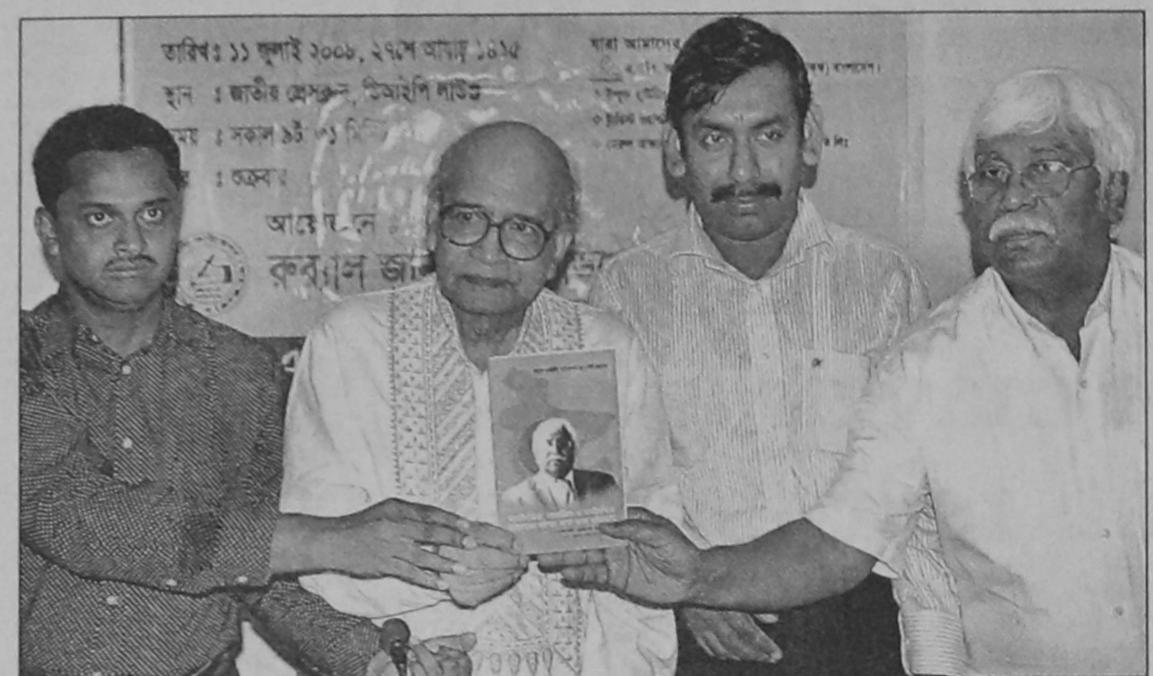
He also said the caretaker government should go for local gov-The speakers said local govern- ernment election taking all politi-

cal parties into confidence.

Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, chairman of Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB), said all democratic and undemocratic governments in the past were indifferent to the local government institu-

ABM Nurul Islam, a lawyer, proposed formation of an independent commission which will monitor all local government

Moderated by RJF Secretary General Rezaul Haq Titu, the roundtable was also addressed by the Chairman of Standard Bank Ltd Quazi Ekramuddin Ahmed, Corruption Resist Movement Chief Coordinator Abu Taher and Dr Omar Safayat Kawsar.



Prof Muzaffer Ahmad launches a book titled 'Seven-point proposal for political, social and economic development' at the National Press Club yesterday. Rural Journalists Foundation published the book.

Ex-BNP lawmaker Joynal freed on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Joynal Abedin Faruq was released from Dhaka Central Jail on bail last

The former lawmaker from Noakhali-1 constituency was arrested on May 25, 2007. He is an accused in 12 cases.

Pankaj Debnath hospitalised

UNB, Dhaka

Detained Awami Swechhasebak League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath was hospitalised after he suffered a cardiac arrest yesterday.

Party sources said Pankaj fell ill early yesterday in Gazipur jail and was rushed to the National Institute of Cardiovascular and Chest Diseases in the morning.

He was arrested on graft charges after the caretaker government had launched the anti-corruption drive.

Five injured as Jubo Dal leader attacks neighbours

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Five people, including three women, were injured in an attack by a Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal man and his accomplices at Sadhurpara Galganda village under Ghatail upazila in Tangail yesterday.

However, Ghatail police arrested Altab Hossain, general secretary of Ghatail upazila unit of Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal, his elder brother Anisur Rahman and younger brother Aslam Hossain, 35, following the inci-

dent. Sources said Altab along with his few accomplices swooped on his neighbors Mahbubur Rahman Lebu, 50, and Mofazzal Hossain, 45, centering a family feud and beat them mercilessly

with sticks. They also beat Mofazzal's wife Parvin Akter, 35, their daughter Shammi Akter, 20, and neighbor Jalpana, 35 when they came to

save Lebu and Mofazzal. Lebu, Mofazzal and Shammi were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while Parvin and Jalpana were admitted to Ghatail Upazila Health Complex.

Call for policy to set up night shelters for street children

METRO DESK

Incidin Bangladesh, a researchbased organisation, called on the government to adopt a comprehensive Child Protection Policy and ensure separate sleeping arrangements for the street children to protect them from violence and abuse.

The government should also ensure that the street children staying at night shelters get care of minimum standard through making their participation in the process of final planning, implementation and assessment of the night shelter, said AKM Mustaque Ali, executive director of Incidin Bangladesh, in a press release.

Referring to the government's recent decision to take up a project titled 'Night shelter for the floating city dwellers in Dhaka and Chittagong cities', he said this would help reduce the suffering of floating children.

The government planned to establish safe night shelters for street children at Kamalapur and Mugda by September 2008 in collaboration with some nongovernment organisations following a recent consultation to develop a draft national strategic

Protection of Children at Risk, a project run by the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Department of Social Services, and Incidin Bangladesh organised the consultation in order to develop an action plan to establish safe night shelters for the street children.

The organisation also called upon the government to ensure safe night shelter for the street children through speedy approval of the draft action plan.

Tiger kills fisherman in Sundarbans

UNB, Satkhira

A fisherman was killed in an attack by a tiger at Keyakhali in the Sundarbans under Shyamnagar upazila in the district yesterday.

The dead was identified as Monowar Hossain Monu, 45, resident of Burigoalini village.

Local sources said a tiger killed him when he was catching fish at Khoalpetua river at around



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over all the six divisions in the next 12 hours as of 6:00pm today.

Moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls are also likely at places during the period, Met Office said, predicting that day temperature may remain nearly unchanged.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 34.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Ishwardi and the lowest of 24.1 degrees at Sandwip. The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:19am

tomorrow. The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

| City/Town | Temperature in Celsius | | Humidity in percentage | |
|-------------|---------------------------|------|------------------------|---------|
| | Max | Min | Morning | Evening |
| Dhaka | 31.6 | 26.6 | 797 | 8 |
| Chittagong | 30.0 | 25.5 | 93 | 83 |
| Rajshahi | 34.5 | 26.0 | 87 | 78 |
| Khulna | 32.6 | 27.0 | 87 | 82 |
| Barisal | 30.6 | 26.4 | 88 | 93 |
| Sylhet | 31.5 | 25.0 | 83 | 96 |
| Cox's Bazar | 29.3 | 25.2 | 95 | 86 |

JCD cadres again harass DU students

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), angered by a newspaper report against them, again harassed some students of Suriya Sen Hall of Dhaka University last night.

On Wednesday night, they had harassed some 25 students of the hall, the report of which was published in different dailies.

Last night, the JCD cadres, led by hall unit general secretary Karim Sarkar, also threatened the students that they would have to suffer more if they do not make apologies for publishing the reports.

Witnesses said Karim and his accomplices called the students to room No. 326 (A) at around 10:00pm, locked it and slapped them as they informed reporters of the harassment by the JCD cadres.

Hall sources said the students are now feeling a sense of insecurity following the threats issued by the JCD cadres.

When contacted, Vice Chancellor Dr SMA Fiaz told The Daily Star that he would convene a meeting today to take a decision in

this regard. Obaidul Huq Nasir, organising secretary of DU unit of JCD, said, "We have asked Karim not to harass

any more students." The JCD cadres harassed some 25 students of first year and second year on Wednesday night as they refused to attend a meeting of the JCD due to their examinations.

LOCAL GOVT POLLS

BNP to take action against party aspirants

Says Rizvi

UNB, Dhaka

The BNP will take stern action against its leaders who would contest the upcoming local government elections, going beyond the party decision of boycotting the voting, said a party leader.

Rizvi Ahmed, acting office secretary of BNP, told the news agency yesterday by phone that a party decision would come in a day or two against the violators of the party decision.

The BNP-led four-party alliance has decided to shun the elections to four city corporations and nine municipalities slated for August 4.

The alliance has asked its leaders not to throw candidacy for the "If they, who have filed their

nominations, fail to withdraw their candidature by July 13, the party will take stern action," Rizvi said. He said their decision to boycott the polls came as they think this

voting is "unconstitutional". Earlier, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid has threatened to thwart

120 Yaba tablets, 350 bottles of phensidyl seized, 8 arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

the elections.

Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) and Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) in separate drives in the last two days in the city seized 120 Yaba tablets, about 350 bottles of phensidyl and huge cannabis and arrested eight people in this con-

DNC officials yesterday arrested Dulal Ahmed, a heroin-peddler, Kazi Anisul Huq Tuhin, owner of a money exchange, Mohammad Shaheen, a bank official, and one Mahbubur Rahman from Katasur under Mohammadpur Police Station with 120 Yaba tablets.

Meanwhile, Rab-3 officials arrested Mohammad Shahjahan and Runa Akter with 350 bottles of phensidyl at Bashabo in the city on Thursday night and seized a microbus.

In another drive at Khilgaon, the Rab team arrested one Mohammad Shaheen with containers full of phensidyl syrup the same day.

Besides, the Rab officials seized one kilogram of cannabis and Huda will be held. Venue: National Press arrested one Mosammat Rahatun in this connection.

Injured iron factory worker dies in hospital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An iron factory worker died at a city hospital yesterday seven days after he was beaten up by his fellow

The police said Mohamad Farhad, 19, was beaten up by Mamun at Kadamtoli under Shyampur Police Station on July 4 following a feud between them. Seriously injured Farhad was

admitted to Orthopaedics

Hospital where he died yesterday

morning.



PHOTO COURTESY: NASIR ALI MAMUN

Sapienza University of Rome conferred honorary doctorate degree on Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus in Rome recently.

QUESTION PAPER LEAKAGE AT DU

Probe body yet to identify those involved

DU CORRESPONDENT

Even after six months of the incident of question leakage of Political Science department at Dhaka University (DU), the investigation committee could not identify anyone involved in leakage process clearly.

The DU authorities postponed an MSS examination of 2005 on the comprehensive course under the department on December 29, 2007 after it had emerged that most of the questions were leaked. On the same day, the authori-

ties formed a three-member

probe committee headed by Social Science faculty dean to investigate the incident. final report to the Syndicate, the highest decision making body of the university, on June 17, indicat-

ing involvement of the depart-

ment's examination committee in

the leakage process. described that the examination days. control office was involved in the

thought, there might have been an three weeks. involvement of the examination committee," said Prof Laila Nur, a

member of the probe committee. Chairman of the department Prof Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan, Prof M Ataur Rahman, Prof AHM Aminur Rahman and an external teacher were the members in the examination committee.

Of them, Prof Bhuiyan and Prof Rahman were permanently relieved of all examination-related activities at the university for their alleged involvement in the '52 first class controversy' in 2001-02 academic session of the depart-

Later, they involved themselves in the examination committee The committee submitted its after bringing injunctions from

The Syndicate on the same day sent back the probe report to the committee seeking clarification of the some points, including specific names of involved persons, "In the final report, we asking to submit it within seven

However, the committee did leakage process and so, we not submit the report in the last cess.

Prof Nur added told The Daily Star, "As the job is really difficult and we are not professional investigators, it's taking time. We are trying to clear the weak points in the report. We hope we would be able to submit it soon."

In response to students' demand, the Syndicate also recommended to the concern authorities to take all steps in order to re-examine the answer scripts of the examination by other examiners. An academic committee meet-

ing of the department will be held today to take a decision on reexamining the answer scripts. Meanwhile, the committee has

sent letters to some students of the department urging them to appear at the interview for the second time.

Earlier on January 23, the committee submitted its' primary report to the Syndicate which also indicated the exam committee's involvement in the leakage pro-

Death anniversary

of Barrister Ishtiaq

Abdul Gani is one of eight plain-

tiffs who earlier filed the case

against the former lawmaker from

Bhola-4 constituency.

Ahmed today STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Today is the fifth death anniversary of Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, an eminent lawyer and former adviser to a caretaker government, says a press release.

On the occasion, Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed Smriti Parishad will place wreaths at his grave at Banani and offer fateha. A milad mahfil will also be held at an orphanage.

Barrister Ishtiaq made immense contribution to the legal arena and also served as an attorney general. He also played an important role in the democratic movement.

Ohider Nessa



Kagoj Chief Reporter Aiub Bhuiyan, says a press release. On the occasion, a milad mahfil will be held at her village mosque at

Fulgazi in Feni. Obituary

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

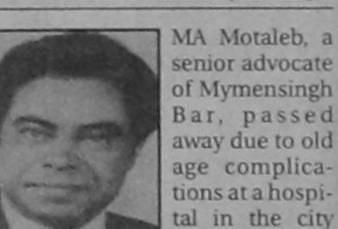
Mohiuddin Ahmed, former headmaster of Armanitola Government High School, former president of Bangladesh Government. Secondary Teachers' Association and former secretary of Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts (Local-1), passed away due to old age complications on July 6 at Birdem Hospital in the city at the age of 75, says a

press release. Members of the retired Secondary School Teachers' Association, Bangladesh Scouts and Dhaka Metropolitan Scouts

have expressed shock at his death.

MAMotaleb

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh



senior advocate of Mymensingh Bar, passed away due to old age complications at a hospi-

yesterday at the

age of 70. He left behind his two sons, and a host of relatives and colleagues to mourn his death.

Motaleb was a regular contributor to The Daily Star, the Bangladesh Observer, The Dhaka Law Reports and the Sangbad. Many of his articles were published

in The Asian Law Journal (Japan). He was a former director of Asian Legal Research Institute (Japan). He also worked with All Asia Bar Association, International Ombudsman Institute (Canada) and International Bar Association

Md Nurul Islam

(London).

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira

Satkhira City College, passed away due to a massive heart attack at his village home under Sadar upazila He left behind his wife, three

sons and a host of colleagues, relatives to mourn his death. Satkhira City College Principal

Emdadul Haque and teachers of the college expressed deep shock at



Gendaria Kishalay Kachi Kanchar Mela brings out a colourful procession at Muktangan in the city yesterday to celebrate its founding anniversary.

DHAKA

TODAY

Roundtable

Bangladesh Academy of Science and The Daily Star jointly organise a roundtable on 'Status of science education in Bangladesh'. Venue: Daily Star seminar room, Time: 9:00am. **Book launching**

The launching ceremony of the book

'Municipal solid waste management:

Bangladesh perspective' by KM Nurul

Club. Time: 4:00pm. Discussion

Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad organises a discussion on 'Collaborative management of common water resources is key to a better future for South Asia'. Venue: Bangladesh Economic

Science fair Willes Little Flower Higher Secondary

Reception Kakoli High School will accord a reception to the successful students in SSC 2008. Venue: School compound, Dhanmondi, Time: 3:00pm.

mills and paddy husk of rice mills. KHM Managing Director Md Abdur Razzak said non-wood raw

and other local woods. mango, blackberry, tamarind and Association auditorium, Time: 10:00am. rain trees for production of hard-

School organises a two-day science fair. Venue: School compound. Time: 9:00am.

Rotary Dhaka Central The regular meeting of Rotary Club of

Dhaka Central will be held. Venue: Dhaka Club. Time: 1:30pm.

KHULNA HARDBOARD MILL

Non-wood raw materials being used to reduce production cost

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Non-wood raw-materials are now

being used by the state-owned

Khulna Hardboard Mill (KHM) to increase its profit by reducing pro-The non-wood materials include bags of sugar mills, sawdust of saw

materials have been chosen as alternative due to severe crisis of sundari The non-wood raw materials are Police arrested eight robbers with

board, he said. "By using non-wood raw materials we can produce 1000 square feet of hardboard at a cost of Tk 940," said Razzak, adding, previously it cost Tk

been raised from 34,000 square feet from June 21 last, he said. Razzak hoped that the produc-

square feet of hardboard during 2008-09 fiscal will be exceeded.

tion target of one crore four lakh

Chemical Industries Corporation

financial crisis. Production, however, resumed on September 16, 2005 with a view to making the KHM a profitable enter-

(BCIC), suspended its production on

September 14, 2002 due to severe

8 robbers held in Ctg

CU CORRESPONDENT

being used with 50 percent woods of looted gold ornaments, firearms and a motorbike from different spots in Chittagong in a two-day drive ending on Thursday night. Among the arrestees, Nazim, 28,

was arrested from city's Chwakbazar area while Saifuddin alias Saifu, 23, Abdul Karim, 25, and | Md Nurul Islam, head assistant of Nahid, 22, from Kalurghat, Mintu Besides, daily production has Dutta, 24, from Hazari Lane, Razu Kumar Das, 19, from Faujdarhat to 50,000 square feet due to use of under Sitakunda upazila and yesterdayat the age of 50. non-wood raw materials with effect Kamal, 23, and Jabed, 23, were arrested from Hathazari upazila.

During the interrogation, the robbers confessed to their involvement in the robbery at the residence of a businessman in the city's The KHM, a unit of Bangladesh Bakalia area on June 1, sources said.