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**Toxic gas kills 2**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Chapainawabganj

Two youths died by inhaling poisonous fumes after they climbed down into a newly-built septic tank at Sapahar upazila of Naogaon, yesterday morning.

The deceased are Abul Kalam Azad, 25, son of Elahi Baksh of Talpukur Masterpara village, and Salekur Rahman, 22, son of Mazharul Islam of Kalyanpur village in the upazila.

Kalam's father had the tank built a couple of weeks ago and had kept it covered.

A labourer, Monirul fainted inside the tank while cleaning it around 9:00am. Then Kalam and Salekur

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**Huda in for SC bar polls**

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has asked the party's expelled vice-chairman Nazmul Huda to work for the opposition-backed panel in the Supreme Court Bar Association election.

She called him to her Gulshan office last week and said the party needed him to win the apex court bar.

"You were always with BNP and will continue to be so. You are holding an important position in the party. I want you to work for the BNP panel," Huda, a controversial figure in politics, quoted Khaleda as saying as he met her on March 12.

Huda, who was expelled from the party on November 21 last year, told The Daily Star, "She [Khaleda] said I should not do anything that may tarnish the party's image in future."

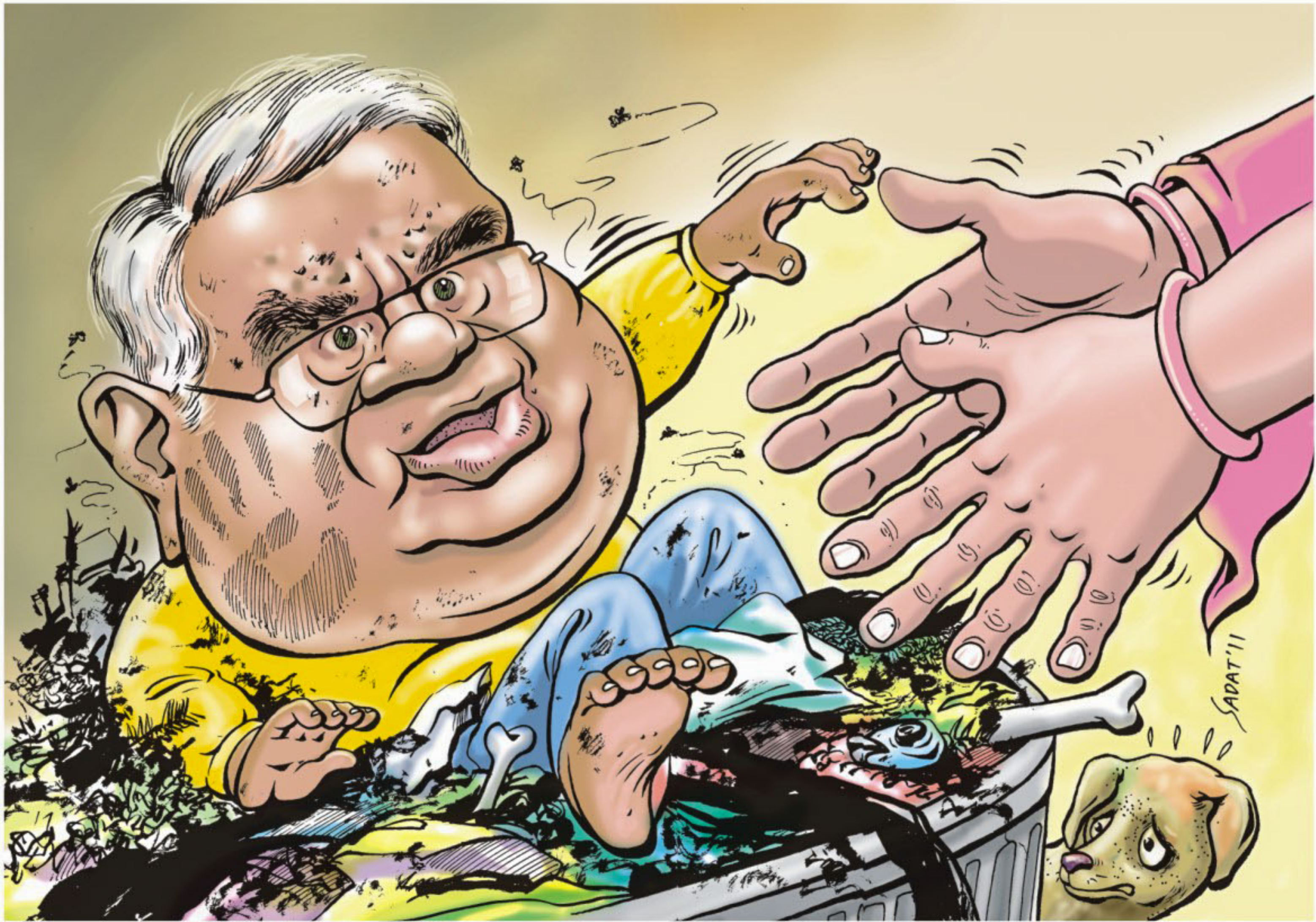
"Madam was very cordial and I got the impression from her that my expulsion will go soon."

Contacted, BNP's Senior Joint Secretary General Mirza Fakrul Islam Alamgir said a statement will be issued withdrawing Huda's sacking.

Asked about bringing back to the fold a controversial figure like Huda, he said the BNP chairperson took the decision for the benefits of the party. "Such practice is common in politics."

Party insiders said Huda will get back vice-chairman's

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**PM opens 2 rental power plants today**

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the operation of two newly-built rental power plants and also lay foundation for another one at three separate locations in Narayanganj today.

The two plants which go into operation and are set to be inaugurated by the prime minister are 100MW Shiddhirganj diesel-based rental

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**CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT Body focuses on people's rights**

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The parliamentary special committee on constitution amendment is now looking for ways to further consolidate citizens' fundamental rights true to the aspirations of the constitution of 1972.

It identified some articles for special attention to see how those can be amended so that the spirit of the 1972 constitution is upheld, sources in the special committee said.

The committee during a meeting

Tuesday made the decision for in-depth scrutiny of the articles and asked all its members to study them and place their opinion in the next meeting, they added.

"We will hold more discussions on it. We are thinking what can be done based on reality and relevance to the socio-political situation," Suranjit Sengupta, co-chair of the special committee, told The Daily Star Thursday.

The constitution of 1972 left no scope for suspension of any fundamental rights

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**\$1B INDIAN LOAN 15 project proposals sent**

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Bangladesh has sent 15 project proposals, mostly related to rail and infrastructure, worth \$781 million under the \$1 billion credit line to the Indian government for final consent.

The project proposals have been sent to India through the High Commission in Dhaka between February 28 and

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**JAPAN CONFIRMS High radiation in food, tap water**

AGENCIES, Osaka, Vienna

Japan confirmed the presence of radioactive iodine contamination in food products from near the crippled Fukushima nuclear power station and ordered a halt to the sale of such products from the area.

The government said they had found higher than normal levels of radioactive materials in spinach and milk at farms near the ravaged plants, reports The New York Times.

Traces of radioactive iodine were also

detected in tap water in Tokyo and several prefectures near the atomic power complex, a science ministry official said, but the levels were well "below the legal limit".

In what it called another "critical" measure to counter the contamination of food products, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Japanese authorities on March 16 recommended that people leaving the area should ingest stable iodine.

Taken as pills or syrup, stable iodine

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**Mother shot at**

Baby 'snatching' bid failed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Muggers tried to snatch a seven-month old girl after shooting at her mother at the capital's Hatirpool area yesterday.

The injured, Sajia Afrin, 27, alleged that two snatchers riding a bike stopped her rickshaw near her house at Free School Street and tried to take away

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**SEND US HOME:** Bangladeshis stranded at the Tunisian refugee camp of Choucha wave placards during a demonstration for their immediate evacuation yesterday.

PHOTO: MORSHED ALI KHAN

**Gun attack on campaigners**

**BCL leader killed; UP polls rival's role alleged**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

A local leader of Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot dead and 12 were injured in a pre-poll violence in Terokhada upazila of Khulna yesterday morning.

The dead, Fakir Imran Hossain, 30, was the unit general secretary of the upazila.

According to police, a clash broke out between supporters of two rival candidates running for chairman in the union parishad (UP) election billed for April 3.

Imran, who was a cousin of the chairman aspirant

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**Bus ploughs through procession, kills 8**

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Patuakhali

A rashly driven bus ploughed through a procession, killing at least eight people and injuring 52 others on Dhaka-Kuakata highway at Amtoli of Barguna last night.

Four of the dead were identified as Abdul Berek, 70, Rajeeb, 25, Abu Bakkar, 50, and Hafiz, 42. The rest could not be named immediately, police said.

The bus drove through the procession of some 100 people around 8:00pm, said Moshirur Rahman, upazila nirbahi officer of Amtoli.

After the crash, it fell into a roadside ditch, causing injuries to some passengers.

Witnesses said the dead and most of the injured were in the procession brought out for Badal Khan, a candidate in the upcoming election to Chaora union parishad of Amtoli.

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**Onus on Tarique : Delwar laid to rest**

He will play key role in picking new secy gen; Khaleda off to Saudi Arabia today

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

BNP Senior Vice-Chairman Tarique Rahman will play an important role in selecting one for the secretary general post which fell vacant after Khandaker Delwar Hossain died, said party insiders.

But before appointing anyone as secretary general, Chairperson Khaleda Zia will talk to the party leaders close to her.

Loyalty to Khaleda and Tarique will be given the highest priority for the nomination of a party leader as secretary general, said party sources.

The chairperson has not discussed the issue with anyone yet, they added.

However, there is no provision in the party constitution

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OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

BNP secretary general Khandaker Delwar Hossain was laid to rest yesterday at his family graveyard at Khirai Pachuria in Ghior upazila of Manikganj.

After two namaz-e-janazas in the upazila, he was buried with state honour around 3:45pm.

Earlier in the morning, Delwar's body was taken

to Government Devendra College at about 11:15am

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**ONLINE POLL**

Do you support the parliamentary special committee's decision to propose easing restrictions on the use of religion in politics so that Islamic parties can continue functioning?

Yes (52.1%)  
No (46.0%)  
No Comments (1.9%)  
TOTAL VOTES : 365

**TODAY'S POLL**

Do you think Bangladesh cricket team's batting performance throughout the tournament was disappointing?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT [www.thedailystar.net](http://www.thedailystar.net)

**PRAYER TIMING March 20**

Azan Jamaat  
Fajr 4-55 5-30  
Zohr 12-45 1-15  
Asr 4-45 5-00  
Maghrib 6-16 6-20  
Esha 7-45 8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

**বিজিএমইএ**  
বিজিএমইএ কমপ্লেক্স, ২৩/১, পাশ্চাত্য লিংক রোড, কারওয়ান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫

**সম্মানিত সদস্যদের জন্য জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১১-২০১২

বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত সদস্যদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে, আজ ২০ মার্চ ২০১১ তারিখ (রবিবার) বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১১-২০১২ অনুষ্ঠিত হচ্ছে। সকাল ৮টা থেকে বিকাল ৪টা পর্যন্ত বিজিএমইএ ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় উভয় কেন্দ্রে যুগপৎভাবে একটানা ভোট গ্রহণ চলবে। বিজিএমইএ'র সম্মানিত ভোটারদেরকে নির্দিষ্ট সময়ের মধ্যে স্ব স্ব কেন্দ্রে উপস্থিত হয়ে ভোট প্রদানের জন্য বিনীতভাবে অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে। বিশেষ দৃষ্টব্য : যে সকল সম্মানিত ভোটারগণ এখন পর্যন্ত ভোটার আইডি কার্ড সংগ্রহ করতে পারেন নাই, তাদেরকে নির্বাচন চলাকালীন সময়ে নির্বাচনী কেন্দ্র থেকে ভোটার আইডি কার্ড সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

সচিব, নির্বাচন বোর্ড  
বিজিএমইএ নির্বাচন ২০১১-১২