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Upazila Parishads kept in neglect

Lawmakers accuse govt of interference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lawmakers and upazila parishad chairmen yesterday slammed the government for putting obstacles in the way of strengthening the upazila parishads.

In the last three years, the local government units could not play their rightful role due to the government's interference, complained both the ruling and opposition party MPs.

They were addressing a view-exchange meeting titled "Decentralisation and Local Government in the National Budget" in the capital's Cirdap auditorium.

The MPs also accused the government of its non-cooperation in implementing upazila parishad act since its passage in parliament last year.

"We had passed the law in parliament but it was not implemented which is tantamount to slapping on MPs' face," said AKM Mozammel Haq, an Awami League MP.

What the government has been doing to limit the activities of upazila parishad is a violation of the law, he added.

Parliament on November 29 last year had passed the bill vesting the executive powers of the upazila parishad in the chairman instead of the parishad.

Besides, lawmakers have been made advisers to the parishads and empowered to interfere in their activities.

"The upazila parishad act of our country is one of the best laws as far as strengthening the local government is concerned. But the government itself has been acting

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The authorities of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel, Dhaka, yesterday repaint the post boxes after removing the posters that were covering up even the slots. From the photo, inset, run by The Daily Star on Sunday, one could hardly know the uses of the boxes -- one for local, one for national and the other for international mails.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN

Azad flees to India

His 2 sons held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Abul Kalam Azad, a fugitive war crimes suspect widely known as Bachchu Razakar, fled to India through the Hili border in Dinajpur on April 2, Rab said yesterday, quoting his detained sons.

Members of Rapid Action Battalion yesterday picked up Azad's elder son Shah Mohammad Faisal Azad, 36, younger son Abul

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UNPREPARED WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION Tribunal unhappy

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Expressing much discontent, the International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday had to adjourn its proceedings for three hours as the prosecution was not ready with its documents in time during the trial of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

It also adjourned the proceedings against another Jamaat leader and war crimes accused, Abdul Quader Mollah, as one of the key defence counsels was not present in court.

Both Sayedee and Quader Mollah were

produced before the tribunal yesterday. They are among the six Jamaat and two BNP leaders facing charges of crimes against humanity at the tribunal.

After the two-member tribunal began its proceedings at 10:34am, prosecutor Mohammad Ali requested the court that Sayedee's case be taken up later in the day as some documents had not "come up" by that time.

"What do you mean by this? All your documents are with the court!" said Justice Md Nizamul Huq, the tribunal chairman.

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Cabinet okays amendment to speed up trial

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet yesterday approved the draft of the International Crimes (Tribunals) (Amendment) Act 2012 paving the way for transferring cases from one tribunal to another.

Passage of the amendment will allow shifting of war crimes cases as per the tribunals' decision or appeal by the chief prosecutor.

The amendment will

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CLIMATE CHANGE 'Fund use must be transparent'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency and accountability in spending climate funds would help the country attract foreign funds in future to combat climate change, said Saber Hossain Chowdhury, chairman of the all-party parliamentary panel on climate change, yesterday.

An audit of the funds spent so far is also required to ascertain the value of money and prevention of resource waste in various ways including corruption, he said while speaking at a discussion at the capital's Brac Centre.

Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB)

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CALL OF PARENTAL DUTY... As April is their breeding season, the spotted turtle dove, a bird resident in Bangladesh, builds its nest ahead of laying eggs this month. The photo of a dove collecting materials for a nest was shot in Bilchakra village under Bhuapur upazila of Tangail recently.

PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Workers leader tortured dead

Family claims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The family of Aminul Islam, a workers leader who was found dead in Tangail on Thursday morning, alleged the law enforcing agencies tortured him to death and dumped the body in a far away place so that it remained unidentified.

Aminul went missing from Ashulia on the city outskirts on Wednesday and his body was found on the highway near Ghatail Police Station.

On Friday, Anjuman Mofidul Islam, a voluntary organisation, with the help of the police, buried him as an unidentified person in a graveyard following an autopsy at Tangail Sadar Hospital.

The 41-year-old was president of Savar and Ashulia units of Bangladesh Garment & Industrial Workers Federation.

He had been working at Bangladesh Centre for Workers' Solidarity, a non-government organisation for workers rights, in Ashulia, as an organiser since 2006.

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Closing ceremony venue changes

Prof Yunus to speak

TAREK MAHMUD, Ctg

Touching the hearts of Chittagong city dwellers, the 12-day long "The Daily Star-Odommo Chattagram Festival" will end this evening with Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus addressing the closing ceremony.

The programme will be held in the engineers' institute auditorium,

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Barapukuria coal power to get costlier

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

The cost of power generated by Barapukuria Thermal Power Plant will increase as Barapukuria

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PRAYER TIMING April 10

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:40	5:15
Zohr 12:45	1:15
Asr 4:45	5:00
Maghrib 6:21	6:24
Esha 7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

6 former cops granted bail

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court for the first time yesterday granted bail to six former top police officials, who were named in the supplementary charge sheets of one of the August 21 grenade attack cases.

Of them, Ashraful Huda, Shahudul Haque and Khoda Baksh Chowdhury were inspectors general of police, Munshi Atiqur Rahman and Abdur Rashid assistant superintendents of police of CID and Ruhul Amin special superintendent of police of CID.

Ashraful Huda and Shahudul Haque were charged

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AUGUST 21

The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

How do you look at the BNP's retraction of the felicitation it had extended to the government after Bangladesh won the maritime boundary case against Myanmar?

Justified: (50.8%)

Ridiculous: (49.2%)

TOTAL VOTES: 587

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Bangladesh Bank that the new banks were approved after "proper evaluation" and without any political consideration?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

YOU MAY ALSO VOTE AT facebook.com/dailystarnews

First flying car put on show

BBC ONLINE

US company Terrafugia has put on display a prototype car that is licensed to fly as well as drive, at the New York International Auto Show.

It is the first vehicle in the world to have met both

SEE PAGE 19 COL 8



The car-plane Transition at the 2012 New York International Auto Show. Inset, test flight of the street-legal airplane.

PHOTO: AFP

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Warren Buffett



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