

Two-thirds

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University, said these local bodies could not spend money without approval from the line ministry. "There is a blanket control on government funds. It goes against autonomy or decentralisation."
Efforts by municipalities to collect taxes are low, and tax default is another problem for these bodies, he added. "Government's institutions are the highest defaulters."
Prof Tofazzal Islam Chowdhury, mayor of Nabiganj municipality in Habiganj, urged autonomy for local government institutions to improve services.
"In every way, we're under control of government agencies. We can't buy a vehicle without approval. If we frame a

budget, we've to get permission for implementation."
Faizur Rahman Fakir, chairman of a Mymensingh upazila, said local bodies had a huge scope to collect taxes but this opportunity was not realised fully.
About 90 percent of local government's finance comes as grant from the government and the rest is collected locally, he added.
Former adviser to a caretaker government AMM Shawkat Ali put stress on administrative decentralisation and capacity building of local government bodies.
Executive Director of Democracywatch Taleya Rehman and CMI Senior Research Odd-Helge Fjeldstad also spoke.

Arjun Bahadur

FROM PAGE 5
Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Council of Ministers, a body of foreign ministers of the Saarc countries, may approve the appointment in its future meeting. No member state has so far objected to such proposals in its three-decade history, said foreign ministry sources.
Thapa will succeed incumbent Secretary General Ahmed Saleem of the Maldives, who took over on March 12 last year.
All member states nominate a diplomat for the post on a rotational basis. This time, it is the turn of Nepal, where the Saarc Secretariat is headquartered.
Appointed Nepal's foreign secretary on July 21, Thapa may take over as the Saarc secretary general for a three-year term on March 1, 2014. He will be the second secretary general from Nepal after former foreign secretary Yadav Kant Silwal (1994 to 1995).

Foreign friends

FROM PAGE 5
large gathering, attended by nearly 20,000 people, at Trafalgar Square in London to drum up public support against the atrocities committed by the Pakistani forces on Bangladeshis.

The documents, photos and letters, given to the museum, would be disclosed later, said Mafidul Haque, a trustee of the museum.
The couple currently lives in the US, he added.

Man held with cocaine worth Tk 1cr in Ctg

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg
Rapid Action Battalion (Rab)-7 arrested a man with 900gm of cocaine, worth around Tk 1 crore, in Rail Gate area of Chittagong city yesterday afternoon.
The arrestee is Mehedi Hasan, 22, of the area.
Acting on a tip-off, a Rab-7 team went to his residence in the guise of buyers and arrested him, said Rab sources.

Insufficient learning resources

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He also recommended that the programme should not just aim to provide good learning materials but also the environment where the tools will be properly used.
"The programme should not focus only on schools at divisional headquarters because there is a high regional imbalance in the extent of English taught and learnt at the schools in marginal communities," he added.
The training must note that even teachers can have different levels of aptitude, said Robi Vice-President (CRL Division) Mohiuddin Babar.
Training teachers in English might encourage some to seek out higher paid jobs in the cities, warned the speakers.
This interactive training

fails when teachers do not get the support while trying to practice innovative methods within the classroom, said Shireen Hasan, founder and executive director of X-cel Institute of Interactive Learning.
Teachers can dedicate an extra class to use materials from the weekly page, recommended Nipa Nasrin, lecturer at Brac Institute of Languages.
"Also, veteran teachers are less likely to adapt to new technologies. So focus should be on younger teachers who can prove to be more flexible," she said.
Manindra Nath Roy, director of the Directorate of Primary Education, recommended that students be taught to speak English as well.
"In addition, the needs of

primary school students must be addressed too," advised Faizul Kabir, manager of Teach for Bangladesh.
Robi Executive Vice President Mahmudur Rahman suggested forming clubs that improve the practice of English.
Alexandra Tyers, senior training and development consultant at British Council, suggested that Robi provide learning materials using mobile services.
Even the use of information communication technology needs a good grasp of English, said Robi acting chief executive officer Matul Islam Nowshad.
Our human resources often miss out on important global opportunities and cannot compete in the international arena because of a lack of proficiency in English, he said.

Govt tricked people

FROM PAGE 3
up of the plant, as it went against their interests. The plaque will be a symbol of "government trickery", he said. Ignoring experts' opinions, the government is trying to serve the purposes of vested quarters, he observed.
Abdullah Harun Chowdhury, a professor of

environmental science at Khulna University, said the plant would cause air and water pollution, soil erosion, human diseases, and raise temperature.
The project is physically, environmentally, biologically and sociologically unfit, he viewed.
Chairing the function, Prof

M Feroze Ahmed, vice-chancellor of Stamford University, said the project would destroy fisheries in the adjacent rivers of the world's largest mangrove forest.
Abul Basher, professor of zoology at Dhaka University, and NCSS Member Secretary Abdul Matin also spoke among others.

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(Front row from left) Ramendu Majumdar, Dr Sarwar Ali, Syed Shamsul Haque, AK Khandker, Sultana Kamal, Kamal Lohani and Ayesha Khanam alongside (back row) Abed Khan, Dr Baharul Alam and Nasir Uddin Yousuff singing the national anthem at a national convention organised by Bangladesh Rukhe Darao, a platform of progressive and pro-liberation forces, in the capital's Suhrawardy Udyan yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Spread of religious extremism

FROM PAGE 3
The scholars from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal participating in the conference observed that religious fundamentalism is spreading in South Asian countries and obstructing the progress of secularism.
Failure of secular forces to prevent this menace is partly responsible for the escalating threat of communal violence, they said.
Chairing the closing session, eminent Bangladeshi historian and the sammilani Convener Prof Muntassir Mamoon said the countries need to work as a single entity to fight all forms of religious extremism.
"Secularism has to be there for the sake of economic and other developments," he said.
The scholars also opined it was the state's duty to recognise pluralism and religious and lingual ethnic-

ity and assure minority communities a life without fear.
"In Bangladesh, we observe a serious practice of ethnicity-based communalism. While the whole world is recognising our language, we are yet to recognise our own ethnic languages," said Prof Mesbah Kamal of Dhaka University.
There are at least 39 different languages in Bangladesh, he said, observing that unlike other parts of the world, cultural movements in this region have shaped political activities.
Historian Prof Syed Anwar Husain said politics and religion have different purposes and should not be mixed, while democracy is secular by nature.
"If communalism rises in the name of religion then I must say that we do not practice religion accordingly," he said.

Criticising Bangladesh's constitution which simultaneously states that the country is secular and recognises Islam as the state religion, he asked, "How can you mix oil and water?"
Prof Rohan Gunaratna of Sri Lanka made it clear that the next generation would be grateful if the present generation makes them believe in the need of a secular state.
Former Indian cabinet minister Mani Shankar Aiyar and Pakistani Islamic scholar and columnist Syed Haider Farooq Moudoodi also spoke.

Woman found

FROM PAGE 5
Mahfuzul told police that after getting up in the morning he saw his wife's body hanging from the ceiling fan with a scarf.
He said he had no quarrel with his wife.

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IN MEMORIAM

Prof. Askar Ali, Barrister-at-Law (1900-1989)
Today is the 24th death anniversary of Professor Askar Ali. Professor Ali did his M.A in English from Dhaka University (1924); B.A. Hons in Old English language & literature from London University (1929) and Bar-at-Law from Lincoln's Inn (1932). He joined Bengal Education Service in 1934 and served as Professor of English in various colleges including Calcutta Islamia College, Hooghly College, Dhaka Govt. College and Dhaka University. After his retirement in 1956, he served as Principal of Carmichael College of Rangpur from 1956 to 1961.
May Allah grant his soul eternal peace in the heaven.
His sons, daughters & grandchildren

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৩৯৫-৩৯৭, তেজগাঁও শিল্প এলাকা ঢাকা-১২০৮।
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This is for information of all concerned that in accordance with the judgment of the Appellate Division of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of Bangladesh relating to holding of pending AGMs of the Company for the years 2005 to 2012, the Board of Directors of the Company in its 182nd meeting held on October 5, 2013 between 1.00 P.M. - 3.40 P.M. in the Board Room of the Company at Uttara Bank Bhaban (16th floor), 90 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000 decided unanimously to hold its 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th and 27th AGMs due for the years 2005-2012 based on the audited financial statements approved by the Board in the following manner:
For the years 2005 - 2012 (20th - 27th AGMs)
Date of AGM : November 16, 2013 for the years from 2005 to 2012
Record Date : October 30, 2013 for the years from 2005 to 2012
Time and Venue : 10.00 A.M. for the year 2005,
10.30 A.M. for the year 2006,
11.00 A.M. for the year 2007,
11.30 A.M. for the year 2008,
12.00 Noon for the year 2009,
12.30 P.M. for the year 2010,
2.30 P.M. for the year 2011,
3.00 P.M. for the year 2012.
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Dividend recommended : For the years 2005 - 2011 : Nil
For the year 2012 : Out of the surplus emerged in 2012 together with accumulated surplus for the years 2005 to 2011, 21 (Twenty one) bonus shares (stock dividend) for each share of Tk.10 each.
Dated : 5th October 2013
By order of the Board
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