

AGRAHAYAN 20, 1423 BS

RABIUL AWAL 3, 1438 HIJRI

"Everybody should give a thought to it -- no one is disabled by choice out of their own will. So everyone should be sympathetic and sincere to them." **PM SHEIKH HASINA** 

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20 PAGES PRICE : TK 12.00

Zila Parishad

REGD. NO. DA 781

# First ever polls; AL to win it

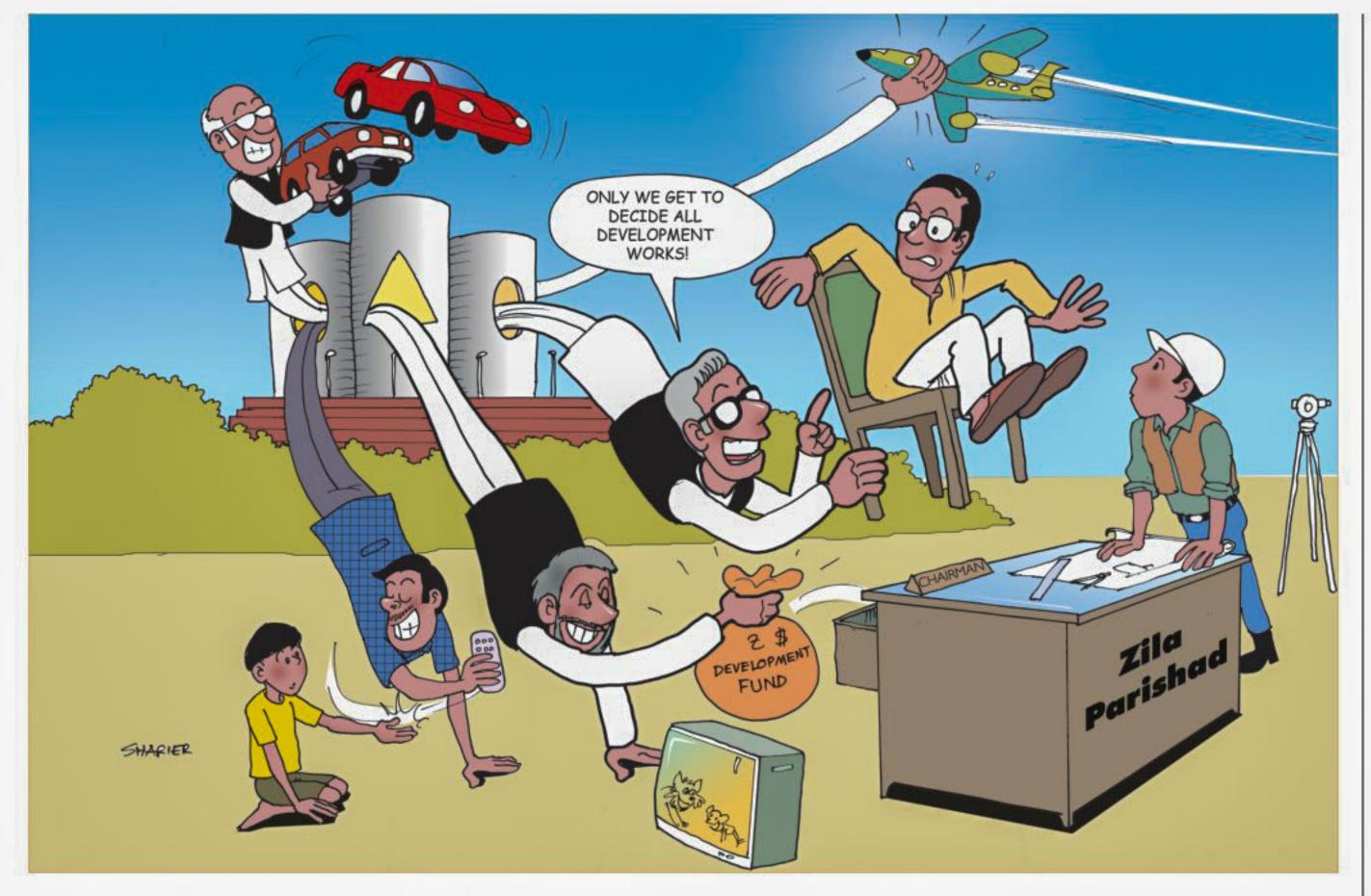
HC hearing on legality of election system today

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE and PANKAG KARMAKAR

Awami League dissidents have thrown a challenge at their party-supported chairman candidates by joining the upcoming district council elections in at least 40 districts.

The AL favourites, however, would face weaker candidates backed by Jatiya Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and Workers Party of Bangladesh, Jatiya Party (Manju), Gono Forum and Bangladesh Nationalist Front in some districts. Together, the parties, except the AL, have backed just 18

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Your Right to Know

# Law at mercy of lawmakers

: MPs don't advise but dictate local govt representatives

Take another example. A tree-plantation project · The lawmakers in a district are the advisers to the zila parishad. They worth Tk 5 lakh at Pabna University of Science and : are only supposed to advise the parishad on discharging its functions,

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# The president will make the decision

Says PM on Khaleda's proposal for EC reconstitution

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said she has little interest in Khaleda Zia's proposals for the Election Commission's reconstitution and that the BNP chief should have apologised to the nation before coming up with the proposals.

"They didn't take part in the [last general] election ... they tried to oust the government by burning people to death in 2013, 2014 and 2015. She should've apologised to the nation before placing any proposal," she told a press conference at the Gono Bhaban on the occasion of her justconcluded Hungary and Morocco visits.

The prime minister said, "She [Khaleda] has made her proposal; now she can tell the president about it, and he'll make the decision ... we've nothing to say ...."

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# Funds used, work invisible

Pabna story tells how public money for zila parishads gobbled up

Vol. XXVI No. 315

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU

A brand new sound system was installed in Sujanagar upazila auditorium of Pabna at a cost of Tk 8 lakh, according to official documents. But there is no new sound system in the auditorium.

How did the sound system disappear? Well, local lawmaker of ruling Awami League Azizul Huq Arzu has the answer. "Pabna Zila Parishad did not set up the sound system at all," he told The Daily Star.

He claimed that he repeatedly insisted the zila: parishad to work according to rules but it has not . done so. He questioned the use of the allotted money: BULBUL AHMED in 2014-2015.

Technology (PUST) was officially implemented 100: according to the Zila Parishad Act.

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#### **NEWS** ANALYSIS

## Rasraj a victim

SHAKHAWAT LITON

Rasraj Das, the fisherman from Brahmanbaria, has been cleared by investigators of the charge of hurting religious sentiments of the Muslims.

But he is still languishing in jail.

Rasraj may have to languish in jail for another month. A Brahmanbaria court last Thursday asked the police to submit the report of forensic test to it and adjourned the

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#### Double blow

Raped, girl now denied education

MINTU DESHWARA, Moulvibazar

In a shocking display of cruelty and humiliation, authorities of a Habiganj school have refused to allow a teenage rape victim to sit for her final exams.

The school management committee of Shahjalal High School in Bahubal upazila even went as far as to accuse the girl of having "bad character".

The denial and the accusation came as a heavy blow to the poor girl who was battling to overcome the physical and mental trauma.

The 13-year-old from a poor Hindu family in the

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# Crackdown could radicalise Rohingya

Warns US; Malaysia hits out at Myanmar over 'ethnic cleansing'

AGENCIES

The US government, a key sponsor of Myanmar's democratic transition, says a security crackdown that has displaced tens of thousands of Rohingya Muslims and left an unknown number dead risks radicalising a downtrodden people and stoking religious tensions in Southeast Asia.

The military moved in after armed attacks by unknown assailants on police posts along the border with Bangladesh PHOTO ON PAGE 8 SEE PAGE 13 COL 1

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