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**Maj Gen (retd)
Ibrahim floats
political party**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

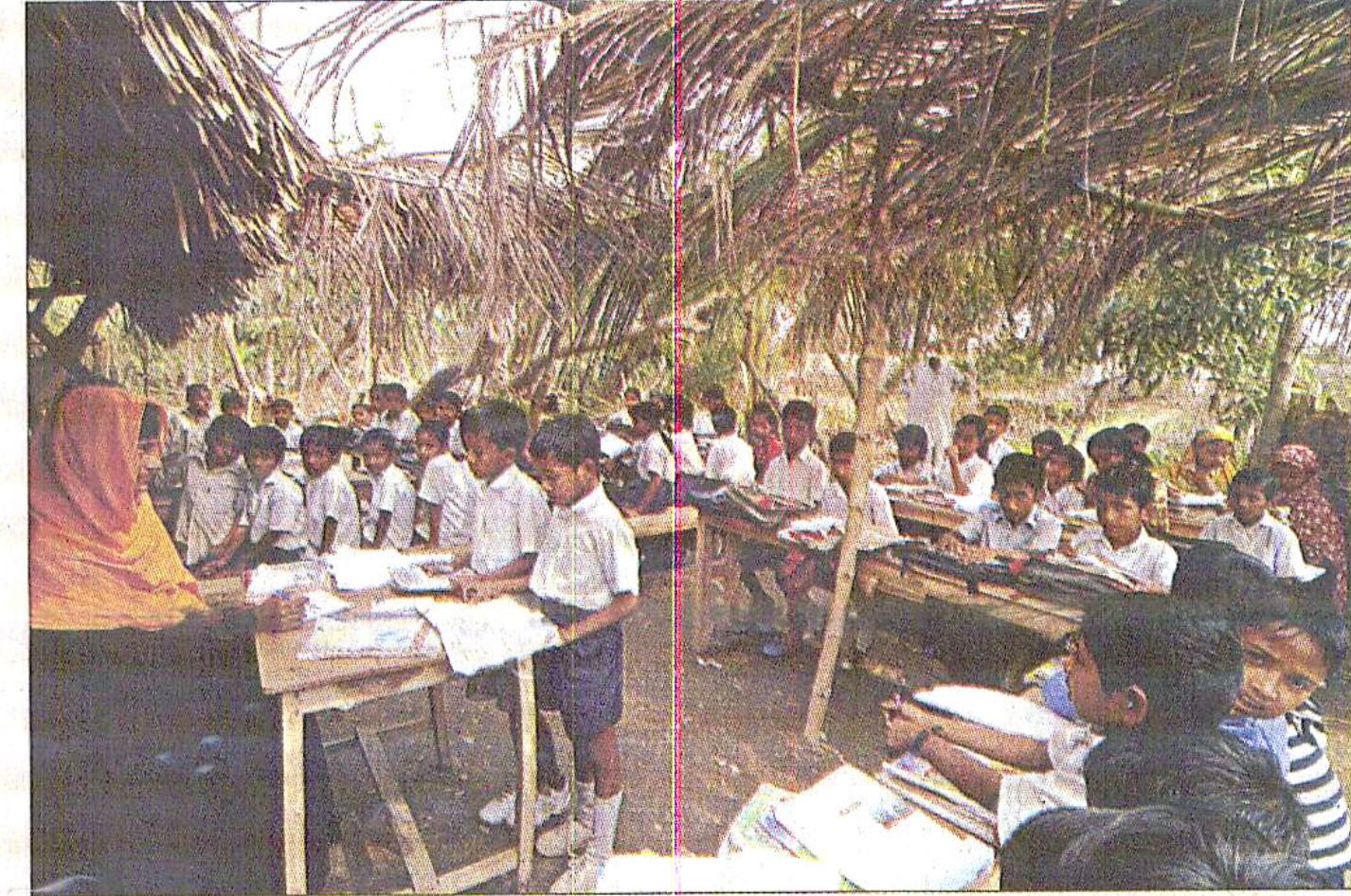
Maj Gen (retd) Syed Mohammad Ibrahim yesterday launched a political party named Bangladesh Welfare Party, declaring himself as its chairman for three years, and urged people to join the party to bring a 'change in politics'.

The party's draft constitution vests in the chairman absolute power to control, supervise and coordinate all activities of the organisation and its national council, advisory council, central executive committee.

The national council of the new party will be held within 18 months to 'elect' party chairman.

But Ibrahim will continue in his post for three years, says the draft constitution prepared by the founder-chairman of the party, the

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Students of Shubho Vidya Niketan at Amargachia of Sharonkhola yesterday have their lessons in a classroom built with bamboo and coconut leaves as the November 15 cyclone destroyed the school building.

**PARTY UNITY
Delwar 'under pressure'
to accept Saifur's offer**

RAKIB HASNET SUMAN

Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Khaleda Zia-appointed secretary general of BNP, is allegedly under renewed pressure to accept the 'unity proposal' given by Saifur Rahman, the acting chairman appointed by the party's standing committee.

Delwar's close aide Rizvi Ahmed, also the acting office secretary of the party's pro-Khaleda faction, yesterday told The Daily Star that certain quarters have been pressurising Delwar to accept the proposal.

of the party's pro-Khaleda faction, yesterday told The Daily Star that certain quarters have been pressurising Delwar to accept the proposal.

Most pro-Khaleda leaders and former lawmakers of BNP view

Like Iraq, US intel on Iran faulty

**US report admits Iran halted N-quest in 2003;
Tehran hails report as blow for Bush**

AFP/AP, Washington

First Iraq, now Iran. The United States has operated under a cloud of faulty intelligence in both countries.

In a bombshell intelligence assessment, the United States has backed away from its once-ironclad assertion that Tehran is intent on building nuclear bombs.

The US intelligence community said in a new report Monday that Iran halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003, and that US

charges about Tehran's atomic goals have been overblown for at least two years.

At the same time, the National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) by all 16 US spy agencies cautioned that the Islamic republic was keeping its options open and could be able to make a nuclear weapon sometime between 2010 and 2015.

The NIE, which represents the consensus among all 16 US spy agencies, said the programme was still dormant, and Iran's intentions unclear, but that the halt suggested

Tehran was more susceptible to global pressure than had been thought.

The declassified "key findings" provided ammunition to both sides in the international dispute over the best approach to Iran, and were expected to fuel rather than quench the often bitter US debate over Iran policy ahead of the November 2008 presidential elections.

Meanwhile, Iran on Tuesday welcomed a US intelligence report

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that Iran had halted its nuclear weapons programme in 2003, and that US

intelligence agencies had been overblown for at least two years.

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Held teachers, students might be freed soon
Says DUVC after meeting CA, Moeen

DU CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka University Vice-chancellor (VC) Prof SMA Faiz yesterday said the teachers and students who were arrested in connection with the August 20-22 violence on the campus might be released soon.

He did not mention any date in this regard but said, "We hope it will not be too long."

He made the comments during a press briefing at his office after he had meetings with the chief adviser and the army chief at their offices yesterday.

Replying to a question, he said it is still uncertain how they would be freed, on bail or due to the withdrawal of the case. The VC said the authorities concerned got

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Banks asked to give monthly update on frozen accounts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday asked all commercial banks and financial institutions to provide monthly updates on frozen bank accounts held by corruption suspects.

The Internal Resources Division (IRD) of the finance ministry yesterday issued the instructions.

The IRD in the letter asked banks and financial institutions concerned to send the information of account activities including withdrawals to the Central Intelligence Cell (CIC) of the

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Southkhali victims need house building help

**HASAN JAHID TUSHIER,
Southkhali, Sharonghola, Bagerhat**

Most of the Sidr victims in the worst-hit Southkhali in Bagerhat's Sharonghola upazila are apparently happy about relief distribution, but they all want to return to their previous jobs that include agriculture, fishing, and small businesses.

As relief materials from both the government and non-government sources are pouring in, locals demand that they should also be given cash to resume their work and rebuild houses.

"We want to repair our houses, buy cattle for cultivation and boats for fishing. We need cash money. By the grace of almighty Allah, we don't have a lack of food right now,"

said Shahidul Islam of Pedabari village.

During visits to different villages of Southkhali, it has been found that almost all the houses, roadside grocery shops and boats damaged in the cyclone still remain in ruins.

Talking to The Daily Star, many of the victims say they are getting adequate food items, but they need cooking materials first to cook those.

Ayesha Begum of North Southkhali says, "We can't cook as all the cooking materials have been washed away during the cyclone."

Like Ayesha, Fatima Begum, Kainoor, Hosne Ara, Sharmin, Kulsum, Shahida Begum, and hundreds others demand that cooking materials be distributed in addition to cash money, boat,

cattle, and nets.

The government and private relief providers have concentrated their relief operations in different areas of Southkhali, but allegations of mismanagement or lack of coordination are still rife.

Food, drinking water and medicines are not being distributed equitably and according to specific needs of a locality, relief seekers allege.

They say the residents of Pedabari (Police Camp Road) and those who live on north border of North Southkhali are not receiving adequate aid due to poor road communications.

Around 40 families of the village say most of the relief has been distributed in South Southkhali,

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Take public opinion before making rules
Recommends Regulatory Reforms Commission

UNB, Dhaka

The newly formed Regulatory Reforms Commission (RRC) yesterday submitted two proposals to the government for compiling all rules and regulations and sending any new regulation to elicit public opinion before gazette notification.

A delegation of the RRC, headed by its Chairman Akbar Ali Khan apprised the chief adviser of the two proposals when they called on

him at his office.

Of the two proposals, the first one is to compile all government rules and regulations and publish those as gazette and release on website.

"At least the regulations, which do not need any change, should go on website by February or March,"

says the commission assigned to the task of review and reform of the country's outworn laws.

The second proposal is any new

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**HASINA'S TRIAL
Mainul clarifies shifting of court's location**

UNB, Dhaka

Law Adviser Mainul Hosein yesterday said the location of Dhaka Metropolitan Sessions Court has been changed with permission of the Supreme Court to try an extortion case against former prime minister Sheikh Hasina.

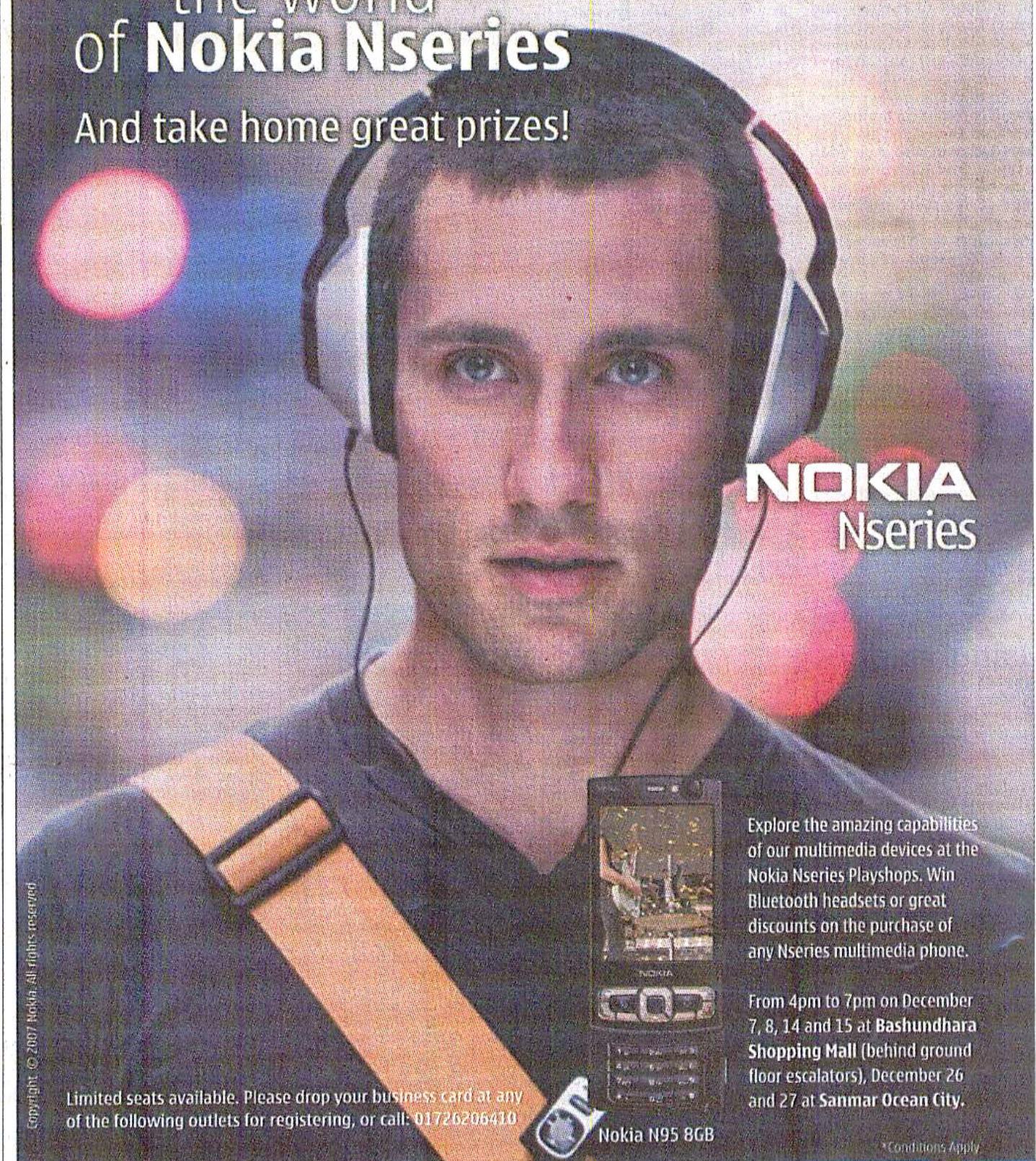
He said the court has been relocated to the site close to a sub-jail where Sheikh Hasina is detained.

The location of the court has been changed for convenience. It was done the way it should be done. If someone wants to

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**JMB MEN'S COMILLA JAILBREAK
Probe body suspects links of a few staff**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The five JMB militants imprisoned in Comilla claim their attempt to break free was their own effort, but the probe committees suspect some jail officials and employees were involved.

Five militants of the banned Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) made a bid to escape from Comilla Jail on November 25.

Two committees were formed to probe the jail-breaking and five security men were suspended.

Sources said a four-member committee formed by the home ministry and headed by a joint secretary submitted its report to the home secretary on Sunday mentioning negligence of some jail

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**BIBIYANA POWER PLANT
Three bidders pre-qualified**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday announced names of pre-qualified bidders for the 450-MW Bibiyana Power Plant project.

Two bidders from the US -- AES Corporation and Chevron Corporation -- and Korea Electric Power Corporation from South Korea have been pre-qualified

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Prayer Timing

December 5	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Magrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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