

## Badruddoza, Ershad discuss electoral alliance issue

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh (BDB) President Badruddoza Chowdhury and Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad met yesterday and discussed various national issues, including electoral alliance and national consensus government.

The meeting was aimed at exploring common ground between the two parties with a view to working together ahead of the general election, both the leaders told reporters after the hour-long meeting at the residence of BDB leader Mahi B Chowdhury at Baridhara in the city.

They said they are looking into ways to work together ahead of the election in the spirit of 1/11. Replying to a question, Badruddoza said the BDB has already floated a proposal to form a government of national consensus for five years after the election. The tenure of such government could be extended for another five years, headed by Ershad.

He also said the political parties concerned would have to make commitment in writing regarding the formation of such government ahead of the election. Ershad said, "We hold identical views on the free and fair election and restoration of democracy."

Replying to a question, he said they discussed the possibility of working together. Badruddoza also said they will hold talks with Awami League-led grand alliance and other political parties, except anti-liberation forces, on similar issues.

JP Acting Chairman Barrister Anisul Islam Mahmud, Secretary General ABM Ruhul Amin Hawlader and presidium member Ziauddin Ahmed Bablu and BDB Secretary General Maj (ret'd) MA Mannan, presidium member Prof Nurul Amin Bepari and BDB leader Mahi B Chowdhury were present at the meeting.



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### LAUNCH CAPSIZE One more body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Relatives retrieved the decomposed body of a 12-year-old boy from the river Buriganga yesterday, six days after the capsizing of a passenger launch, raising the death toll to 48.

The relatives of Sajib recovered his body at around 9:00am with the help of anchors and other tools after the government abandoned its rescue operation a day after the accident.

Sajib was a student of class VII of Jinjira Pilot High School in Keraniganj. Sajib's brother Rajib's body was recovered on Sunday and their grandmother Anwara's body on Thursday.

With the recovery of Sajib's body, bodies of all missing passengers have been believed to be retrieved as no one claims any missing passenger yesterday.

MV Sourav-1 sank near Buriganga Bridge at around 3:35pm on Thursday after a cargo vessel hit it from behind. The double-decker was on its way to Taltola in Munshiganj from Sadarghat launch terminal with around 140 passengers on board.

The government formed a five-member probe body led by Shipping Ministry Joint Secretary Abdul Matin to investigate into the incident.

The committee is scheduled to submit its report today.



Recipients of Shilu Abed Handicrafts Award 2008 pose for photograph with Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed, sitting 2nd from left, and other guests at the award giving ceremony at the Brac Centre auditorium yesterday.

### Joya Rani gets Shilu Abed Handicrafts Award

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Shilu Abed Handicrafts Award 2008 was distributed at a ceremony at Brac Centre auditorium yesterday organised by Bangladesh Jatiya Karushilpa Parishad.

Joya Rani received the award this year. Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed handed over the crest and a cheque for Tk 1 lakh as award money to Joya.

Manika Mandol, Shahinur, Smriti Murmu, Mohammad Belal Hossain, Shadhona Rani and Kajali Mallik received honorary certificates for their special needlework.

The prize giving ceremony was presided over by the president of while Fashion designer Mahin Kha talked on Shilu Abed's chequered career at the award giving ceremony.

A daylong exhibition was held on the occasion. Marking the birth anniversary of Shilu Abed, Karushilpa Parishad has been organising the award giving ceremony on March 5h every year since 1998. Some 30 artistes have received awards under different categories of handicrafts.

Wooden work will be the next subject of award for 2009.

### Navy chief happy over voter registration in Khulna

Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Sarwar Jahan Nizam inspected the progress of 'Operation Nobojatra' National Identity Card and Voter Registration Project at Rupsha Bridge Complex in Khulna yesterday, says an ISPR release.

Navy chief expressed his satisfaction on the progress of the project and urged all concerned to devote their best efforts, honesty, integrity and dedication to complete the project within the stipulated time successfully.

Bangladesh Navy started Operation Nobojatra on December 9 in 2007 in the coastal region of Bangladesh and is successfully continuing the project in 21 coastal areas.

Commodore Commanding Khulna, local elites and high civil and military officers were present on the occasion.

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