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## Holding credible polls difficult under state of emergency

Says US envoy  
UNB, Dhaka

US Ambassador James F. Moriarty yesterday reiterated that holding of free, fair and credible elections in Bangladesh would be difficult under the state of emergency.

About the upazila polls, envisaged before the next parliament election, the envoy who is going to Washington for consultation shortly said the election commissioners are "doing a very good job".

In reply to a query after a meeting with the Election Commission at its secretariat in the afternoon, he told reporters, "It's difficult to hold credible elections under the state of emergency."

"I told all the commissioners to basically see how things are going with respect to the restoration of

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# Donors to provide \$340m for social safety measures

UNB, Dhaka

Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other development partners will provide \$340 million to help Bangladesh implement the social protection measures, particularly on food security, under the 2008-09 budget.

"ADB will provide \$170 million while others a similar amount," ADB Country Director Hua Du told reporters after a meeting with Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam at the finance ministry yesterday.

Hua Du made a farewell call on the adviser prior to her departure

last night from Bangladesh on completion of a six-year assignment here. She will join the ADB headquarters in Manila.

She said ADB in collaboration with other development partners, including IMF, USAID, FAO, WFP, carried out a joint assessment on food security issue and committed to co-finance the programme with the government.

The outgoing ADB country director said a project proposal was being prepared at a very fast pace, less than two months, and the proposal would be submitted to the ADB board of directors this month.

She said the ADB along with other development partners will also support the National Food Policy, which is a very sound and good one, to increase agriculture productivity in the medium- and longer-term.

The government is now undertaking an action plan to implement the food policy, she added.

Hua Du said she apprised the finance adviser of updates in ADB assisted projects in Bangladesh like projects in social, transportation and energy sectors. She also apprised Aziz of new projects in these sectors.



This electric pole has been in this state for over a year at Bat Tali of Khagrachhari district as power Development Board ignores risk of having high-voltage power lines hanging.

PHOTO: STAR

## Nobel Committee chief due today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Norwegian Nobel Committee Chairman Prof Ole Danbolt Mjos and Nobel Peace Center Director Bente Erichsen arrive in Dhaka today on a six-day visit.

They will inaugurate the Exhibition on Nobel Peace Prize in Bangladesh.

Drik Picture Library in collaboration with the Grameen Bank has organised the exhibition titled "Jobra to Oslo" starting on July 17 at the initiative of the Nobel Peace Center and the Royal Norwegian Embassy.

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed will inaugurate the exhibition as the chief guest at the Grameen Bank headquarters in the capital.

Danbolt Mjos and Erichsen will stay in Bangladesh from July 15 to July 20. They will participate in several events organised by the Grameen Bank and Royal Norwegian Embassy, Dhaka during their stay here. The events include

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Dhaka University students yesterday burn effigies of Jamaat leaders Golam Azam, Motiur Rahman Nizami, Ali Ahsan M. Mojahid and Quader Mollah on the campus protesting the Jamaat-Shibir attack on a freedom fighter Friday. Story on page 3.

PHOTO: STAR

## 65,631 MT rice arrives from India

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh has received 65,631 tonnes of rice from India in a latest consignment under the agreement signed with the Indian government after last year's floods and cyclone Sidi.

"The rice is being unloaded at Chittagong Port and five more ships carrying another 60,000 tonnes of rice will arrive at the port soon," said an official announcement.

Bangladesh has already received some 1.20 lakh tonnes of rice from India under the deal, said the government release, adding that the rest of quantum will be coming within this month.

Bangladesh High Commission  
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## Robbers loot valuables worth Tk 8 lakh from city house

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Robbers looted valuables including gold and diamond ornaments worth Tk 7.80 lakh at gunpoint from a house in Pallabi in city's Mirpur area early yesterday.

A gang of eight to 10 robbers broke into the first storey apartment of the three-storey building near Abbas Uddin School on Pallabi's Avenue 5 at around 3:00 am.

They were armed with two firearms, knives and machetes.

Household members said the robbers wearing black masks tied up the three maids and the female occupants of the house at gunpoint.

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## 2 killed in 'shootout' with Rab

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two alleged gang members were killed early yesterday at Shyampur in the capital as they were caught in 'crossfire' between the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and the gang named 'Rozen Bahini'.

According to the Rab, Mosharrif Hossain Sentu, 26, and Rezau Karim, 23, were members of the

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Prayer Timing		
July 15		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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# ICC seeks arrest of Sudan president for Darfur war crimes

AFP, The Hague

The International Criminal Court's top prosecutor called yesterday for the arrest of Sudan's President Omar al-Bashir for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes in Darfur.

Bashir had "masterminded and implemented" a plan to destroy a large portion of three ethnic groups in the western Sudanese region, prosecutor Luis Moreno-Ocampo said in a statement released in The Hague.

His appeal to the court's judges marked the first ever request to the ICC for an arrest warrant against a sitting head of state.

Moreno-Ocampo's bold move came despite fears and warnings that it could enflame tensions in Darfur and lead to the expulsion of aid workers and peacekeepers in Sudan's troubled western region.

Sudan immediately rejected the call as damaging to Darfur peace hopes, but British Prime Minister Gordon Brown urged Khartoum to cooperate with the court.

In Cairo, the Arab League said foreign ministers are to hold an emergency meeting on Sudan on Saturday to discuss the prosecutor's call.

The White House on Monday

urged all parties "to remain calm," in its first reaction to the prosecutor's call.

The Argentine prosecutor told journalists after delivering the statement that "what happened in Darfur is a consequence of Bashir's will."

"The crime of genocide is a crime of intention. Bashir had the intention to destroy the Fur, Masalit and Zaghawa ethnic groups," engaged in a rebellion in Darfur.

"Bashir failed to defeat the armed movements so he went after the people. His motives were largely political. His alibi was a 'counterinsurgency'. His intent was genocide," the prosecutor said.

The prosecutor's office said in a statement there were "reasonable grounds to believe Bashir bears criminal responsibility in relation to 10 counts of genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes."

Judges will now examine the application to ascertain whether reasonable grounds exist to believe that a crime within the court's jurisdiction had been committed, before deciding whether to issue a warrant or not - a process that could take several months.

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## Zillur asks party men to resist upazila polls

UNB, Dhaka

Acting Awami League President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged the party men to be united to resist the government move to hold upazila polls ahead of the national election.

"Get united. We shall not allow the government to hold the upazila elections before the parliamentary polls. The caretaker government is doing things which are not supposed to be done by it," Zillur said while addressing a joint meeting of North and South city units of Juba League at the Engineers Institution.

Zillur said the caretaker government was supposed to hold the

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## Govt to relax rules for primary teacher recruitment in CHT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will relax the minimum educational requirement for recruitment of primary school teachers in three Chittagong hill districts to solve the shortage of teachers in the area.

Primary and Mass Education Adviser Rasheda K Choudhury told a discussion yesterday that the step was being taken since eligible candidates are hard to find in the three hill districts of Bandarban, Khagrachhari and Rangamati.

Manusher Jonno Foundation

organised the views exchanging meeting on 'Going to School: Challenges in Chittagong Hill Tracts' at the Cirdap auditorium in the city yesterday where the results of a recent survey were also presented.

"The notification will be issued very soon," Rasheda told the meeting, adding that priority was being given to recruit only indigenous teachers, especially for lower classes, to reduce the dropout rate.

At present, the minimum educational requirement for the post

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## ATTACK ON MILITARY OUTPOST 9 US troops, dozens of Taliban killed Bomb kills 7 Afghan civilians

AFP, Kabul Kandahar

Hundreds of militants stormed a remote military outpost in Afghanistan and briefly entered the base in a ferocious attack that left nine US soldiers dead, officials said yesterday.

Dozens of insurgents were also killed in hours of fighting sparked after Sunday's dawn assault on a newly-built Nato and Afghan army post in the mountainous north-eastern province of Kunar, the

Nato-led force said.

The attack was one of the deadliest involving international forces who arrived in Afghanistan after a US-led invasion drove the al-Qaeda-linked Taliban from government in late 2001.

Fifteen US soldiers and four Afghan troops were wounded, officials said.

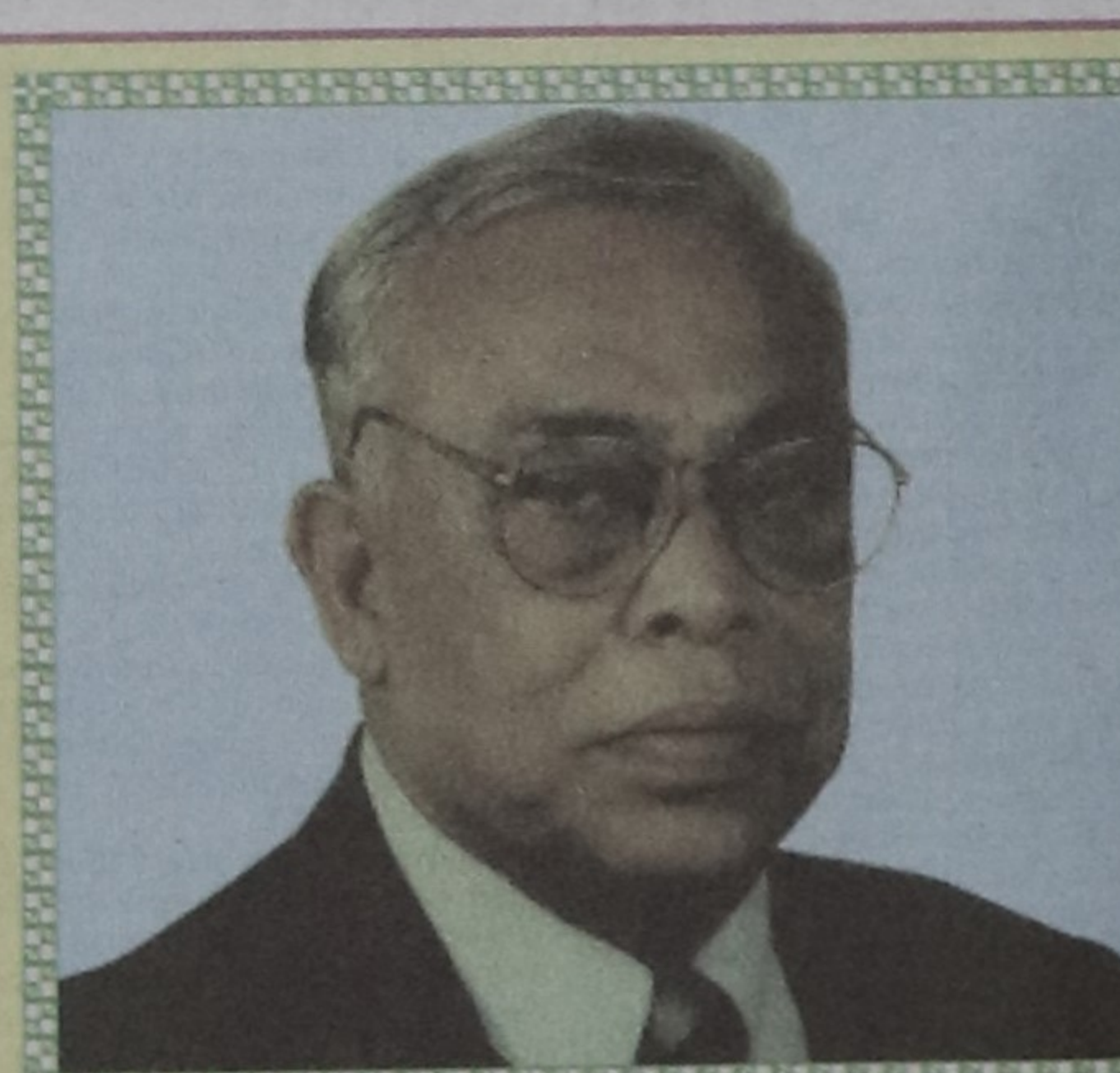
"It was a well-organised attack. It was a ferocious attack," said Captain Mike Finney, a spokesman

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Clogged rainwater drainage system leaves Khilgaon flyover in the capital with puddles on the curves. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR



## অষ্টম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকী স্মরণে

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের সাবেক মেয়র ও মন্ত্রী, বিশিষ্ট রাজনীতিবিদ, শিল্পপতি, সমাজ সেবক, দানবীর মানিকগঞ্জের কৃতি সন্তান এবং বাংলাদেশ থাই এ্যান্ডমিনিয়াম লিমিটেড এবং সানলাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিমিটেড এর প্রতিষ্ঠাতা চেয়ারম্যান মরহুম আলহাজ্ব কর্ণেল (অবঃ) এ. মালেক, পি. এস. সি'র ৮ম মৃত্যুবার্ষিকীতে আমরা গভীর শ্রদ্ধার সাথে তাঁকে শ্রদ্ধা করছি। এই উপলক্ষে আগামী ১৬/৭/২০০৮ইং তারিখে (বুধবার) বাদ জোহর মরহুমের মানিকগঞ্জের গড়াপাড়া নিজ বাসভবনে মিলাদ মাহফিল ও কোরআনবানির আয়োজন করা হয়েছে। মরহুমের সকল আত্মীয়-পরিজন, শুভানুধ্যায়ী, বন্ধু-বান্ধবের উক্ত মিলাদ মাহফিলে যোগদান করে বিদেহী আত্মার মাগফেরাত কামনায় সবিনয় অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

সানলাইফ ইনসিওরেন্স কোম্পানী লিঃ  
বাংলাদেশ থাই এ্যান্ডমিনিয়াম লিঃ  
এর পক্ষে  
পরিবারবর্গ, ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিষদ এবং সকল কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীবৃন্দ