

## 9 doctors admit Falu's reports not official

Claim to SC that their personal opinion passed as medical board recommendations for bail

PINAKI ROY and ASHUTOSH SARKAR

Nine doctors of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday told the Supreme Court registrar the medical reports on former BNP lawmaker Mosaddek Ali Falu's health were not made by a medical board but were individual examination reports.

Falu's counsels had complied those reports and submitted to the court as medical board's recommendations due to lack of "knowl-

edge in medical terminology", they claimed.

One of two doctors who did not sign the 'recommendations' also gave his statement saying he did not examine Falu's health. But the lawyers included their names to Falu's petition to ensure his bail.

All documents of a prisoner need to be submitted through the jail authorities, senior lawyer Anisul Haque, counsel of the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC), said.

But the jail authorities said they had learned about a medical board

for Falu on the newspapers. They added they did not ask BSMMU authorities to form a medical board for him or the court also did not ask them to submit his medical documents.

Sources in BSMMU say Prof AKM Fazlul Haque, chairman of colorectal surgery, requested the hospital authorities to form a five-member medical board on February 3. The sources also say Falu might have used his political influence to form the medical board.

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## Polls goal to be made one-way

Govt moves to bar aspirants from contesting both upazila, JS elections

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The caretaker government is amending the upazila parishad ordinance to prevent individuals from contesting parliamentary and upazila elections simultaneously.

The council of advisers has already approved the amendment now being vetted at the law ministry, sources in the LGRD ministry said.

The ordinance in force does not preclude anyone from seeking election to parliament and

upazila parishads at the same time.

It only bars a person from contesting for more than one post in the upazila election.

Now as the parliamentary and upazila polls are to be held with a short time gap, many plan to run in both the elections.

In efforts to stop that from happening, the government is adding a new provision to the Local Government (Upazila Parishads) Ordinance, 2008.

Meanwhile, the Election

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## BAEC find vindicates DU melamine results

Govt finally discloses to court 7 out of 8 milk powder brands tested positive; govt's role comes under criticism; court ruling today

ERSHAD KAMOL

The government yesterday disclosed to the High Court (HC) that Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) also had detected high concentration of toxic melamine in seven brands of powdered milk out of the eight tested so far.

The revelation raised questions among a cross-section of the people about the caretaker government's sincerity about ensuring

public health as it had sat on the test results for a week instead of letting the worried consumers know about the findings.

The court is scheduled to pronounce a judgment on the melamine issue today.

On November 3 the government declared that melamine had been detected only in three Chinese powdered milk brands Yashili 1, Yashili 2, and Sweet Baby 2 in tests by a Thai and two local laboratories.

But at the time the government

already had the BAEC test results in its hands which it decided to keep undisclosed.

The consumer confusion about melamine in powdered milk arose when about a month ago Health and Food Adviser Dr AMM Shawkat Ali opted to downplay a Dhaka University (DU) chemistry department test result that had detected melamine in eight brands of powdered milk including five popular ones.

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## Myanmar withdraws warships

Tension yet to die down as both countries mobilise troops on border

STAR REPORT

Myanmar withdrew its warships, the oil and gas exploration rig and the fossil fuel exploration vessels from Bangladesh waters yesterday but tension between the two countries still exists as both the nations mobilised more troops along their border.

"We want peaceful solution to the dispute not confrontation or war," Foreign Secretary Md Touhid Hossain told a press briefing at the foreign ministry yesterday. He said the Myanmar ships left the terri-

tory around yesterday noon.

Terming the action of Myanmar "unexpected" at a time when the two nations are enjoying good relations, Touhid hoped that the tension would diffuse gradually.

He said Dhaka would soon hand over detailed maps of its exclusive economic zones to Myanmar authorities so that Myanmar cannot resume fossil fuel exploration in Bangladesh territory.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh reinforced Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and Bangladesh Navy efforts with

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PHOTO: ISPR

This photo sent by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) shows two Bangladesh Navy ships positioned near Korean rig Trans Ocean Legend in the disputed waters of the Bay of Bengal.

## Myanmar worked in that area from before?

STAR REPORT

With Korean, Chinese and Indian companies in the field, Myanmar's attempt to drill an exploratory oil and gas well within Bangladesh maritime boundary indicates that the country has been working on this plan for a long time.

The presence of drilling rig in the oil-gas exploration ship of Korean company Daewoo working for Myanmar in the disputed area is a proof that Myanmar might have physically worked in the area without drawing the notice of Bangladesh in the recent past.

To mobilise a rig is very costly and an oil company would do so only when it has previously done seismic survey and found strong chances of hitting oil and gas.

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## Time for nomination filing extended

Last date now Nov 20 for both JS, upazila polls

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday extended the deadline for filing nominations for parliamentary and upazila elections.

It will now stop accepting nomination papers for both the polls on November 20. In the original schedules unveiled on November 2, the closing date was November 13.

The dates for scrutiny and withdrawal of nominations too were rescheduled.

Secretary to the EC Secretariat Humayun Kabir announced the

changes at a press briefing at the commission premises.

He said, "The time limit has been extended following requests from returning officers (ROs) and aspirant candidates for more time to complete submission of nomination papers."

As the polling days--December 18 for parliamentary and December 28 for upazila--remain unchanged, the rescheduling means a cut in the electioneering period.

Awami League (AL) has welcomed the changes, but BNP and

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## Talking polls and beyond

### People still unsure of Dec 18 JS polls

Says Prof Arefin Siddique

SHAMIM ASHRAF and NAJMUL ALAM NOBIN

Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique of Dhaka University has said an electoral environment is "conspicuously" absent and people are still unsure that the parliamentary elections are going to be held on December 18.

"The caretaker government has failed in two years to earn people's trust that it really wants to relinquish power through an election," he said in an interview with The Daily Star.

The professor of journalism said BNP's seven-point demand and not yet announcing its decision on participating in the elections have created confusions in the minds of people about the holding of the elections.

"There is a perception among people that the election cannot be acceptable if any of the two largest parties stays out of it," he added.

A two-year "non-ending" process for holding the election is not what people expected, Arefin said, terming political parties' acceptance of the period a "misfortune" for the nation. "I do not think an unelected government should rule us for years," he said.

He accused the government of engaging itself in political and economic reforms but not taking the opportunity of giving autonomy to Bangladesh Betar and Bangladesh Television.

Arefin identified a number of mistakes of the caretaker government: its desire to exclude a few leaders from the political process, creating new parties and going after high profile politicians rather than reforming institutions, among others.

He said people want to know if there was any conflict between the government and those who are backing it.

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Find details of the interview on page 11

## Broadband for All

Highlighting the market potential with mobile broadband

The GSM Association, the global body for the mobile industry, is hosting a seminar, which will answer why 3G Mobile Broadband is vital to Bangladesh.

This seminar will focus on:

- the global and South-Asian 3G Mobile Broadband marketplace
- proving the affordability of 3G Mobile Broadband as a solution for broadband access
- case studies of 3G Mobile Broadband and broadband access experiences in South-Asia and further afield
- the latest information in products and services to facilitate broadband access including low cost devices, shared access kiosks and green initiatives for power generation

Date: 12 November, 2008

Venue: Grand Ballroom, Radisson Hotel, Dhaka

Time: 9.00 AM (registration)

This event is targeted at the mobile communications industry of Bangladesh. To register, please email [hspa@gsm.org](mailto:hspa@gsm.org) or call Michelle Lemon on +44 7 917 046 593 (United Kingdom)



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## EC warns BNP for violating electoral code of conduct

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday said BNP has violated the electoral code of conduct for the ninth parliamentary election by turning the reception accorded to party chief on November 7 in Chittagong into an electoral show-down.

Directed by EC, its secretariat yesterday sent a letter to BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain and reminded him that the event was a violation of electoral code of conduct.

It also requested BNP to abide by the code of conduct to maintain atmosphere conducive to holding the upcoming parliamentary polls, sources in the EC Secretariat said.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia

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Dhaka, November 2008

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