# METROPOLITAN/NEWS

## Ruling-opposition cooperation a must for development

Says top USAID official

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Cooperation between ruling and opposition political parties after the national election is a must for the development of Bangladesh, said USAID Deputy Assistant Administrator for Asia Margot Ellis yesterday.

"Free, fair and credible polls are a critical first step that must follow the cooperation between ruling and opposition parties so that Bangladesh's government can successfully enhance development for its people," she said.

Ellis made the remarks at a expect so. media roundtable at American Club in the capital.

She is now on a three-day the progress of development and rehabilitation projects, including recovery and reconstruction activities supported by the US government in Sidraffected areas.

officials of the organisations providing trained election observers to assist in preparations for parliamentary elections and visit USAID-funded

national elections slated for December 29 would be held in a free and fair manner and Bangladesh would witness a successful transition to

Asked if the US assistance to Bangladesh would decline due to global financial turmoil, Ellis said they don't growth.

US President-elect Barrack Obama had pledged to double the development assistance visit to Bangladesh to review worldwide, she said, adding, "We want to expand the assistance. But it is the Congress that will decide finally."

USAID Bangladesh Mission Director Denise Rollins said, "We have a strong Ellis will also meet with the relations with Bangladesh. We

always argue for more money. I don't expect there is any possibility for decline in US assistance to Bangladesh."

"It is very important that when the Congressmen come She hoped that the to Bangladesh, we show the development needs here, so they make recommendations," she said.

Denise Rollins said the USAID focus would be on safe motherhood, sustaining school enrolments, cutting neonatal deaths, and other areas that help economic

She said high prices of essential in recent times have contributed to the increase of poverty and decrease of nutrition level and therefore increasing productivity and growing various kinds of crops to get more protein would be necessary to ensure food

assisting Bangladesh, which is roundtable.

to suffer from the consequences of climate change, USIAID official said adaptation would be the best way for it.

The development agency has also undertaken a programme on environment involving communities.

USAID is providing \$176 million in development assistance and food aid to Bangladesh in 2008.

From 1971 to 2007, the aid agency provided over \$5 billion in development aid to Bangladesh in different sectors including population and health, small business and agribusiness, natural resources management, energy, food security, disaster management, education, democracy and human rights.

Press and Information Officer of the US Embassy in Dhaka Harvey W Fernovitz Asked about US plans for was also present at the



Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Ahmed inaugurates Banani-Gulshan Link Bridge in the city yesterday.

## Dhaka to be habitable city

Hopes CA, opens Gulshan Bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser Fakhruddin Gulshan. Ahmed yesterday hoped that Dhaka would be turned to a better habitable urban city through the united efforts and ideas of government-private months. sectors and the stakeholders.

year Strategic Transport Plan (STP) and Detailed Area Plan (DAP) for Dhaka Metropolitan Development Plan (DMDP) would make the capital city modern and better livable," Fakhruddin said while inau-Banani-Gulshan connecting bridge over Gulshan Lake.

the 306 meter-long bridge which began from the earlier dead-end of Road No 11 of Banani and gave an alternate access to Gulshan across the

The new bridge is expected to greatly lessen the heavy traffic pressure on existing Mohakhali and Kemal Ataturk Avenue connecting roads.

The bridge, costing Tk 22 crore, connects road number

The Council of Advisers at a

meeting yesterday approved

in principle major amend-

ments to the Town Improve-

ment Act 1953 with an aim to

bring dynamism, transpar-

ency and accountability in the

activities of Rajuk, ridden with

alleged wrongdoings over the

Fakhruddin Ahmed in the

approved in principle the

Non-government Educational

Institutions Management

Committee Ordinance 2008 to

streamline the managing

committees of non-

government schools, colleges

the governing council of Rajuk

would be recast to revamp the

city developer so that it can

cater the needs of changed

After the council meeting,

CA's Press Secretary Syed

Fahim Munaim told newsmen

that the meeting also gave

final approval to Dhaka Shishu

Hospital Ordinance 2008,

meant for upgrading another

UNB, Dhaka

11 of Banani with road numbers 41, 43, 35 and 34 of The construction of the

connecting bridge project was completed about six months ahead of the targeted 18 The LGRD and Cooperative

"Combination of the 15- Ministry initiated the project while implementing agency is Local Government Engineering Department (LGED)

LGRD Adviser M Anwarul Iqbal, Secretary Local Government Division gurating the newly built Secretary Khurshid Alam and LGED Chief Engineer Nurul Islam also spoke at the func-He unveiled a plaque on tion which was attended by advisers, special assistants to CA, local elite and senior government officials.

Briefly addressing the function, the chief adviser said that introduction of easy and smooth mass transportation system, new recreational facilities and solving the existing waterlogging problems would make city life much

He said his government has

Amended Town Improvement

forming government institu-

meeting approved proposed

amendment to the Bangladesh

Energy Regulatory

Commission Act 2003 to set

qualifications of the chairman

and members of the watchdog

memorandum of understand-

Bangladesh and Thai govern-

agriculture sector was also

approved by the council for

sharing technology for boost-

ing farm production, coopera-

tion in agriculture and land

reforms, joint-venture agri-

business and exchange of

countries, particularly

Bangladesh, would be bene-

fited," it was stated in the

nod to the Financial Reporting

Ordinance 2008 aimed at

"protecting public interests,

protection of investment and

attracting investment from

Govt plans night shelters for 4

Under the new ordinance,

The meeting gave the final

objective of the accord.

home and abroad."

"Following the signing of

A proposal for signing

body in the potential sector.

With Chief Adviser ing (MoU) between

chair, the meeting also ments on cooperation in

and madrasas under a unified agriculture-research results.

Under the amended act, the 5-year-term MOU both the

important but underper- an 11-member Financial

In another major step, the

Act okayed to revamp Rajuk

taken short and long term plans and projects to remove traffic jams and easy and smooth transportation of commuters in the capital city.

Construction of small bridges and link roads are under short-term projects like the Banani-Gulshan bridge. Some of the projects have almost been completed while others would be ready next

Fakhruddin said construction of elevated highways in Dhaka city and underground train are on the consideration of the government under long-term measures.

He, however, informed the function that feasibility work for elevated highway has

started and hoped that it would be implemented in the

Regarding city's ongoing Hatirjheel project, Fakhruddin said on completion it would help protect the environment and also minimise waterlogging in the city.

Reporting Council headed by

a chairman would be consti-

important business, the

interim cabinet approved

amendment to section 5 of the

National Curriculum and

Textbook Board Ordinance

1983 to increase the number of

members of the board to four

the Road Fund Board

Ordinance 2008 for proper

maintenance of the roads and

asked for further examination

increasing the existing

monthly financial assistance

to the members of armed

forces and other forces who

got award for their heroic acts.

The meeting sent back for

further vetting the proposal

for signing the Convention on

the Law of Non-navigational

Uses of International Water

Courses 1997 formulated by

the law and children in need of

protection are governed by the

impetus for juvenile justice

the UN General Assembly.

approval.

The meeting also discussed

in the light of the discussion.

It also discussed the draft of

from the existing three.

Transacting yet another

tuted.

### Hasina ready to work on nat'l issues unitedly

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her readiness to work unitedly sinking all political differences on national issues after the election.

The former premier made the remarks when Norwegian Ambassador in Dhaka Ingebjorg Stofring called on her at her Sudha Sadan residence in the morning.

"After the parliamentary election, we will work together on national issues forgetting all differences," former Ambassador Mohammad Jamir quoted Sheikh Hasina as saying this while briefing

He said the AL chief expected that a level playing field would be created during the polls for all and the parliamentary polls would be free, fair and credible.

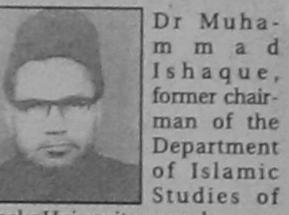
Sheikh Hasina also hoped that Norway will continue its cooperation with Bangladesh in energy, good governance, culture and environment sectors.

Earlier, talking to the reporters, the Norwegian Ambassador said Norway is hopeful about a credible election in Bangladesh.

She also hoped to see peaceful environment during and after the general election.

### Obituary

METRO DESK



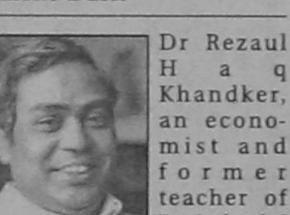
Dhaka University, passed away at his Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday, says a press

He left behind his ten sons, many students and admirers to mourn his death.

Dr Ishaque was a pioneer in the movement of Tabligh Jamaat in Bangladesh. He joined in Dhaka University as a lecturer in 1943 and retired as chairman of the department in 1982. He also played a key role in the formation of the Arabic Department

at Dhaka University. He was buried at Azimpur graveyard after namaz-ejanaza at Kakrail Mosque and Baitul Aman mosque in Dhanmondi.

Dr Rezaul Haq METRO DESK



former teacher of Rajshahi University, passed away at a city hospital on Saturday at the age of 82, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, four children and a host of admirers to mourn his death.

He was buried at Azimpur graveyard.

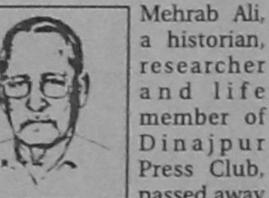
His qulkhwani will be held on December 11.

Relatives, friends and

The meeting asked for admirers are requested to again placing the proposal of attend the programme. the defence ministry along with the proposal of the home ministry together for final

Mehrab Ali

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur



and life member of Dinajpur Press Club, passed away

due to old-age complications at his residence yesterday at the age of 83.

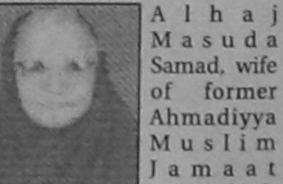
He left behind his wife, three daughters, two sons and a host of relatives and admir-

ers to mourn his death.

He was buried at his family graveyard at Golapbagh.

Alhaj Masuda Samad

METRO DESK



Muslim Jamaat Bangladesh passed away at her

Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday at the age of 80, says a press release. She left behind her four

sons, one daughter and a host of admirers to mourn her death.

Bikalpa Dhara Bangladesh President Badruddoza Chowdhury visits Shyambazar area in the city

yesterday as part of election campaign.

## IO recorded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Deposition of the investigation officer in the case concerning the grenade attack on the then British high commissioner Anwar Choudhury was recorded at Sylhet divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal yesterday.

All the five accused, including Mufti Abdul Hannan of Harkat-ul Jihad Al Islami (Huji), were in the dock when Inspector Mohammad Zobayer of CID gave his depo-

Judge Shamim Mohammad Afzal recorded the deposition of the IO who had submitted supplementary charge sheet against the Huji operative Mufti Main Uddin alias Abu Zandal.

The court also fixed December 14 as the date for recording the deposition of other prosecution witnesses.

Charges were framed in the Speedy Trial Tribunal on November 27 against Huji operative Abu Zandal for the grenade attack on the Bitish envoy at the shrine of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA).

The Bangladesh-born British high commissioner along with 70 others were hurt in the grenade attack and three others were killed in the grenade attack on May 21 in 2004. The dead are Special Branch Assistant Sub-Inspector of police Kamal Uddin, college student Zobayer Ahmed Rubel and Habibur Rahman Habib.

#### Work for alliance candidates

Ershad urges party men OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad has called upon party leaders and activists to work in favour of grand alliance candidates.

At a meeting at his residence in Rangpur on Saturday, he hoped that the seat sharing with the grand alliance partners would be settled soon.

Ershad said JP demanded 47 seats from the alliance and his party will win in at least 40 constituencies.

"JP is and will be with ALled grand alliance to form the next government. Otherwise, the people will have to suffer a lot," he added.

Ershad will celebrate Eidul-Azha in Rangpur.

## ATTACK ON UK ENVOY Deposition of Three killed in road accidents

METRO DESK

Three people were killed and 35 others injured in separate road accidents in Barisal, Faridpur and Bagerhat vesterday.

Our correspondent from Barisal reports: One person was killed in a road accident on Barisal-Dhaka highway at Bejgati under Gournadi upazila in Barisal yesterday.

The victim was identified as Rab Fakir alias Nayon, 11. The accident occurred

when Nayon was crossing the road a private car crushed him under its wheels. BSS from Faridpur adds:

One person was killed and 20 others were injured when a Dhaka-bound passenger bus from Mongla fell into a roadside ditch at Jhaturdia under Nagarkanda upazila on Dhaka-Khulna highway in Faridpur yesterday.

The dead was identified as Saleha Begum, 52.

Police said the bus fell into the ditch as the driver lost control of the vehicle leaving one dead on the spot and

injuring 20 others. UNB from Bagerhat reports: One passenger was killed and 15 others were

injured when a Khulna-bound bus from Mongla tumbled into a roadside ditch at

Rampal in Bagerhat yesterday. The dead was identified as Mizanur Rahman Khan, 28, of Khamkata village of Rampal.

Pankaj released STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami Swechhasebak League General Secretary Pankaj Debnath was released on a High Court bail yesterday.

Jail sources said Pankaj was released from the prison cell at Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital at about 7:00pm. A number of party men gathered at the hospital to welcome him.

Pankaj, who was arrested on

February 4 last year, was sentenced to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment and three years' simple imprisonment in a graft case filed against him for amassing ill-gotten wealth. His wife Monika Debnath

was also sentenced to three years' imprisonment for aiding her husband in accumulating ill-gotten wealth.

Meanwhile, the government released 441 prisoners on the occasion of Eid-ul Azha and the Victory Day.



### No change in temperature likely

UNB, Dhaka

Weather is likely to remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today. Light fog may occur over the river basins during early

morning over the country. Night temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met Office said. Highest temperature 31.4 degrees Celsius was recorded

Srimangol. The sun sets in the capital at 5:11pm today and rises at 6:30am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded

in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

yesterday at Sandwip and lowest 14.8 degrees Celsius at

City/Town Temperature in Humidityin Celsius percentage Morning Evening Max Min Dhaka 28.0 18.7 Chittagong 29.6 19.0 71 Rajshahi 28.2 17.5 87 28.5 Khulna 18.0 98 83 29.5 Barisal 16.5 84 Sylhet 29.0 75 18.5 30.3 Cox's Bazar 19.5 62

### congregations in city STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Main Eid

The main Eid jamaat (congregation) of the Eid-ul-Azha will be held at the National Eidgah on the High Court premises in the city at 8:00am. In case of inclement weather, the congregation will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at the same time.

Furthermore, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will organise and manage Eid congregations at 361 mosques of 90 wards in the city and at Dhaka University playground.

Five Eid congregations will be held at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque at 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:00am, 10:00am, and 10:45am. The Eid congregation at Bashiruddin Road Jame

Mosque at Kalabagan will be held at 8:00am while two congregations will be held at Dhaka University Central Mosque at 8:00am and 9:00am. Eid congregations will also take place at the field adjacent

to the main gate of Salimullah Hall at 8:00am and Shahidullah Halllawn at 8:30am. The congregations at Pallima Sangsad premises, Tejgaon Government High School premises, Lakshmi Bazar Noorani Jame Mosque, Mia Shaheber Maydan, Shah

be held at 8:00am. A total of four congrega tions will be held at Mashjide-Gausul Azam Bara Peer Hazrat Abdul Quadir Zilani (RA) Complex at 7:30am, 8:30am, 9:30am and 10:15am

Shaheb Bari Jame Mosque will

respectively. Three congregations wil be held at Darbare Mahbubia Dewanbagh Sharif, Baitul Moazzam Jame Mashjid (Boro Mashjid).

Eid congregations will also be held at Gulshan Central Mosque and Eidgah Maidan at 8:30am, SOS Shishu Polly Jame Mashjid at Shyamoli, Mirpur road at 8:15am Sabujbagh Jame Mosque at 7:30am, East End Club Maidan at Gendaria at 8:15am and at Sir Salimullah Muslim Orphanage field at Azimpur at

8:15am. The last congregation at Azimpur Dayra Sharif Dayemia Shahi Jame Mosque will be held at 11:30am.

#### Minu released on bail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Mizanur Rahman Minu, former mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation and BNP lawmaker, came out of Rajshahi Central Jail yesterday after one and a half years. He was freed as the high

court on Thursday granted him bail in two corruption cases. His family members and some 50 leaders and activists of local BNP welcomed him at the jail gate when he was

released at around 6.35pm.

Minu, the BNP candidate for Rajshahi-2 constituency, was released five days ahead of official beginning of polls campaigning. His release made BNP activists hopeful for having a strong fight in electoral race. Minu will fight against the

grand alliance candidate Fazle

Hossain Badsha who has

already started voicing against

militancy.

### lakh street children in city STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Special Assistant Brig Gen (retd) MA Malek yesterday said the government aims at provide night shelters for around four lakh street children living in the city to ensure minimum safety for them.

Highlighting the plight and insecurity facing the street children, he said these groups are more vulnerable and Bangladesh is yet to establish a comprehensive legal framework for them. Malek was speaking at a

seminar on 'Towards restorative justice for children in conflict with the law: Promoting a diversion strategy in Bangladesh by adopting alternative to deprivation of liberty' jointly organised by social welfare ministry and Unicef in association with Legal Education and Training

Institute (LETI) at a city hotel. The speakers said rehabilitation and reintegration is

conflict with the law rather than punishment. Under no circumstances, a

sentative Carel de Rooy. "Children of poor families drafted to address both chilare more vulnerable and more prone to see their rights denied.

Children Act, 1974 and the needed for the children in Children Rules, 1976. However, in recent years, there has been significant

child can be sentenced to reform. The government has death and Bangladesh is appointed a high-level 'Juveobliged to take care of the children in conflict with the law identified priority areas for as per the United Nations Child action. A new 'National Policy Rights Convention (UNCRC), said Unicef Bangladesh repre-

They often cannot understand the effect of their action for their immaturity that leads them to be treated properly instead of giving punishment," he added. The speakers said in Bangladesh, the justice system

chairman of LETI, presided commit crimes. So, they should over the programme, while keynote paper.

tion, they added.

for both children in conflict with spoke.

#### nile Justice Task Force' and has on Models of Care and Protection for Children in Contact with the Law' has been

Justice Imman Ali presented a

dren in conflict with the law

and children in need of protec-

Barrister M Amir-ul Islam,

Social Welfare Secretary Dewan Zakir Hussain also

