

## UPAZILA ELECTIONS ACROSS COUNTRY



1. A woman carrying her child in her lap walks to Islampur Government Primary School, a polling centre, at Dhamrai yesterday to cast her vote in the Upazila elections. 2. Women voters wait in a queue at a polling centre in Savar. 3. Three elderly women leave a polling centre in Manikganj after casting their votes. 4. Army men keep vigilance on a polling centre in Savar. 5. Leaders of Awami League and BNP chat about election outside a polling centre at Paduar Bazar in Comilla Sadar Dakkhin Upazila as only a few voters turn up in the morning. 6. A 90-year-old woman casts her vote at a polling centre in Chittagong. 7. Relatives of Imran Hossain Chowdhury, a chairman candidate in Faridpur Sadar Upazila election, wail as he died at a local hospital during the voting yesterday. PHOTO: STAR/ BANGLA CHOKH DOT COM



## HEALTH MINISTER IN GENEVA

## WHO to help implement govt's health vision

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Director General of World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Margaret Chan has congratulated the newly elected government in Bangladesh for its bold vision in ensuring health care for all.

"Bangladesh has many achievements to showcase," she said, adding that WHO will continue to extend its all possible support to help implement the time-bound pledges made by the government.

The director general made this assurance during her meeting with visiting Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque at her office in Geneva, according to a message received here yesterday.

The minister is participating in the 124th Session of the Executive Board of WHO where Bangladesh is a member for 2008-2011. Adviser to Prime Minister Syed Modasser Ali and Bangladesh Ambassador and Permanent Representative in

Geneva Debapriya Bhattacharya are also in attendance at the programme.

The WHO DG said Bangladesh's progress in implementing the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) is quite impressive, hoping to enlist the support of the Bangladesh prime minister in the health-related MDGs, especially MDG five relating to maternal and reproductive health.

The health minister assured Margaret of his country's abiding support to WHO objectives. He commended the DG for her innovative approaches in addressing important challenges like primary health care and health of women.

The DG showed keen interest in the government's aim to promote e-health facilities as part of the strategy to establish a Digital Bangladesh by 2021. She invited Bangladesh to actively participate in WHO-supported initiatives on the use of public health information system for health care delivery at the grass

roots and disaster medicines.

She responded positively to the minister's request for large-scale WHO assistance to develop drug testing and diagnostic laboratory facilities as well as vaccine manufacturing technologies in Bangladesh.

The minister also asked Margaret to scale up WHO activities in further strengthening health-related disaster management capacity of the

country.

The DG underscored the importance of South-South cooperation in promoting these sectors and thanked Bangladesh for sending cholera experts to tackle the recent epidemic in Zimbabwe.

Ruhul Haque invited the WHO DG to visit Bangladesh at her earliest convenience. She The DG accepted the invitation.



Health and Family Welfare Minister AFM Ruhul Haque, second from right, poses for a photograph with WHO DG Dr Margaret Chan at the latter's office in Geneva yesterday. On his left is Adviser to Prime Minister Syed Modasser Ali and on his right is Bangladesh Ambassador Debapriya Bhattacharya.

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