# Bangladesh opposes WHO draft resolution

METRO DESK

Adviser to Prime Minister Syed Modasser Ali stressed the need for ensuring quality, safety and efficacy of medicines to protect public health, says a press release.

The country will continue to participate in World Health Organisation (WHO) initiatives to address the public health problems posed by sub-standard, spurious and falsely labelled medical products, he added.

The adviser made these points while addressing the ongoing 124th Session of the Executive Board Meeting of WHO in Geneva.

Modasser said it would be unacceptable to Bangladesh to introduce issues relating to intellectual property infringe-

ments or trademark violations under the pretext of combating "counterfeit" medi-try. cal products.

Such misplaced attempts, going beyond the mandates of WHO, would affect the supply of generic drugs in developing countries and harm their Products Anti-Counterfeit Taskforce pharmaceutical industries.

The adviser's firm position in this regard led to the rejection of the WHO report and draft resolution on the issue of 'counterfeit medical products' placed for the board's consideration.

Bangladesh is a member on the 34member WHO Executive Board for 2008-

It was widely apprehended that the controversial draft resolution would have had adverse implications for the growth this year.

of pharmaceutical industries in the coun-

The debate over the WHO report on 'counterfeit' medical products was generated by the activities and recommendations made by the International Medical (IMPACT) within the WHO Secretariat.

Syed Modasser Ali questioned the legitimacy of IMPACT as it was not duly endorsed by WHO members, saying that the IMPACT definition of 'counterfeits' could also include legally produced generic drugs.

The WHO director general assured the membership that a new report on this matter would be submitted to the next World Health Assembly in Geneva in May



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presides over a cabinet meeting at the Secretariat in the city yesterday. (Story on Page 3)

AMERICA WEEK INAUGURATED IN BARISAL

# US keen to strengthen bond of friendship

Says ambassador

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A three-day-long 'America Week' was inaugurated in Barisal yesterday.

Sponsored by US Embassy in Dhaka, the America Week highlights the important ties between the peoples of Bangladesh and the USA by taking the embassy activities to local people.

The America Week in Barisal, the sixth of its kind in the country, is hosting some 42 booths run by US Embassy, USAID and its development partners and some US businesses, said a press release.

US Ambassador James F Moriarty and Mayor Shawkat Hossain Hiron formally inaugurated the week at the Barisal

Speaking on the occasion the US envoy said, "We intend to continue the strong bond of friendship between Bangladesh and the USA, and look forward to working with the newly-elected government of Bangladesh to achieve its goal of a better and more prosperous future for all citizens."

In a written statement, he thanked the immediate-past caretaker government for holding a free, fair and neutral ambassador said, "The new AmericaWeek to Barisal. We are general election on Dec 29.

"We have a longstanding relationship and are proud to have provided more than five billion US dollars in aid since Bangladesh's independence," said Moriarty.

Bangladesh has much to offer the US, he said, adding, as Bangladesh's top export desti-



US Ambassador James F Moriarty visits a booth after inaugurat-

nation, the US helps provide livelihoods to the millions of Bangladeshis who provide the US with important goods, notably readymade garments.

"Bangladeshi-Americans contribute to both the coun- jects. tries as educators, entrepreleaders," he said.

send home over one billion dollars a year in remittances,

Replying to a question, the tive of people and I hope the government would be able to materialise their hopes and unique," he added. aspirations."

of the week features presentation, outreach and site visits showcasing US governmentfunded programmes in Barisal,

ing 'America Week' at the Barisal Club yesterday. providing the visitors with the opportunity to learn how to apply for study at US universities, how to get US visas and how to participate in US government development pro-

"We are here to celebrate neurs, politicians and civic Bangladesh's transition to a democratically elected gov-Bangladeshis in the US ernment and the beginning of the Obama administration in the United States," said the

"This week, we bring government is the representa- here to share a bit of American culture and values and to learn about what makes Barisal

After the inaugural speech, He said the Barisal edition Moriarty accompanied by USAID Mission Director in Dhaka Denise Rollins and Mayor Shawkat visited a number of booths.

among the drivers and the

leaflets and pasted stickers on

They also distributed

DOE Director Dr Mostafa

Magistrate Farzana

Siddika, Dhaka Metropolitan

Police and BRTA officials

passengers.

led the drive.

assisted the team.

the cars.

DHAKA

# Law secy for action against agitating judges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law Secretary Kazi Habibul Awal yesterday came down heavily on judges agitating for his removal saying that disciplinary action should be taken against the judges for their conduct.

Terming their actions subjudice since the matter of the law secretary's appointment remains pending in the Supreme Court, Awal said, "Their actions are contrary to the spirit of the separation of judiciary."

Talking to a group of reporters at his office, he also questioned the intention of the judges in carrying out these

Awal strongly protested the judges' claims that he was involved in helping businessman Azam Jahangir Chowdhury frame extortion charge against Sheikh Hasina at his office and also of being involved in the minus two

"They are only trying to tarnish my image and that is not acceptable at all," he said.

The aggrieved law secretary said that the government has appointed him and if the judges have any problem with that they should protest against the government and nothim.

A section of lower court judges under the platform Bangladesh Judicial Service Association (BJSA) have been demanding the removal of the law secretary for his alleged actions "against" judges.

They are also pressing for removal of all non-judicial officials from the law ministry and appointment of judicial officials to the vacant posts, including the posts of additional and joint secretaries.

BJSA president and Dhaka District Judge MA Gafur in an emergency meeting of the body yesterday said that none of their demands would be realised while the law secretary remains in his post.

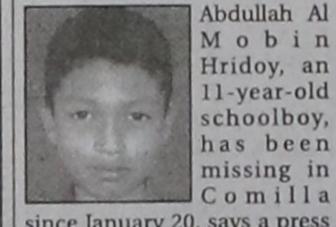
Awal meanwhile defended his position saying, "The final verdict is still pending with the SC on my appointment and no one can comment on an under-trial matter."

He insisted that, "Action of service."

meaningful separation of judiciary, judicial officials must be in the administrative posts, adding that the proposed Judicial Service Secretariat should deal with all affairs of judicial officials.

## Schoolboy missing

METRO DESK



Hridoy, an 11-year-old schoolboy, has been missing in

since January 20, says a press A student of class five at

Mainamoti Model Academy, Hridoy went out of his house in the Comilla Cantonment area in the afternoon but did

Hridoy, who is about four feet tall and of fair complexion, was wearing trousers and a half sleeve printed shirt.

whereabouts has been requested to contact his father Mokbul Hossain (phone: 01718582237), a postal operator, or his uncle Mohammad Anwarullah (phone: 01552315463).

# AL activist killed in post-poll violence

STAR REPORT

Committee to

dispose of

complaint

ACC chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption

Commission (ACC) has

formed a two-member special

scrutiny committee to dispose

of a complaint against its

Chairman Lt Gen (retd) Hasan

Amar Desh Publications Ltd

Chairman Mahmudur

Rahman filed the complaint in

October last year accusing the

ACC chief of laundering Tk

20.29 crore from the Trust

Bank when he was chairman

committee are ACC

Commissioners Habibur

Rahman and Abul Hasan

following a government

instruction. Earlier, the com-

mission sought the govern-

ment directions in this regard.

the then government regard-

ing the complaint and the

government has observed that

the ACC itself can dispose of

the matter under existing laws

and rules "said ACC Director

General (admin) Col Hanif

Iqbal in a press briefing yester-

will scrutinise the complaint

and necessary documents, he

Mahmudur Rahman tried to

file a case with two police

stations against Hasan

But on refusal by the police,

Mashhud Chowdhury in this

Mahmudur Rahman sent the

complaint to ACC by post on

October 27. The ACC received

the complaint on October 29.

At a press briefing on

JS seating plan

October 27, the ACC chairman

Speaker Hamid said the

arrangement made by former

speaker Jamiruddin Sircar was

between the opposition and

the ruling party over seating

arrangement before the ninth

parliament went into its first

was not solved properly.

The opposition party had

The treasury bench earlier

allocated three seats for the

opposition in the front row

based on the number of their

lawmakers. However, former

speaker Jamiruddin Sircar

allocated 10 seats in the front

row for the opposition over-

ruling the ruling party chief

whip's decision. Sircar also

gave 12 seats of the second row

The treasury bench was

to the opposition bench.

annoyed at this.

Disagreement developed

denied any wrongdoing.

FROM PAGE 1

not correct.

added.

regard.

The two commissioners

On October 25 last year,

"We sought directions from

The committee was formed

Members of the scrutiny

of the bank.

Manjur Morshed.

Former energy adviser and

Mashhud Chowdhury.

against

ist was killed and 21 people were injured, one of them with bullet, in post-upazila poll violence in two districts yes-

20 others were injured in separate post poll violence in two upazilas of the district yesterday, reports our Netrakona Correspondent.

In Durgapur upazila, AL activist Ramzan Ali was hacked to death by his rival group following a clash between two groups of people--one led by the victim and another by BNP activist Abdus Sattar over the upazila (UZ) polls in his house at Bayraura village at about

In Atpara upazila, supporters of defeated UP chairman One Awami League (AL) activ- candidate Khairul Islam STAFF CORRESPONDENT swooped on the Hindu community in the upazila headquarter at about 9am as they cast votes in favour of another AL candidate Kashab Ranjan One person was killed and Sarkar, leaving 20 people injured.

The injured persons were admitted to the Upazila Health Complex.

A Correspondent from Gopalganj adds: Miscreants shot UZ chairman-elect Rabiul Alam Sikdar's supporter Jamal Sheikh, 30, in his shop at Poshargati village in Muksudpur upazila early yesterday over the polls.

Jamal was sent to Dhaka with bullet wounds in his right hand. Police arrested Mawla Sheikh in this connection.



## Moderate to thick fog likely

UNB, Dhaka

Cox's Bazar

seats if he wanted.

Sircar on Saturday said

Chief Whip Abdus Shahid

made mistakes in making the

seating plan which he cor-

rected as he was empowered

by the rules of procedures

expressed dissatisfaction

saying Sircar, by acting unilat-

erally, showed disrespect to

the treasury bench and the

ers, Salahuddin Quader

Chowdhury and MK Anwar sat

next to opposition leader

Khaleda Zia in the inaugural

session of the ninth parlia-

Hossain Kaikobad, Mujibur

Rahman Sarwar, Joynal

Abedin, Mosharraf Hossain

and LDP chief Oli Ahmed were

Sircar had said the new An orientation programme of lawmakers in line with the

speaker may rearrange the BNP's new lawmakers was rules of the business," he said.

also seated on the first row.

ORIENTATION FOR BNP

LAWMAKERS

BNP's Shah Mofazzal

Among the BNP lawmak-

Shahid on that day

[article 7] of the House.

leader of the House.

Weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky over the country in the next 12 hours until 6:00 nm to day 12 12 12 12 Moderate to thick fog may occur over the country during midnight till morning, Met Office said predicting nearly

unchanged night temperature over the country. Highest temperature 30.0 degrees Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and Mongla and lowest 14.2 degrees

Celsius at Hatiya. The sun sets in the capital at 5:42pm today and rises at

6:41 am tomorrow. Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town Temperature in Humidityin Celsius percentage Min Morning Evening Max 17.3 28.1 Dhaka Chittagong 16.3 25.7 23.6 14.6 Rajshahi 19.1 29.6 93 Khulna 82 17.0 29.0 Barisal 15.8 21.9 97 Sylhet

17.2

27.7

92

held at the Jatiya Sangsad

Bhaban yesterday. BNP senior

MPs Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury and MK Anwar

instructed their colleagues

about the opposition's strate-

gies and stances on the ongo-

the party taught us different

strategies and how to raise

'point of order' and how to

face the treasury bench in line

with the law," said a new law-

bills which would be placed

before the parliament in the

bills including Emergency

Power Rules, Representation

of the People Order, finance

ordinance and anti-

corruption ordinance," said

Salauddin Quader

Chowdhury while talking to

to oppose the treasury bench

"We have taught them how

The Daily Star at his office.

They also discussed several

"We will oppose at least 20

"The two senior leaders of

ing parliament session.

maker.

coming days.

## ADMISSION RULES DU appeals against HC verdict

Dhaka University (DU) authorities yesterday filed an appeal with the Supreme Court (SC) for staying the High Court (HC) verdict that declared new rules of DU disqualifying madrasa students from admission to its seven departments illegal.

After a brief hearing on the appeal, Chamber Judge of the Appellate Division Justice Md Tafazzal Islam sent the appeal to the regular bench of the apex court for hearing on January 28.

DU's counsel Advocate AFM Mesbauddin told the court that the academic committees of DU have jurisdictions to enact new rules regarding admissions of the students at its departments and the HC cannot interfere in this regard.

He prayed to the court to stay the HC verdict.

Petitioners' counsel Barrister Abdur Razzaq opposed the appeal saying that the HC had delivered verdict on the basis of law and the verdict should not be

5 4 430 S Obituary

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Satkhira



College, passed away due to old age complications at Satkhira Sadar Hospital in the town yesterday at the age

Popularly known as 'Asit sir' is also incumbent convener of Sachetan Nagarik Committee.

Principal Asit, a life-long bachelor, left behind his brother and host of relatives and admirers to mourn his death.

Abdul Bari Bhuiyan STAFF CORRESPONDENT



examination controller of Dhaka University, passed away due to high blood pressure at City Hospital in the

Abdul Bari

Bhuivan,

former

assistant

city on Sunday at the age of 91, says a press release. He left behind his wife, two sons and three daughters to

mourn his death. Kohinoor Rahman

UNB, Dhaka

Kohinoor Rahman, mother of Special Correspondent of Dainik Janakantha Arifur Rahman Babu, passed away due to old age complications at her village home in Manikganj on Sunday night at the age of 72.

## Govt should study other countries' experiences government to consider in matter, Renata said the UN would improve in the future.

FROM PAGE 1

And so we would like to see it work well in Bangladesh. That means we have to do our homework," she told reporters yesterday after a meeting with Foreign Minister Dipu Moni.

At the meeting, the UN country chief and the new foreign minister discussed the issue of holding trial of war criminals of 1971.

Renata said it is very important that Bangladesh, before any action is taken, let there be a clear analysis about what would be the best, how best to approach it in Bangladesh-and "that's what we did discuss today".

terms of how best of choosing the right path to resolve the issue of war crimes.

dealt with in other countries because, as you know, they have this issue of the war crimes and there are different mechanisms that have been used to try to solve this problem in different countries," she said.

well in other countries and I look into Bangladesh context, specifics here. So, we do adopt the mechanism to what best for Bangladesh." she added. Asked how the United

Nations can cooperate with Bangladesh in resolving the

could bring expertise of other countries to the service of Bangladesh. "As the government studies

how good options are, we can bring the expertise involved in such efforts around the world to the service of Bangladesh." Asked about the post-

election human rights situation in the country, Renata said, "We are not happy with the human rights violation after the elections."

Compared to other elections, she sees it is somewhat best. "But still any violation of human right is not a good sign, so we do have some concerns on that."

About UNDP's redefined role in Bangladesh with the installation of a democratic government, she said the UNDP has just been concentrating on its ongoing programmes and she hopes to see more in the future. But there will be no fundamental changes.

human-right situation here in the country.

# AL, BJP clash Hydraulic horns of 13 in Bhola

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

At least 20 people, including a policeman, were injured at the clashes between the rival activists of Awami League (AL) and Bangladesh Jatiya Party (BJP) over submission of tenders in Bhola yesterday.

In this incident, AL activists attacked BJP men and vandalised their houses and the party office. Sources said the AL cadres

allowed only AL-backed con-

tractors to submit their tenders for constructing a protection embankment by concrete blocks. They stayed their position in front of the Water Development Board office in

Jugir Ghol area in the town and

took control of the entrance point, they added. When the BJP contractors headed towards the WDB office for submitting tenders, AL cadres barred them. At one stage, they attacked the con-

tractors. Incidents of chase and counter chase with stick and lethal weapons occurred between the two rival political

groups. Police rushed to the spot and struggled to control the violence by charging batons on them.

At least 20 people from both sides, including Constable Mainul of detective branch, were injured in the clashes.

Sources said AL cadres also attacked and damaged the house of BJP leader Nazmul Huda Kanu and the party office in Notun Bazar area of the district town.

# 20 injured as Noise Pollution

vehicles seized STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Department of Environment (DOE) yesterday filed cases against 24 vehicles in the city and realised Tk 19,000 in fines for violating sound pollution rules.

The DOE team also seized hydraulic horns of 13 vehicles. The team conducted the drive to create awareness

Seminar Japan International Cooperation

### Agency (JICA) organises a seminar

on The study on potential subsector growth for export diversification in Bangladesh'. Venue: Brac Centre Inn. Time: 4:00pm. Film show Dhaka University Film Society

organises a film show where 'Old Boy' directed by Chan Wook Park and 'Sleuth' directed by Joseph L Mankiewicz will be screened. Venue: Munir Chowdhury conference room, Teacher-Student Centre (TSC). Time: 3:00pm.

### Convention Children Express organises Child

5:30pm

Discussion

Shishu Academy. Time: 9:00am. Rotary Dhaka The regular weekly meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka will be held.

Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time:

National Committee to Protect Oil,

Gas, Mineral Resources, Power and

Port will hold a discussion titled

Journalist Convention. Venue:

'Suggestions to the new government to protect national resources and interest'. Venue: National Press Club. Time: 3:00pm. Launching ceremony

### Dhaka Heritage organises the launching ceremony of the 'Liberation

War in Dhaka' issue of the Dhaka Troimashik. Venue: Liberation War Museum. Time: 4:00pm. Reception

Bangladesh Protibandhi Foundation will accord a reception to Sultana Sarwat Ara Zaman on her winning the Begum Rokeya Padak 2008 and appointment as Professor Emeritus at Dhaka University. Venue: 6 Barobagh, Mirpur-2. Time: 11:00am.

Publication ceremony

The publication ceremony of 'Dahan

o Droher Golpo', a collection of

stories edited by Jahanara Noorie,

will be held. Venue: National

Museum auditorium. Time: 4:00pm.

### Soft Expo The inaugural ceremony of

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) SoftExpo 2009 will be held. Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, Time: 11:30am.

### session. should be taken against these judges for breach of discipline vowed that they would skip the inaugural session if the He also said that, "For a seating arrangement issue

Comilla

Anybody knowing his

The UNDP resident representative said options for the

"We talked how it's been

"We study how it worked

She hoped that the situation

During the meeting, they also discussed the issue of climate change, Bangladesh's role both at home and in the international arena and the upcoming meeting of the Human Rights Council at which Bangladesh will present periodic review on the