



MEDIA RELEASE

ATTENTION: NEWS EDITOR / CHIEF REPORTER

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EC Receives Translucent Ballot Boxes for the 2008 Elections

Dhaka: To help build confidence among the electorate and bring greater transparency to the electoral process, Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Robert McDougall, ceremonially handed over the translucent ballot boxes to the Chief Election Commissioner Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda today for use during the 2008 Parliamentary Elections.

At the request of the Bangladesh Election Commission (BEC), 240,000 translucent ballot boxes were procured through a United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) project valued at over USD 5 million with Canadian funding. These boxes will be used during the 2008 elections and subsequent elections.

“The Government of Canada is happy to contribute to the tremendous amount of work being done by the Election Commission, the Caretaker Government and others to create a peaceful environment where elections will be free and fair,” said the Canadian High Commissioner, H.E. Robert McDougall during the launching ceremony of the Translucent Ballot Boxes.

“It is our hope that the use of these boxes will encourage greater citizen participation in the electoral process and help ensure that the votes cast on Election Day reflect the will of the people”, the Canadian High Commissioner added.

Translucent ballot boxes allow light to pass through the box, while ensuring that ballot papers cannot be read once placed inside the box. They assure voters that the boxes are empty prior to the election while also securing voters’ privacy at the polls.

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