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Barrister Emily Thornberry, along with members of Siraj Miah's family addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. On her right is Samsia Begum, widow of Siraj.

10 commissioners walk out of RCC meeting

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Aug 3: Ten ward commissioners of Rajshahi City Corporation walked out of a general meeting of commissioners for not putting up the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the conference room of the corporation.

Later in a joint press statement they also announced that they would boycott all meetings till Bangabandhu's portrait is hung.

Fazle Elahi Dulal, Commissioner of Ward No 8 at the beginning of the meeting demanded that a portrait of Bangabandhu be hung as per government order and that the meeting be suspended till it is done.

But the Mayor, Mijanur Rahman Minu, Chief Executive Officer Abul Qasem and some of the commissioners did not agree to discuss the issue since it was not on the agenda.

At this stage, 10 commissioners walked out of the meeting.

Maltese vessel removed from KAFCO jetty

Maltese vessel MV Blue North which slammed into KAFCO Ammonia Jetty, has been removed from the jetty on July 27 and safely taken to nearby Chittagong Urea Fertilizer Jetty, reports UNB.

The vessel with 23,000 metric tons of imported cement sank into the river Karnaphuli after badly damaging the KAFCO jetty on June 25 due to break failure of its anchor.

After the sunken ship removed, at present there is no obstacle of ship movement through port channel and the activities of two KAFCO jetties resumed in full-swing, said an official release yesterday.

Carl Lewis

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Lewis. But he refused to pin himself down further until Saturday. The deadline for nominations was one hour before the 7:20 pm (2320 GMT) start.

Assistant coach Charlie Greene said Lewis was likely to train with the squad today — but pointedly declined to say he had been invited.

With Russia now competing for the first time as a single entity, the United States has no serious rival atop the medals table — although the Russians are holding a strong second place.

But the fight for the minor places has heated up. On a day when 30 golds were on offer, Germany leapt above China and France into third with 18 golds after wins in canoe, kayak and equestrian events.

Germany won the men's and women's kayak fours and the canoe doubles, and then Isabell Werthoff followed up by winning the individual equestrian dressage freestyle.

There were also canoe and kayak golds for Italy, Norway and the Czech Republic.

Germany suffered a blow, however, when defending Olympic showjumping champion Ludger Beerbaum had to pull out of the individual final because his horse had sustained an injury in Germany's resounding team event victory on Thursday.

Beerbaum would have started favourite to become the first rider in Olympic history to win consecutive individual jumping titles.

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Chechen leaders to sit with Russian officials for peace

MOSCOW, Aug 3: Chechen rebel leaders are ready in principle to meet Russian negotiators who have arrived in Grozny to try to restart the moribund peace accords, mediator Tim Guldmann said today.

He, however, told Itar-Tass news agency that it was not "completely sure" if the talks could take place because of the "very complicated" situation in the war-torn republic.

If a meeting did take place, he added, it would not be talks as such merely "contact" between representatives of the warring sides.

Guldmann is the Grozny mission chief for the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), which is trying to broker a lasting peace accord in Chechnya.

Separatist leaders meanwhile expressed their suspicion about the visit by Nationalities Minister Vyacheslav Mikhalov and Sergei Stepanashin, secretary of the State Commission for resolving the Chechen crisis.

"Russia is not keeping its promises (in the accords) of May 27 in Moscow and June 10 in Nazran, which is putting the effectiveness of negotiations at risk," they said in a communiqué cited by Interfax

BNP city legal aid body formed

A 201-member Dhaka Metropolitan Legal Aid Committee of BNP was formed yesterday with Mohammad Fazlul Rahman Khan as its convenor, a press release said, reports BSS.

The legal aid committee would provide support to workers and leaders of the BNP and its front organisations on legal matters.

The meeting held at the city office of the BNP was presided over by Advocate Abdul Ahad Mian, vice president of Nationalist Lawyers' Forum, Dhaka unit.

BNP urges admin to remain neutral during by-polls

Secretary General of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the administration to remain neutral during by-polls in the face of all sorts of party pressure.

Meanwhile, the CID which is investigating the incident has confirmed that Siraj was murdered. The CID is likely to charge-sheets some customs officials shortly, according to reports.

Following the recommendations made in the reports for taking departmental action against concerned security personnel, Deputy Inspector General (Prisons) of Dhaka Division Aminur Rahman has already been transferred to Khulna, the official said.

Both the committees, one constituted by Home Ministry while another by jail authorities, blamed failure of senior officials and wardens for the escape of 13 prisoners from Dhaka Central Jail breaking a cell and scaling the wall.

There was a debate in the British House of Commons and two Motions were moved on the death of Siraj.

Emily said, "We also think that the government, after the investigations are over, will accept the liability and compensate the family of Siraj."

Family members of Siraj also alleged that they did not find any belongings of Siraj when they went to the DMCH to take the body.

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