Musharraf resists pressure to quit

AP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf vowed yesterday to resist pressure for him to resign but suggested he might quit if Parliament reduces him to a toothless figurehead.

Musharraf, a stalwart US ally, has been under pressure since his allies lost parliamentary elections in February. Media reports this resign and go into exile.

The former army strongman said Saturday that he would not quit under pressure. He appealed for political unity to counter economic problems and terrorism.

But he indicated that he would go if the new government succeeds in its plan to reduce his powers to the point where he feels like a "useless vegetable."

"Parliament is supreme. Whatever the Parliament decides I will accept it," Musharraf told reporters from Pakistani news channels, which broadcast his remarks. "If I see that I don't have any role to play, then it is better to play golf."

Western officials worry that Pakistan's government is preoccupied with Musharraf's future rather than mounting economic woes and Islamic extremists operating along its border with Afghanistan.

The two-month-old ruling coalition, led by two men who were jailed under the ex-army chief, is divided over how to deal with Musharraf.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, whose government was ousted in Musharraf's 1999 coup,

leads the second-largest party in

the coalition. Sharif is calling loudly for Musharraf's impeachment and is pressing hard for the restoration of judges the president ousted last year to halt legal challenges to his continued rule.

Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and leader of the main ruling party, recently described week suggested he was ready to Musharraf as a "relic of the past" who should resign.

But Zardari wants to restore the judges as part of a cumbersome raft of constitutional amendments that would also remove Musharraf's power to dissolve Parliament and appoint military

Some analysts doubt whether the coalition can agree on the package or muster the two-thirds majority required to bring it through Parliament any time

Musharraf, who has kept a low public profile in recent weeks, said | shot or the blast and criticising he was speaking out because the rumours about his future were harming the country.

The government should focus on addressing economic woes, including trade and budget deficits as well as double-digit inflation fuelled by rising world oil and food prices, he said.

"To take the country out of this crisis, I think reconciliation is the key. Confrontation would take the country further down," he said. "I have no doubt the government and prime minister want to confront all these issues. My support will be with them."

tonnes and RDRS (Rangpur-

Dinajpur Rural Services) 50 tonnes.

Bangladesh Agriculture

Development Corporation will

supply other seeds if there is any

other farm inputs in time so that

the marginal farmers do not find it

social problem through biological

science. We believe we shall suc-

difficult to cultivate this variety.

Arrest drive

The government will supply

"We are trying to mitigate a

UNB from Bhola reports: The

joint forces arrested a local BNP

leader at his home in sadar

upazila's Ilisha area on charge of

also the chairman of Ilisha union,

was accused in seven cases, includ-

over to sadar police station.

Tigers face

ing for murders. He was handed

against a team whom they have

defeated only once way back in

all set to make his international

debut in the day-night affair, which

Bangladesh Television (BTV) and

While the Tigers will try to put an

end to their disappointing perfor-

mance, Pakistan will want to forget

the recent sad episode involving

guishing in Dubai airport's deten-

tion centre, to stretch their eleven-

Mohammad Ashraful's men in

April and they will be happy to

learn that Shakib Al Hasan, who

made a sparkling half-century

Besides, Bangladesh will also

Bangladesh yesterday named a

miss the services of experienced

batsman Aftab Ahmed due to

12-member team for the first

match leaving out Mehrab Hossain

that they would go against their

traditional policy of 'enhancing the

pacers in the team as Shahadat

Hossain has been considered

ahead of all-rounder Forhad Reza

to share the new ball with Mashrafe

Bin Mortaza and Dollar, the Khulna

paceman who got the nod after

impressive performance with the

under-19 team and in the domestic

tional comeback after two years

behind the stumps in the shorter-

series against South Africa, Ireland

and Pakistan.

Middle-order batsman Alok

There is a chance to see three

batting as much as possible'.

Pakistan swept the five-match

match winning record.

Pace bowler Dollar Mahmud is

Police said Sirajuddin, who is

extortion yesterday.

shortage of it.

ceed," Mazid said.

drives.

New rice variety

FROM PAGE 16

employment opportunities for 27.5 lakh farm labourers and helping 8.5 lakh farmers in the five Monga-hit districts.

After harvesting BRRI Dhan-33, farmers can go for early cultivation of Rabi crops like potato, which will also create employment for farm workers. Early cultivation of potato yields higher output, Mazid said.

Then they can cultivate other crops including maize and sesame seeds to have three crops a year from their land.

Traditionally, small and marginal farmers are forced to sell their produce in advance to millers or hoarders, while labourers sell labour in advance. These practices add to their miseries during or after and activists.

The new variety was invented by ered 15 firearms, eight bombs and BRRI in cooperation with International Rice Research Institute (IRRI). After its invention and validation in 2004-05, it was cultivated on an experimental basis in cooperation with the Department of Agriculture Extension and some NGOs working in the northern region.

Output of this variety per hectare is 4-4.5 tonnes, which is slightly less than that of BR-11. But considering the short duration of production period, it is much more profitable. This also makes it possible for the land to be three-cropped one, agriculturists said.

Bringing 40,000 hectares of land under BRRI Dhan-33 cultivation requires 1,600 tonnes of seed. The authorities have already started registering farmers who can cultivate this variety in the Aman season, and depending on that seeds starts at 3pm with state-run will be supplied.

Mazid mentioned that BRRI has satellite channels NEO Cricket and already collected 501 tonnes of GEO beaming live coverage from seeds from farmers, BRAC 80 the big bowl.

Hasina, Khaleda

FROM PAGE 1

The source said both the leaders their premier fast bowler might be awarded bail following a Mohammad Asif, who is still lan-Supreme Court judgment that said woman would be allowed bail in cases filed under the Emergency Power Rules.

Otherwise, the government one-day series at home against might release them on parole though both the leaders have already rejected the proposals in

The BNP leaders are in the hope followed by a hundred during that that Khaleda may clear her stance tour, will miss the tri-series for his about the possibility to go abroad HSC examinations. for treatment as she is scheduled to be produced before the special

court today. Sources said the authorities will injury. release Koko on parole to go abroad for treatment, as he is suffering

from various diseases. Earlier, medical boards formed and Nazimuddin only to confirm

for AL chief Sheikh Hasina, BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia and Koko recommended that the government ensure their better treatment.

On Thursday, separate medical boards examined Hasina and Koko and on Friday another board examined Khaleda at the makeshift jail.

According the medical reports, Hasina's hearing aid should be changed as soon as possible, while Khaleda has pain in her knee and circuit, coming in as first change.

The BNP chairperson has long Kapali will also make his interna-

been suffering from arthritis. Sources claimed the authorities while wicketkeeper Mushfigur have formed the medical boards Rahim will reclaim his place following their unofficial negotiations with the two party chiefs and version after missing the last three are now reviewing the legal procedures regarding their release.

Pakistan

FROM PAGE 16 just received the letter and the letter is being studied," she added. The UN has already hinted that

the request was unlikely to be approved, notably because no foreign country is suspected of involvement in the Benazir mur-

UN sources also say the cost of such a probe would be prohibitively expensive for uncertain results, six months after the slay-

Former premier Benazir was slain in a suicide and gun attack at an election rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on December 27, triggering days of deadly riots across the country.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf blamed an al-Qaedalinked militant for the attack and refused to seek a UN probe. A coalition led by Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) trounced Musharraf's allies in general elections in February.

Benazir Bhutto's supporters have cast doubt on the Pakistani probe into her death, questioning whether she was killed by a gunauthorities for hosing down the scene of the attack within minutes.

That probe concluded that a lone attacker fired shots at Benazir Bhutto before detonating explosives, but said that bullets were not the cause of death. The PPP dismissed the findings.

Benazir Bhutto backers also asked how the then-government was able just days after her killing to point the finger at Taliban militant warlord Baitullah Mehsud, who is alleged to have links to al-Qaeda.

Pakistani Law Minister Farooq Naik has said Islamabad wants the probe to take the form of an international commission, which would "ascertain the truth, point out culprits, financers and perpetrators of this crime."

Ivanovic

FROM PAGE 16 being ranked No. 1 for the first time next week. And her performance was No. 1-caliber against Safina.

The 20-year-old Serb slugged winners from both sides and scurried to make saves that extended points, which led to plenty of entertaining rallies. Ivanovic won most of them, including one frantic exchange that she finished off with a delicate drop shot and ferocious fist pump.

A shaky Ivanovic played in her first major final a year ago at 16,916. The detainees include Roland Garros and won only three some grass-roots political leaders games from Justine Henin. But against Safina she was as cool as The law enforcers also recovthe 65-degree weather, showing hardly a bead of perspiration even 41 rounds of bullet in the latest after sprinting corner to corner to retrieve shots.

Ivanovic won match point with a solid backhand. After blowing kisses to the crowd, she used a chair to climb into the stands and share hugs with family and friends.

Ivanovic's worst moment came serving at 4-3 in the first set, when she squandered a 40-love lead by losing the next five points. She quickly regrouped and won five of the next six games to take com-

5 killed

FROM PAGE 1 the way to hospital.

The injured were admitted to | cer the Sirajganj Sadar Hospital, Raiganj Health Complex and Bogra Hospital. The condition of four was stated to be critical.

On information, police rushed to the spot. They recovered the bodies and sent those to the Sirajganj Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with the Hatikumrul Police Station.

Graft case

FROM PAGE 1 the source said.

On April 2, the ACC filed first information report (FIR) with Ramna Police Station against the mayor, his wife Ismat Ara, son Ishraque Hossain and daughter Sarika Sadeque for amassing huge illegal wealth and concealment of information.

Samsul Alam filed the case against Khoka for amassing wealth worth about Tk 17.58 crore beyond his known sources of income and concealment of information of assets worth about 10 crore. Khoka's wife, daughter and son were accused of aiding and abettinghim

The case was filed under sections 26(2) and 27(1) of the Anti-Corruption Act, 2004, section 109 of the Penal Code and section 15 of the Emergency Power Rules, 2007.

During his two-month long investigation, the investigation officer (IO0 seized all documents relating to the case.

The DCC mayor is one of the 35 corruption suspects whose names appeared in the fourth and last list published by the ACC on October 4, 2007. The commission issued a notice on November 18, asking the mayor to submit his wealth report.

Khoka submitted his wealth statement on December 6, showing that he and his family have 11 houses and flats, eight plots, Tk 5.5 crore and other assets.

Asian powers

FROM PAGE 16 that they "share serious concerns"

about the current level of oil prices. "These prices are unprecedented and against the interest of both consuming and producing countries. They pose a great burden -- particularly on resourcescarce developing countries," it

US Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman warned oil producers that it would do them no good if the US economy took a hit.

"It's not good for producing nations to see the US struggling economically (as) they depend on us to be a significant engine in world economic activity," Bodman told reporters.

Despite the political sensitivity, the joint statement called for a scaling down of fuel subsidies, saying it would "enhance energy efficiency " and lead to investment in alternative energy.

Developing economies tend to heavily subsidise fuel costs in a bid to ease the burden on the poorest members of society.

India and Indonesia have recently been forced to hike prices amid soaring global crude oil costs, triggering large anti-government demonstrations in the two coun-

India's oil minister, Murli Deora, cancelled his attendance at the talks in Japan at the last minute due to "domestic reasons," a Japanese official said on condition of anonymity.

India was represented by its ambassador to Japan, Hemant Krishan Singh, who joined talks with the four countries' ministers. "We recognise that, moving forward, phased and gradual with-

the joint statement said. They said that subsidies "should

drawal of price subsidies for con-

ventional energies is desirable,

be replaced wherever possible by better targeted policies for

intended beneficiaries." The talks will be followed Sunday by a meeting of the energy ministers of the Group of Eight industrial powers here in Aomori, a hub of Japan's nuclear energy industry 600 kilometres (370 miles) north of Tokyo.

Japan's energy minister Akira Amari, the chair of the meeting, said that rising oil prices were "a major risk factor" for the world

Meeting with South Korea's Knowledge Economy Minister Lee Youn-Ho, Amari said he believed crude oil prices were "abnormally

"We want to issue a message on this to the world," Amari said.

Lee added: "I don't think the oil prices are at normal levels either. It is fairly questionable whether the world economy will be able to develop further at this level of crude oil prices."

Soaring oil prices have been blamed on a variety of factors including turbulence in the Middle East and rising consumption by emerging economies such as China and India.

Analysts said the sharp spike overnight was a reaction to reported remarks by Israeli Deputy Prime Minister Shaul Mofaz on Iran, a major oil producer.

Mofaz, a former defence chief, warned that the Jewish state would attack Iran if it continued its alleged nuclear weapons drive, although he stressed such an operation could only be conducted with US support.

Despite the spike, Bodman said he did not see oil prices as a "crisis" and denied the need for tighter regulations of oil markets as sought by some US lawmakers.

New cadre service

FROM PAGE 16 the teaching standard and bring

more accountability in all levels of the primary education." Rasheda expects that introduction of the cadre will help bring

back disciplines to the huge establishment. The Directorate of Primary Education last month submitted a summery report to the chief adviser. The report says meritori-

ous graduates are discouraged to

join education service as they think it offers no bright career. "The primary education department has failed to improve the overall academic quality due to a lack of bright career for officials. Meritorious students will join the service if the new cadre group is created," said Khondaker add. M Asaduzzaman, director general of Directorate of Primary

Currently, on average 500 to officer. 1,200 teachers and other officials are working under a thana education officer, meaning huge responsibility and workload on a single officer.

government officials in a single believe the activities in primary level are very "slow and unimpressive" as the supervising thana service. education officer is a class II offi-

cadre for primary and mass education results in resentment among the donor community as the government had pledged to do it under the second phase of Primary Education Development Programme project by December

development of primary education in 1992 suggested a separate rate cadre service is a must.

cadre service for primary education. But the then government did not respond to it.

In that period, suggestion of creating the cadre was also submitted to the Planning Commission for ensuring education for all by 2000, sources of Directorate of Primary Education | Anny, Shah Shaeed Sarwar, Khadiza

Later in an agreement of second Primary Education Development Programme (PEDP), the government pledged to create a separate BCS cadre group for primary education by

But the cadre has yet to be created even two and a half years

Under the present directorate, 257 posts of 10 categories are eligible for BCS first class gazette

officers including additional director general, system analyst, programmer, procurement and supplier and thana education This number is half the total officer, PTI Instructor, URC Instructor, statistic officer, mainthana headquarters. Educationists tenance engineers and central officer are also eligible for first class but excluded from cadre

In the summery report it is mentions that the primary educa-Delay in creating the separate tion does not get proper guidance from the officers as most of them come from other services and do not get proper opportunity to

apply their skill. The summery concludes that

primary education includes the highest number of teachers and officials and in order to guide A high-powered taskforce on them properly, to enhance capacity and to bring dynamism a sepa-

Revenue spending

FROM PAGE 1

by 40 percent, reaching Tk 74,362 crore, compared to the original revenue budget of Tk 53,114 crore for FY08.

Azizul said the increase in reve-Later, ACC Assistant Director | nue budget is due to an expansion of the social safety net through new schemes, increasing beneficiaries and higher welfare payments.

> Rising subsidies, adjusted for price, also account for the rise in the revenue budget. According to the planning

ministry proposal, foreign finances make up Tk 14,590 crore or 57 percent of the next fiscal year's ADP funding while the rest Tk 11,010 crore will come from internal sources.

Foreign funding comprised 49 percent of the original ADP of 26,500 crore for the current fiscal year (FY 2007-08).

The revised ADP of FY 2007-08 later downsized the allocation to Tk 22,500 crore with 64 percent foreign funding and 36 percent internal finances. The foreign funding was raised

in the revised ADP following budgetary supports from foreign donors in the wake of cyclone Sidr and back-to-back floods, planning ministry sources said.

According to the draft ADP for of 902 proposals for the next fiscal FY 2008-09, Tk 6,120 crore (23.91

after the deadline, sources of the Directorate of Primary Education

Besides, other 10 category

percent) has been allocated for

agriculture, rural development and

water resources management. In addition to a special allocation of Tk 123 crore, a major chunk of the

outlay would be spent on creating food security, sources said. (16.84 percent) is allocated for power development and mineral

resources, but sources said dismal implementation rate of past years is likely to continue despite the sectors receiving the second highest priority in the budget. The government also allocated

Tk 3,519 crore or 13.75 percent of the ADP for education and religion. The transport sector will receive Tk 3,470 crore (13.56 percent), the

health sector Tk 2,584 crore (10.10 She said the government has percent), and 11 ministries will receive Tk 704 crore for the development of the ICT sector. Besides, the government plans to provide a special allocation of Tk

40 crore to remove regional disparity in development work in certain Ashraful Islam called for party's Another special programme in Barisal and Khulna--areas a survey success of a future movement. identified as the most povertystricken--will receive Tk 2,841

ber Tofail Ahmed in his speech said crore (11 percent of the ADP). there would be no election in The ADP will put forward a total Bangladesh without the release of year, of which 103 are new projects. Sheikh Hasina.

FROM PAGE 16 "The indecorous remarks by those leaders have disappointed the nationalist forces of BNP and the

country," says the statement. The former MPs observed that the objectionable and confusing speeches and statements made by a few senior leaders to the electronic and print media are "harming the image of the party and serving the purpose of certain quarters" at a time when national leaders including Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman are in jail.

They urged those leaders to refrain from making such remarks or statements in the interest of the party and the country.

Principal Sohrab Uddin, Shah Nurul Kabir Shahin and Abdul Momin Talukdar Khoka signed the statement on behalf of the former

The ex-MPs include Shajahan

Chowdhury, Selim Reza Habib, M. Ilias Ali, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, ABM Ashraf Uddin Nizam, Engineer Shamsuddin, Kalim Uddin Ahmed Milan, Abdul Hossain Khan, Kazi Rafiqul Islam, Abul Kalam Azad, M Nurul Islam Dipu, Habibul Islam Habib, Prof Abdul Mannan, Prof Shahidul Islam, Mashiur Rahman, Abul Khair Bhuiyan, Siraj Sardar, Kabir Hossain, Gafur Bhuiyan, Gazi Nuruzzaman Babul, Murtuza Tula, Nurul Amin Bhuiyan, Abul Kalam, Adv Abdul Halim, Rezwanul Hug, Abdul Khaleque, Nurul Bashar, Majibur Rahman, Atiar Rahman, Amanullah Chowdhury, Maulana Ataur Rahman, Rabia Chowdhuyry, Khaleda Rabbani, Rozy Kabir, Nurjahan Yasmin, Begum Shamsunnahar Khwaza Ahsanullah, Nargis Ali, Shirin Sultana, Helen Zerin Khan, Rehana Akhtar Ranu, Nur-e-Ara Shafa, Ferdous Akhtar Wahida, Shahina Khan, Rahiman Khandaker, Yasim Ara Haque, Saimon Begum, Fahima Hossain Jublee, Advocate Bilkis Jahan Shirin, Newaz Halima Arly, Sultan Ahmed, Advocate Khaleda Panna Roushanara Farid, Jahan Panna, Rezina Islam, Shahana Rahman Rani, Advocate Rina Parvin, Rashed Begum Hira, Bilkis Islam, Khodeza Emdad Lata, Shahida Begum Husna, Nur Afroz Jyoti, Raushan Ara Hena, Begum Lutfunnesa, Khadiza Sufian, Selina Rouf Chowdhury, Selina Shahid, Begum Fazilatunnesa, KJ Hamida Khanam, Gulbadan Begum, Rahima Khandaker, Momtaz Begum, Abdul Wahab, Azizur Rahman, Principal Ekramul Alam, Kazi Sirajul Islam, Sharifuzzaman Jahangir, Shaeed Uddin Chowdhury Amin, Khairul Alam, Shafi Ahmed

Khan Azad. GDP growth

Chowdhury and Lutfor Rahman

FROM PAGE 1 point due to a number of natura disasters and government-driven

institutional reforms. Aziz said that inflation was at 10.06 percent in March, which fell to 7.66 percent in April.

Asked how inflation could have gone down with soaring prices of essentials, the finance adviser said that the prices have remained high only in Dhaka, but there has been a fall in commodity prices across the

"Most people are looking at it from a Dhaka-centric perspective,

Aziz said. Last week, a report by Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) said that people have lost 37.6 percent of their income to rising inflation over

the past year. Talking about it, Aziz said, "I do not know their methodologies, but how could real income fall when nominal income levels have not fallen even if inflation was at 11 percent. So there is no question of incomes falling by 37 percent."

Hasina

FROM PAGE 1

Razzak, Motia Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta and acting General Secretary Syed Ashraful Islam.

About the government's decision to form a medical board for Hasina's treatment, Amu said, it's "better late than never".

"People are our main strength. But first of all release Sheikh Hasina. We want to join the dialogue and contest the next election with our leader," Suranjit told the

discussion. He alleged the caretaker government has resorted to a conspiracy ahead of the election by suddenly forming a medical board and rais-Meanwhile, Tk 4,310 crore | ing the issue of reviewing the con-

stitution. He reiterated that there is no possibility of unity with the BNP as expected by its Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain.

"The government's intention for holding an election in the country is dubious. It's talking about holding a free and fair election on one hand and is arresting thousands of innocent people on the other," Motia Chowdhury said.

allowed indoor politics on a limited scale, but in practice it is trying to curb the limited politics through the crackdown. Motia urged the government to lift the state of emergency Acting General Secretary Syed

unity at all levels, particularly among its city units, to ensure Another party presidium memplaints from the general people.

Prof Ahsanul Hoque Parvez, chairman of Centre for Good Governance, also spoke at the programme.

86 ex-BNP Mps | Hunt for running mate tops summer to-do list for Obama, McCain

AP, Washington

Finding a running mate tops the summer to-do lists of John McCain and Barack Obama, and each needs to decide what he wants as much as who he wants.

Are they out to offset their own perceived weaknesses, or reinforce an area of strength? Are they looking for someone from a particular region or demographic niche? How much should personal chemistry count in the equation? It's all about

achieving balance. The end of the Democratic primary season this past week touched off considerable debate about the relative merits of an Obama-Clinton "dream ticket." Obama could decide to pick vanquished rival Hillary Rodham Clinton on the strength of her campaigning skills, or steer clear of the political baggage she and her husband would bring. He could view adding her to the ticket as a way to reach out to women and unify the party, or see her as a divisive figure who might

turn away general-election voters. A similar balancing act will play out on the Republican side. McCain, 71, could try to use his running mate to bulk up the ticket's economic credentials, for example, or to inject some youthful vigor.

There are names afloat for just about any scenario, and Clinton's is surely one of the most buoyant.

"She is hardworking; she is

tough; she is very smart," Obama said recently. "So I think she'd be on anybody's short list of the vice presidential candidates, but beyond that, I don't want to offer an opin-If Obama wants to amplify the Democratic ticket's sense of history

by adding a woman, Clinton is not

the only choice. Also on the list of

potential candidates are Govs. Janet

Napolitano of Arizona and Kathleen Sebelius of Kansas and Missouri Sen. Claire McCaskill. Obama could pick a Clinton backer, such as Gov. Ted Strickland of Ohio or Gov. Ed Rendell of Pennsylvania, to attract her supporters. These governors offer another advantage; they know how to connect with people in the industrial Midwest, where Obama has struggled to address the economic anxieties of white, working-class voters. Former Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina also has workingclass appeal, although he insists he doesn't want a second try at the vice

presidency. People are also worried about the Iraq war and national security matters, and if Obama wants that kind of experience on his ticket, he might pick former Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia, a longtime Armed Services Committee chairman, or one of his former presidential rivals, New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, a former UN ambassador, or Sens. Joe dented success of Obama's candi-Biden of Delaware or Chris Dodd of dacy, as well.

Connecticut. Obama might seek an unconventional running mate, such as New York Mayor Mike Bloomberg, a Democrat-turned-Republicanturned-independent, or Nebraska Republican Sen. Chuck Hagel, a critic of the Iraq war. Both flirted

with presidential bids last year. Governors have an edge over other contenders; they have actually run governments, while Obama and McCain, both senators, lack executive experience. A governor can also be viewed as an outsider to a senator's Washington insider.

If Obama picks a governor from a competitive state such as Tim Kaine of Virginia, where Democrats have made gains in recent years he would have an outsider with executive experience who might help expand the electoral map. "It's a very complex balancing

act, kind of a Rubik's Cube, trying to

find that combination that's going to get you to the White House," said Paul Light, a government professor at New York University. Obama recently began looking in earnest, asking Caroline Kennedy, daughter of the late President John F. Kennedy; former Deputy Attorney General Eric

Holder, and Jim Johnson, the former

Fannie Mae CEO, to start the vice

presidential vetting along with a tight circle of advisers. For McCain, there are fewer Republican governors and fewer GOP lawmakers in Congress to include in the mix. Reagan administration hand A.B. Culvahouse is advising McCain on the process, according to Republicans close to

the campaign. McCain spent the Memorial Day

FROM PAGE 1

activists and violating human rights of the innocent through harassing

their routine work, the IGP said recent rise in incidents of murder and robbery prompted the police to launch the drive. AKM Shahidul Hoque, deputy inspector general (DIG) of police, Chittagong range, moderated the

Terming the special drive a part of

launching ceremony held at the DIG's office where senior police officials of the region were also pres-Regarding implementation of reforms in the police, the police chief said they are yet to achieve expected

success. "Overnight change isn't

possible in a British-era organisation. The IGP praised the initiative of opening the website and hoped that it would help the police receive direct feedback, suggestions and com-

weekend vacationing in Arizona with four potential contenders: Charlie Crist, governor of Florida, a crucial state in November; one-time rival Mitt Romney, the former Massachusetts governor; Louisiana

Gov. Bobby Jindal and Kansas Sen. Sam Brownback. Jindal, 36, "violates the rule that you can't have someone half your

age on the ticket with you," Light Besides Crist and Jindal, governors who might be considered include Minnesota's Tim Pawlenty, South Carolina's Mark Sanford and Alaska's Sarah Palin, or former

Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge. Pawlenty, Sanford, and South Dakota Sen. John Thune all are wellliked by a range of party conservatives, a factor that McCain may give weight to given his sometimes rocky history with this core segment of the GOP base. Former presidential rival Mike Huckabee, the former Arkansas governor, is a favorite of Christian conservatives, as is Brownback.

On economic issues, Romney stands out as a venture capitalist and Olympics CEO. And his broad base of campaign contributors could help McCain's own bottom line. Other possibilities are former Texas Sen. Phil Gramm, a former Banking Committee chairman, and Ohio's Rob Portman, a former White House budget director and former congressman.

Americans.

"I honour her today for the valiant and historic campaign she has run," he said. "She shattered barriers on behalf of my daughters and women everywhere, who now know that there are no limits to their dreams. And she inspired millions with her strength, courage and unyielding

For Hillary and her supporters, it was a poignant moment, the end of an extraordinary run that began with an air of inevitability and certain victory. About 18 million people voted for her; it was the closest a woman has come to capturing a nomination. "Although we weren't able to

commitment to the cause of working

shatter that highest, hardest glass ceiling this time, thanks to you, it has about 18 million cracks in it and the light is shining through like never before," she said. Indeed, her speech repeatedly returned to the milestone her candidacy represented for women. In primary after primary, her support

voting coalition. She noted that she had received the support of women who were 80 and 90 years old, born before women could even vote. She acknowledged the unprece-

among women was a solid bloc of her

Children today will grow up taking for granted that an African-American or a woman can, yes,

become the president of the United States," she said. Obama secured the 2,118 delegates needed to clinch the nomination Tuesday after primaries in South Dakota and Montana. He planned to spend the weekend at home in

Chicago.

Joining Hillary on stage were her husband, the former president, and their daughter, Chelsea, to loud cheers from the crowd. When she spoke, they stepped away. In deciding to suspend her campaign, Hillary kept some options open. She gets to retain her delegates

to the nominating convention this

summer and she can continue to

raise money. It also means she could

reopen her campaign if circumstances change before the Denver convention, but gave no indication that was her intention. As soon as Hillary finished speaking, some of the nearly 300 Democratic party leaders and elected officials across the country who had pledged their support to her as super delegates released statements announcing they now back Obama. The switchers included some of Hillary's most high-profile supporters, including Michigan

Maryland Senator Barbara Mikulski and Maine Governor John Baldacci. Hillary supporters began lining up at dawn to attend the farewell address. A smattering of Obama backers showed up as well, saying they did so as a gesture of party unity. Hillary seemed almost buoyant in

Governor Jennifer Granholm,

her address, feeding off the energy of aloud and appreciative crowd. "Well, this isn't exactly the party I planned but I sure like the company,"

she said as she opened her speech. Meanwhile, Republicans quickly launched a "Clinton vs Obama" page on the Republican National Committee's website drawing attention to her criticism of Obama during

the campaign.

speech, Obama and Hillary had a face-to-face meeting Thursday evening at the Washington home of a Senate colleague, California Democrat Dianne Feinstein. Hillary was expected to campaign for Obama and help with fundrais-

ing, while seeking his assistance in

retiring her \$30 million campaign

debt. The New York senator has told

colleagues she would be interested in

As a prelude to yesterday's

joining Obama as his running mate. The undisputed front-runner when she announced her candidacy in January 2007, Hillary saw her march to the nomination derailed a year later after being swamped by Obama in Iowa's leadoff caucuses. She stayed alive after a narrow victory in New Hampshire five days later. But her campaign never fully regained its footing despite strong showings in several big-state primaries beginning in March.

this regard.