# Hillary, Obama could help each other financially

AP, Washington

Hillary Rodham Clinton needs Barack Obama's donors to help retire her sizable debt. Obama, who's forgoing public funds for the general election, could use her donors to boosthis ample fundraising.

The two former Democratic presidential rivals filed their May fundraising reports Friday hers awash in red ink and his lacking the high-dollar sizzle of his previous monthly reports.

But if the two have an itch to soothe, they're not vet scratching each other's backs.

How the campaigns can help each other will be a likely topic when Obama, the Democrats' nominee in waiting, meets with Hillary and some of her top fundraisers on Thursday in Washington. The two then plan to campaign together on Friday. But so far, the Obama camp has not devised a Hillary assistance plan.

Asked on Friday whether Obama's finance team had discussed ways to ease Hillary's debt when it met Thursday night in Chicago, Obama communications director Robert Gibbs said "those meetings have focused more on what these two can do together to forward than it has on these logistical

while, are eager for some help.

out of the Democratic contest on June 7, reported a \$22.5 million debt at the end of May, more than half of which was a personal loan to her million in May. His heaviest spendpresidential campaign. She lent her ing was on advertising more than \$4 campaign nearly \$2.2 million in May, the general election, money her payroll. campaign cannot use.

Obama to have Hillary 100 percent focused and engaged on campaigning and raising money for him in the fall rather than having to do fundraisers at the same time to retire her debt," said Hassan Nemazee, a Hillary national finance chairman. "It would clearly make life easier

for those of us in the Hillary world who would like to help Senator Obama raise the types of monies that are necessary from the Hillary world to be in a position to point out, 'Look Senator Hillary."

ing month of the year, collecting \$22 with coordinated campaigns. million and ending the month with \$43 million cash on hand and \$304,000 in debts. But \$10 million of his available cash can only be spent in the fall after the party national conventions, leaving \$33 million for the summer months. Obama's decision to bypass the general election's public finance system allows to be concerned about."

him to use left over primary money in the fall campaign.

Republican John McCain, who secured his party's nomination in March, raised \$21 million in May and had \$31.6 million in the bank. The figures place him virtually on same financial footing as Obama a level of parity that would have been unimaginable just a few months ago.

Still, Obama managed to raise slightly more than McCain while still fighting his way out of the Democratic primary. McCain, on the other hand, has been free to consolidate Republican support since he clinched the nomination more than three months ago and has been on an active fundraising schedule.

Overall, since the presidential campaigns began last year, Obama has raised \$287 million, Hillary has raised \$209 million and McCain has raised\$115 million.

Hillary campaigned actively through the last Democratic primaries on June 3 before succumbing to Obama and is expected to have even greater debt at the end of this month. In a call to donors on Thursday, she said she would concentrate on paying off money owed to vendors, not her personal loans.

Of her \$10 million in debts to bring the party together and move it vendors, nearly half \$4.6 million is money the campaign owes Hillary adviser Mark Penn and his polling Hillary and her backers, mean- firm. Hillary reported spending nearly \$19 million more than \$3 The former first lady, who bowed million on media advertising and \$3 million on phone banks. She spent

more than \$5 million on travel. Obama reported spending \$26.6 million buying time for television bringing her total personal invest- commercials. Obama had the most ment in the campaign to \$12.175 expensive payroll, spending \$3.5 million. She had \$3.4 million cash on million on his staff, more than twice hand left for primary spending. She what Hillary spent and more than six also had more than \$23 million for times what McCain spent on his

Obama on Friday defended his "It's far more productive for decision to be the first major party candidate to turn down public funds in the general election. He said he is expecting McCain to have significant help from the Republican Party and from outside groups, though few outside groups have stepped into the presidential election and those that have have spentlittle money.

The Republican Nationa Committee, however, ended June with 13 times more money in the bank than the Democratic National Committee. The RNC had \$53 milwhat Senator Obama has done for lion cash on hand to the DNC's \$4 million. Both parties are allowed to Obama had his weakest fundrais- assist their presidential candidates

> Obama pointed out that both he and his wife have been targeted by independent groups and state party organizations.

"So you know, this isn't speculative on my part," he said. "I think it's something that we've seen in the past and it's something that we continue

# Wasa supply network

FROM PAGE 1

Urban expert and Chairman of Centre for Urban Studies (CUS) Prof Nazrul Islam said as per a survey conducted by CUS a few years back the total number of slums in the city is 4,996. An official of the Wasa revenue

department said they have been giving water supply connections to different slums through NGOs and some 10 slums in the city have so far had legal connections through these NGOs. Talking to the residents of Kalshi

slum and Shah Paran slum in Mirpur-12, it was apparent that the two slums have some 700 illegal connections from Wasa pipelines for around 10,000 families living

Hazrat Ali, a resident of Kalshi slum, said they tried several times to get legal connections from the Wasa 10 years ago but did not get any response from the Wasa officials who said they issued connections only against holding number.

"Four supply pipes of the Wasa were set up in the area by the local commissioner and an NGO at that time and we had our houses connected with those pipes," he said.

"About 700 pipes are connected with the four supply pipes and we get water freely," said Abul Sardar, who helped a few dwellers get water in exchange for money.

These pipes have meantime developed cracks and contribute to the loss of a good amount of water, said a Wasa official, adding that the supply water also gets polluted and systems loss. stinky through these cracks.

About one-fifth of Wasa pipelines are very old and need immediate replacement, he said.

2,534 kilometres of pipeline network and over 15-20 percent of the system has pipelines of cast iron (CI) and mild steel (MS) while 2-3 percent of the network has asbestos cement (AC) pipelines.

mostly installed around 40 years ago while the CI pipes were installed depriving the government of huge

supply network has PVC pipes, of any irregularity."

The Wasa has also installed high quality ductile iron (DI) pipelines in its supply network although its ratio is negligible compared to the total service network, officials said.

which are in good condition.

They said the longevity of most AC pipes in the network has already expired while the CI and MS pipes have become rusty and weak and developed cracks.

Water is supplied to a large area in Dhanmondi and some parts of Motijheel and Mohammadpur through MS pipes, and most areas of Lalmatia, Khilgaon, Moghbazar, Malibagh, Mirpur and some areas in Banani, Mohammadpur and Segunbagicha through AC pipe-

The supply network in Lalbagh, Chawkbazar, Moulavibazar, Sadarghat, Bangla Bazar, Gendaria, Islampur, Sutrapur, Bangshal, Armanitola and parts of Narinda mostly has CI pipes installed during the British period, Wasa sources

The Wasa managing director said they have taken up a project financed by the Asian Development Bank for installing and replacing pipelines and a process for appointing consultants for the project is going on.

A Wasa official claimed that as many as 70,000 holdings in the capital and Narayanganj do not have any meters while some 60,000 meters are currently out of order, which is another reason for the huge

"We are importing meters through private firms in phases and the number of meter has been increasing," he said, adding, "Now Currently, the Wasa has about we are not allowing anybody to get

new connection without meter." The underhand dealings between the Wasa officials and employees and customers are

another reason for the systems loss. These Wasa officials take bribes The AC and MS pipes were from the customers and prepare bills much less than the actual, thus during the British rule, Wasa sources revenue, said an official, adding, "We will take action against the More than 70 percent of the officials and employees found guilty

### 2,842 hectare

on the Jamuna may disappear, the survey reports. A total of 26 points in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Bogra, Sirajganj, Pabna, Jamalpur and Tangail on the Jamuna have been identified as vulnerable.

As many as 12 points were identified as vulnerable in the northern districts of Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Pabna and southern districts of Kushtia and Rajbari on the Padma. At least five locations in Faridpur, Shariatpur and Munshiganj on the Padma are likely to be devoured this year.

The report says that at least 1,56,780 hectares in Kurigram, Gaibandha, Jamalpur, Bogra, Sirajganj, Tangail, Pabna, Manikganj, Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore, Kushtia, Rajbari, Faridpur and a few other districts have been obliterated since 1973 by the Jamuna and the Padma.

### AL slates CG

FROM PAGE 1 Working Committee (ALCWC) will

take a final decision on the issue. "Since the government claims that the law and order situation has

improved, what is the necessity of keeping the state of emergency in force?" he posed the question. Earlier, Tofail addressed an extended meeting of Gazipur

district Awami League at Trust Community Center. Presided over by Gazipur district AL President AKM Mozammel

Huq, the meeting was also addressed by Advocate Rahmat Ali, Mukul Bose, Meher Afroz Chumki and Zahid Hassan Russell. Addressing an extended meeting of Comilla (South) Awami

League, presidium member Motia Chowdhury said people will not accept any elections before the parliamentary polls. Calling for immediate lifting of

the state of emergency, Motia, a firebrand student leader of the 60s, said, "A democratic election cannot be held under the state of emergency. Chaired by Comilla (South)

district AL Joint Convenor Mujibul Huq, the extended meeting was addressed, among others, by Adv Abdul Matin Khasru, Capt (retd) Tajul Islam Taj, Maj Gen (retd) Subid Ali Bhuiyan, Adv Baset Majumdar and Fakhrul Islam

a In Jessore, Ab central leader Abdul Latif Siddiqui said people will not accept local elections ahead of parliamentary elections.

Addressing an extended meeting of Jessore district Awami League, Latif Siddiqui criticised the government for its failure to con tain the soaring prices of essentials

Presided over by acting president of the district unit Adv Farazi Shahadat Hossain, the meeting was also addressed by Munnujan Sufian, Khan Tipu Sultan, Shah Hadiuzzaman and Shaheen Chakladar.

## Rice yield to leap

on irrigation, the study notes. "This situation should be changed by training farmers on farm irrigation because the country's success in food production has been possible due to irrigation during Boro season," says Eftekhar, now doing PhD on improvement of irrigation efficiency and productivity at Bangladesh University of

Engineering and Technology (BUET). The country produced 311 lakh tonnes of rice in 2007 compared to only 85 lakh tonnes in 1960. Boro contributed 70 percent of this increased production, according to Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics and Agriculture Information

Services. Boro cultivation now covers around 44 lakh hectares, Aman 58 lakh hectares and Aus only 11 lakh hectares. Aus production was not considered in the study.

Average output of high yielding variety (HYV) and hybrid Boro now is 3.66 tonnes per hectare. But output of HYV Boro can be raised to 4.0 to 7.5 tonnes a hectare and that of hybrid Boro to more than 7.0 tonnes, the study said.

of land, which now remain fallow for various reasons in greater Barisal, Sylhet and some other areas, particularly char lands, can be brought under cultivation by using the water now wasted due to excessive irrigation for Boro culti-

Noting that Japan now produces more than six tonnes of rice a hectare, Eftekhar said a little effort could make Bangladesh a riceexporting country

Bangladesh Agriculture University Professor Dr MA Sattar Mandol, who has made extensive studies on irrigation, said there is much scope to increase irrigation efficiency in Bangladesh. "There is around 1.5 tonnes to

2.0 tonnes of yield gap (gap output) per hectare. It is possible to meet this gap through efficient irrigation, use of better seeds and balanced application of fertiliser."

He however said, "It is not so easy to bring fallow land under cultivation. It needs special

## Hilla marriage

FROM PAGE 16

Dogachhi village in the same district, uttered the word talak thrice at this wife Salma during a heated argument. The village headman declared them divorced and ordered that Salma go through a "hilla marriage" to be able to get married to Dhalu

Since the couple refused to accept this decision, villagers have been asked to also boycotting them. Villagers don't even allow their children to interact with the couple's children.

There are more incidents of the

same nature in this area of Bogra. According to locals, Belal from Kadamtali also uttered talak to his wife during a heated exchange of words. When local preachers pressed him to give away his wife for a hilla marriage, Masudur Rahman, Imam of Kadamtali Mosque, settled the affair by asking Belal to pay an undisclosed amount to a "local" fund to forego the whole process.

Masudur, also a teacher at the Arabic Department of Kahalu Degree College, when contacted admitted to giving out decisions regarding hilla marriage in the area according to Shariah law. However, he refuted claims that he had anything to do with the decision regarding the Belal couple.

Many locals report of regular "dorra" beatings to couples refusing hilla marriages, as they don't accept that uttering talak leads to a divorce. Dorra beatings, handed out to couples "living in sin" according to Shariah law, involves 10 whips by 10 sticks of tender bamboo sticks tied

Experts who have worked on the misuse of hilla marriages to force women into marriages to a third person before letting her get married to her ex-husband say its merely wrong information that lets this wrongful practise to continue.

Motahar Akand, Senior Deputy Director of Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK), says misinterpretation of Islamic laws and misinformation regarding the practice can be beaten by creating awareness among the people. He has worked with ASK in different places across the country to prevent misuse of hilla marriages.

He cites examples of Jhenidah in 1999, Sirajganj in the early 2000 and Mymensingh in 2004 where they were able to stop hilla marriages after educating the people about the Muslim family law provisions in the country and the fact that the Family Law Ordinance 1961 prohibits "hilla marriages. ASK in all these places used thea

tre to stage plays to educate people about family law.

The misinterpretation of the law and misinformation regarding

## Govt trashes claim

FROM PAGE 1 Oil and Meghna Petroleum are oversubscribed and overpriced at our stock market, "he added.

"I do not think there would be any liquidity crisis for borrowing money from the banking sector to meet the budgetary deficit for 2008-09 fiscal year," he said.

Replying to a query, he said he would inform the media when the government decides to readjust the prices of fuel oil like other countries in the world.

Admitting inadequate allocation for the science and information technology sector, Mirza Aziz said he would reconsider improving the allocation for the sector.

He also urged industrialists to invest in the export processing zones to avail the facilities given to foreign investors.

leaders of Headvised Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association (BTMA) to enhance training activities to produce capable manpower since the readymade garment sector has been suffering from shortage of skilled manpower.

Economic Reporters' Forum organised the discussion. National Board of Revenue Chairman Abdul Mazid attended the discussion, among others.

divorces is meanwhile creating endless problems in the area. Local preachers and village headmen enjoy the right to impose their decisions on villagers, and very often force the victims to different kinds of punishment and torture.

The local administration remain ineffective to quell these problems, complain villagers.

Rokshana, the Women Affair Officer at the local administrator's office in Kahalu upazila, said Shafiqul came to her for help in his case but she was unable to do anything for him since the villagers refused to accept the counseling. The office is only empowered to

counsel villagers about the true procedure of a divorce when such a complaint is lodged, and in this case, the villagers form Shafiq's village refused any intervention by the administration. Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bogra Humayun Kabir said that he

that legal action would be taken against the people involved if they have tortured Shafiqul in such a same in Kadamtali village. Villagers talk about Jinnah and Jostna, victims

of a Dorra beating, who fled to Dhaka

was not aware of Shafiqul's case but

since the incident. There are others who have fled or lead a menial life shunned by society as no one has come forward to help

Some villagers say that the local preachers have too much power and influence over everyone and get away with their wrong judgments and punishments. Other villagers side with they local preachers, as they don't know the real procedure for a divorce and believe what the preacherstell them.

Meanwhile the likes of Shafiqul and Nilufa or Jinnah and Jotsna bear the brunt of whips and social disgrace for no wrongdoings of their

### Govt urged

FROM PAGE 16 Saying that the damage to the two forests is largely due to rubber plantations and the ADB-financed socalled social afforestation with exotic trees like acacia and eucalyptus, he noted that rubber monoculture alone has erased nearly 8,000 acres of

sal forest there. But then, he said, official and illegal logging left most of those plantations treeless after 10 years, making it a perfect ground for banana, papaya and pineapple cultivation

Native fauna like leopards, deer and pythons and a wide variety of birds including pheasants and peacocks have completely disappeared from the Modhupur forests while monkey that were once an everyday sight are rarely seen today, he added. Ronald Halder said sal trees must be preferred for plantation in the

Modhupur forest. The speakers said installation of gas pipeline by Unocal in 2005 which poses a risk similar to the Magurchhara blowout and seismic survey by Chevron have disoriented Lawachhara's wild animals.

Ronald said increased human

movement and loud explosions due to the Chevron survey have severely disturbed the breeding habits of wild critters in Lawachhara, adding that many bird species have abandoned their nests too. Hoolocks, once seen in large

numbers in Lawachhara, and other wildlife have fled the blast sites, said nature photographer Sirajul Hossain, adding that last year's commando trainings there also disturbed the animals.

The speakers also questioned the objective of Nishorgo, a USAIDfunded project that aims at protecting the Lawachhara National Park. Criticising donor-agency-funded

programmes, economist Prof Anu Muhammad said, "Lives and resources in the country will be endangered if we fail to build up resistance to them."

SEHD chairman Sakhawat Ali Khan chaired the programme. Dwijen Sharma, Noazesh Ahmed, Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan,

Jerome Hagidag and Gidison Pradhan Suchiang also took part in the discussion.

# Upazila polls

FROM PAGE 1

election in December. At the same event, Education And 10 lakh to 15 lakh hectares | Adviser Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman said that all political parties agree on the point of strengthening the local government.

> Answering a question on whether the declaration of election schedule for four cities and nine municipalities would hamper the ongoing dialogue process, Zillur said, "Parties opposing holding of local polls first believe it would hamper the national elections but there should not be any doubts like

The adviser said, "The government, political parties and the society are not rivals to one another," and that all should take the nation forward. Asked about the release of BNP

Chairperson Khaleda Zia and her sons, Zillur said the government between present and potential | was taking into account all legal and humanitarian grounds while working on the matter. The adviser also said the gov-

ernment has sent letters to the different BNP factions for dialogue and was now awaiting their replies. LGRD adviser Anwarul Igbal, at of PPRC also spoke on the occathe publication ceremony, said sion,

pre-schooling and early childhood care is important for proper education of children and a healthy future for them.

He said the local government representatives, specially the women representatives, could play a big role in pre-schooling. He added that community clinics could be used as early childhood care centres. Dr Hossain Zillur said that the

country is improving in many indices of education but lagging behind in the dropout rate and quality of education. Good preschooling can help improve in these indices, he said. Unnayan Samannay Chairman Dr Atiur Rahman chaired the publication ceremony jointly organised

by Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC), Plan Bangladesh and Unnayan Shamannay (US). Khandoker Sakhawat Ali, Research Fellow of PPRC, presented the outcome of a research on pre-schooling. Edward Thomas Espe, Country Director, Plan Bangladesh and KM Ehsanul Haque, Executive Director

## EPR relaxation

FROM PAGE 1

Manikganj Sadar, Chuadanga Sadar, Shariatpur Sadar, Naohata in Rajshahi, Dupchanchiya in Bogra, Sripur in Gazipur, Fulbaria in Mymensingh, Golapganj in Sylhet and Sitakunda in Chittagong.

The EC's proposal was made in an effort to create an atmosphere conducive to holding free, fair and credible elections while still having the state of emergency in place. It also already promulgated strict election rules and an electoral code of conduct, sources in the commission said.

Had the home ministry followed the EC's proposed timeframe for relaxed EPR and mentioned it in unambiguous terms in its notification, the move could have created an atmosphere where the polls would be held amid a much more relaxed environment, having a positive effect on the voters' enthusiasm, said senior officials of the EC Secretariat.

The EC proposed timeframe for the relaxation would in no way There are more instances of the provide additional opportunity for candidates to bring out processions or arrange rallies on the polling day, as the new election rules already restrict such activities on the day of the polls, they

According to the new election rules, candidates may begin election campaigns on July 14, a day after the deadline for withdrawing candidatures, and may continue campaigning only till 12:00am of August 3. In fact, the candidates will

have only 20 days for campaigning although the chief election commissioner on Friday, while announcing the poll schedule, said the candidates will have 21 days for campaigning. Moreover, campaign processions and rallies will be allowed

only within the constituencies during the stipulated period in line with the strict election rules and code of conduct, which stipulate that none may bring out processions or arrange rallies between 12:00am of August 3 and 12:00am of August 7. So, none will even be able to bring out any victory procession

to celebrate a win in the elections. The punishment for violating new electoral rules is also harsher than the punishment for violat-One might be imprisoned for

two to five years for violating EPR while the punishment is imprisonment for two to seven years for violating the electoral rules, moreover, the violator's candidature might also be cancelled. Senior officials of the home

ministry and EC do not see any justification for leaving a room in the ministry notification for interpreting the duration of the EPR relaxation, and also do not see any justification for reinstating the total state of emergency in the electoral areas before the election process is over through publication of the results, which are expected to be published in official gazettes by August 6.

### BNP

FROM PAGE 1

chairperson to file a writ petition against the Election Commission's

announcement of polls schedules. Addressing a meeting on Friday, Delwar said, "We have taken some decisions in consultation with the alliance partners and we need unity to implement those."

He however did not elaborate on the decisions. When contacted, other leaders

of BNP however claimed they did not know anything about this. Party insiders said the

announcement of resistance came bypassing the prevalent view among the party rank and file that BNP should participate in the elections. They however said if the former

prime minister too opposes the

local elections then a writ petition

might be filed against the EC announcement. "As far as I can tell, madam [Khaleda] wants the party to participate in city corporation and municipality elections and she might clear her stance Tuesday," former BNP lawmaker yesterday

nymity. A leader close to Delwar hinted that the decision regarding the polls might be changed if AL decides in favour of going to the local body polls.

told The Daily Star, seeking ano

AL leaders in their initial reac tion have termed the election schedules farcical and demanded immediate withdrawal of those.

#### Hasina FROM PAGE 16

AL's US branch has organised special prayers for her recovery at Banaful Restaurant in Astoria, New York City today, ANA added. Meanwhile, work is underway

for the formalities, including procuring a visa, for Sheikh Hasina's travel to Canada. She is scheduled to fly to her daughter Saima Wajed Putul's house in Canada after completion of her treatment in Florida.

## Mayawati's party

FROM PAGE 16

Mayawati, chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, also cited alleged neglect by Congress of her BSP-

led provincial administration. The BSP, which has 17 MPs, had given outside support to the United Progressive Alliance (UPA) government since it swept to power in

The BSP's move will not topple the minority government.

But it comes at a time when 59 communist MPs have threatened to withdraw their support over a civilian nuclear energy deal with Washington and force early general elections. The government argues that the deal, which would give India

access to the worldwide civilian

nuclear energy trade even though

it has not signed global nonproliferation pacts, is crucial for the country's energy security. Mayawati's move came a day after inflation shot to its highest level in 13 years, accelerating to 11.03 percent from 8.75 percent a week earlier after a hike in state-

set fuel prices. The rise in inflation has hit India's poor the hardest.

Some political analysts, however, suggested Mayawati's departure could help the beleaguered prime minister.

"This withdrawal of support by Mayawati may draw other regional parties to help the prime minister out of his troubles" since they are reluctant to face early polls, said Anand Ojha, a political scientist at Delhi University. General elections are due by

May 2009. The Samajwadi (Socialist)

#### Israeli pilots FROM PAGE 16

The New York Times on Friday cited US officials as saying a major military exercise carried out by Israel earlier this month seemed to be a test-run for any potential strike against Iran's nuclear facilities. In Athens, an official with the

confirmed to AFP the substance of the report, stating that it had taken part in "joint training exercises" with Israel off the Mediterranean island of The manoeuvres, code-named "Glorious Spartan 08," took place on May 28 and June 12, and consisted of

aerial exercises and knowledge

Greek air force's central command

exchange, said the Greek source, who requested anonymity. The goal was for more than 100 Israeli F-16 and F-15 fighter jets to prepare for long-range strikes and demonstrate Israel's serious concern

over Iran's nuclear ambitions, the Times reported. On June 6 an Israeli Deputy Prime Minister, Shaul Mofaz, warned that Iran would face attack if it pursues what he said was its nuclear weapons

programme. In Tehran, senior cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Khatami warned Israel of a "strong blow" if it attacks Iran.

"If enemies, especially Israelis and their supporters in the United States, would want to use a language of force, they should rest assured that they will receive a strong blow in the mouth," Khatami said in his Friday prayers sermon.

Iranian government spokesman Gholam Hossein Elham told reporters on Saturday that an attack by

### Israel was "impossible." Dr Kamal

FROM PAGE 1

parties are not powerless. If democracy is established in the true sense, the major parties would not be able to ignore the minor parties. There is no alternative to national unity to establish democracy," he said.

National unity has become essential to free the nation from misrule, terrorism, corruption and militancy, and ensure the rights of its citizen.

Dr Kamal also addressed a number of meetings yesterday at several places in Nachole, Gomostapur and Bholahat upazilas.

FROM PAGE 16

Meantime, with the proposed imposition of one percent duty on import of capital machinery under indemnity bond, the country will have additional revenue earning of Tk 350 crore.

Another Tk 150 crore in revenue will be earned through other duty measures on imported commodi-

around Tk 1,500 crore for the slash

said import of industrial raw materials, capital machinery and intermediate goods will increase a lot due to the duty cut, and this will result in a rise of revenue.

Party, which is at daggers drawn with Mayawati, refused to support Congress after it swept into power but might now have a

change of heart, Ojha said. He noted that the party, which has 39 MPs, had shown signs of

warming up to Congress. Mayawati's announcement came after India's Finance Minister Palaniappan

Chidambaram promised more measures to tame prices. "We should not give room for panic. We should take steps to quell inflationary expectations," he said after meeting India's central bank chief to discuss

steps to check inflation. Several economists have forecast a half-point rise in the central bank's leading short-term lending rate along with other aggressive credit-tightening measures, possibly within a few

### War crime

FROM PAGE 1

Abul does not know exactly how his father was killed, but evidence retrieved over the years now make it easy to imagine how brutally that must have been.

The pump house was named

Jalladkhana, meaning "Butcher's

Den" after thousands of Bangladeshis were brutally tortured, killed and then dumped inside the tank in the pump house by the barbarous Pak army. Sometimes the bodies of tortured men were dumped into the

tank, before they died.

cultural activists, and different organisations paid their respects at the killing field in city's Mirpur yesterday with renewed calls on the government for immediate steps to bring all war criminals to trial. "It is a shame, how nothing is

Members of the martyrs' family,

being done, with so much evidence lying around us of the criminals' brutality," said a visitor to the park. Akku Chowdhury, himself a veteran freedom fighter, said the excavation of the killing field and

its preservation will inspire the people to continue their demand for the criminals' trial. The day was marked in solemn respect, beginning with the hoisting of the national flag. Chayanot, Charulota, Ghasful Child Organisation, among others, performed patriotic songs and recita-

tions at the anniversary Families of the martyrs paid their personal respects in silence. About 88,000 visitors from

memorial park since its establishment last year. The once abandoned pump house at Mirpur in the city became a memorial site after the Liberation

War Museum excavated and reno-

across the country has visited the

vated the site. The museum in cooperation with the Bangladesh Army exhumed the mass grave and recovered 70 human skulls and 5392 bones from there. The Museum gave identities to the martyrs after exhuming the skulls and bones and using personal artefacts found during the excava-

The walkway surrounding the compound of the park is flanked by marble slabs engraved with the names of over 400 killing fields found across the country. There are six glass pots placed

on six altars across the compound,

containing soil from six such killing

fields from six divisions of the country. At the centre of this compound is the mural by Rafigunnabi, titled 'Jiban Abinashshar' (life is immor-

The pump house stands at one end of the compound. There is a bell hanging over the entrance of the house known as the torture chamber. Inside this house, steps lead down to the 20 feet deep-water

tank, now covered with a glass top. The engraving on the glass reads, "We bow our heads in deep respect to all martyrs."

FROM PAGE 16 the office is expected to be commander of the armed forces. "This deadlock is creating

ready to reach a consensus through mutual understanding," said Maoist official Sharma. The Congress official was also hopeful a breakthrough would be reached after discussions.

"The only option we have is to

resolve all political issues

uncertainty but we are always

through dialogue. We hope to come to a logical conclusion in the next few days," said Khatri Chettri. The end of Nepal's monarchy On the growth, NBR sources late last month was the culmination of a rocky peace process between the former rebels, whose

"People's War" claimed at least

13,000 lives, and mainstream

political parties. The two sides united in late 2005 after now-deposed king Gyanendra seized direct control of the impoverished nation, an unpopular move that ultimately led to the demise of the 240-yearold monarchy.

Revenue earning will reduce by

in import duty due to the changes. The overall NBR revenue will see a 19 percent growth with an increase of import duty by 17 per-

"Rise of prices of different commodities including petroleum products in the international market will also bring us more revenue, contributing to achievement of the growth target," said an

NBR source.