# Unconditional

The process of releasing

Khaleda was expedited after her

political archrival Awami League

(AL) President Sheikh Hasina was

released on June 11. Hasina was

also released without any condi-

tions and on medical grounds. She

is now in the US having treatment

delayed as she has refused to leave

the country leaving behind her

sons. Koko, facing two corruption

cases and an extortion case, was

released for two months under an

posed to issue an executive order

regarding Khaleda's release yester-

day. Officials of the ministry, how-

ever, said the order might be issued

yesterday gave the government a

72-hour ultimatum to release

Khaleda or else they would go for

Chhatra Andolan in support of

their demand brought out a pro-

DU campus around 7:40pm and

marched towards Shahbagh inter-

Police stopped the procession

in front of the Fine Arts faculty and

asked student leaders to not to take

the procession forward. The pro-

cession made a U-turn and headed

towards TSC intersection started

Later, a good number of

armoured police were deployed at

TSC and at Shahbagh to avoid

hospital, Arzina told The Daily Star

how Kamu, who teaches geography at

Nohata Women's Degree College in

Rajshahi, set fire to her over an affair

entry operator at the Women Affairs

Department, came to know about her

husband's affair with his student

soon after getting married about 10

months ago. She also said Kamu

tortured her physically and mentally

incident and handed him over to police.

agitation broke out for a pay hike in

the wake of higher prices of essential

wage structure, the minimum wage of

Tk 1,662.50 a month is too little to

maintain livelihoods. So, it needs to

be increased through negotiations,

but not by damaging factories," she

workers, owners and government

the attack indicates that the rampage

was carried out by outsiders, not by

ransacked. The factories those were

attacked are all good in payment and

Asked about the EC's stance,

Election Commissioner Brig Gen

(retd) M Sakhawat Hussain yesterday

told reporters if the government

wants, it may file an appeal against

the HC ruling which allowed political

parties to contest in the August 4

blamed for any such step," he said.

"We however don't want to be

Sources in the LGRD ministry, the

custodian of local governments,

however said the ministry has no

plan to amend the Upazila Parishad

discussed the political parties' oppo-

sition to the commission's as well as

the government's plan for holding

the polls to over 300 out of a total of

Awami League and BNP have been

vehemently opposing the plan for

holding the upazila polls before the

stalled ninth parliamentary election

which is supposed to be held in the

already declared that they will resist

the upazila elections if held before

the parliamentary poll, as they fear

holding of the upazila polls before

the parliamentary one might jeopar-

congenial atmosphere for the

upazila polls will prevail once the

election schedules are announced,

as grassroots level leaders of political

parties want to contest in those polls.

deployed for the upazila polls,

Election Commissioner Sakhawat

said if necessary, the commission will

ask the government to deploy the

army and Bangladesh Rifles for

the government 'must deploy the

army to maintain law and order as

the police alone will not be able to do

the job successfully' if 300 or more

duties, they will be authorised to

arrest anybody without a warrant for

violation of electoral rules, and for

other unlawful activities or for any

such attempt, according to the draft

toral rules to the law ministry in a

couple of days for vetting and then

rules exercising its power to do so,

vested in it by the Upazila Parishad

The EC will send the draft elec-

If the army is engaged in election

upazilas go to polls together.

upazila election rules.

Nazma Akter, president of the commission will promulgate the

Ordinance.

Officials in the EC Secretariat said

Asked whether the army will be

The EC however believes that a

Senior leaders of the parties

Major political parties including

At yesterday's meeting the EC also

local government polls.

482 upazilas in October.

third week of December.

dise the latter.

ensuring security.

in corporate culture, "he said.

Upazila polls

"Only the compliant factories were

She said although the majority of

Locals beat up Kamu after the

Victim's brother Liton filed a case

whenever she protested it.

against Kamu who is now in jail.

Arzina, who worked as a data

Rajshahi wife

Meanwhile, Nirjaton Protirodh

The BNP-led alliance leaders

The home ministry was sup-

executive order on July 17.

tough programmes.

section, sources said.

vandalising vehicles.

further violence.

with his student.

commodities.

solution," she said.

real workers.

FROM PAGE 1

today.

The release of Khaleda is being

for her eyes and ears.

The release of her elder son Tarique Rahman, now at the prison cell of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU), may take time as he is accused in 15

corruption and extortion cases. "The process of releasing Tarique, also senior joint secretary general of BNP, is underway. Like his younger brother Arafat Rahman Koko he is also expected to leave the country straightaway for medical treatment," said a senior home ministry official.

About the progress made so far for releasing Tarique, Ghulam Quader said it was difficult for him to ascertain whether the process was at the final stage. He, however, said the government was dealing with the issue of releasing Tarique on humanitarian grounds.

BNP insiders said Khaleda's first move after her release would be to unite the party which has split into several factions and now faces a serious image crisis in the absence of its chief.

She may also withdraw the expulsion orders on former BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Ashraf Hossain to bring all the feuding factions together and face the upcoming parliamentary elections in full strength of the party, they added.

They said the BNP chief is not happy with the stance BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain has taken as he failed to keep the party united. "She is somewhat annoyed with

Delwar," said an insider. Khaleda may opt not to stay at her cantonment home aiming to

move freely and oversee party activities. The government, however, will want her to stay at her cantonment home, one of her close aides told The Daily Star. "She [Khaleda] may leave the

country within a couple of days of her release to perform umrah," the aide added.

A number of BNP leaders alleged that the government kept them in the dark about her release. They said only the close aides of Khaleda were involved in the secret negotiations regarding her release.

"The advisers are saying that her release is in the final stage but the party has not been informed of the matter," Rizvi Ahmed, acting office secretary of BNP, told reporters

officials confirmed that angry workers

set fire to the factory at one stage of

their protest demanding payment of

factories also ransacked the factories

Sweater Factory in Konabari area

under Gazipur Sadar upazila

abstained from work yesterday, and

workers of Euro Fashion Ltd at

Masterbari under Sripur upazila

staged a sit-in in front of the factory,

in Ashulia over 300 workers of Polonia

Garments Ltd gathered in front of the

factory premises for their overdue

salaries at around 11:00am yesterday,

the day that had been previously fixed

by the factory authorities for the

furious and started to ransack the

factory as they found the main gate of

over 1,000 workers, armed with bam-

boo sticks and stones, from neigh-

bouring factories joined Polonia

workers and attacked other factories

on the Dhaka-Tangail highway.

Windowpanes, doors and furniture of

the factories were damaged in the

attack are Polonia Garments Ltd. Sed

Fashion Ltd, Eastern Link Creation

Ltd, Rivas Composit Ltd, Envoy

Fashion, Scan Desk Ltd, Setara Group

Ltd, Nodh Tex, Design Dreams Ltd.

Universe Garments Ltd, Isa Fashion

Ltd, Pall Mall Garments, Five Brother

by the mob are Samir Plaza, Helen

Plaza, Nigar Plaza, and Noor Jahan

gers and vehicle owners on the high-

way when the workers started vanda-

(OC) of Ashulia police station, told

The Daily Star that the workers

became angry as they did not receive

their overdue salaries on time. "The

authorities however paid off the

salaries in the afternoon," said the OC

adding that no case was filed and no

factories yesterday denied the allega-

tion of non-payment to the workers

and reiterated that a section of hooli-

gan outsiders in the guise of workers

Owner of Envoy Fashion Ltd.

Salam Murshedy, also a leader of

Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers

and Exporters Association (BGMEA),

said his factory was ransacked by a

section of hooligan outsiders who

were masquerading as workers. "The

workers did not attack my factory,"

He said suddenly a group of out-

The outsiders then threw stones

siders tried to enter his factory, but the

workers of the factory obstructed

and broke glass panes and other

furniture, he added. Similarly, the

outsiders ransacked other nearby

production in his factory today, as the

damage to the factory is has not been

employed in my factory producing

45,000 apparel items a day. So, I can-

not stop production as I pay the work-

Sammilito Garment Sramik

Federation, a platform of garment

factory workers, said the workers

Murshedy said he will continue

"At least 5,000 workers are

ransacked their factories.

Owners of the affected garment

The shopping centres vandalised

Panic gripped stranded passen-

Rafiqul Islam, officer-in-charge

Ltd. and GBS Garments.

lising vehicles.

one was arrested.

Murshedy said.

factories, he said.

ers regularly," he said.

severe.

The factories that came under

The unpaid workers became

The situation turned worse when

According to eyewitness accounts,

both in demand for pay hikes.

disbursement of salaries.

the factory locked.

Workers of two other nearby

Meanwhile, workers of Meditex

overdue wages and Eid bonuses.

they work in.

Workers vandalise

## Santu demands

FROM PAGE 16 League (AL)-led 14-party-backed candidate Shawkat Hossain Hiron by only 588 votes.

"My opponent has been made winner by rigging the polls and manipulation in the vote counting,' the Progressive Democratic Party (PDP) leader claimed during a press conference at PDP central office in Segunbagicha in Dhaka yesterday.

Alleging election engineering, Hiron himself had rejected the result of the August 4 election before all results reached the EC office from polling centres. He also demanded re-election in six polling centres, Santu said, adding, "How could he be declared winner later?"

"Real irregularities and rigging have taken place in the election office," he said, adding that two officials of Barisal election office opened the ballots illegally and changed the results.

He said he would take legal action if the Election Commission fails to satisfy him with their actions.

Santu, reportedly a big spender of money in Barisal, said, "The result cession from Madhu's canteen on of the election has been changed only to defeat me. Even 2,500 of the 3,100 votes shown as cancelled were valid and cast for me.

> Replying to a question he refuted the allegation of buying votes and said, "I am ready to face trial in people's court if anyone can prove such allegation."

### 43 more back

He also requested the Kuwaiti minister to conduct a full probe into the incidents and find out the reasons behind the worker unrest since it is in the common interest of the two nations that such incidents do not occur in future.

Meanwhile, the remaining Bangladeshi workers in Kuwait continue to endure sufferings as their employers, at least two cleaning companies, refused to pay up health insurance and residency fees for their workers, defying recent instructions of the Kuwait government, reported Arab Times quoting an official of the Bangladesh Embassy in Kuwait.

Earlier, the Kuwait government following the strikes had fixed monthly minimum wage for foreign workers -- KWD 40 (Tk 10,265) for unskilled workers such as cleaners and KWD 70 (Tk 17,965) for security guards without any owners pay salaries under the current deduction.

> The government also warned employers of punitive measures if they fail to comply with the government decision.

Arab Times yesterday quoted a Bangladesh Embassy official as She said the government should also come forward to settle the issue of saying that five hundred low salaries of the workers. "The Bangladeshi workers have been asked by their employer to pay for officials may sit together again for a their own health insurance and residency fees, KWD 77 (Tk 19,762) BGMEA President Anwar-Ul-Alam for each, within the next two days, Chowdhury Parvez said the nature of otherwise their residency permits will not be renewed.

> The embassy has reported the malpractice by the Kuwaiti employer to labour department and awaiting the department's response, the official added.

Until the Kuwaiti government announced the minimum wage, around 80 percent of the approximately 2.4 lakh Bangladeshis working in the oil-rich country used to earn a monthly salary of only KWD 20 (Tk5,132) or less.

Kuwait had stopped hiring fresh Bangladeshi workers in late 2006, claiming that the Bangladeshis were getting involved in various crimes in the country.

Human and labour rights activists strongly criticised the police atrocities on the Bangladeshi workers as well as their forceful deportation, saying that such actions are in contravention of the International Labour Organization convention.

#### Engr Mosharraf FROM PAGE 1

He was first arrested on February 25 last year as he went to the ACC to report his wealth.

Granting Ilias Ali anticipatory bail, the HC bench of justices Sharif Uddin Chaklader and Md Emdadul Haque Azad issued a rule on the government to explain why petitioner Ilias should not be given regular bail in the case.

A Union Parishad member in Sylhet swed him in April last year for extorting Tk 5 lakh from her. A court later issued warrant for his arrest Ilias was present at the court

yesterday. His lawyer told this newspaper that the ex-MP had earlier got anticipatory bail in another criminal case and that he is not wanted in any other cases now.

He said the HC bench also gave anticipatory bail to former BNP lawmaker Nadim Mostafa's wife Nurunnahar Parul and Mirza Khokon's wife Masuda Ekram following separate writ petitions.

Meantime, the full bench of the Appellate Division, headed by Chief Justice MM Ruhul Amin, refused to accept the leave to appeal petition against the High Court's granting bail to Dr Taslima Zaman Ahmed and staying the case proceedings.

The bench directed the ACC to take steps to dispose of the High Court rule that had also asked the government to explain why Taslima should not be granted regular bail and the proceedings against her quashed.

# Army officers

FROM PAGE 1 most trusted friend of America into a horrible example because they are sure that Army is no more sup-

porting Musharraf When Army is claiming to be neutral, nobody except Bush is in a position to save Musharraf. Bush is told that his interference in the politics of Pakistan will spread more anti-Americanism in the only Muslim nuclear power of the world so he should not call anyone in Pakistan for saving Musharraf.

The top leaders of the new ruling coalition in Islamabad have informed some Western diplomats that they have solid evidence of corruption and embezzlements against the President of Pakistan and some of his close family members. A big number of PPP members want to investigate Musharraf for his alleged role in the assassination of Benazir Bhutto. One PPP member of the national assembly is ready to show an email of late Benazir Bhutto sent to American journalist Wolf Blitzer that if anything happen to her, then Musharraf will be responsible.

Coalition leaders have cautioned Western capitals that any effort or appeal from their governments in favour of a dictator would not be welcomed. Musharraf still have one safe option. He must resign from his office before 5 o'clock in the evening of Monday (August 11th 2008). In that case the media and civil society will not press much to produce him in a court of law. If he is not willing to resign and the proceedings of the parliament will be started at 5 o'clock Monday then he will face not only the impeachment motion but he will also face trials in many criminal charges. Coalition leaders have sent an

urgent message to US President through diplomatic channels that the name of Musharraf will be put on the exit control list immediately after the impeachment and the new elected government will not be in a position to provide safe exit to a person once declared "the only non-terrorist in a terrorist country' by an American newspaper. A prominent leader of pro-Musharraf Pakistan Muslim League-Q disclosed that Musharraf is disappointed not only with US President but he is also disappointed with the leadership of Pakistan Army which is not coming out openly to rescue their "supreme commander" from the "dirty hands of bloody civilians"

PML-Q sources claimed that initially Musharraf was thinking to resign from the office of country's President and wanted to become the President of PML-Q. A lady member of the National Assembly started campaigning within the party three days ago that Chuadhry Shujaat Hussain should resign from the presidentship of the PML-Q and offer Musharraf to become head of the party which was actually created in 2002 by Musharraf with the help of ISI. A big majority of the PML-Q leaders rejected this proposal and asked Shujaat Hussain to stay away from Musharraf who is no more an asset but a liability now.

Another friend of Musharraf recently proposed him to join Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM) of Altaf Hussain. This party is very much capable of providing him some political cover. Some of his close relatives are already members of MQM. Once Benazir Bhutto wrote in her autobiography that "I first encountered Musharraf when he acted as Turkish interpreter during visits by Turkey military. I declined to make him my military secretary. We initially refused his promotion his promotion because of his suspected links with MQM. The final time I recall meeting with him was the most important, when in 1996 he presented to me a war scenario for Kashmir"

Musharraf has an entirely different story which he mentioned in his memoir "In the line of fire". He said "a friend of Benazir Bhutto's husband Asif Zardari came to call on me. His name was Javed Pasha. I had never seen him before. Pasha suggested that I become Benazir's military secretary but I rejected Pasha's suggestion. Had I become her military secretary I would have gone down with her and her gov-

The spokesman of Sharif's Muslim League, Saddiqual Farooq have another story. He was press

### Friends here

FROM PAGE 1

"This medal is good for Georgia, especially during times like this," Salukvadze said. "I am very nervous today. It's very difficult for my people.

Georgia launched a major offensive Friday to retake control of the separatist province of South Ossetia. Russia, which has close ties to the province, responded by sending in armed convoys and military combat aircraft. Russia bombed Georgian towns Saturday.

The International Olympic Council announced Sunday that the Georgian and Russian teams had decided to remain in Beijing. "It's very difficult for us as

Georgians because of everything that's going on at home. It was nice that Natalia Paderina came up to me after and gave me a handshake," Salukvadze said. "Yesterday I thought the Georgian Olympic team might withdraw."

Luba Golovina, an 18-year-old Georgian who competes in the gymnastics trampoline event, said there should be no difficulties while competing with the Russians. "I think it's not a problem with

secretary of Nawaz Sharif during his premiership from 1997 to 1999. He claims that Musharraf was about to retire in 1996 as Brigadier due to his bad record but Javed Pasha helped him. Pasha pursued Asif Ali Zardari for the promotion of Musharraf from Brigadier to Major General. According to Saddiqul Farooq, Asif Ali Zardari requested Benazir to speak with the then Army Chief General Wahid Kakar for the promotion of Musharraf in 1996 and that was how his military career was saved. Asif Ali Zardari has denied this whole episode

narrated by an important leader of

his ruling coalition.

One thing is clear that the main strength of Musharraf was not his enlightened moderation but his military uniform and after taking off this uniform he is now a burden for everyone. It was Musharraf who assigned General Ashfaq Pervez Kyani to get in touch with Benazir Bhutto two years ago when Kyani was DG of ISI. Kyani realised soon that involvement of Army officers in politics is not good for the institution and for the country. Musharraf always said the same thing that Army should stay away from politics but his actions are always different from his words. He is no more Army Chief but he is still living in Army House of Rawalpindi. He declared Army House as the President's camp office. He is continuously meeting leaders of PML-Q in Army House even after their humiliating defeat in general election on February 18th. He never respected the verdict of the people expressed through ballot power. His "forced" stay in the Army House is generally not liked by many Army officers Many officers think that Musharraf meet anti-government politicians in Army House just to give an impression that Army is still with

him which is not a fact. According to reliable sources, Army circles have informally sent messages to Musharraf that his time is over and he must resign now in the "supreme national interest." Many Army officers support the non-political approach their new Chief and think that Musharraf was their leader for eight years due to his rank and position not because of respect. Now Musharraf has lost the rank of Army Chief and he must leave the position of President now. One of his very close friends who is also a serving Lt General recently advised him privately that Musharraf is still very popular in Washington and Delhi but he is no more popular in his own country and now is the time that he must resign because Army cannot support him for another five years. Army officers want total depoliticisation of their institute and want to contribute for the making of a new democratic

## Nat'l Mourning Day

Pakistan.

and at Bangladesh missions REACTION

AL welcomed the government's decision. "We welcome it whole heartedly," said AL acting general secretary Syed Ashraful Islam. "We congratulate the caretaker

government and its all advisers for declaring 15 August as National Mourning Day and a public holiday in line with the High Court verdict."

Talking to The Daily Star last night, he observed that it shows there is a rule of law in the country. "And finally, justice prevails over injustice,' added the AL spokesman.

Hailing the government decision, Jatiya Party (Monju) Secretary General Sheikh Shahidul Islam said "This will give the countrymen opportunity to pay respect to the best son of the soil as well as the father of the nation.'

### Bibiyana power

FROM PAGE 16

have to pay the EPC contractor this sum as slot reservation fee, soil investigation and bathymetry study, anticipated down payment for major equipment.

The consortium believes it will have to take significant financial risk till the financial closure of the project to ensure delivery of power and to provide a fixed price proposal for at least five months.

In a letter sent to the law ministry on Thursday, the power ministry noted that if Powertek's exception is accepted, it would impose "Contingent Liability" on the government. Therefore the law ministry may give its opinion on the matter.

The Power Cell has so far not succeed in completing any large power project tender in its lifetime except the Haripur 360 MW AES project in 1998 and till date it completed tenders of some small and rental power projects -- most of which were awarded to incompetent and wrong bidders.

The Bibiyana tender initially attracted pre-qualification bids from AES, Chevron, Powertek, Kepco, Summit and Malaysian YTL late last year.

Summit was conditionally selected at first, but then in January it was arbitrarily disqualified and YTL was also disqualified. Previously qualified for the

Sirajganj 450 MW power project, Summit repeatedly requested the Cell for reconsideration in vain. The world's leading turbine manufacturer GE was holding 20 percent stakes with Summit in this bid.

Soon after the pre-qualification, Powertek and Kepco announced its consortium and AES announced its sportsmen. It's politics," Golovina withdrawal. Finally, when the bid said. "Sports and politics are differsubmission date arrived, Powertek appeared as the lone bidder.

### Phelps

from page 1 "I was in the ready room. I didn't feel so good, I got these cold chills," he

"Afterwards, I looked up and saw President Bush giving me the thumbs up and holding up the American flag. That was pretty cool." But the Olympics, with its theme of "One World, One Dream", contin-

ued to be dogged by political reality. A series of bomb blasts, followed by gunfire, rocked a town in China's mainly Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang, state media reported, adding eight people were killed with four injured.

"After Phelps won his first gold, Park Tae-Hwan won South Korea's first-ever Olympic swimming gold in the men's 400m freestyle, Australia's Stephanie Rice set a world record in taking the women's 400m individual medley while the Netherlands were upset winners in the women's 4x100 freestyle relay.

The US relay team, anchored by 41-year-old Dara Torres at her fifth Olympics, finished second for her 10th career Olympic medal.

The US men's 4x100 relay team set a third pool world record winning their heat in the evening session where Phelps was again back in action cruising to second in his heat of the 200 metres freestyle.

As the deluge swamped the road cyclists and the temperature plunged, several riders fell on the rain-lashed course before Welshwoman Nicole Cooke pre vailed in a sprint finish for Britain's first gold.

The silver medal went to Sweden's Emma Johansson who was surprised by the rain.

Sometimes I felt like I was drowning more or less. Coming down the climb the first time I was just freezing and I couldn't stop shaking.

Top women's tennis seed Ana Ivanovic became the latest name player to pull out of the Olympics, complaining of a sore thumb, as rain reduced the opening day on the courts to a handful of completed matches.

US number one James Blake, one of the few to finish, said he drew inspiration from Phelps's performance as he beat Australia's Chris Guccione 6-3, 7-6.

# Aug 21 attack

warrants against four absconding accused -- Maulana Tajuddin Maulana Liton, Anisul Mursalin and his brother Mahibul Muttakin. They said they are yet to know the whereabouts of the absconders.

The court fixed August 31 for next hearing and directed the OCs of different police stations to submit reports on arrest warrants against other four absconding accused -- Iqbal, Jahangir Alam Badar, Abu Bakar alias Hafez Selim and Khalilur Rahman -- on the scheduled date.

Detained former lawmaker Abdus Salam Pintu, Huji chief Mufti Abdul Hannan and other accused, who are in jail custody now, were produced before the court yesterday.

Twenty-three people were killed and around 200 injured in the grenade attacks on the AL rally.

### Fema

FROM PAGE 16

"The state of emergency has enhanced the ordinary people's courage to come out and cast their votes," she observed.

basis of feedback from from its 515 fulltime and 195 roaming observ-According to the report, there

Fema prepared the report on the

was adequate presence of law enforcing agencies, good number of polling centres and voter turnout was high. In Rajsahi voter turnout was 75 per cent, Khulna 77.81 percent, Barisal 82 per cent and Sylhet 75 per cent.

The report identified some negative factors including issues related to voter ID cards, insufficient training of some polling officials and inefficient polling

The report said that vote casting was slow at centres where some voter ID card holders' names were not present on the voter list at the

There were also some instances of fake vote casting in Barisal Rajshai and Sylhet City Corporation polling centres, the report added.

Fema secretary general Muhammad Abdul Matin, among others, were present at the briefing.

#### Primary schools FROM PAGE 16 August 20 in the capital where a

series of protest programmes will be announced against the government decision," said association Secretary General M Mansur Ali. The tasks of Brac under the pilot project approved by the govern-

ment on May 23 this year include training teachers, activating the school managing committees (SMCs) and improving the overall education environment of the classrooms. Brac got the permission to

supervise primary schools at 20 upazilas in Sylhet, Habiganj, Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, Sirajganj, Patuakhali, Bagerhat, Munshiganj and Gazipur. The demands of the teachers

include nationalisation of their jobs, increase of house rent, medical allowance and dearness allowance. Association leaders Golam

Faruque Sarkar, Emtiaz Ali, Golam Mohammad, Abu Bakar Siddique, Mosharraf Hossain and Abul Kalam Azad, among others, were

# Musharraf

FROM PAGE 1

Musharraf," he revealed. "The president should avail the opportunity to make an honourable exit," he said, adding that a resignation would be "good for the nation and strengthen the democratic

Senior officials from the ruling coalition also advised the president to step down, saying he would not be able to fight the charges being lodged against him.

The call was made as a government committee met to finalise a charge sheet against Musharraf before the lower house starts impeachment proceedings, lawmakers in the governing coalition

Coalition leaders Zardari -- the widower of slain former premier Benazir Bhutto -- and former premier Nawaz Sharif announced Thursday that they would seek Musharraf's ouster for allegedly mismanaging the country.

"Cracks are visible in the PML-Q," Information Minister Sherry Rehman said

every day," she told reporters, adding that the committee had collected enough material against Musharraf. The committee will have another session on Monday to finalise the

"Musharraf is losing support

charge sheet, Rehman said after Sunday's meeting. "It will be a historic motion. It will

have solid points against Musharraf. Under Pakistan's constitution,

impeachment requires a two-thirds majority in a joint sitting of the upper and lower houses of parliament. "A comprehensive charge sheet is being prepared," Law Minister

Farooq Naek told reporters. The charges include "gross misconduct and violation of the constitution." "The charge sheet will be solid and Musharraf will not be able to

fight it," said the minister, a member of the committee drafting the charges. "It is better for him to resign before impeachment."

Naek did not provide further details, but Zardari on Thursday said

### Powdered milk

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladesh from Malaysia and the consignment had its pre-shipment inspection (PSI) done in Singapore. Bureau Varitus was the PSI company and Shaikat Traders was the C&F agent of the consignment.

During the yesterday's examination each of the 25-kg milk bags found in the containers had either KPF10NOV07 or REG10NOV07 printed on one side.

Mostafizur Rahman said MGG generally stands for the word "manufacture" but he does not know what KPForREG meant.

Joint Commissioner (Export) Kazi

Radioactivity test showed that the powdered milk had a radiation level within the limit.

"The authorities would decide on the fate of the seized powdered milk after consulting BSTI (Bangladesh Standard Testing Institution)," said the joint-commissioner.

Clean Report Finding (CRF) certificate, the importer collected from Radioactivity Testing and Monitoring Laboratory of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission in Chittagong and Bureau Vatitus, showed November, 2007 and November, 2009 as manufacturing and expiry dates.

The health certificate the importer produced from Australian Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry showed that the powdered milk--described as "MG" brand spray dried full cream milk powder--was processed during a period between November 05, 2007 and November 29, 2007.

It says nothing about the date of expiry, sources in Chittagong Customs House said.

Customs officials claimed that the Australian department usually issues a health certificate valid till one year of the manufacturing date for any food product. Representatives of Bureau Vatitus

said food products from European countries are said to be safe for consumption up to two years after manufacturing However, even if the powdered

milk can be released following the consultation with BSTI, the concerned parties, particularly the PSI company, would not be able to escape punitive actions for violating the IPO (Import Policy Order) rules, sources said.

### FROM PAGE 1

Corruption probe FROM PAGE 16

allegedly threatened him wit dire consequences. Officer-in-Charge of Mehendiganj Police Station Liaqat Ali told The Daily Star, "The UNO

The army major declined to talk to The Daily Star in this regard last

### 43 killed

zone.

filed the GD himself.

FROM PAGE 16 their own. Independent verification of the fighting is not possible because journalists are barred from the war

The rebels have been fighting for an independent state in the north and east since 1983, following decades of marginalisation of ethnic Tamils by governments dominated by the Sinhalese majority. The fighting has escalated in recent months after the government vowed to crush the rebels by the end of the year.

More than 70,000 people have been killed in the conflict. The government has poured a record 1.5 billion dollars into this year's war efforts and troops are now

concentrating on dismantling the LTTE's defacto state in the north. Colombo pulled out of a truce

"Musharraf worked to undermine the transition to democracy," and his policies "weakened the federation and eroded trust in national institu-

Ishaq Dar, a senior leader of Sharif's party, also said Musharraf

should resign to avoid impeach-"Musharraf still has time. It will be in his own interest if he resigns," Dar said. "We have far beyond the two-

thirds majority, he should realise Asked if the coalition would allow

a safe exit for the president, he said only the coalition leadership could decide. Musharraf's close ally, Mushahid

eral of the PML-Q, said the president could face the charges or resign.

been an army commando" and he will "digin and fight."

Washington on Thursday steered clear of the impeachment proceedings, saying it was an "internal" matter for Pakistan.

we had confidence in our own strength then we would not have to

said the country's print media at present needs the presence of specialised newspapers as the Arthik Khabar. Chief Editor of the Arthik Khabar Gazi Golam Dastagir

announced that the newspaper would be published weekly from Acting editor and publisher of the Daily Jugantor Salma Islam, Senior Vice president of FBCCI Abul Kashem Ahmed, Vice presi-

# ent at the ceremony.

other recent conflicts that have torn our continent apart, particularly in the Balkans," he said. Georgia said it had withdrawn

brought in 10,000 extra troops as well as building up a force of armoured vehicles on the Russian side of the border with Georgia. "We have left practically all of South Ossetia as an expression of

Georgian National Security Council Secretary Alexander Lomaia told AFP "We have asked United States Secretary of State Condoleezza

said Lomaia The radiation test report and the warning Russia that its "disproporof the conflict could significantly

> harm relations between Washington and Moscow. The United States said Sunday that Russia's reaction to any Georgian withdrawal from South Ossetia would be a key test of the

President George W. Bush on Saturday had led a chorus of international calls to end the hostilities which observers fear might spread to other parts of the volatile Caucasus region.

fleet from their base in Ukraine to positions near Georgia also threatened to destabilise the region. Ukraine's foreign ministry

The movement of Russia's naval

Ukrainian port of Sevastopol. A Russian press report claimed the battleships were preparing to implement a sea blockade on Georgia, but this was denied in

people in the South Ossetian capital, Tskhinvali, which Russian forces now control.

### WB arbitration

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID), the World Bank's independent arbitration institute located in the Hague, fixed the time after Petrobangla's lawyer Dr Kamal Hossain made a submission on theissue on August 5.

and a senior official of the energy ministry accompanied the legal consultant during the first hearing in The

"Now, the Petrobangla is making preparations to make its argument in the ICSID's Washington centre," said a top Petrobangla official.

sides agreed to move to the international court, the Petrobanglalast Wednesday appealed to the High Court for withdrawing its case against the oil company. Chevron's claim for 4 percent of the

issue between the two sides, as the US company declines to pay the charge for pipelineuse. Chevron says the 4 percent wheeling charge is applicable only if it

-to only Petrobangla. Initially, both the parties tried to resolve the issue through negotiation. According to Petrobangla officials, the state-owned agency would have to

with the LTTE in January, saying it had the upper hand in the longrunning conflict that has claimed tens of thousands of lives since 1972. ifit loses the case at the ICSID.

Hussain, who is also secretary gen-But, he said, "the president has

### Prof Barkat

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ask for donations, he added. Executive Editor of the Daily Sangbad Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul

chaired the discussion session. He

January next year. dent of the FBCCI Abu Alam Chowdhury, Muhammad Iqbal Zamal Jewel and advisory editor of the Arthik Khabar were also pres-

### Russia seizes

"This reminds me all too much of

most of its troops from South Ossetia and claimed Moscow had

goodwill and our willingness to stop military confrontation,'

Rice to mediate with the Russians, to transmit them our message,' The White House responded using strong diplomatic language, tionate and dangerous escalation

country's true intentions in the

threatened to prevent the warships from returning to their base in the

Moscow. South Ossetian authorities said in a statement that overnight shelling had killed 20 and wounded 150

According to official sources, the

Petrobangla Chairman Jalal Ahmed

He also mentioned that as both

gas bill that Petrobangla deducts as wheeling charge is a longstanding

uses Petrobangla's pipeline to supply gas to other parties, but that it has been supplying gas from the three gas fields--Jalalabad, Moulvibazar and Bibiyana-

pay back about \$40 million to Chevron