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Musharraf resigns

Wild celebrations on streets; world leaders urge stability in Pakistan



President Musharraf announces his resignation in a televised address to the nation yesterday.

AFP, AP, Islamabad

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf resigned yesterday, bringing down the curtain on a turbulent nine years in power to avoid the first impeachment in the country's history.

The former general, Musharraf, who seized power in a 1999 coup announced the move in a lengthy televised address, rejecting the charges against him but saying he wanted to spare Pakistan a damaging battle with the ruling coalition.

The departure of Musharraf set off wild celebrations at home, yet it was far from certain what would come next for a nation whose role in the "war on terror" has been increasingly questioned by Washington.

"After viewing the situation and consulting legal advisers and



HAMID MIR
From Pakistan

The end of a dictator

Pervez Musharraf is still living in fool's paradise. He resigned from the office of the President not for any guilt but he resigned under political pressure. Just few minutes before his speech he had told one of his close friends that coalition

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

Resignation avenges death of Benazir

Says Bilawal

AFP, CNN-IBN, Karachi New Delhi

The son of slain former Pakistani premier Benazir Bhutto yesterday hailed the resignation of Pervez Musharraf, saying the next president would be from Bhutto's party.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 8

11 killed in Chittagong landslide

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A rain-induced mudslide at Matijhama in Chittagong city early yesterday left 11 people, almost all

of two families, dead and two injured. The mudslide destroyed 14 houses of a slum built on a hillside from which the government was relocating families apprehending

the danger.

Sources and eyewitnesses said a large chunk of Tankir Pahar, a hill in Chittagong city, slid down on the tin-roofed houses of Hossain

Colony slum around 5:00am killing the 11 including six of a single family. Firemen with the help of locals recovered the bodies and sent the injured to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The dead were identified as Johora Akhter, 35, her daughter Sumaiya Akhter, 7, her three sons Amirul, 9, Khairul, 11, and Zahirul, 13, and her uncle Taju Mia, 55, Suro Mia, 55, his wife Anwara, 42, Fatema Begum, 45, her sister-in-law Bilkis, 15, and Shahjadi, 7.

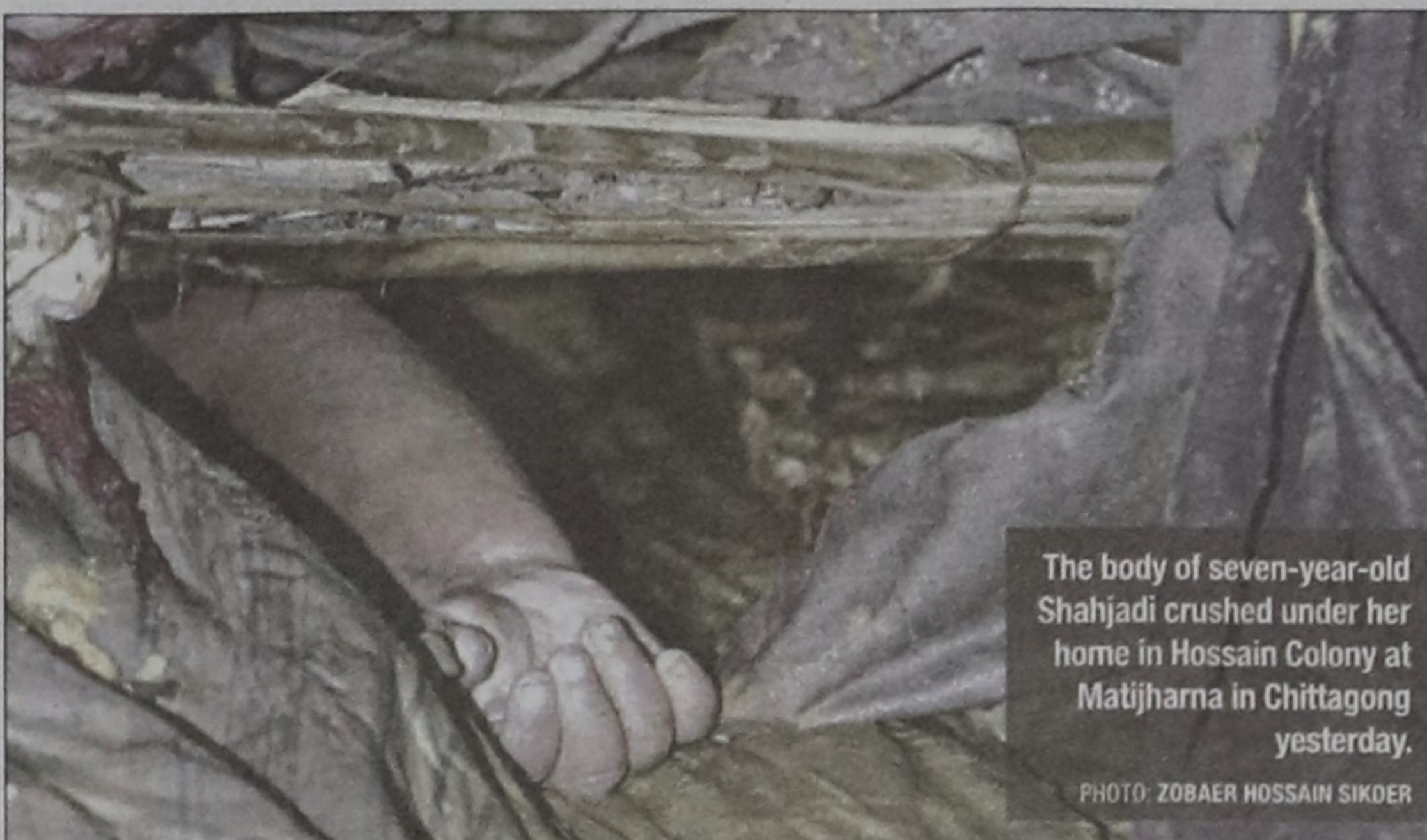
Suro Mia and Anwara's daughter Kulsom, 10, was injured and she underwent surgery in her leg in CMCH. The other injured was identified as Ayan Begum, 45.

END OF A FAMILY
Two years ago Johora came to Chittagong with her four kids hoping for a better life leaving behind her mentally challenged husband in Comilla.

She along with her kids and uncle Taju have been living in the single-room house at Matijhama slum as the rent was cheap. Her

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MORE PICTURES ON PAGE 5



The body of seven-year-old Shahjadi crushed under her home in Hossain Colony at Matijhama in Chittagong yesterday.

PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Concentrate on holding fair polls

CA also asks top bureaucrats to overcome 'partisan' concerns

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Adviser Fakhrudin Ahmed yesterday asked the country's top bureaucrats to overcome "partisan" concerns and concentrate on holding free, fair and credible upazila and general elections.

"It's everyone's responsibility to create an atmosphere conducive to holding free and fair elections," Fakhrudin told the secretaries at a meeting in the secretariat, according to his Press Secretary Syed Fahim Munaim.

Talking to the secretaries at the closed-door meeting, the chief adviser urged them to play their part to ensure that voters can cast their votes in December without fear.

"We'll be able to hand over power to an elected government through elections to be held in December if we get your overall cooperation,"

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

The writing always on the wall

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The unheeded warnings from geologists of landslides caused by hill-cutting are now a scary reality in Chittagong and other hill districts.

Over the years, the authorities concerned did not care to act on observations that levelling and denuding of hills raise the spectre of mudslides.

Landslides in Chittagong, Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts have left more than 200 people dead and scores injured in the last three decades.

They are getting more frequent these days with clearing of hills continuing unabated, observe environment experts. Particularly in the port city, things are so bad that even moderate rains there could trigger mudslides.

Citing examples of China and Pakistan, geologists said the extent and frequency of landslides will rise even faster if earthquakes strike at regular intervals.

SEE PAGE 6 COL 5

WINNERS IN AUG 4 POLLS

NBR, cops asked to check vital records

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday asked the National Board of Revenue (NBR) and police department to check income tax returns, wealth statements and police records of those elected in the August 4 polls.

The documents submitted to the commission before the elections were sent to the NBR and the office of inspector general of police (IGP) yesterday afternoon, EC Secretariat sources said.

Earlier on August 4, the EC decided to investigate allegations that some of the officials-elect had turned in false or incomplete information.

Candidates in the local polls had to produce statements on their professions, annual income and expenditure, assets and liabilities, sources of election funds and records of police cases, and copies of last income tax returns.

The EC Secretariat has

requested the NBR and IGP to give opinions on each of those elected in light of checks on their documents.

Four mayors and 157 councilors have been elected to four city corporations while nine mayors and 108 councilors to nine municipalities.

The electoral rules provide for punitive actions against an elected local representative for providing false information or holding back anything on financial matters.

The EC will ask the LGRD ministry, the custodian of local government bodies, to take measures against the winner who would be found guilty, EC Secretariat officials said.

The electoral rules also carry a provision for filing criminal cases with courts for a breach of electoral rules.

REGISTRATION OF POLITICAL PARTIES
Chief Election Commissioner

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

PIO to deal with law, order too

Explains DMP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The newly formed Political Intelligence Office (PIO), a specialised unit of the detective branch (DB) under Dhaka Metropolitan Police, will also be tasked with forecasting probable disruptions of law and order in the capital besides gathering intelligence on political parties and their front

organisations.

However, the PIO will have only 20 personnel -- an assistant commissioner (AC), two inspectors, eight sub-inspectors (SI), two assistant SIs, three constables and four computer operators -- to perform the gargantuan task.

As yet, an AC and two SIs have been assigned with their new

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স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক

এখন বেনারসী পল্লী এবং কাক ও চারুকর্মে মুখর বর্ষিষ্ণু জনপদ ঢাকার মিরপুরে

স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিমিটেড-এর ৩০ তম শাখার শুভ উদ্বোধন ১৯ আগস্ট, ২০০৮

উদ্বোধন করবেন জনাব কাজী আকরাম উদ্দিন আহমদ চেয়ারম্যান, স্ট্যান্ডার্ড ব্যাংক লিঃ

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