## 11 killed in Chittagong

often build flimsy homes on risky

hillsides and valleys and rent those

twice a week we have so far demol-

ished 230 shanties in Matijharna

slums," said Monwara Begum

destroyed were put under lock and

key and the residents were asked to

families alleged that they could not

leave the shanties without clearing

of Piko advised us to lock the shan-

ties and leave during relocation

drives," said Ayub Ali, a tenant of

at Matijharna on railway land over

of slums also developed on govern-

ment khas land around the hills at

Jamtali, Lalkhan Bazar, South

Pahartali and an area west of Foy's

belong to Bangladesh Railway,

Forest Department and Public

last year, a committee led by the

Chittagong divisional commis-

sioner was formed to compensate

and rehabilitate the people

affected in landslides in

Hathazari upazila was selected for

rehabilitating landslide victims

immediately after the incident. The

site had to be cancelled as it fell

under the firing range of

Bangladesh Army," said

Chittagong Divisional

Commissioner Hossain Jamil

talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

the city centre and discouraged

working people to move there, he

later selected another 5.92 acres of

land worth Tk 53 crore belonging to

far as I know the proposal is now

under consideration of the minis-

tries concerned," said the divi-

loss of 11 lives in landslide in

Chittagong yesterday, UNB

the president in a message said

more active and people's aware-

ness must be raised to avoid repeti-

quick treatment to the injured. He

departed souls and conveyed deep

members.

FROM PAGE 16

sympathy to the bereaved family

Jail killing case

Dhaka Central Jail on November 3,

A designated death-reference

division bench of the High Court

comprising Justice Nozrul Islam

Chowdhury and Justice M Ataur

Rahman Khan started delivering

court sentenced three--Risalder

(retd) Muslemuddin, Dafadar

(dismissed) Marfat Ali Shah and

Dafadar (dismissed) Abul Hashem

Mridha-- to death and awarded life

imprisonment to 12 mid-level

and an army officer of the killings

It had acquitted four politicians

Those awarded life imprison-

ment are Lt Col (dismissed) Syed

Farook Rahman, Lt Col (retd) Sultan

Shahriar Rashid Khan, Maj (retd)

Bazlul Huda, Lt Col (dismissed)

Khondaker Abdur Rashid, Lt Col

(relieved) Shariful Huq Dalim, Lt Col

(retd) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, Maj

(Retd) AKM Mohiuddin Ahmed, Lt

Col (retd) AM Rashed Chowdhury,

Major (relieved) Ahmed Sharful

Hossain, Capt (retd) Abdul Mazed,

Captain (relieved) Kismat Hashem,

and Captain (relieved) Nazmul

feeling sick, the authorities formed

a three-member medical board led

by Asst Prof Dr Akhtaruzzaman of

Osmani Medical College Hospital

at around 9:30pm on the advice of

Kamran was admitted to Sylhet

His mother Nurunnesa Lalon's

Sylhet Osmani Medical College

Hossain Ansar.

FROM PAGE 16

Kamran

the medical board

On October 20, 2004, the trial

the judgment after 2:00pm.

army officers for the killing.

tion of such incident in future.

Terming the incident shocking,

He said around 2,400 families

sional commissioner.

The site was also way off from

As an alternative, the committee

"We have sent a proposal for

"A 27-acre khas hilly-land under

Works Department.

Chittagong

These pieces of land mostly

Following the June 11 landslides

Over 3,000 shanties sprung up

Like Matijharna a good number

"Men collecting rents on behalf

move," said local CCC ward coun-

cillor Kabir Manik.

all the unpaid rent.

Piko.

decades.

"Making the relocation drive

"The houses that were

to people of low-income group.

husband Jasim joined them later and she brought in her brother

Hasan to her home recently. Jasim and Hasan were the ones mourning the death of almost all in

the family yesterday.

Hasan yesterday said, "We were sleeping on the bed and on the floor last night. I woke up hearing a sound of something big falling and immediately found myself covered in mud and pinned down by the ceiling fan and the tin-roof. I could see nothing and had difficulty breathing.'

"I struggled desperately, freed one of my hands, removed the debris and found a way out," said the 21-year-old. He then broke down in tears trying to say that he could do nothing for the others.

KULSUM BECOMES AN ORPHAN Suru Mia and his wife Anwara worked together as chef's help at a community centre in Chittagong and died together under the mud

Anwara's brother Mofiz was staying with her as he was having treatment for TB in the city.

"With the lower part of her body under the heap of mud Ano [Anwara] was moaning in pain and asking for water when I came out of the mud and debris around 7:00am," said Mofiz. "Locals helped me rescue my

niece Kulsum... her leg was broken. It was all over before I could give Ano water," said Mofiz with tears rolling down his cheeks.

Suru and Anwara's bodies were recovered another three hours later while their only child Kulsum was undergoing surgery in CMCH. Fifteen-year-old Bilkis went to

her relative Fatema's house to give her company yesterday as Fatema's husband and children were visiting their village home in Chandpur.

Bilkis's parents live only a few hundred yards away in the same slum. "I did not even know when my daughter went to Fatema's home," said her father Shahid Ali.

Bilkis's body was recovered around 2:20pm.

Rescuers recovered the body of Bangladesh Railway at Jahan Ali seven-year-old Shahajadi around Hat near Kalurghat Bridge. 12:30pm under the debris of her developing rehabilitation centres The district administration and at the newly selected sites and as

Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) immediately moved around 40 families to a local school from the hillside slum. CCC acting Mayor Manjur

Alam, Chittagong Divisional Commissioner Hossain Jamil, and Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Shamim visited the spot. The CCC also formed a five-

member probe body led by CCC Chief Revenue Officer Mohiuddin Ahmed Khan. The other members of the committee are CCC Chief Conservancy Officer Saifuddin Mahmud Katebi, Estate Officer Ahmedul Haque and local ward councillors Kabir Manik and Monwara Begum Moni. The committee was asked to submit its report within three days. The 14 destroyed houses were

among around 150 structures also prayed for the salvation of the advocate Abdullah Hasan Piko erected in the slum which was named after his late father Md Hossain.

The CCC acting mayor said they would file a case against the owner of the houses for renting houses when the CCC was relocating the families living in the area. The district administration

opened a relief camp at Lalkhan Bazar Govt Primary School and the 14 families, whose houses were destroyed, were moved there, said Divisional Commissioner Hossain The district administration

would provide food relief, financial assistance and compensation to the victims' families, he added. Deputy Commissioner Ashraf

Shamim said, "We have already sent one tonne of rice as immediate food relief for the affected people. We will provide Tk 5,000 for each victim's burial along with the compensation. The compensation would be provided from a fund the district administration raised for landslide victims," he said.

Ashraf said families would be provided Tk 50,000 in damages for losing one family member, Tk 70,000 for two, Tk 80,000 for three, Tk 90,000 for four and Tk 1 lakh for five or more.

Thousands of people still live on hillsides or in valleys which are vulnerable to mudslides and land-

On June 11 last year mudslides left 127 people dead in Chittagong.

Relocating people to safer areas have often failed to achieve the expected results. Yesterday's landslide happened

during an ongoing relocation programme in the area.

A number of influential locals

## RMG worker

FROM PAGE 16 shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctors declared her dead.

saying anything, she added.

marry her off to him.

until yesterday evening.

Sheikh Mohammad Abu Zahid,

Police Station said Morshed is known

to the victim's family for the last four

years and he's been pressing them to

filed a murder case with the Khilgaon

police station accusing Morshed.

Ruby's father Kalam Matubbar

Police could not arrest Morshed

body was laid to rest at Hazrat DMCH sources said they found Manik Pir Graveyard following the several marks of stab injuries in her namaz-e-janaza at Naya Sarak throat, abdomen and hands. Mosque. People from all walks of

Sumi said Morshed went to their life attended the funeral. Kamran's mother passed away house on Sunday night with a maron Sunday at Square Hospital in the riage proposal, which her father capital. She actively campaigned turned down asking him not to come for her son in his successful bid to again with such a proposal since Ruby does not like him.

the mayoral race held on Aug 4. The Sylhet city mayor-elect was Morshed left the house without arrested on 29 May last year. Several allegations including amassing of illegal wealth have officer in-charge (OC) of Khilgaon

been brought against him. Kamran is scheduled to be produced before the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Sylhet today (Tuesday) for the hearing of charge sheet submission in the illegal wealth case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission, said sources.

## Bangladeshi

FROM PAGE 16 Bader Al-Duwaila as saying that said he will never allow companies

to violate laws and the ministry will definitely not permit companies to infringe on the rights of workers. He said strict legal action would be initiated against all errant com-

cials own them. The Kuwait Times report quoted one worker as saying that the company that hired them had agreed to pay each worker Kuwaiti Dinar The members of the affected (KD) 60 per month but in fact was

panies even if high-ranking offi-

paying only KD 50 per month. The worker also said that the company refused to pay them airfares in accordance with their contract, which stipulates one air ticket home every two years. Also the company forced the workers to pay KD 70 each for renewal of residence and health insurance in

violation of local laws. The Kuwaiti National Assembly Secretary General Allam Al-Kandari however denied that there was any protest by its workers and that they had gathered to receive their IDs, according to the report.

Meanwhile, nearly 700 Bangladeshis gathered outside the Bangladesh embassy demanding that the embassy take appropriate actions to help the workers realise their dues.

Five labourers were chosen as representatives to discuss the issue with embassy officials.

The Arab Times, meanwhile, reported that the acting Speaker of the National Assembly Roudhan Al-Roudhan has promised to discuss the issue with the secretary general of the assembly and compel the concerned company to pay the workers' salaries.

Earlier in late July, thousands of Bangladeshi workers demonstrated in Kuwait in demand of better pays and working conditions, which led to deportation of 1129 workers. However Kuwait declared minimum wage of KD 40 for cleaners.

A number of workers deported by the Kuwaiti police, upon their arrival in Dhaka said that the Kuwaiti police had tortured them and deported them though they had not taken part in any demonstrations.

### could be rehabilitated at Jahan Ali NBRPRESIDENT'S CONDOLENCE

FROM PAGE 1 President lajuddin Ahmed expressed profound shock at the

(CEC) ATM Shamsul Huda yesterday said the EC will begin the process of registration once the Representation of People Order (RPO) is finalised.

"The RPO will be finalised in a local administration should be day or two, and soon after that, we will start registration of the political parties," he told reporters at the He urged all concerned to expe-EC Secretariat. dite rescue operations and provide

The same day Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain said the political parties would be asked to register with the EC in line with the final schedule for the ninth parliamentary elec-

He was talking to a group of reporters at his office.

Asked if the EC has drawn up any time frame for the registration task, he replied in the negative.

According to the electoral roadmap, provisions geared for electoral and intra-party reforms were supposed to take effect by February this year, and after that, the political parties were to be given four months to register with the EC.

The long-stalled national election is tentatively slated for the third week in December.

## Fair polls

### FROM PAGE 1

made in response to demand. The civil servants demanded a legal regulatory framework for all

postings and promotions. Fakhruddin said the secretaries should continue to "make proper evaluation of the work of the officials. Apply right persons in the right places. Look carefully at their career planning."

He said the next democratically elected government would carry out the caretaker government's ongoing administrative reforms.

The civil servants also urged the chief adviser to sort out numerous state-owned enterprises that continue to incur heavy losses.

Demanding broader opportunities, the top bureaucrats asked Fakhruddin to direct the foreign ministry to work on opening up positions for them in the United Nations system and peacekeeping missions.

The chief adviser also asked the bureaucrats to monitor the prices of essentials and the service sectors during the month of Ramadan. On the new 100-day employ-

ment generation programme due to start next month, he urged the civil servants to ensure that benefits reach all levels of livelihoods. He said although "the country's

economy is back on track" poverty alleviation remains the central target of the government. He also lauded the publication

of a citizen's charter by various ministries. "Formulating and demonstrating the citizen charter is the first

step, but its implementation is difficult," the chief adviser added. Cabinet Secretary Ali Imam Mazumder also spoke in the closed-door meeting.

## Musharraf resigns

FROM PAGE 1

political allies, with their advice I have decided to resign," Musharraf, wearing a sober suit and tie, said near the end of his one-hour address.

"Heave my future in the hands of the people.

Across the nation, his opponents rejoiced after the former general announced he was resigning.

Celebrations erupted at special areas set up in major cities and dozens of other towns for people to hear Musharraf's final address to the nation. Widescreen televisions were set up in some spots.

"The nation is so happy," university student Saba Gul said, as people embraced and handed out sweets. The sound of banging drums and

cheers of joy echoed throughout this ancient walled city. Elsewhere, people fired Kalashnikovs in the air to celebrate.

Coalition leaders Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain ex-premier Benazir Bhutto, and Nawaz Sharif, who was ousted by Musharraf in 1999, were shown shaking hands and smiling after his speech but gave no immediate reaction. His decision to quit came after

the coalition said it was ready to press ahead with impeachment as three assassination attempts while early as Tuesday. It was not known if Musharraf had concluded a deal that would save him from prosecution in the days ahead. "If we continue with the politics

the country," the 65-year-old Musharraf said. "People will never pardon this government if they fail But several close aides said Musharraf was not set to go into

exile as several of Pakistan's former

of confrontation, we will not save

leaders have done. "He is not going anywhere," one aide said. The president said he would give his formal resignation to the speaker of parliament later Monday. Senate chairman Mohammedmian Soomro will act as caretaker presi-

expected in the next few weeks. Musharraf later received a final guard of honour from troops at the presidency as a brass band played the national anthem.

dent until an election, which is

World leaders urged stability and unity in Pakistan -- regarded by the West as a key partner in fighting terrorism -- as they reacted to news of Musharraf's resignation as presi-'We will continue to work with

the Pakistani government and political leaders and urge them to redouble their focus on Pakistan's future and its most urgent needs, including stemming the growth of extremism," US Secretary of State Condoleezza Ricesaid. In a statement, Rice called

Musharraf "a friend to the United States and one of the world's most committed partners in the war against terrorism and extremism." Britain said Musharraf's

announcement ended a "critical period" in Pakistan's history, and called for political leaders in Islamabad to unite to keep their nation on course with economic and security cooperation. Pakistan's regional rival India

declined to comment on Musharraf's decision, with the foreign ministry in Delhi describing it as an "internal matter" for its neighbour.

His troubles began last year when he sacked senior judges who opposed him, clearing the way for his re-election while still holding a dual role as head of the country's powerful armed forces.

The move set off mass protests in the streets that built into a national crisis, which saw Musharraf declare a state of emergency in November.

But he was compelled to quit as army chief within weeks, and when his administration was seen to have bungled the handling of the December assassination of Benazir

### KL to share

FROM PAGE 16 Bangladesh is soon going to sign

similar MoUs with UK, Thailand and Sri Lanka. "It will help investigation into

cases concerning criminals smuggling out huge money from Bangladesh to other countries," said Many corruption suspects of

Bangladesh have reportedly invested huge money in Malaysia taking advantage of the Malaysian "Second Home Project". The foreign ministry last year

requested the Malaysian government to give a list of these suspects but it did not respond. "Now that the MoU is signed,

Malaysia will provide bank information on any Bangladeshi who took advantage of the Second Home Project," a senior BB official noted. The 25 other countries with

which Bangladesh is trying to have similar agreements include India, the Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, the Maldives, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Mauritius, Vietnam and Cambodia. "But we have not initiated fruitful

negotiations with some major countries, which have become destinations of money launderers and corrupt people," the official said. APGTEAM An expert team from the Asia/Pacific

Group on Money Laundering (APG) led by its Executive Principal David Shannon yesterday met the BB Governor and other high officials on the first day of its visit. The team will evaluate the country's safeguard against money laundering and terror financing till August 31. The five-member team will crosscheck if the newly enacted anti-

money laundering and terror financ-

ing acts of Bangladesh maintained

standards of international acts on

similar issues, said a BB official.

# Bhutto, his fate seemed to be sealed

Voters underscored his unpopularity at the ballot box in February, handing the parties of Benazir and

Sharifa massive victory. "After the martyrdom of my mother I said that democracy was the best revenge -- and today it was proved true," said Benazir's 19year-old son, Bilawal.

The possible impeachment charges against Musharraf were expected to be related to his sacking of the judges, but in his speech he strongly defended every aspect of his time in power -- even the coup nine years ago.

He said he had improved a totter ing economy, helped establish law and order, fostered democracy and burnished the country's international stature.

"On the map of the world Pakistan is now an important country, by the grace of Allah," Musharraf The president was also backed

into a corner by the resurgency of Islamic militants in the tribal areas along Pakistan's border with Afghanistan, who launched a massive wave of attacks last year that left more than 1,000 dead. Musharraf himself survived

holding what some have called the most dangerous job in the world, and went from being a backer of the Taliban to a close US ally after the September 11, 2001 attacks. The United States gave no imme

Musharraf's resignation ended a "critical period in Pakistan's his-Berlin called on the next presi dent to help bring stability in neigh bouring Afghanistan, while Kabul said it hoped the resignation would

lead to a "strengthening of the

civilian government and democracy

diate reaction, but British Foreign

Secretary David Miliband said

in Pakistan. White House foes John McCain and Barack Obama on Monday welcomed the resignation of Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf, both expressing hopes the move would end that country's political crisis.

In separate statements, the candidates, who have been squabbling over foreign policy, noted the vital role Pakistan plays in the US battle against global terrorism, but stopped short of praising Musharraf.

Democratic candidate Obama said the United States must press the next Pakistani government to carry out a crackdown against Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. "There can be no safe haven for

terrorists who threateneithe American people," said, Obama, who once said he would be ready as president to strike against terror suspects in Pakistan if Islamabad did not act on US intelligence. "A year ago, I advocated that the

US move from a 'Musharraf policy to a 'Pakistan policy," he said. Republican McCain said the

resignation of Musharraf was a step toward moving Pakistan onto a more stable political footing." "Pakistan is a critical theater in countering the threat of Al-Qaeda

and violent Islamic extremism, and I look forward to the government increasing its future cooperation, McCain said in a statement. "The situation in Pakistan's frontier regions requires immediate

and continued attention, and I hope that the elections for President Musharraf's successor will serve to reconcile the Pakistani people behind a leader who can solidify their government internally."

### Kidnappers

Police recovered Mahbub's decomposed body at an abandoned place at Jatrabari on Sunday night.

The law enforcers yesterday detained three persons, including rickshaw-puller Showkat Ali, the husband of Mahbub's aunt and the parents of suspected kidnapper Mohammad Parvez, who is now on the run.

Victim's family sources said Mahbub went missing at about 7:00pm on Thursday. "Mahbub was studying in the

evening. When the electricity went off, he went out of the house and had been missing since then, Mahbub's maternal uncle and trader Nasir Uddin told The Daily "An unidentified person called

on Friday evening and demanded a ransom of Tk 2 lakh. The caller said if Mahbub's family members want him alive, they have to pay them the money within two hours," Nasir said When the person called again

Mahbub's uncle Abdul Awal Khan

on Saturday night, Mahbub's father expressed his inability to pay them Tk 2 lakh. Later, the ransom was settled at

Showkat went to Dholaipar Bazar

Tk 25,000. Of the amount, Tk 15,000 had to be paid in advance while Tk 10,000 after Mahbub's release. Mahbub's father Shafiqul, along with his brother Awal and

to pay Parvez, one of the kidnapmade extensive plans in line with pers, Tk 15,000. Awami League's economic plan-Parvez took the money and fled ning," she said. the scene without handing over Mahbub to them. Later, Mahbub's decomposed

body was found near Jatrabari Police Station. Police detained Showkat Ali and the parents of Parvez. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. The boy had been killed at least Hasina will fly for Canada today to three days before his body was

recovered, said Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue sources. A general diary was filed with Jatrabari Police Station. ment, ANA said.

FROM PAGE 16 about the candidates in due time by the Election Commission (EC), which said it would be 'immoral' to make information about the candi-

dates public before withdrawal of

nomination. "Moreover, many candidates gave false or incomplete information in their affidavits. But the EC has not taken any punitive measures against them," said Badiul Alam.

The EC, which was far too lenient with selection of nomination papers, did not take any step to cancel the nominations that had inconsistencies in information, he said. All expected that honest and

competent candidates would be elected in the future polls following the January 11 'changeover'. But sadly, the political parties did not hesitate to nominate candidates accused of crime and corruption, Badiul Alam said. "But, we must not be frustrated.

For the first time, it has been made mandatory that the candidates will provide their personal information in affidavits," he added. The EC must crosscheck the information provided by the candi-

dates and make those public in due

time to give people the chance to make the right decision during the polls, said Shujan Chairman Prof Muzaffer Ahmad. He said it is positive that a few new

faces have been elected in the recent local body polls. ASM Shahjahan, former adviser to a caretaker government, said the

recent polls have proved that reform is not a matter of imposition, rather it should come from political parties themselves. "Although many candidates provided false information, the EC

did not cancel their candidature," he Jatiya Party (JP) leader GM Quader said the political parties are yet to identify their faults.

The present government seems to be flexible about release of politicalleaders.

"But such actions will lead to criminalisation of politics again," he

Another JP leader Sheikh

Shahidul Islam said no positive change is visible in political parties as the present government has confined political activities to indoors for along time. He also said the compromising

attitude of the caretaker government will not help sustain reforms in Former adviser to a caretaker government Hafizuddin Khan, Prof Dilara Chowdhury of Jahangirnagar

## Shamim Iskander

University and columnist Syed Abdul

FROM PAGE 1

Maksud also spoke.

Shamim, a former flight engineer of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, was earlier arrested in connection with the case and later released on bail following a High Court (HC) order.

Shamim's wife Fatema got bail from the HC after she surrendered before it and sought an anticipatory bail. The HC also stayed the proceedings of the case for four In the charge sheet, the IO men-

tioned that Shamim Iskander amassed wealth worth about Tk 1.34 crore through illegal means and concealed information regarding wealth worth Tk 81.81 lakh from

CASE AGAINST KHALEDA

Judge Mohammad Azizul Haque of the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court passed the order after Khaleda's lawyers submitted a bail petition against a rejection order of the lower court.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Golam Rabbani rejected Khaleda's bail petition on July 30. Khaleda's elder son detained

BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman is also an accused in the case. The five others accused are former BNP lawmaker Qazi Saleemul Hug Kamal, Syed Ahmed alias Sayeed Ahmed, Gias Uddin

Ahmed, Sharfuddin Ahmed and

Mominur Rahman, son of Khaleda's

sister. Of them, Sharfuddin is in jail custody and the others absconding. According to the case filed by ACC Deputy Assistant Director Harunur Rashid, the then prime minister Khaleda Zia and the other accused embezzled over Tk 2.10 crore estab lishing the named organisation that

exists only on paper.

withdrawal of the state of emergency release of party leaders and with drawal of all 'false cases' filed against them, according to reports of USbased news agencies American News Agency (ANA) and News World. The former prime minister said it

is now proved that people's welfare cannot be achieved without a democratic order and a representative She pledged that if her party is voted to power in the next election,

they would bring down prices of essentials within the reach of general people, create employment opportunities, eradicate illiteracy and solve problems of agriculture sector. 'My prime target is to implement the 2020 vision to make Bangladesh a developed nation and, for this I've

Hasina thanked the government for observing at state level August 15 as National Mourning Day and a public holiday. She demanded immediate execution of court verdict in the case for the killing of Bangabandhu

meet her daughter and stay there for about two weeks. She would return to US in the second week of next month for follow-up medical treat-

## Criminalisation Isinbaeva vaults

Isinbaeva said she thought she

could go higher. "I don't know how high I can go," she said. "My coach says I can

go 5.20m or higher and I trust him." The height was also a massive 25cm higher than her closest competitor in an event she has completely dominated for the last four years and in which she has rarely been tested by rivals.

The 26-year-old has been the world record holder since July 2004 and has now raised the bar on 24 occasions, although until last discus. month she had not broken the

outdoor mark since 2005. However, it wasn't all good

There was also the sad sight of Chinese hurdler Liu Xiang limping to the starting blocks, trying to race through injuries and quickly finding out he couldn't.

Liu is China's first-ever male gold medalist in track, having won the 110 meters in Athens. Folks have spent the last four years expecting him to do it again on home turf, and in this land of 1.3 billion people, he's nearly as much of a celebritynot just sports star, full-fledged celebrityas their main man, Yao Ming.

That's why people inside the stadium cried. Why folks watching at subway stations gasped. Why his personal coach was too overcome with grief to speak at a news confer-

The Olympics, however, still went on Monday

Other notable events included another rout by the USA men's basketball and softball teams, a frustrating silver for gymnast Nastia Liukin and a bad break, in more ways than one, for USA cyclists.

China heads the medal table with 39 gold, four more than their previous best of 32 in Athens and well ahead of the United States on

China reaped another four gold medals Monday, three in gymastics and the men's team table tennis, while the United States won two in

After a series of athletics setbacks here, the United States fortunes turned when Angelo Taylor led home Kerron Clement and Bershawn Jackson to sweep the 400m hurdles final and Stephanie Brown-Trafton won the women's

steeplechase, winning their seventh consecutive title, while 18year-old Pamela Jelimo became the first Kenyan woman to win an Olympic track gold when she won the 800m.

Mozambique's Maria Mutola finished fifth in the 33-year-old's

Vanessa Fernandes of Portugal.

men's and women's yachting 470 Great Britain ended a 100-year

drought in cycling's team pursuit, racing away with the title for the their own world record on the way in 3min 53.314sec.

Australia to claim the bronze. In women's football, Brazil came from a goal down to thrash Germany 4-1 in their semifinal, avenging their defeat in last year's World Cup final, and setting up a gold medal match against the

## PIO to deal

offices and other necessary logistics, said sources at the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) Top police officials said the pri-

update the DMP about activities or programmes taken up by political parties, students or factory workers so the DMP can swiftly act before the situation gets out of hand. Since the city SB does not work directly under the DMP commissioner, it usually takes six to seven hours for an intelligence report

prepared by the city SB to reach the

DMP commissioner's office, a top

police official seeking anonymity

said explaining the grounds behind

forming of the PIO. "The DMP, on several occasions, haven't been able to take quick action due to the outdated information," he said, adding that once the operations of the PIO gets into full swing, the DMP top officials will be able to get updated reports whenever needed.

According to the modalities of its work, the PIO will develop a detailed information database on political parties, their front organisations and their leaders and activists. Asked whether such a small unit

will be able to effectively carry out the

massive task, the official said the PIO

would collect the information mainly from the city SB. Whenever a certain matter would require urgent attention, the PIO would gather its own intelligence, he said adding that the PIO will also

prepare analytical reports on important political matters. On October 19, 2006, home ministry of the then government issued a gazette notification of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (Detective Branch) Rules 2006 under section 109 of Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance 1976. Section 36 of the rules had the provision to form the Political Intelligence Office (PIO).

DMP Commissioner Naim Ahmed vesterday said the PIO has not been established to harass politicians rather it will help maintain law and order in the capital. "DMP is a service-oriented

BRIEFING OF THE DMP

COMMISSIONER

to harass anyone," Naim said at a press briefing at his office. The DMP commissioner also said the PIO has been formed under the DMP Rules 2006.

have the capacity to harass politi-

organisation which has no intention

It has been the city SB's task to update the DMP commissioner about law and order situation in the capital and the PIO will work alongside the city SB and other units of the police department with the same goal before them, explained the DMP

The PIO does not intend to or

ALREACTION Awami League (AL) acting President Zillur Rahman yesterday said the caretaker government has introduced

the Political Intelligence Office (PIO) to depoliticise the country. "We strongly oppose it," Zillur told reporters at his Gulshan residence in the capital after a views-

# Rab seizes drug

tion for the last few months that Dupper is being used as an alternative drug to Yaba after massive crackdown on dealers and peddlers of Yaba about a year back, this is the first ever seizure of Dupper, said DNC

associates has been selling the drugs for the last one year in the capital and other parts of the country. He also told Rab that they sell 10

22 and Great Britain on 12 as the Olympics went into their final

athletics and one in equestrian.

Brimin Kipruto continued Kenya's dominance of the 3000m

sixth and final Olympics. Australia won three gold medals on the day starting with the women's triathlon where triple world champion Emma Snowsill won by more than a minute from

Australia also won both the

first time since 1908 and smashing Denmark claimed the silver medal while New Zealand beat

defending Olympic champions

United States who beat Japan 4-2.

## exchange meeting with Bangladesh

responsibilities, pending designated Chhatra League (BCL) leaders.

> introduction of new rules and regulations, the AL leader said Zillur said it would be tough for the government to hold the national election by December as per the

tion in four months' time. "We have no alternative but towait as the government has been

formulating various laws and speaking about holding other polls. We don't know whether they [govern-

He urged the BCL leaders to remain united to foil any conspiracy in the future. Recently released BCL General

leaders were present at the meeting. Meanwhile, Barisal City Corporation (BCC) mayor-elect Shawkat Hossain Hiron along with several district party leaders met Zillur

They requested Zillur to take punitive measurers against those

Bilawal

FROM PAGE 1 "After the martyrdom of my mother I said that democracy was

president of Pakistan but I don't know who that would be," he told Pakistan's GEO television at Karachi airport after flying in from Dubai. The student at Britain's elite Oxford University was named as

The party won the most seats in elections in February and now leads a coalition government that also includes the party of Nawaz

reports have said that he is in the running to replace Musharraf, although he would be a divisive After weeks of flip-flopping and speculation on will he, won't he, Pakistan President Pervez

Pakistan's ruling coalition irregularities - welcomed the decision on Monday, with PML-N leader, Nawaz Sharif saying that the resignation was a "victory for

regime. We can say a dark period of their life has ended," he said. Nawaz added, "Now, the democratic government of Pakistan will

vidual's aspiration.

for "supporting democracy"

# and alleged that at least 10 to 12 cen-

PPP chairman days after his mother was killed in a suicide

Sharif, the prime minister ousted by Musharrafin 1999. Asif Ali Zardari, his father, is the effective chief of the PPP and

Musharraf finally announced his resignation as the head of the state in a national televised address. which decided to impeach him for alleged misconduct, violation of the Constitution and financial

Pakistan) are free from dictatorial

He also thanked all the people of the world as well as the media

### FROM PAGE 16 Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) had been receiving informa-

sources. The arrestee said he along with his

Dupper capsules for Tk 500. Rashed's associates, added the Rab official.

Rab has launched a drive to arrest

### demanding a congenial atmosphere to function independently, the government is trying to put restricmary purpose of the PIO is to timely tion on political activities through

announced electoral roadmap. "But they [government] have no option but to stick to the roadmap, he said replying to a query whether is it possible to hold the national elec-

repeatedly assuring us of holding the election as per the roadmap," said Zillur adding that it is the constitutional obligation of the government to hold the national election first. "Instead of doing that they are

ment] are hatching any 'new conspiracy'," Zillur said.

Secretary Mahfuzul Haider Chowdhury Roton and other student

tral AL leaders conspired against him during the city corporation polls.

## leaders immediately.

the best revenge -- and today it was proved true," said 19-year-old Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, the chairman of the Pakistan People's Party. "Someone from the Pakistan People's Party would be the next

bombing at an election rally on December 27.

the people of Pakistan". "Today they (the people of

have to perform and prove to the people that it is capable. It will have to fulfil each and every indi-

When political parties are