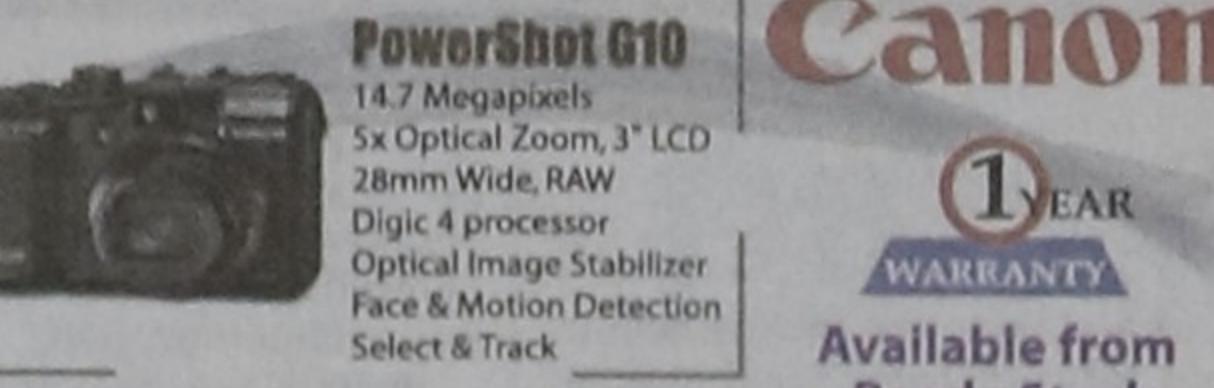




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CG to face court if fair polls not held: Dr Kamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain said yesterday that if the caretaker government fails to hold a free and fair election, then they would have to face a court of law to answer for their actions.

He was speaking at a meeting of Gono Forum's central committee at its headquarters at Arambagh in the city.

The eminent lawyer called on the present government to follow the guidelines towards holding a proper election.

Dr Kamal Hossain said a credible election is not possible by compromising with terrorist and corrupted people. The caretaker government has to be made accountable for carrying out tasks

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## Tigers look to bounce back

BISHWAJIT ROY in Johannesburg

Bangladesh promised to be better equipped to tackle fiery South African paceman Dale Steyn when they play the second one-day of the three-match series at Willowmoore Park in Benoni today.

The match starts at 2pm Bangladesh time with Bangladesh Television beaming live coverage of the 50-overs-a-side contest.

Steyn with a four-wicket burst including two of successive deliveries in his second spell fashioned a 61-run victory for South Africa in the first match at Senwes Park in Potchefstroom on Friday.

Bangladesh were looking bright in that day-night affair with captain Mohammad Ashraful at the crease until the Steyn thunder struck, asking a million dollar question whether the Tigers are really good enough to handle the deadly swings of a fast bowler.

"No doubt Dale Steyn is a bowler against whom we have to be more careful but we are not worried. Rather we want to focus on our own game," said Ashraful, who scored a fine 73 in the first game before being undone by a superb

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## BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot a Bangladeshi national dead on Chamta border of Kaliganj upazila in Lalmirhat early yesterday.

The victim was identified as Anisur Rahman, 30, son of Nasir Uddin of Chamta.

Villagers said BSF opened fire on Anisur and a number of other Bangladesh nationals as they were walking along the border near pillar-993 around 4:30am.

They said Anisur died on the spot while others managed to flee unhurt.

A Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) source in Lalmirhat confirmed the incident and said BSF took away the body and did not return it.

BDR protested the killing and asked BSF to return the body, the source added.

## 82 killed as Haitian school collapses

AFP, Petion-Ville, Haiti

Rescuers uncovered a classroom full of dead students early yesterday after searching through the night for survivors of a school collapse in a Haitian shantytown which killed at least 82 people.

The three-storey building caved in Friday morning during class, destroying neighboring homes and leaving scores of students and teachers trapped beneath huge slabs of cement and twisted steel rods. Some 107 were injured.

As many as 700 students aged between three and 20 attended the church-run school on the outskirts of the capital Port-au-Prince, though it was unclear how many were inside when the building in

Frantic parents crowded the site as scores of people, their faces covered in grey dust, climbed over

the debris to try and rescue those pinned underneath.

UN engineers and soldiers from the UN mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) worked to remove heavy pieces of concrete and to contain the large crowds of people.

Cries of distress could be heard in the site, from still-alive students and teachers beneath the rubble and from parents desperately searching for their children.

A deeply distressed Marie Flore said she had no news of any of her three children.

"It brought down the rest of the building while the students were in class," said another panic-stricken woman who had hurried to the scene to look for her child.

The International Red Cross, SEE PAGE 15 COL 8



Haitians help victims of the College Promesse Evangelique school that collapsed Friday in Petion-ville, Haiti. The first floor of the three-storey building collapsed and dragged down the rest of the building with pupils inside.

## Hunger strike to protest tree felling

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Environmentalists and people of different organisations yesterday observed a token hunger strike in Sylhet city protesting against the government's decision to fell thousands of trees in the Khasia habitat in Srimangal-Komolganj forests.

Sylhet Paribesh Andolan (Sypa) organised the programme in which indigenous people and environmentalists from Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa), Sylhet Bibhagio Adivashi Chhatra Sangathan, Achik Welfare Association, Patro Community Kalyan Parishad, Brihattar Zaintia Adivashi Kalyan Sangstha, Kobraj Anto Puni Unnayan Sangathan and Khashi Foundation participated.

The three-hour-long token hunger strike ended around

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## ASSAULT OF TEACHER JU teachers to boycott classes indefinitely

A CORRESPONDENT, JU

Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) has decided to boycott classes indefinitely demanding permanent expulsion of the JU students involved in the assault on drama and dramatics department Chairman Sanowar Hossain.

The decision was made at a Juta meeting at the proposed Zahir Raihan auditorium on Thursday with Juta Chairman Ajit Kumar Saha in the chair.

Juta leaders said they will continue class boycott until the students responsible are expelled permanently from the university.

Acting VC Prof Muniruzzaman has requested the teachers' SEE PAGE 15 COL 6



A procession on road safety brought out by Dhaka Metropolitan Police marches a dilapidated street at Syedabad yesterday. The DMP is conducting a road safety awareness programme.

## 78pc seats in govt TT colleges stay vacant

Easy-to-get certificates in pvt TT colleges lead to shortage of qualified teachers

SURAJNITH DEABNATH

As much as 78 percent seats of the country's public teachers training (TT) colleges remain vacant, resulting in a shortage of qualified teachers and sub-standard education for the schoolchildren.

In the last three years, enrolment at 14 public TT colleges has fallen by 66 percent. This downward trend has given birth to growing concern over the fate of these institutions, which have a reputation for providing quality education.

course in 2004-05 session. But three years later, the enrolment rate has fallen by 66 percent and only 1,720 enrolled against 7,800 seats.

The mushroom growth of private TT colleges is the main reason for the decreasing enrolment. Why would students come to us when anyone can easily collect certificates with good results from private TT colleges?

According to the survey, 5,079 students enrolled at 14 public TT colleges in Bachelor of Education (BEd)

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4

## 80 hurt in AL factional clashes in 3 districts

STAR REPORT

More than 80 people were injured as Awami League factions clashed over finalising the panels of candidates for the upcoming parliamentary polls in Patuakhali, Noakhali and Comilla yesterday.

In Patuakhali, at least 50 people were injured as two factions of AL Baufal upazila unit clashed at an extended meeting at noon.

Our correspondent quoted police and witnesses as saying that the extended meeting was called to finalise a panel of candidates for Patuakhali-2 constituency.

Leaders and activists of a faction led by former lawmaker and Baufal upazila unit president ASM Feroz gathered at the party office at Janata Bhaban at the upazila headquarters to join the meeting.

Another group led by Feroz

Alarm, a local AL leader and also the vice-president of Mercantile Bank, assembled at a field near the venue of the meeting and took out a procession.

When Alarm group tried to join the extended meeting, the AL men belonging to ASM Feroz faction swooped on them, leading to a clash between the two factions.

Later, ASM Feroz faction finalised a list of candidates. A tense situation is prevailing at the upazila headquarters. Additional police have been deployed to avert any further incident.

Our Noakhali correspondent reported that two factions of Awami League Hatiya upazila unit clashed at the district headquarters yesterday, leaving at least 20 people injured.

The trouble began while an

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## Income disparity, job big hurdles ahead

Says S Asia human development report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Increasing inequality in people's income, widespread unemployment and underemployment and proper utilisation of available resources are the challenges to achieving the country's socio-economic goals despite consistent economic growth during 1995-2005.

A report on human development in South Asia reveals that the number of the poor rose during the decade while health and education still remain areas of concern in the region.

The other areas of concern underlined by the study include agrarian crisis, social exclusion, gender gap, slow growth of agriculture and slow progress towards

humane governance in political, economic and civil spheres.

The "Human development in South Asia 2007: A ten-year review" prepared by Mahbub ul Haq Human Development Centre was presented yesterday at a discussion at the Brac Centre Inn auditorium.

Dr MK Mujer, chief economist of Bangladesh Bank, presented the report at a launching ceremony jointly organised by Brac and BRAC Development Institute.

The report points out some challenges for Bangladesh including rural-urban variation, quality of education and equitable participation.

Speakers at the discussion underlined the necessity of policy-driven social changes rather than

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## Partnership in war on terror to go on Obama assures Zardari

INDO-ASIAN NEWS SERVICE, Islamabad

the aftermath of the US strikes in Pakistan.

Zardari is likely to meet Obama and Vice President-elect Joe Biden during his trip to the US next week to attend an inter-faith conference, the official said.

"Though the meeting is not scheduled, there are strong indications that President Zardari will meet Obama in New York during his visit," said the official. He said that Pakistan expects "positive" response from the new US administration.

Zardari is scheduled to fly to New York on Nov 11 and return on Nov 14, but "the president may extend his visit to meet the new US leadership", said the official.

Pakistan Information Minister Sherry Rehman in a statement said that Obama's victory is inspiring for the proponents of democracy and reinforces their firm belief in democracy's power to bring about a definitive change in leadership and policy through genuine participatory processes.

Obama called Zardari to thank him for the warm wishes from Pakistan on his election, a senior government official told IANS.

The US President-elect said both Pakistan and the US share long lasting friendship and hoped to eradicate terrorism from the region with Islamabad's support.

He also said that the US longed to establish better mutual relationship between the allies on the war on terror and settle differences in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

## UK revokes visas of Thaksin, wife

THE NATION/ ANN, Bangkok

The British Embassy has revoked entry visas of ousted prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his wife Pojaman.

The cancellation, which was decided while the couple were outside England, has been notified to airlines Friday.

The decision was made by the United Kingdom Border Agency, and the notification email was signed by Bangkok-based Immigration Liaison Manager Andy Gray.

The email read:

"Dear All,

The United Kingdom Border Agency has revoked the UK visas held by the following Thainations:

Thaksin Shinawatra, Thai Passport Number D215863

Potjaman Shinawatra, Thai Passport Number D206635

The UK visas contained in the passports of the individuals listed above are no longer valid for travel.

Airlines are advised not to carry these passengers to the UK.

The embassy would not comment on the report. Contacted embassy officials said they "cannot comment on policy matters."

It was a big political blow for Thaksin, who was believed to be on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Taliban gun down Afghan governor

30 militants killed in clashes

AFK, Kabul

Afghan government and international military officials said yesterday that Taliban insurgents had gunned down a district governor overnight and about 30 militants had been killed in various clashes.

Two men delivering voter registration materials for presidential elections due next year were meanwhile missing for a second day and believed kidnapped, the Independent Election Commission said.

Militants ambushed the governor of Taywara district in the remote central province of Ghori Friday as he was driving to the provincial capital, police said.

The district governor was killed and his driver was wounded, "Ghor police chief Shah Jahan Noori told AFP.

He blamed the attack on Taliban militants who have increased their attacks against Afghan government and non-governmental organisations to a new high since they were ousted from power in late 2001.

It was a big political blow for Thaksin, who was believed to be on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

## Saudi envoy meets Hasina

UNB, Dhaka