STAFF CORRESPONDENT,

A Shib temple and at least 30 adjoining shanties at Katalganj in the port city's Chawkbazar area were gutted in a fire yesterday, leaving

damaged.

Shebasadan at Katalganj.

engulfing the adjoining shanties, they added.

Hindu devotees, lived at those temple land, locals said.

The origin of the fire could not be known immediately.

units rushed to the spot and finally extinguished the blaze

Wikileaks' Assange leading Time 'Person of

Julian Assange, founder of whistleblower website WikiLeaks, is leading an online poll by Time magazine for its 2010 "Person of the

Assange, an Australian who has become a thorn in the side of the Pentagon with his documents about the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, had received 21,736 votes as of

host Glenn Beck was next with 20,245 votes.

In third place with 18,500 votes, were Comedy Central comics Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert, who attracted more than 200,000 people to the US capital last month for their "Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear."

Pop sensation Lady Gaga was next, with 18,090 votes, followed by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip

Others receiving votes in the Time poll were US President Barack Obama, former Republican vice presidential candidate Sarah Palin, NBA star Lebron James, "The Unemployed American" and

Hotel, where he will be staying during the two-day visit.

airport.

UNB adds: All programmes of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia vesterday were cancelled as she was upset by her 'ouster' from her cantonment resi dent, party sources said.

Khaleda was scheduled to meet visiting Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan at Hotel Sonargaon at

9:00pm.

USAID delegation now visiting Dhaka scheduled to meet the BNP chairperson at

was also cancelled.

51pc girl

The stalkers are mostly aged

families, 60 percent to middle class and 25 percent to lowincome families. The society and families

must show 'zero tolerance' for the evil-mongers.

The existing laws and guidelines of the country are sufficient to stop sexual harassment and we need to work to this

end, observed the chief guest Salma Ali, executive director of Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association. "Parents will have to take responsibilities to educate their children properly at family level to eradicate stalk-

ing," suggested Dr Maleka Begum, a teacher at University (DU).

prisoners to be freed. Department of Women and Gender Studies under Dhaka Prof Nazmunnesa Mahtab

US President Barack Obama, in Yokohama, Japan for a regional summit, called her "a hero of mine" and said it was time for the junta to free all political prisoners. "She is a hero of mine and a

source of inspiration for all

The New York-based group called on the regime to free all

Kyi was a "cynical ploy" to

deflect criticism of its recent

deeply cynical ploy by the military government to distract the international community from its illegitimate elections," said Elaine Pearson, deputy Asia director

She added she was harassed, humiliated and ashamed by the way she was treated.

After the briefing, she moved into her brother Shamim Eskander's Gulshan residence. Some of her household items had already been shifted there.

Khaleda had been living in the cantonment house for 38 years since the days when her husband Ziaur Rahman was deputy chief of the army. After the assassination of president Zia in 1981, the then army chief HM Ershad had allotted her the 2.72-acre house at a token

Cantonment Board declared the allotment illegal and issued a notice asking her to leave the house. Khaleda's lawyers filed a petition challenging the legality of the

On October 13, the High Court declared the notice legal and asked Khaleda to vacate the residence. It directed the government to give her 30 days' time for that.

The BNP chief's counsels went to the Supreme Court for permission to file an appeal against the HC ruling. The apex court is scheduled to hear the leave-to-appeal

communicated a message to their chairperson, saying she should leave the house in the morning. As the news spread, party

leaders and workers started gathering at the Shaheed lahangir Gate. At around 6:00am, some

army men sought to get in

Khaleda's residence, but the guards refused to let them in. Shortly afterwards, a large contingent of Rab and policemen cordoned off the house. At around 8:00am, the BNP sources continued, the law

by knocking down a part of the front door. Between 10:00am and noon, they hauled 61 people out of the house. While BNP claimed most of

the 61 were staff of Khaleda Zia, the ISPR described them as "unauthorised occupants". On the house premises, the

law enforcers rapped on the door of the building where after Khaleda Zia left the Khaleda resides. As she did not house," said the ISPR release, respond, they forced their way adding that she desired to go inside and damaged a few to her brother's Baridhara house. Later, she went to her Gulshan office, it said.

According to the party sources, the security men slapped a few of Khaleda's staff when they tried to stop

This prompted Khaleda to

This led to an argument,

BNP chief towards her car, which came out of the cantonment through Banani gate at 3:15pm. Amid police protection, she reached her Gulshan office at around 3:50pm, as the

clashed with the law enforcers in many places across the country, including in Dhaka's Shaheed Jahangir Gate area,

Hearing the news that Khaleda would be "evicted" Abdin Farroque gathered in front of Jahangir Gate, one of the main entrances to Dhaka

The law enforcers did not Khandaker Mahbub Hossain and former law minister Moudud Ahmed, inside the

up killing two people while another attacker fled, he told The Daily Star last night. Asmat, who was sitting on the right of the lawmaker, was

ers of his upazila.

killed on the spot while Siddique succumbed to his wounds on his way to Kushtia General Hospital. "I saw the two unknown

youths stand up when I was talking to the teachers. Within a second, one of them blasted one of the bombs he had wrapped around his belly. The youth died on the spot," said

"The attack might have been carried out to kill me," he said, adding that extremists might have involvement in

the incident, he added. Police and Rab sources said they believe there were more attackers near the lawmakers'

force from her cantonment house before being taken to her Gulshan office," he said at the press conference at attack since the incident hap-Khaleda's Gulshan office after pened right after BNP having a meeting with the BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia left her cantonment residence.

ISPR refutes

also dismissed the BNP chief's allegation that she and her family members were subjected to misbehaviour.

It said as the High Court's 30 days timeline to vacate the cantonment house ended on November 12, the Cantonment Board authorities went to the residence to get it's occupation legally and requested Khaleda

of 67 left the house. Message was received that Khaleda Zia was not up yet. Later at 11:00am, she came to know that the authorities had come to request her to vacate the house. Then she and spent two hours for make up and other related activities.

nel knocked her window noticing rebuking and unleashed a torrent of abuse at the army. "She even forces personnel ungrateful dog and national enemy.'

"Besides, she kept on saying that she remembers faces of everyone and that she would kick them out of service one by one when she assumes power."

In the meantime, she talked to several BNP leaders over mobile phone and many party workers and leaders started to gather near the cantonment, the

"She was attending her packed household items and gave the orders to move 10 bags and four cartons. Those were loaded onto three cars Afterwards, she visited every room of the house and asked for a written promise that the belongings she was leaving

behind would be safe. After she was given the assurance, she finally decided to leave. It may be mentioned that as of vesterday she had shifted over 100 cartons and bags to her brother Sayeed Eskander's house and son Arafat Rahman

Koko's in-laws place. The remaining belongings in her house are packed well to be moved. This is evidence of her good preparation to leave the

Everything inside the palacelike house is very expensive and mind blowing. All chandeliers and light bulbs provided by the military were removed. It is hard to believe that very trivial things made it to the list of items to be

Not forcibly, rather she left the house by accepting the court order. Her personal driver drove her out of the house. If she had been forced, she would have had to leave the house at 8:00am. But

she left at 3:15pm on her own. Her brother and his wife were with there when she left the

Armed forces' and Rab personnel, officials from cantonment board and directorate of military land administration present there were astonished by the behaviour they had to endure at the house. Despite the bad behaviour, officials and personnel there managed to do

Her eight expensive vehicles and over 50 house helps are evidence of her luxurious lifestyle. The house is now under police custody not under army

custody, the release said.

out of the house of memories,

wiping off tears with tissue papers and her sari while

speaking. that I have willingly vacated the house which is totally false and

fabricated," she said. entered the house cutting the grilles of the gate. Then they pushed my staff inside and made them open my study. Then, they kicked my bedroom door open and literally dragged me out. One of them was saying, 'Carry her out on your lap if necessary'. They finally pushed

"They even did not hesitate to hit my family members."

know about their whereabouts.

In her speech, she men tioned the word 'they' many times but did not clarify who 'they' really were.

'My family members and I could not eat throughout the day," she said. At this point she covered her face for around two to three minutes with her sari.

this morning [Saturday] visited the chief justice and he assured them that I will not be evicted from the house but his assurance was also ignored." "This government always

talks about the rule of law but today it has trampled the law in a heinous way," she said, adding that the apex court has been dishonoured in the worst possible manner, which is unprecedented and illegal. "The government has created an unnecessary debate

emotional, Khaleda said: "I am

the country."

The Appellate Division on over my cantonment home, and November 10 only adjourned served an illegal notice to vacate the hearing on Khaleda's the place. You can easily underpetition against the October 13 stand how this government can HC verdict and asked the govbehave with the common peoernment to give her 30 days' ple when it can humiliate me so time to vacate the house. much," she said. Taking a pause and visibly

cantonment house was legal. leaving the matter of justice to Almighty Allah and the people of former chairman of the law

Wishing anonymity, a

given by the court had expired

why Khaleda's lawyers had not moved the stay petition or sought order from the Appellate Division to stay the HC verdict, he said.

lawyer barrister Rafique-ul Jurist Shahdeen Malik said Huq told journalists at the in customary practices if an office of the Supreme Court Bar appeal is filed and there is no pressing need to implement BNP chairperson's other the earlier judgment, people counsels barrister Moudud

wait for the court verdict. Ahmed, SCBA president It would not cause any harm Khandker Mahbub Hossain, and to any side, if the government waited for disposal of the who accompanied Rafique-ul

Shahdeen Malik said hurried implementation of the HC verdict is leading to chaos and instability, which was not the

(ISPR) issued a statement purpose of the court verdict. saying Khaleda left her cantonment house voluntarily at 3:15 pm after several days of preparations showing respect to the HC verdict that upheld the government notice to vacate

It is a common practice not to implement a High Court verdict when an appeal against it remains pending with the SC

ment evicted Khaleda from her

government move to evict FROM PAGE 16 and will continue to do so til Khaleda "heinous." He said such a move damaged the the very end," said Aminur. image of the apex court and the

(Buet) led by AMM Shafiullah would be supervising the demolition work.

Though Rajuk is leading Mahbubey Alam said the task, workers and other Khaleda's counsels had not moved the stay petition against logistical support have been the HC verdict to the Appellate provided by the flat owners Division to gain "political who previously made an agreement of Tk 17.50 lakh with a firm named Halima Enterprise to provide such support.

> Asia Comtech Bangladesh Ltd, will bear all the costs related to tearing down the structure. The demolition work is

> will take around a month to complete the task. No work will be done the day of Eid-ul-Azha, said Aminur.

The building tilted and

Fire engulfs Ctg temple, shanties

Chittagong

around 50 families homeless. A two-storied Sri Sri Radha-

Krishna Shebasrom was also Sources said, around 6:30 pm, fire broke out at a shanty

adjoining to Sri Sri Radhamadhab O Sri Sri Gopaljee Thakur Bigroho The blaze spread fast

Some 50 poor families, all

tin-shed shanties built on the

At least five fire fighting around 7:30pm.

the Year' poll

AFP, Washington

releases of secret US military Fox television talk show

Erdogan with 13,371 votes.

FROM PAGE 1

Finance Minister AMA Muhith, Foreign Minister Dipu Moni, Deputy Leader of Parliament Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Commerce Minister Farook Khan were, among others, present at the

her Gulshan office at 5:00pm

FROM PAGE 16

between 20 and 25 and among them 15 percent belong to upper class and influential

and Dr Nazma Siddique of Women and Gender Studies of DU, president Monowara Islam, general secretary Rasheda Hussain and members Dilara Chowdhury and Nilufar Sultana of the BFUW, among others, addressed the seminar.

Suu Kyi freed former name.

> French President Nicolas Sarkozy said in a statement, "France will be extremely attentive to the conditions in which Madame Aung San Suu

Kyi enjoys her refound liberty." "Any restrictions on her freedom of movement and expression would constitute a new unacceptable denial of her She asked the crowd to

rights," he said. British Prime Minister David Cameron said her release was "long overdue", branding her detention a "travesty, designed only to silence the voice of the

Gordon Brown said: "There will be joy round the world at the release of Aung San Suu Kyi, the world's most renowned and courageous prisoner of conscience.'

she was one of eight figures he profiled in an exploration of the concept of courage. Desmond Tutu, chair of the

group of senior statesmen November elections.

also called for the release of all the country's political prison-Surin Pitsuswan, secretarygeneral of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) bloc which includes Myanmar, told AFP he was

Surin said he hoped she would be able to play a role in bringing national reconciliation, and that other political prisoners would benefit from the junta's gesture.

to be done. "This is a positive step toward the right path for Myanmar. But the question remains -- will all of her political rights be restored, will they take more substantive steps toward democratisation?" said Ricky Carandang, spokesman

for President Benigno Aquino. In Brussels, the head of the European Commission, Jose Manuel Barroso, said, "It is now crucial that Aung San Suu Kyi has unrestricted freedom of movement and speech and can

try's political process." In Geneva, UN Human Rights Commissioner Navi Pillay, said, "This is a positive signal that the authorities in Myanmar are willing to move forward with the serious challenge of democratic transition and the need for national

reconciliation. "I urge the authorities of Myanmar to now release the other 2,200 political prisoners as a clear sign that the new government intends to respect human rights and forge a new

China, one of its neighbour's closest allies and a mainstay for the junta through trade ties, arms sales, and using its veto on the UN Security Council against sanctions, had

no immediate reaction. agency, reporting her release did describe Aung San Suu Kyi

as "a noted political figure." Italy hailed the release of sition and Suu Kyi's party has Myanmar democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi, saying it was Twitter to reach out to the

> demanded freedom for the country's 2,200 other political prisoners. The London-based human

rights group said Suu Kyi

regime. junta's release of Aung San Suu

election.

at Human Rights Watch.

I am evicted

Meanwhile, lawyers of

The ruling Awami League

to vacate the illegally-

occupied house of the deputy

chief of staff of the army. She

[Khaleda] filed a writ petition

against the notice with the

High Court, but the court

snubbed it. Here the govern-

ment or the Awami League

In the morning, ISPR had said

the opposition leader was

preparing to leave the house

willingly. Around noon it said

she would leave the house

showing respect to the HC

order and the army authorities

were trying to take over the

held a press briefing at a build-

ing near the cantonment gate

and informed journalists

valuable goods of her house to

other places for the last few

days, it seemed she wants to

help implement the court

order," said ISPR Director

Shahinul Islam at the briefing.

issued yesterday evening said,

'Khaleda Zia has helped

implementing the court order

by leaving the residence at 6

Shaheed Mainul Road in

Dhaka Cantonment willingly

at around 3:15pm today [Sat-

urday] showing respect to the

honourable High Court divi-

the materials she uses daily, it

said adding that the authori-

ties would take measures to

send the remaining goods at a

proper time according to her

The house was sealed off

The ISPR release said, "It is

mentionable that the govern-

ment donated a house in

Gulshan. Besides, the 29

Mintoo Road house has been

allotted to her as the leader of

the opposition. She can live at

cantonment area, the ISPR

director at another press

briefing said, "Officials of the

military estate office took over

Zainul Abdin Farroque termed

ISPR's statements false and

said it was made to mislead

Kafrul Police Station last night

refused to record any case over

the "forced eviction" of

Khaleda Zia from her canton-

ment residence, BNP chief's

lawyer Masud Ahmed

personal assistant of the BNP

chairperson, along with

Masud and another lawyer

Sanaullah Mian, went to the

police station to file the case.

Suicide blast

acting headmaster of

Taragunia High School, Jubo

League activist Siddique, son of

Bhaddar Ali of Taragunia, and

bombs went off around

8:15pm soon after two

unknown visitors entered his

living room when he was talk-

ing to some high school teach-

One attacker blew himself

The AL lawmaker said two

the unnamed bomber.

Mahbub-Al Amin Deu

Talukder told The Daily Star.

POLICE REFUSAL

Opposition Chief Whip

Soon after Khaleda left the

any home she wishes.'

the house.'

She took with her most of

sion order.

An ISPR press release

"As she had been moving

about developments.

Before the clashes, ISPR

had no role to play."

ISPR EXPLAINS

Khaleda, including Moudud Ahmed, went to meet Chief Justice ABM Khairul Haque at his residence in the morning to discuss Khaleda's leave-toappeal petition pending with the Supreme Court. ALREACTION

yesterday urged the opposi-tion to withdraw the hartal, considering public sufferings ahead of Eid. It also thanked Khaleda for vacating the house showing respect to the High Court verdict. AL acting general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said, "The Cantonment Board In April last year, the issued a notice to Khaleda Zia

petition on November 29. BNP sources said the army authorities on Friday night

enforcers entered the house

come out of her bedroom. As the officers requested her to accept the High Court verdict and vacate the house, she said she would first consult her

and at one stage, the law enforcers asked her to follow Two of them ushered the

opposition activists burst into anti-government slogans. BNPPROTESTS The opposition supporters

Mohakhali, and in front of the BNP Central Office at Naya from the house, around 100 BNP leaders including Opposition Chief Whip Zainul

cantonment, early in the morning. Police chased them away around noon. allow any BNP leader or lawyer, including Supreme Court Bar Association President

The BNP activists staged a sit-in on the road between Mohakhali and Farmgate for half an hour and vandalised a number of vehicles when

police tried to disperse them.

started vandalising vehicles.

Halting traffic, they ransacked

vehicles in phases for more

than two hours. This contin-

ued until they heard that

At a press conference in the

afternoon, BNP Secretary

General Khandaker Delwar

Hossain said Khaleda's "evic-

tion" was absolutely unlawful,

undemocratic and autocratic.

to an unknown location with

chairperson.

"She [Khaleda] was taken

Khaleda had left the house.

They locked into a clash and police charged truncheons on them. A female activist was injured during this clash near Jahangir Gate. The BNP men took cover in lanes and by lanes across the street from Shaheen College and Mohakhali Flyover and

> Assistant Superintendent of Police Mostafa Kamal said law enforcers had cordoned off the area. Police are investigating

> house to carry out a wellplanned attack. Meanwhile, Awami League said the BNP-Jamaat men might have had a hand in the

Home-goers FROM PAGE 1

FROM PAGE 16 for the people," said Saifur. A number of bus service providers, however, have

Chandra Ghosh, chairman of

dents, we've cancelled all trips

carry about 10,000 passengers

from Dhaka to other districts

consultant at the Bangladesh

Bus-Truck Owners'

Association, said bus compa-

nies will offer extra trips later on.

train or launch, however, will

not get this benefit.

way to the station, he said.

"If anyone cannot get on

board the train in time, they will

receive refunds on submission

of applications," Rahman told

Travellers fearful of unto-

ward incidents can also spend

the night at the railway stations,

he said, adding, the railway

authorities will ensure their

Bangladesh Inland

Waterways (passenger carrier)

Association Chairman Mahbub

Uddin Ahmed said all launches

will leave Sadarghat launch

should reach the terminal on

have called for extra launches,

as passengers tend to take river

As many as 40 launches are

scheduled to leave the

Sadarghat terminal today for

different short and long desti-

nations, said Afzal Hossain, an

terminal were seen trying to

arrange their trips in advance

Truck-Covered van Malik

Samity has called to keep the

transport sector out of the scope

Samity leaders in a state-

ment said a huge number of

retain her cantonment house.

They later told the media

that the chief justice had

assured them that the govern-

ment would not move to evict

Khaleda from her residence

since the leave to appeal peti-

tion remains pending with the

evict Khaleda from her resi-

dence since the Appellate

Division had fixed November

29 for hearing on her leave to

Association (SCBA) president.

its secretary Bodruddoza Badal,

In the evening, the Inter-

BNP leaders immediately

SCBA President Khandker

"We will meet the chief

justice again to inform him

about the matter," he told The

Attorney General

Mahbub Hossain termed the

rejected the ISPR's statement

and claimed that the govern-

cantonment residence.

Services Public Relations

were present there.

the house.

chief justice.

Daily Star.

mileage."

The government cannot

Appellate Division.

Some passengers at the

Meanwhile, Bangladesh

"All passengers, therefore,

He said the launch owners

terminal on schedule.

transport during hartal.

officer at the terminal.

yesterday.

of hartal.

FROM PAGE 1

time," he said.

Railway.

The Daily Star.

security.

Passengers travelling by

Golam Murshid Pintu, a

from 6:00am to 6:00pm today.

from dawn to dusk," he said.

"To avoid untoward inci-

Shyamoli Paribahan was to

Shyamoli Paribahan Ltd.

cancelled trips during hartal hours. "We don't want to take any chances," said Ramesh

Zia to vacate the house. "Within 9:30am, 61 staffs out started getting ready casually

As two women police personthe waste of time, she became seriously angry and started did not hesitate to term the armed

press release said.

Forcefully

belongings and valuables there and vacate the house in a single set of clothes. They forced me out of the house that was full of shaheed [martyr] Zia's memories and that was my home for around

40 years. Today they drove me Khaleda sobbed. The BNP chief was seen

"The government is saying Hug to the chief justice's house, "They came with sticks and

me into a car," said Khaleda in

Khaleda said her domestic helps had earlier been moved from the house and she did not

"Some of my lawyers earlier

According to the SC rules, the HC verdict cannot be automatically stayed at the Supreme Court unless it involves death sentence, he

> He said the government move to take possession of the

Bangladesh. The homebound passengers will have to face a lot of troubles for the hartal, the statement said. The sales of

trucks and lorries carrying cattle

in time, it will create a huge

problem for the cattle traders,

transport providers and people,

Call off hartal

an important meeting with

Turkish premier in the city to

discuss bilateral business

issues and to highlight the

investment opportunities in

business community believes

the hartal will have a "negative

impact" on investments in

The statement said the

the statement added.

FROM PAGE 1

Bangladesh.

If they cannot reach the city

are on the way to the capital.

"Hartal won't hamper train sacrificial animals in the makeschedules," said Md Habibur shift markets will also be ham-Rahman, Dhaka divisional pered. engineer of Bangladesh Moreover, the business houses will have to face troubles in paying their workers But trains could be delayed for a few minutes if requested by salaries and bonuses for thin transactions in banks and the passengers who are on the

NEWS

statement said. The daylong hartal will also hamper the export-import activities in the Chittagong Port, the statement said. The leather industry of the

country has already been

severely affected by anthrax

financial institutions, the

animals in the Eid to cover the osses, it read. "The transportation of the animals and banking activities

AK Azad, president o FBCCI; Abul Kasem Khan president of Dhaka Chamber o Commerce and Industry (DCCI); M Anis Ud Dowla, president of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI); ATM Wajiullah, president of Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI); Habibur Rahman, acting president of Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BKMEA), and Abdus Salam Murshedy, president of Bangladesh Garment

It was rushed commission said there was no legal bar to executing the HC verdict on Khaleda's cantonment residence since the time

appeal petition, Khaleda's

appeal, he said.

wait for its decision.

he said.

A team of experts from Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology

The developer company

going on in full swing and it

sank a few feet into the ground last Sunday night.

scare and the businessmen are now waiting for purchasing the raw hides of the sacrificed would be greatly hampered for the hartal," the statement said.

Association (BGMEA), signed Earlier, at a hurriedly called separate press conferences both AK Azad and Murshedy called the opposition leader to withdraw the decision of imposing hartal.

Manufacturers and Exporters

and the SC had not stayed the It was not understandable | "The Chilean Miners."

Barrister M Amir-Ul Islam refused to comment on the

On November 10, eminent urist M Zahir said since the SC had fixed a date to hear the appeal, the government should be respectful to the court and

FROM PAGE 1 65-year-old, known in Myanmar simply as "The Lady".

oldest dictatorships.

gered outside.

future.

come to her party's headquar-

ters today to hear her speak

her home as the crowds lin-

junta -- occasionally released

briefly only to be put back in

confinement -- for many in the

impoverished nation she still

embodies hope of a better

and also my sister and grand-

mother because she's the

daughter of our independence

leader General Aung San," said

45-year-old Naing Win. "She

Despite the risks of oppos-

ing the military regime in a

country with more than 2,200

political prisoners, many

supporters wore T-shirts bear

ing her image and the words:

"We stand with Aung San Suu

photographing and filming the

dissident has been under

house arrest since 2003 -- just

one of several stretches of

detention at the hands of the

Her sentence was extended

last year over a bizarre incident

in which an American swam

uninvited to her lakeside

home, sparking international

condemnation and keeping

her off the scene for the first

The democracy icon swept

her party to victory in elections

two decades ago, but it was

that years of detention had not

dimmed her immense popu-

Some fear that junta chief

But her lawyer Nyan Win

Than Shwe will continue to put

restrictions on the freedom of

has suggested she would refuse

to accept any conditions on her

release, as in the past when she

tried in vain to leave Yangon in

Her struggle for her country

defiance of the regime's orders.

has come at a high personal

cost: her husband, British

academic Michael Aris, died in

1999, and in the final stages of

his battle with cancer the junta

refused him a visa to see his

sons for about a decade and

has never met her grandchil-

33, arrived in Bangkok ahead of

her release but it was unclear

whether he would be allowed

Suu Kyi's freedom is seen by

observers as an effort by the

regime to tame international

criticism of the recent election,

democracy activists have

blasted the poll as anything but

free and fair following wide-

spread reports of intimidation

participate in the election

deeply split Myanmar's oppo-

been disbanded, leaving her

expressed a desire to join

Her lawyer says she has

Few expect her to give up

her long struggle for freedom

from repression and attention

is now on whether she can

reunite the splintered opposi-

tion and bring about the demo-

cratic change that has eluded

World leaders hailed the

release of Suu Kyi from years of

house arrest but warned the

military junta not to restrict her

in other ways and called for

hundreds of other political

future role uncertain.

Internet generation.

Myanmar for so long.

WORLD HAILS

The NLD's decision not to

Western nations and pro-

the first since the 1990 vote.

to visit his mother.

and fraud.

She has not seen her two

Her youngest son Kim Aris,

his number one enemy.

never allowed to take power.

ruling generals.

election in 20 years.

West as a sham.

larity.

Undercover police were

Myanmar's most famous

has her father's blood."

"I think of her as my mother

"We must work together in unison," she told the sea of jubilant supporters, suggesting she has no intention of giving up her long fight for democracy in what is one of the world's

after she struggled to make herself heard over the roar of cheers, then went back inside Burmese people." Although she has been sidelined and silenced by the

Britain is the former colonial power in Myanmar, which achieved its independence as Burma in 1948. Former prime minister

In his 2007 book "Courage",

known as The Elders, said, "Aung San Suu Kyi's release offers hope to the people of Burma, who face uncertain times following the 7 The Elders said the Myanmar government must

respect her political rights as a

citizen and not place any con-

ditions on her release. They

"very, very relieved" at the

Her release comes just days after the first vote in the coun-The Philippines, the most outspoken Asean member in try since 1990, which was boycotted by Suu Kyi's party calling for Aung San Suu Kyi's and was widely decried in the release, also welcomed her freedom but said more needed When last released in 2002 she drew huge crowds wherever she went -- a reminder

participate fully in her coun-

future for the country," she

But the official Xinhua news

due to international pressure and voicing hope that it would lead to greater openness in the Amnesty International welcomed the release and

should never have been arrested and her release was not a "concession" by the Human Rights Watch, however, said the Myanmar

of the political prisoners. "Her release now is a

who work to advance basic human rights in Burma and around the world," said Obama, using the country's