Kim Jong-Il dies

FROM PAGE 1

South Korea put its military on emergency alert but urged its people to stay calm, and swiftly closed ranks with its close ally the United States. Analysts said there would likely be little turbulence in the North -- at least for now.

The leader "passed away from a great mental and physical strain" at 8:30 am on

"I don't expect any major turbulence or power struggle within the regime in the foreseeable future.

"The Kim Jong-Un era has already started."

North Korea's propaganda

machine has rolled into

action to build up the same

personality cult for Jong-Un

that surrounded his father

and late grandfather Kim Il-

Sung, the founder and "eter-

nal leader" of North Korea

already sorted out everything

and the regime seems to be

stable under the new leader-

ship," said Paik Hak-Soon of

Seoul's Sejong Institute.

"The North's top guys have

who died in 1994.

Analysts stressed that North Korea was entering an uncertain period, although its senior figures were likely to stick closely together for now.

"The North Korean elite has a vested interest in maintaining the system and will assess Jong-Un's ability to protect its interests," said Bruce Klingner, a Northeast Asia expert at Washington's Heritage Foundation.

South Korea summoned a meeting of the National Security Council and President Lee Myung-Bak called an emergency cabinet meeting.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff said it had increased monitoring along the border along with US forces in the country but no unusual activity had been observed.

North and South Korea have remained technically at war since their three-year conflict ended only in an armistice in 1953. The United States stations 28,500 troops in the South.

Lee had a phone conversation with US President Barack Obama about two hours after Kim's death was announced at noon (0300 GMT), officials

"The president reaffirmed the United States' strong commitment to the stability of the Korean peninsula and the security of our close ally,

BDDL, Ashiyan Lands

US Bangla Group, Heerajheel

Properties Development,

Nasim Group, Purbachal NRB

Homes, Sabuj Chhaya

Residential Project, Glorious

Land Development, MA

Wahab and Sons, Bashukunja

Lands Development,

Nabodoy Housing, Shatabdi

Housing, New Dhaka

Alliance, Inspired

Development, Atlantic

Properties, Vision 21 Design &

Development, Four Seasons

Holdings, Kopotakkha Green

City, Ideal Real Estate,

Probashi Palli Group, Yes

Group, Innovative Holdings,

Bangladesh Development

Company, Actual Land

Development, Uttaran

Properties, New Vision Group,

Udayan Properties

Development, Bhulua Royal

City Private Ltd, Al Warish

Properties, New Dhaka

Alliance, Dakkhina Real

sure in the wake of repeated

media reports that it had

allowed display and sale of

unapproved land projects in

the "Rehab Fair, 2011", violat-

the companies violated the

Private Housing Land

Development Rules of 2004

and the Private Housing

Development and

Management Law, 2010, said

Engineer Khalequzzaman

Chowdhury, an authorised

The officer was attending a

stall at the five-day fair in the

city's Bangabandhu

International Conference

Centre yesterday, the final day

of the fair. Rajuk was given the

stall to stop display and sale of

unapproved land projects in

against the companies due to

lack of adequate information

on unauthorised projects,"

said Sheikh Abdul Mannan,

proper investigation would

have been unwise and could

jeopardise our position," he

"Filing any case without

member, planning of Rajuk.

"We could not file cases

officer of Rajuk.

the fair.

The GD has been filed as

ing a High Court directive.

Rajuk took the legal mea-

Estate, and Invite Properties.

the Republic of Korea," the White House said in a state-

Japan, which has no diplomatic relations with North Korea, offered its condolences over the death but also called an emergency security meet-

The news shocked South Koreans and some expressed fears of renewed conflict.

"I'm worried there will be a war. I thought it wasn't true at first," said student Song Bo-Na, 22.

KCNA, quoting a statement from the national funeral committee headed by Jong-Un, said Kim Jong-Il's body would lie in state in Kumsusan palace where his father's embalmed body is on display.

It said mourners would be allowed to visit from December 20 to 27.

Following the funeral, another event to mourn the leader would be held on December 29. Mourning shots are to be fired and three minutes of silence would be observed. All trains and ships will sound their horns.

Kim took over after his father and founding president Kim Il-Sung died in 1994, coming to power with a reputation as a playboy with a taste for the finer things in life.

But in the mid- to late-1990s he presided over a famine which killed hundreds of thousands of his people. Severe food shortages continue and the UN children's fund estimates one-third of children are stunted by malnutrition.

Kim still found the resources to continue a nuclear weapons programme which culminated in tests in October 2006 and May 2009 The country is believed to have a plutonium stockpile big enough for six to eight weapons.

For several months there have been diplomatic efforts to restart six-nation nuclear disarmament talks which the North abandoned in April

GD filed "Many of the companies The companies against whom claimed that they had been the GD has been filed are: operating outside the capital,

Development Ltd, Biswas while some others said their Builders, Amin Mohammad land volume was so little that Lands Development Ltd, The they did not require Rajuk Dhanshiri (BD), Bashudha consent as told in the land Builders, Tanshir Properties, development rules," said East West Properties Ltd, Well Mannan. Care Consortium, AG Properties, Metro Properties,

beyond Rajuk jurisdiction,

"Now we have the scope to turn the GD into cases. We will | Rangpur Medical College cooperate with police in the investigation," he said.

Meanwhile, the Rehab fair ended in absence of a number of participants since Rajuk had suspended registration of 21 real estate companies for undertaking unapproved projects.

Most of the 283 participants that took part in the fair stopped displaying their land projects yesterday. Stalls of the companies, whose registration had been cancelled or served notices on for not being listed with Rajuk, were also found empty.

However, a few companies still kept their projects on display, insisting either they are authorised or do not fall within the purview of Rajuk.

The High Court on December 7 ordered the government to stop advertisement and earth filling or any activity of unauthorised housing projects.

Govt asked

citizens, rights bodies and news media. But this time they have introduced this new form to carry on the old killing," he added.

He expressed concern that the law and order will collapse if such killings don't stop.

Editor of English daily New Age, Nurul Kabir said, "We think the killings are carried out because of political interest. These killings could not have happened without political influence and the government's involvement."

He urged the rights organisations and political parties to put pressure on the government to put an end to such

"The government is claiming that the opposition parties are responsible for the killings. If so, please prove that. We want to know the truth," said SMAkram.

Member Secretary of CMDHR Mahmudur Rahman Manna, Dr Dilara Chowdhury and Prof Asif Nazrul were present, among others.

Existing gas fields

Considering these facts, the proposal said Gazprom's quotation is at par and in some cases lower than other companies.

quality digging equipment for the gas wells and also provide engineering services of

No tender was called for the job.

The deal for the job will be signed between the two gov-Hasina's visit to Moscow in November last year.

Cracow was selected for digging five out of the 10 wells for \$24.36 million per well on an average. However, just days before

signing of the agreement, Cracow in February this year expressed its inability to do the job.

7 babies die

The lowest temperature yesterday was 9.2 degree Celsius in Rajshahi.

ture fell to 12 degree Celsius.

Madaripur and Munshiganj reported that ferry service on Daulatdia- Paturia route resumed at 10:00 am yester-

says: At least seven children have been attacked with pneumonia in Sarishabari upazila due to biting cold. The number of patients, mostly children, affected by cold has increased at the upazila health complex.

cold wave accompanied with dense fog has affected normallife.

fog is affecting life life in different northern districts--Rajshahi, Natore, Pabna, Bogra, Dinajpur, Thakurgaon and Panchagarh -- and southwestern region of the country.

The seven new borns-- all under 25 days -- died at

tion. Their lives might have been saved if the incubators at

paediatrics wards, only three were in order.

Rejoinder

"The support forthcoming so far has been from people like Moulvi Farid Ahmad, a Bengali lawyer in Dacca , Fazlul Quadeer Chaudhary and Professor Ghulam Azam, of the Jamat Islami, all of whom were soundly beaten in the General Elections last

December.' In his protest, Ghulam it impossible to verify. As such, it is utterly unaccept-

Justice Nizamul Huq.

day finished recording the cross-examination of Ruhul Amin Nabin, the second witness who testified against

streets from now on to resist BNP-Jamaat's conspiracy against the government," AL Presidium Member Matia Chowdhury, also the agriculture minister, told The Daily Star.

ALPRESS BRIEFING

Awami League at a press briefing yesterday alleged that BNP and Jamaat on Sunday resorted to secrete killings and other criminal activities to foil the trial of war criminals and also to save BNP chief's two sons Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman Koko from different corruption charges. Briefing journalists at

party chief's political office in Dhanmondi, AL acting general secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif accused Khaleda Zia of lying about Sunday's mayhem. "The nation doesn't

expect such falsehood from the former prime minister who is now the Leader of the Opposition in parliament," he added. The ruling party also alleged that Khaleda's object

was to gain politically from the "unstable situation". "It won't be good either for Khaleda Zia or for the politicians," AL leader Tofail Ahmed

told the press briefing. Tofail urged the people of the country to unite against all the evil forces, and comblasts in 500 places in the country in 2004 when BNP was in power. AL-CPB MEETING

"We want to build a greater political unity with all the pro-liberation political parties to resist the antiliberation forces' attempt to create anarchy in the country to hinder the war crimes trial," Hanif told The Daily Star after the meeting with CPB leaders.

Apart from the AL chief Sheikh Hasina, the meeting was attended by AL leaders Abdul Jalil, Tofail Ahmed, Suranjit Sengupta, Abdul Latif Siddique, Kazi Zafarullah, Mahbubul Alam Hanif and Dipu Moni, among others. CPB General Secretary

Mujahidul Islam Selim said they agreed with the AL to launch simultaneous programmes to drum up public support in favour of war crimes trial.

"Every pro-liberation war individual capability will take to the streets for a month demanding the trial of the war criminals.

"We've also suggested devising strategies to isolate Jamaat by neutralising all other forces that are backing the anti-liberation party [Jamaat]," Selim said.

the simultaneous bomb

The state funeral of former Czech president Vaclav Havel, who died Sunday at the age of 75, will take place at noon (1100 GMT) on December 23 in a Prague cathedral, officials said vesterday.

Havel's secretary Sabina Tancevova told Czech public TV that US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton was likely to attend the funeral Friday, while Czech media named German Chancellor Angela Merkel as a probable guest.

'The ceremonial farewell to President Havel will take place on Friday, December 23 at noon at St Vitus Cathedral" in Prague Castle, the seat of Czech presidents, said Radim Ochvat, spokesman for Havel's successor Vaclav Klaus.

Havel, who suffered circulatory failure caused political party with their | by long-term health woes, was president of Czechoslovakia from 1989 to 1992 and of its successor, the Czech Republic, from 1993 to 2003.

Before becoming president, the dissident playwright steered his nation through the peaceful 1989 Velvet Revolution that toppled communist rule in Czechoslovakia, which then split into the Czech Republic and Slovakia in 1993. The centre-right Czech

cabinet was due to meet later yesterday to plan a period of national mourn-The Czech Mediafax

news agency said before the meeting that mourning would last for three days, from Wednesday to Friday. The government of

neighbouring Slovakia meanwhile decided to declare a day of national mourning on Friday. Thousands signed con-

dolence books for Havel and bowed to his coffin in Prague yesterday, a day after a wave of candle light tributes were held across the country as news of his death spread.

Ministers

FROM PAGE 20

The minister and the state minister went to the Press Club to address a discussion, the BCL leader said.

There was a big gathering in front of the Press Club of the leaders and activists of BNP and pro-BNP student body -- Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal -- at the time.

"The ministers felt insecure as the gathering of opposition members was bigger than those of the pro-Awami League ones," said

the BCL leader. Around 10 leaders and 30 activists of the BCL then attended the discussion at the request of the minister

and the state minister. "Using the members of a

student body for ministers' security is unfortunate," a joint general secretary of BCL, who also went to "secure" the ministers, said.

5 killed

FROM PAGE 20 of Mymensingh; and

Habibur Rahman, 23, and Babul Hossain, 38, of Manikarchar in Jamalpur district, police said. Two other victims could

not be identified till filing of this report at 9:00pm. The injured are Nazrul Islam, 30, and Nurul Islam,

35, of Haluaghat upazila and

Alam Miah, 30, a resident of

Trishal upazila in the district. Zakiur Rahman, officerin-charge (OC) of Bhaluka police station, said the accident occurred when a tin sheet carrying truck skidded off the road and fell into a paddy field killing the five on

the spot at around 4:45pm. The truck's driver lost control over steering as a tire of the vehicle punctured. All the victims were traveling on the roof of the truck, he said. The injured were rushed

to Bhaluka Upazila Health Complex. Later they were shifted to Mymensingh Medical College and Hospital (MMCH), the police officer said. The police recovered the

bodies.

The driver and helper of the truck managed to escape the scene.

condolences".

atomic arms arsenal.

Saturday (2330 GMT Friday), while travelling by train on one of his field trips, the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) said. It urged people to support Jong-Un, who is in his late 20s

and was last year made a fourstar general and given top ruling party posts despite having had no public profile. "All party members, military men and the public should faithfully follow the leadership of comrade Kim Jong-Un and protect and

further strengthen the unified

front of the party, military and

the public," a weeping female announcer, clad in black, said on television. KCNA said Kim died of a 'severe myocardial infarction along with a heart attack". He suffered a stroke in August 2008 which triggered an acceleration in the succession

Video footage from China Central Television showed people sobbing on the streets of Pyongyang. "How can l express all the sorrow... I can't say any more," a soldier said. Kim's funeral will be held

on December 28 in Pyongyang but no foreign delegations will be invited, KCNA said. National mourning was declared from December 17 to 29. "We must hold high the

flag of songun (military-first)

policy, strengthen military

power a hundred times and

firmly defend our socialist system and achievement of revolution," it said. At the North Korean embassy in Beijing, the capital of its main ally China, the national flag was flying at half

mast. China offered its "deep

age-limit may slow down

promotion and fresh recruit-

"The prime minister has

directed us to clear the

obstacles to promotions and

fill up two-lakh vacant posts

quickly," said Mosharraf

In her reaction,

Agriculture Minister Matia

Chowdhury said with this

move contractual appoint-

ment, which affects the

bureaucratic functions

badly, will be decreased

while unemployment wil

She said the premier

directed the secretaries to

hold Superior Selection

Board meeting frequently to

Akbar Ali Khan, former

finance adviser to a care-

taker government, said,

"The decision is good con-

sidering improvement in

average life expectancy, but

it will squeeze the scope for

new appointment and pro-

Zaid Bakht of Bangladesh

Institute of Development

Studies said the decision

may put a little pressure on

the revenue budget due to

salary hike at the higher

A deputy secretary of the

finance ministry told The

Daily Star that the govern-

ment would be relieved of a

huge amount of pension at

least for two years which will

The meeting yesterday

endorsed the proposal for

preserving one percent

quota for the physically

challenged in Bangladesh

Civil Service cadre and all

first and second-class public

servant positions, said

Cabinet Secretary Mosharraf

of the Bangladesh Applied

Nutrition and Training

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib

Medical University (Amend-

ment) Act 2011, Sustainable

and Renewable Energy

Development Authority Act

2011 and the Mutual

Cooperation on Crime

Besides, the cabinet

adopted a condolence

motion at the death of

National Professor Kabir

Related Issues Act 2011.

Chowdhury.

Institute Act 2011

It also approved the drafts

be a financial gain.

OTHER DECISIONS

ensure quick promotions.

Retirement

FROM PAGE 1

Hossain.

not rise.

motion.

echelon.

Hossain.

FROM PAGE 20

reviewing the IOC's digging cost from 1997 to 2011.

US company Chevron will dig nine wells in Moulvibazar and Bibiyana in Sylhet next year at an estimated cost of \$19 million per well, the proposal added.

Gazprom will use high

reputed international firms.

ernments in line with the bilateral agreement made between the two sides during Prime Minister Sheikh In 2009, Polish company

FROM PAGE 1

sufferers in the cold spell.

A Met official said vesterday evening the cold spell would continue for two more

In the capital, the tempera-

Our correspondents in

A report from Jamalpur

In Chuadanga, A moderate

A mild cold spell with thick

RMCH Director Dr Toufigul Islam said all the babies were suffering from low weight, bronchitis, asthma and ecclesia. Intense cold worsened their condi-

the hospital were functional. An RMCH source said of the 14 incubators for the

FROM PAGE 1

prosecution has placed 52 war crimes charges to the International Crimes Tribunal.'

Azam said, "Anthony Mascarenhas' writings are debatable and to draw conclusion from his book is unethical. This is only one side of the story! He introduced many characters in his writing who, either no longer lived or were untraceable, making able and absolutely unethical to publish extracts from this book. We feel that bringing reference to his book now in this manner is purely purpose oriented." OUR REPLY

Our story was based on an article titled "Genocide" by Anthony Mascarenhas, former assistant editor of Karachi-based Morning News, published in The Sunday Times on June 13, 1971. We stand by our report.

AL smells a rat

FROM PAGE 1

said the aim of the talks with the coalition partners and other like-minded parties is to improve understanding with them and also to extend the present alliance to challenge the opposition and anti-liberation forces.

The AL-led 14-party alliance sits today at 7:00pm at Gono Bhaban to discuss the current political situation of the country and work out a tactic to deal with possible future unrest by the opposition. On Sunday, a series of

crude homemade bombs

went off in central Dhaka as hundreds of activists of BNP and Jamaat clashed with police, smashed more than a dozen vehicles and set some of those on fire. A 24-year-old youth was killed in a bomb explosion at the capital's Motijheel while

vehicles in Sylhet, police said. Violence also erupted outside the capital with the opposition activists torching at least 10 vehicles across the country.

a man died when some

unruly people torched two

opposition blamed each other for the violence. Against this backdrop, the AL high command has decided to take on the oppo-

sition men on the street

"Awami League will be on the

house Hawa Bhaban and

Tarique Rahman, BNP chair-

person's elder son, were the

masterminds of Sunday's

Senior leaders are now

questioning whether it was a

wise decision to secretly plot a

showdown without preparing

top to bottom, are now also

fearing a government

clampdown on them follow-

The government already

picked up 362 opposition

leaders and activists all over

the country since Sunday,

and filed 18 cases against

general Mirza Fakhrul Islam

Alamgir yesterday however

said, "Everything is propa-

ganda, opposition activists

had no involvement in the

incidents. It was carried out

by ruling party operatives to

create an opportunity for

clamping down on the oppo-

had somehow come to know

about Sunday's plan before

the violence ensued, attrib-

uted the failure on the plan-

within the party about how

Questions also arose

ners' lack of coordination.

Some BNP insiders, who

BNP acting secretary

Leaders of the party, from

attempt.

the rank and file.

ing the violence.

7,000 of them.

The government and the

pared Sunday's incident with Concern takes over surprise

> The party insiders however said such actions might not be out of question for the future despite Sunday's failure.

the law enforcers got to know

the plan while senior leaders

of the organisation were in the

"What else we could do when we are not allowed to hold even a protest programme," said a mid-level leader who is believed to be one of the masterminds of Sunday's events. He, however, denied his involvement. The insiders also said those

who were involved in the planning are now investigating the reasons behind the failure and how the plan got Senior leaders declined to say anything about their involvement in the planning,

while some of them questioned the rationale for such an attempt. Some are also wondering whether the whole thing was a

plot by agent provocateurs for putting BNP in trouble. Mid-level leaders however said the matter probably was not discussed widely for the sake of the plan's success. Some of them said leaders of all party units in the city and its adjacent districts were only asked to gather activists

a reception for freedom fight-

specific reason.

ers scheduled to be attended by Chairperson Khaleda Zia. Sources close to some leaders of BNP's front bodies said huge amount of money

They were only told about

Leaking out of the plan at the last stage was the main reason for the failure, they

sources, some leaders of BNP's youth front Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal and its associated student organisation Jatiyatabadi Chatra Dal took the lead role in executing the plan. But they could not control their activists who started chanting slogans and hurling homemade bombs without getting any clearance

from the leaders. Although the decision was that none would chant any slogan before the mass gathering takes a good shape, the decision was ignored by some grassroots activists, which gave the law enforcers a reason to disperse them, said the party insiders.

Loots taken away on 18 boats

without mentioning any

FROM PAGE 20

relative's house near Charkhali village. While returning to his home on a day sometime in June, he came to know that the collaborators and Pakistan army of the Parer Haat were looting many houses and setting them on fire and so he was

trying to avoid Charkhali. "While crossing Charkhali khal, I saw some 17-18 boats with collaborators and Pakistani army on board, and the looted goods going

five or six Pakistani army officials sitting on the looted goods.

collaborators had taken his elder brother, Abdul Mannan Talukdar, to a house in Parer Haat used as a camp and tortured him brutally.

> Nabin. The tribunal earlier in the

Sayedee on December 7. Mahabubul Alam Hawlader was the first witness. Nabin, however, denied Mizanur told the tribunal the claims.

his own village covertly to collect information on collaborators and Pakistani "I also heard from the local people of Parer Haat that Sayedee issued a 'fatwa saying the goods of the pro-

liberation elements and

Hindu community people

are the 'goods of ganimat'

that he used to move around

and it is legitimate to loot "This prompted mindless looting in Parer Haat ... And Sayedee himself, along with his people, looted many big shops in the area," he said.

According to Mizanur Sayedee also forced many people of the Hindu community to convert to Islam. "He gave them Muslim names and directed them to go to mosques and say prayers five times everyday."

However, the Hindu com-

munity members had started observing their original religion after the Liberation War, he added. His deposition will

Earlier yesterday, Saydee's

counsels tried to discredit second prosecution witness

The petition was submitand that he used his muscle to obtain fake academic

was distributed among different levels of the party Saturday night for bringing activists and supporters to the capital.

added. According to intelligence

towards Parer Haat. "Few moments later, as one boat came close to mine, saw Delawar Hossain, Danesh Ali Mollah and some

"I lay down on the floor immediately and signalled the boatman to pass the spot fast," he told the tribunal. He also described how Sayedee and some fellow

Mizanur began his deposition in a case over Sayedee's alleged involvement in resume today. crimes against humanity during the war before the three-member tribunal headed by its Chairman

Defence Counsel Kafil Uddin Chowdhury told the witness that he was a freedom fighter only "in papers"

certificates and got admitted to Dhaka University.

The defence counsel inquired Nabin about the cases against him and whether he defaulted on a bank loan from Rupali Bank.

Kafil also told the witness

that he had filed a case

against his elder brother only "to harass him". The tribunal chief then intervened, saying "This is too much!" and asked the counsel to move to the next

question. Later, defence counsel Manzur Ahmed Ansari concluded the crossexamination by claiming that the allegations Nabin brought against Sayedee in his testimony are all false.

He told the witness that his deposition was false and the allegations against Sayedee were meant to be driven by political vengeance and pressed "after receiving financial help from the government". Nabin refuted the claim.

Upon a petition by the prose-

THREATTOWITNESS

cution, the tribunal yesterday directed the Inspector General of Police to investigate threats given to the witnesses against Sayedee.

ted to the tribunal earlier bringing light into the matter that its witnesses received threatening phone calls from different numbers.

Havel's funeral scheduled for Friday noon

AFP, Prague