

Arrest, thereafter



1. Activists of the Mahila Awami League bring out a procession in front of the CMM court, protesting Sheikh Hasina's arrest. 2. Awami League activists vandalise vehicles on the English Road. 3. A policeman fires rubber bullets at agitating AL activists on the English Road. 4. Police arrest an activist of the Mahila Awami League on the English Road. 5. The sub-jail for Hasina on the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban premises. 6. Law enforcers cordon off the residence of Sheikh Hasina. 7. Police seize Hasina's bullet proof Mercedes G-class.

SUV, laptop, CDs seized from Sudha Sadan

Joint forces yesterday seized a Mercedes Benz sport utility vehicle (SUV), a laptop, some compact disks (CD), two mobile phone sets and some documents from the Sudha Sadan residence of the former premier and AL chief Sheikh Hasina.

"The seizure was made in one and half hours search by the joint forces in the residence starting from 8:00am," Monwar Hossain, officer-in-charge (OC) of Dhanmondi Police Station said.

The high officials from different intelligence agencies took the seized materials from the Dhanmondi Police Station for examining, police sources said.

ACC official held for bribery

An Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official was arrested here on Sunday night by the joint forces for taking bribe and an extortion case was filed with Shahbagh Police Station in this connection.

ACC Assistant Inspector Nizam Uddin along with his associate Shahabuddin alias Munna was arrested at a restaurant in the city's Bijoynagar area.

Police said Nizam and Munna demanded Tk 50,000 from Shahidul and threatened to kill him if he failed to pay the money. Shahidul went to a Chinese restaurant and gave them the money at about 8:30pm.

On information, the joint forces caught them red-handed with the money and interrogated them. Later, they were handed over to Shahbagh Police Station at about 9:00am yesterday. The victim filed an extortion case at about 2:15pm.

ACC Secretary Mokhlesur Rahman in yesterday's regular briefing of the commission said, "One of our assistant inspectors was arrested by the joint forces at 9:00pm on Sunday night for demanding money."

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Prayer Timing		
July 17		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-54	6-58
Esha	8-15	8-45
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Twin car bombings kill 80 in Iraqi city

Two more US soldiers slain

AP, AFP, Kirkuk

Twin suicide car bombings exploded within 20 minutes of each other in Iraq's north yesterday, killing at least 80 people and wounding around 150 in attacks targeting a Kurdish political office and ripping through an outdoor market, police said.

The attacks in Kirkuk began around noon when a suicide bomber detonated his explosives-packed truck near the concrete blast walls of the headquarters of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the party of Iraqi President Jalal Talabani.

The explosion blasts a 30-foot-deep crater in the pavement and collapsed part of the roof of the one-story PUK office. Outside the offices, the burnt shells of more than two dozen vehicles were in the street.

Soon after, the second bomber attacked the Haseer market, 700 yards away, destroying stalls and cars, said Kirkuk police Brig. Sarhat Qadir.

The Haseer market an outdoor souk with stalls of vegetable and fruit sellers is frequented by Kurds in Kirkuk, a city where tensions are high between the Kurdish and Arab populations. At least 80 people were killed and around 140 wounded, said police Brig. Burhan Tayeb Taha.

The attack was believed to be the deadliest suicide bombing in Kirkuk 180 miles north of Baghdad where violence tends to be on a smaller scale of shootings, roadside bombs and kidnab-slayings, often linked to the struggle between the city's Kurds and Arabs. Monday's blast came just over a week after one of the Iraq conflict's deadliest suicide attacks hit a village about 50 miles south of Kirkuk, killing more than 160 people.

Iraqi officials have said Sunni insurgents are moving further north to carry out attacks, fleeing US offensives in and around Baghdad, including in the city of Baqouba, a stronghold of extremists on the capital's northwestern doorstep.

The month-old sweeps, fuelled by the "surge" of 28,000 new American troops sent to Iraq this year, aim to pacify the capital and boost the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

US troops launched a new offensive south of Baghdad on Monday, aimed at stopping weapons and fighters from moving into the capital, the military said in a statement.

The statement did not say where the new sweep, codenamed Marne Avalanche, was taking place. Cut in recent days US commanders have said they plan new operations to cut off an insurgent supply route southwest of the city, running from western Anbar province. An offensive has been ongoing for the past month in a region southeast of Baghdad.

Violence appears to have eased in Baghdad in recent weeks but attacks, including deadly car

Japan quake kills 7, injures 700

Nuclear plant catches fire

AFP, Tokyo

At least seven people were killed and nearly 700 others injured in the powerful earthquake that struck central Japan on Monday, officials said.

The National Police Agency said four women and three men, all in their 70s or 80s, died from injuries sustained in the earthquake.

At least 692 people were hurt and taken to hospitals in Niigata and Nagano prefectures, local authorities and hospital officials said.

More than 300 buildings were completely destroyed and another 212 were partially damaged, according to the Fire and Disaster Management Agency.

The government set up a crisis management centre while Prime Minister Shinzo Abe broke off from election campaigning to race to the scene of the worst damage in Niigata prefecture.

Rescue workers were hunting for anyone buried alive in the wreckage after nearly 300 buildings were flattened by the quake, which shook skyscrapers in Tokyo more than 200km from the epicentre.

"When the earthquake hit, I was out on my boat and I felt this swing," said Susumu Ishiguro, the owner of a fishing shop in the worst-hit city of Kashiwazaki on the Sea of Japan (East Sea).

"I came back to the port and I found my house was a complete mess. I think all the old houses got crushed," he said.

The four women and one man confirmed dead were all in their 70s or 80s, police said. At least 644 people were hurt and taken to hospitals, local officials said.

Niigata was hit by another 6.8 Richter-scale earthquake in 2004 that killed 67 people, most of them elderly who died in the days and weeks after the first tremor from stress and fatigue.

The latest quake triggered 50-centimetre (1.5-foot) tsunami waves and was followed by some 65 aftershocks that could be felt by people, the meteorological agency said.

Raising fears among residents, smoke billowed for hours from a blaze at a nuclear power plant, one of the largest in the world, which supplies electricity to the Tokyo region.



The Hindus celebrate the annual Jagannath Rath Yatra (chariot procession) at Shammibagh in the capital yesterday.

Dr Wazed hospitalised

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent nuclear scientist Dr Wazed Miah was admitted to Labaid Specialised Hospital with chest pain yesterday noon, hours after his wife Sheikh Hasina's arrest.

Family sources said that Wazed Miah had been suffering from heart ailments for a long time and was rushed to hospital at around 12:30pm following "acute chest pain."

"Condition of Wazed Miah is stable now and it was just a chest pain, not an attack," Cardiologist Dr ABM Sohrabuzzaman, under whom Dr Wazed is being treated, told The Daily Star at around 5:30pm.

The physician, who had been treating Wazed for the past 17 years, also said that his patient had been suffering from heart diseases and diabetes. Besides, he had high blood pressure, gout and kidney problems.

Apart from physical problems, Wazed is suffering from bipolar disorder (a mood disorder) coupled with dementia (losing memory gradually), said Dr Sohrabuzzaman.

Relatives of Wazed hospitalised him fearing his condition might

11 tax-dodging cases filed against Shajahan Siraj, family

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former jute and textiles minister Shajahan Siraj, his wife Rabeya Haider and son Rajib Siraj after the National Board of Revenue (NBR) filed eleven tax evasion cases.

The same court ordered attachment of all properties of Farzana Khan, daughter-in-law of Shajahan Siraj and wife of Rajib Siraj in connection with a tax evasion case.

Police yesterday pressed charges against former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas in connection with a case filed for possessing foreign currencies.

CASES AGAINST SIRAJ FAMILY

Senior Special Judge Mohammad Azizul Haq of Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, passed the arrest warrants against Siraj, his wife Rabeya and son Rajib, after three tax officials filed the tax evasion cases.

Of the cases, one was filed against Siraj, five were filed against Rabeya and five others against Rajib for not submitting tax return

DINKAL TAX CASE Hearing now on August 26

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday again directed the authorities concerned to serve summons issued earlier upon former prime minister Khaleda Zia and three others in connection with a case filed for not submitting income tax returns of the Daily Dinkal Publications Ltd for several years.

Defence lawyers appeared in court on behalf of detained BNP Senior Joint Secretary General Tarique Rahman and six others and sought time for next hearing of the case.

Metropolitan Magistrate AJM Abdullalaf Baqui passed the order as the summons issued earlier upon BNP chief Khaleda, Fazlul Azim, Ali Asghar Lobi and AKM

5 killed in Chittagong road crash

UNB, Ctg

Five people died and three others were injured when a bus ploughed through the passengers of another bus that met with an accident on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Mirersarai upazila yesterday morning.

Witnesses said a Chittagong-bound night coach of Unique Paribahan from Dhaka tilted to one side while it was taking a turn at Mithachhara Panthapukur point at about 5:30am.

"Fortunately, all the passengers managed to come out of the bus safely, says a witness to the accident.

When some of the passengers were trying to take out their

Musharraf drops charge against ousted judge

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Monday dropped one of the charges he has levelled against the country's ousted top judge, who has become an icon of opposition to his military rule.

The move came days before the Supreme Court is expected to decide whether to allow or overturn the March 9 suspension of Chief Justice Iftikhar Chaudhry, who drew thousands of supporters Sunday in one of a string of pro-democracy rallies.

The judicial misconduct charge withdrawn Monday centred on claims that the judge's verbal orders in some court cases varied from subsequent written orders.