

Pak SC reinstates CJ in a big blow to Musharraf



Pervez Musharraf

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday reinstated the country's chief justice and quashed misconduct charges filed against him by President Pervez Musharraf, in a major blow for the military ruler.

The ruling sparked massive celebrations by lawyers who had spent the day waiting outside the court for the verdict on Chaudhry, who has become an icon of opposition to the embattled Musharraf.

Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz said the government accepted the

decision but added it was "not the time to claim victory or defeat."

"The reference of the president dated March 9, 2007 is set aside," presiding judge Khali-ur-Rehman Ramday told the court, announcing a 10-3 verdict.

"As a further consequence the petitioner, the Chief Justice of Pakistan, shall be deemed to be holding the said office and shall always be deemed to have been so holding the same," he said.

Chaudhry has been showered with flower petals at mass rallies

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Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry

Free Hasina, US chapter of AL urges UN chief

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The US chapter of Awami League (AL) yesterday submitted a memorandum to the United Nations (UN) secretary-general, urging him to pressure the army-backed interim administration to free Sheikh Hasina immediately.

Demanding unconditional release of the former prime minister, they also called on Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to force the government to follow the rule of law and international norms.

Before submitting the memorandum, some 50 AL leaders and workers staged demonstrations in front of the UN headquarters in New York yesterday.

"We demand that the Bangladesh government release

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Coal can change economy if properly harnessed

5,000 MW of electricity could be generated for upto 90 years, says expert

SHARIEF KHAN

It is coal, not natural gas, that can drastically change the country's economy if it is given proper attention.

Eminent geologist and former chief of Geological Survey of Bangladesh (GSB) Khurshid Alam said the GSB identified 13 coal basins in the northern region of the country.

Of these, only five have been explored and these alone have high quality proven coal reserve of 2,357

million tonnes (mt). Probable coal reserve in the five locations stands at 3,258 mt.

If all this coal is converted into power, it could generate 5,000 megawatt of electricity for 66 to 90 years. Khurshid pointed out that 16 mt of coal can generate 5,000 MW power for one year.

In a presentation to the government on mining prospects recently, British-Bangladeshi venture Delta Pacific Mining PLC said the latest technology used in USA, Europe

and Japan and South Africa allows conversion of coal into clean synthetic liquid petroleum, synthetic gas, fertiliser and other chemical products. One tonne of coal can be converted into four barrels of petroleum, the price of which would be within \$30.

In other words, Bangladesh can meet its own power and petroleum demand, save energy import costs and trigger massive economic activities.

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US might strike terror targets in Pakistan

Says White House

AFP, Nashville, Tennessee

The White House on Thursday refused to rule out striking at suspected terrorist targets inside Pakistan and would not say whether US forces would first seek permission from Islamabad.

Asked whether US President George W Bush had ruled out US military action inside Pakistan, spokesman Tony Snow replied: "We never rule out any options, including striking actionable targets."

Asked whether Bush would first seek authorization from Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, Snow told reporters: "Those are matters that are best not discussed publicly."

Another report says United

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Indian state minister for commerce due today

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Indian State Minister for Commerce Jairam Ramesh will arrive in Dhaka today on a two-day official visit to hold talks on bilateral trade.

The issue of trade barriers faced by Bangladesh exporters is likely to figure prominently in the talks.

According to officials, India's exports to Bangladesh during April 2006-February 2007, were \$ 1.5 billion while imports from Bangladesh were \$ 205 million.

Dhaka has expressed concern as it runs a large trade deficit and has also been pointing out what it

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PHOTO: STAR

Family members break down at Basabo residence of NSI official Atiar Rahman who was killed by alleged muggers on Thursday night.

NSI official 'drugged and murdered'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A National Security Intelligence (NSI) official was killed when a gang attacked him in a running auto-rickshaw in the capital on Thursday night.

Police said Sheikh Atiar Rahman, 55, deputy assistant director of NSI, was posted in Kushtia. He fell victim to the gang that police suspect to be the members of "Agyan Party" who make their victims unconscious by drugging them or "Malam party" that puts pungent ointment into the eyes of the target and then makes away with his belongings.

Police however could not say exactly how Atiar was killed.

Family members said they

talked to Atiar over cellphone soon after he got down from a Hanif Paribhahan bus at Kalyanpur from Kushtia at 7:45pm. He told them that he is about to board a CNG-autorickshaw and would reach his residence at Ahmedbagh in Basabo under Sabujbagh Police Station in half an hour.

Hailed from Barani village in Tungipara upazila of Gopalganj district, Atiar was supposed to go on LPR in January next.

Meanwhile, receiving a phone call from an anonymous caller that a man is lying unconscious near the Nam flat in Mirpur-13, Sub-Inspector Motiur Rahman of Kafrul Police Station rushed to the spot at around 10:00pm and took the man

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The scourge puts victims at fatal risk

SHARIFUL ISLAM with SHAHEEN MOLLAH

Gangs of robbers who drug their victims into unconsciousness before robbing them, popularly known as 'aggyan party', are putting the victims at risks of fatalities or permanent mental disorders with their tools of the trade.

Recently the capital has seen an alarming increase in the activities of such aggyan parties.

Physicians said victims who are suffering from liver and kidney ailments might get their kidneys and livers damaged if they are administered with high doses of sedatives.

The gangs and their activities

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Tigers' missed opportunity

BISHWAJIT ROY, from Colombo

Bangladesh had the opportunity to salvage something for the first time in an otherwise disappointing tour but their almost chronic batting blues returned to spoil the party as the Tigers crashed to a 70-run defeat to hosts Sri Lanka at the P Sara Stadium yesterday.

The islanders thus drew first blood in the three-match one-day

series.

Bangladesh seized their much-needed momentum in the opener courtesy a valiant effort from the bowlers after Mohammad Ashraful won his first toss in the series and put in the opponents in seeking the early morning advantage.

But in the end they had to leave the field with their heads down after being bundled out for 164

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James Moriarty may become next US envoy to Bangladesh

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador James F Moriarty, who left Nepal on July 13 after completing his three-year tenure, is likely to be appointed the ambassador to Bangladesh in a couple of months.

The US State Department is currently considering three names for appointment as ambassador to Bangladesh, but Moriarty's name figured prominently as he is familiar with the sub-continent's politics and culture, diplomatic sources said.

They said the US president is expected to announce his nomination for next American ambassador in Dhaka next month and send it to Senate for approval.

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