

Pak SC reinstates CJ in a big blow to 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 Khalil-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

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

PHOTO: STAR

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

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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 'agyan 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 agyan 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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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 Bangladeshi 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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Muggers kill BRTA official in Chittagong

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Criminals killed an official of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) at the city's Battery Gali at around 9:30pm on Thursday.

Locals found an unconscious Party Ranjan Chakma, 45, motor vehicle inspector of BRTA, Chittagong, at the city's Battery Gali at around 9:30pm on Thursday.

He was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) where on-duty doctors declared him dead.

Police suspect that muggers killed him while he was going to Colonel Haat on a CNG-run three-wheeler from Bohoddarhat on that night.

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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

SHARIER KHAN

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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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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Hasina fears she won't get justice

Her lawyer says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday expressed her fear that the due process of law will not be followed in her prosecution, as she apprehends that the military backed caretaker government will influence the court in its pursuit of punishing her anyhow.

Hasina, a former prime minister, also alleged that her arrest was an abuse of the state of emergency, as there was neither a charge sheet nor a warrant of arrest against her and the case against her had not been brought under the emergency rules prior to the arrest, the AL chief's legal counsel, Abdul Matin Khasru, told The Daily Star

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Fresh areas flooded in Bandarban, Khagrachhari

Over one lakh hit, road links cut

STAR REPORT

Flood situation in Bandarban and Khagrachhari districts deteriorated yesterday as new areas were inundated due to incessant downpour forcing over one lakh people to take shelter in hilly lands and various higher structures.

The onrush of hilly water in the upper stream of rivers in many areas worsened the situation, our correspondents in the two districts reported.

With the death of schoolgirl Rumi Akther in a landslide at Balaghata in Bandarban on Thursday evening, the authorities

have asked people living at the foot of the hills to take safe shelter as further landslides may occur.

A youth named Syed Ahmed of Bandarban sadar upazila was also reported missing after river current floated him away yesterday morning.

Communications between the districts and the rest of the country have remained disrupted since Thursday afternoon as the Bandarban-Chittagong Road and the district's central bus terminal went under water.

BANDARAN Several thousand people in the vast urban area under sadar upazila and

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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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