

Govt reopens graft case against Sharif

Pak court seeks arrest of his brother

AP, Islamabad

The government has reopened corruption cases against former prime minister Nawaz Sharif, and a court yesterday ordered the arrest of his younger brother ahead of their planned return home from exile next week, lawyers said.

An anti-terrorism court in the eastern city of Lahore ordered the arrest of Shahbaz Sharif, younger brother of the former premier, in a murder case, said Aftab Ahmed Bajwa, a lawyer for the plaintiff.

Nawaz Sharif was toppled by President Gen. Pervez Musharraf in a 1999 coup and then sent into exile in Saudi Arabia. He has said he will come back to Pakistan to challenge the military leader's bid to extend his rule and stand in parliamentary elections, despite threats he could be re-arrested.

His younger brother is charged with



Nawaz Sharif

ordering police to kill five men who were gunned down in Lahore in 1998. At the time of the killings, Shahbaz was the chief minister, or top executive, of Punjab province. Nawaz was Pakistan's prime minister.

On Wednesday, the father of one

of the dead men filed an application to the court seeking the arrest of Shahbaz Sharif after hearing that he was due to return to Pakistan, Bajwa said. Shahbaz Sharif has denied the allegations.

Meanwhile an anti-corruption court in Rawalpindi held a hearing in a case involving allegations that the Sharif family defaulted on a bank loan and owned property beyond their known sources of income, said Zulfikar Ahmed Bhutta, a prosecutor for the state National Accountability Bureau.

The cases date back to 2001 and 2002. Hearings had been adjourned for years, but were reopened last month following an application by the government.

Bhutta said the prosecution sought a hearing in the case on Monday the Sharifs' planned date of return to Pakistan but the judge

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7 Americans killed in Iraq attacks

AP, Baghdad

Four US Marines were killed in fighting in Anbar province, and three soldiers were killed by a roadside bomb in northern Iraq, the military said yesterday.

The four Marines assigned to Multi National Force West were killed Thursday while conducting combat operations in Anbar, a predominantly Sunni province west of Baghdad that has seen a recent drop in violence, according to a statement.

Three Task Force Lightning soldiers also were killed Thursday when a bomb exploded near their vehicle in the northern Ninevah

province, the military said separately.

The deaths raised to at least 3,760 members of the US military who have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Violence also persisted against Iraqis on the Islamic day of rest.

A roadside bomb struck an Iraqi army patrol near Baqouba, killing one soldier and wounding two, while another roadside bomb killed one civilian and wounded four others southeast of Baghdad, police officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorised to release the information.

Gunmen also opened fire on Sunni worshippers in a drive-by shooting following evening prayers late Thursday in the northern city of Kirkuk, killing at least three people and wounding four, police Col. Anwar Qadir said.

Anbar a vast desert province that stretches west from Baghdad to the borders with Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia has been a Sunni insurgent stronghold but attacks against US forces and Iraqis have tapered off since many Sunni tribal leaders joined forces with the United States against al-Qaeda in Iraq.

10 Jamaat men sued for 'attack on temple'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

A case has been filed against 10 Jamaat leaders and activists at Bera Pora in Santhia upazila for attacking a Hindu temple on September 5.

President of Siddheshwari Puja Mandir Committee Pradip Kumar De filed the case with the local police station Wednesday.

The accused are Bera Pora unit Jamaat ameer and superintendent of Karamja Dakhil Madrasa Abu Daud, and Jamaat activists Shahjahan, Saidul, Nudu Mollah,

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Cricketer Opi arrested as wife files case

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former national team cricketer Mehrab Hossain Opi was arrested and sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday in a case filed by his wife under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

Opi's first wife Arjun Radia Hossain Rumi filed the case a few days ago alleging that Opi used to beat her frequently.

Kotwali police said they arrested Opi at 1:45am yesterday at his Aga

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No sign of early resumption of Nagarbari ferry service

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Pabna

One of the major ferry routes of the country Nagarbari-Aricha (Paturia) remains suspended for over a month due to flooding and shortage of ferries.

It is uncertain when the service would resume since a number of ferries are undergoing repair work and are inoperative, a Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) source said.

The ferry service between Nagarbari-Aricha snapped on July 30 when the Nagarbari ferry pontoon was washed away by raging

floodwater. The floodwater has receded and the pontoon has been fixed but the service has not resumed as there are inadequate number operational ferries. At least 27 employees of Nagarbari terminal are passing dull days since there is no work for them.

Last month the pontoon was repaired and moved to Pratappur after the floodwater went down. The terminal is now ready to have ferries.

"The moving of pontoons at Paturia has been completed; the river channel is okay; Nagarbari ferry service is ready to resume.

We are just waiting for ferries to arrive," an official of Nagarbari ferry terminal said.

"Around 12 ferries used to operate on Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulotdia routes. At least seven out of the 12 are now in dockyards and only five ferries are operating on the busy Aricha-Daulotdia route," Nagarbari Pontoon In-charge Abdur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

The Deputy General Manager (DGM) of Aricha Ferry Terminal Shahadat Hossain said under the circumstances it is quite

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A model walks the catwalk at Bexifabrics-Anyadin Eid Fashion Competition at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre in the capital yesterday.

Good results rarely make them happy

Poverty stands in way of Dalit students' education

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Good results in the SSC and HSC examinations seemingly fail to make happy the students from Dalit (lower caste) community, as they fear that severe financial constraint will stand in the way of their education.

At a reception programme arranged for the successful Dalit students in this year's SSC and HSC examinations, the guardians and students from the community yesterday sought assistance of the government and non-government bodies for their further education.

Government initiative alongside the NGOs' is essential to help the children from the community to pursue studies for a better future, said speakers at the programme at Women's Volunteer Association auditorium in Dhanmondi in the capital.

Bangladesh Dalits Human

England-India final ODI today

PTI, London

With the cricket series tantalisingly poised at 3-3, a buoyant India will seek to record a rare overseas one-day series triumph as they take on an equally determined England in

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Prayer Timing		
September 8		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15
Source: Islamic Foundation		

Businessman shot dead

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Unknown criminals shot dead a businessman in the city's Shyampur area early yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Syed Shafi Mahub Emon, 25, owner of Bichitra Fashion Works at Srimongol in Sylhet.

A patrol police team found a body lying on the Lalmiah Sarder road at Shyampur at around 2:30am and sent it to Sir Salimullah Medical College morgue for autopsy. Morgue sources said they found a bullet lodged in the head.

Emon's father Mohammad Ibrahim said a group of four to five

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Tornados lash Lalmonirhat, Sandwip

UNB, Lalmonirhat

Over 100 thatched houses were damaged and at least 20 people injured as tornados lashed Patgram upazila in Lalmonirhat and Sandwip upazila in Chittagong yesterday morning.

In Patgram, a violent storm hit Kadamtala village at about 7:23am and lasted for 15 seconds.

Standing crops and vegetables were damaged and a huge number of trees uprooted by the storm.

In Sandwip, a tornado lashed

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Yunus Chair at King Saud University

UNB, Dhaka

King Saud University of Saudi Arabia has announced 50 scholarships for Bangladeshi students, particularly for those who are the children of Grameen Bank borrowers.

The announcement came at a ceremony honouring Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus, the founder of Grameen Bank, on Thursday.

The university also announced the creation of Muhammad Yunus Chair in honour of him. A teacher

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New RCC list has 21,564 less voters than last year's

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

In Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) 2,52,564 have been photographed and recorded as voters. The number of voters in the new list is less by 21,564 than in the list prepared by the Election Commission last year.

Officials involved with the registration task said at least 2,74,128 voters were registered in 2006.

Lt Col Taher, Rajshahi coordinator of the task for preparing national identity card and voter list with photograph, said many eligible voters could not register as educational institutes including Rajshahi University and Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology were closed during the task.

"Moreover, the list prepared in 2006 had many voters from outside the Rajshahi City Corporation. This time following awareness campaigns people got themselves registered in their own areas," he said at the conclusion ceremony of the voter listing task at the conference room of the deputy commissioner's office Thursday evening.

Rajshahi Deputy Commissioner Khaliur Rahman, Acting RCC Mayor Rezaunnabi Dudu, and Rajshahi Election Officer Syed

KNOCK-OUT BLOW TO MONARCHY Nepali Cong for turning kingdom into republic

AFP, Kathmandu

Nepal's biggest political party landed a potentially knock-out blow to the embattled monarchy yesterday declaring it wanted the kingdom to become a republic.

The policy shift by the Nepali Congress Party, which has traditionally supported keeping a ceremonial king, came as King Gyanendra's only son and heir languished in hospital after suffering a heart attack.

Doctors said Crown Prince Paras, an unpopular playboy accused of nightclub brawls, fast driving and reckless living in one of the world's poorest countries, was

"recovering well."

But the Congress party signalled the days of the two century-old dynasty were nearly over.

"The central working committee of Nepali Congress has decided, in principle, to vouch for a federal republic," Nepali Congress chief whip Ananda Prasad Dhungana told AFP.

He said the decision would be voted on later this month by a bigger party meeting, and if approved would mean the "Nepali Congress will officially stand for a federal republic" to be declared after elections set for November.

Narhari Acharya, a Congress

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