

# 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 Zulfiqar 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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**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 Santia 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 Runi 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 Anwar Qadir said.

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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 Nineveh

**Most people want troops out of Iraq**

AFP, London

Two-thirds of people questioned around the world want US-led troops to pull out of Iraq within a year, but fewer than half believe that they will ever leave, according to a poll published Friday.

In the BBC World Service poll of 23,000 people in 22 countries, 67 percent said they backed a troop withdrawal inside a year, while 49

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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 of 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.

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

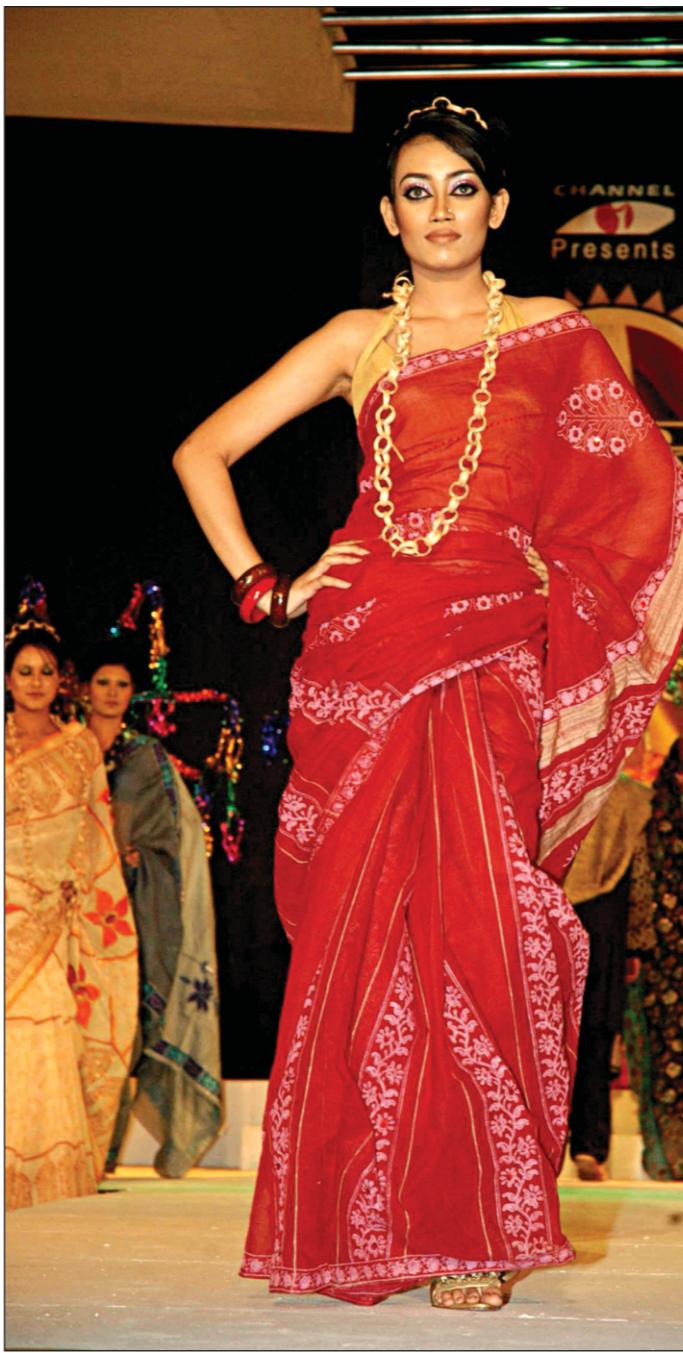
"Around 12 ferries used to operate on Aricha-Nagarbari and Aricha-Daulatdia routes. At least seven out of the 12 are now in dockyards and only five ferries are operating on the busy Aricha-Daulatdia route," Nagarbari Pontoon In-charge Abdur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

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

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## 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 Mahbub Emon, 25, owner of Bichitra Fashion Works at Srimongol in Sylhet.

Apatrol police team found a body lying on the Lalmiah Sardor 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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## 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 Dhamondi in the capital.

"My parents did not even

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## 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

|         | Fajr  | Azan | Jamaat |
|---------|-------|------|--------|
| Zohr    | 12:45 | 1-15 |        |
| Asr     | 4-30  | 4-45 |        |
| Maghrib | 6-20  | 6-25 |        |
| Esha    | 7-45  | 8-15 |        |

Source: Islamic Foundation

Mohammad Musa were present at the programme.

The national ID cards will be prepared after rechecking the data of the registered voters. Assistant registration officers and enumerators will visit door to door to recheck the information.

About 45,000 national ID cards have been prepared and those will be handed over to the district administration. The cards will be distributed through the assistant registration officers and ward commissioners.

Although the task for registering voters has completed, those who have been left out can still register their names. The main computer server at the Terokhadi divisional stadium army camp will remain open for 15 days from today and data-entry operators and other officials will register voters and correct mistakes in the national ID cards.

The Election Commission with direct assistance of the army started the task of preparing the voter roll in RCC on August 11. Chief Adviser Dr Fakhrul Islam Ahmed formally inaugurated the programme on August 14.

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

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

In Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) 25,256 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 Khalilur Rahman, Acting RCC Mayor Rezaunnabi Dudu, and Rajshahi Election Officer Syed

"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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## 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

