

Convicted killer of Ahsanullah Master held

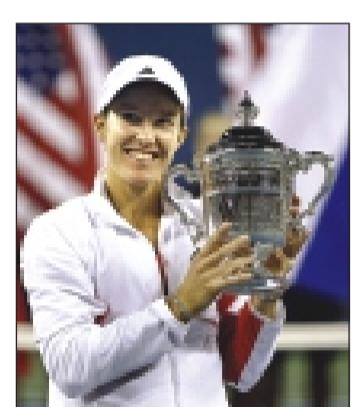
OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gazipur

Rab yesterday arrested a convicted killer of former Awami League (AL) lawmaker Ahsanullah Master in Islampur in Munshiganj.

The convict, Al Amin (28), son of Zainal Mia of North Arichpur in Tongi, had been absconding since Ahsanullah Master, former AL lawmaker of Gazipur, was gunned down in Tongi on May 7, 2004.

Twenty-two people, including a central leader of Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal, were sentenced to death for killing Ahsanullah Master. Six others were awarded life-term rigorous imprisonment and fined Tk 50,000 each, in default of which they have to suffer one more year in prison.

A total of 16 people excluding Al Amin are in jail now while others are on the run.



Henin lifts US Open

AGENCIES, New York

Justine Henin won the US Open title on Saturday, defeating Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova 6-1, 6-3 in the final.

It was the 25-year-old Belgian's second US crown after that of 2003 and the seventh Grand Slam title of her career along with four French Opens and one Australian.

The top seed defeated both

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Govt plans to buck up fisheries sector

Considers discarding leasing process of water bodies in favour of fishermen

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The government is considering abandoning the existing system for leasing water bodies in an effort to improve the livelihoods of fishing communities and increase fish production.

Currently non-fishermen, especially people with political influence, manipulate the leasing process depriving real fishermen the opportunity to lease water

bodies, said fisheries experts.

Over 10 lakh tonnes of fish is produced each year in 40.36 lakh hectares of open water bodies in the country.

An expert committee on fish resources said fish production could be increased significantly if the present leasing system is changed.

A study conducted by Directorate of Fisheries found that the leasing process followed in the

last 20 years by the past governments have been beneficial mainly to a group of intermediaries or middlemen.

Pariksheet Dutta, joint secretary of fisheries and livestock ministry, said the present leasing system deprives true fishermen of access to the water bodies, destroying their livelihood.

A strategy paper on Inland Capture Fisheries suggested that a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

3 companies to offer land phones in Dhaka

BTRC finally grants fixed phone licences in capital

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three private land phone companies yesterday received licences from Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC) to operate fixed phone services in central Dhaka.

This is the first time private fixed phone operators, also known as PSTN (Public Switched Telephone Network) operators, have been awarded the licence to operate in Dhaka. The BTRC had been withholding licences to operate in Dhaka.

The three PSTN operators that received licence to operate in Dhaka are RanksTel, Dhaka Telephone Company Ltd (DTCL) and Square Informatix.

Of them, both RanksTel and

DTCL received their licences in May 2005 to operate in four zones in the country outside Dhaka.

RanksTel (Ranks Telecom Limited), with more than one lakh subscribers, has an established network in four operational zones in the country.

"The case will not sustain when we file writ with the High Court," Khaleda said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Khaleda denies ACC charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detained BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday denied charges brought against her by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

"The allegations brought against me are not based on facts," Advocate Ahmed Aazam, Khaleda's lawyer, told reporters at the sub-jail gate quoting the former prime minister.

"The case will not sustain when we file writ with the High Court," Khaleda said.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Graft charges pressed against ANH Akhter, his wife

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain and his wife Nazneen Banu in connection with a case filed for amassing wealth through illegal means.

Syed Iqbal Hossain, deputy

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Koko suffering from bronchitis

UNB, Dhaka

The condition of Arafat Rahman Koko, younger son of former prime minister Khaleda Zia, remained stable at BSMMU hospital yesterday, said Dr Manzoor Mahmud, a member of the Medical Board formed on Friday for his treatment.

Koko, arrested along with her mother on graft charge on September 3, was shifted to BSMMU Hospital with chest pain.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Tariqul, family sued for hiding wealth

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday filed a case against former forest and environment minister Tariqul Islam and four members of his family.

ACC Deputy Director Monjur Morshed filed the case with Kotwali Police Station in Jessoral alleging that the wealth statement of the former minister is inconsistent with his actual wealth.

The other accused are Tariqul's wife Nargis Begum, his sons Arindya Islam Amit and Santan Islam Sumit, and Sumit's wife Ramia Sharmin.

Sources said Tariqul concealed information about Tk 2.76 crore in his wealth statement.

The ACC on February 18 directed the former minister and his family members to submit their wealth statements.

Pakistan on alert as Sharif flies in today

AFP, Islamabad/London

Pakistan put airports on high alert and detained hundreds of opposition activists yesterday as former premier Nawaz Sharif prepared to fly home from exile to challenge President Pervez Musharraf.

Sharif, the man Musharraf ousted in a 1999 coup, has defied international appeals to stay away and could face immediate deportation to his Saudi Arabian home-in-exile or even be arrested on his expected arrival on Monday.

The looming return of the two-time prime minister threatens to further destabilise the nuclear-armed Islamic republic ahead of

key elections due in coming months, with the popularity of key US ally Musharraf flattening.

"I and my brother Shahbaz are going back to Pakistan on September 10 and that will be the day of the people's victory," Sharif told a news conference in London on Saturday.

Sharif was due to leave London's Heathrow airport at 1930 GMT Sunday to return to Islamabad, via Muscat, arriving in the Pakistani capital at 11:45 am (0645 GMT) on Monday, his spokesman Nadir Chaudhri said.

"His plan is to go back to play his role in Pakistani politics, which is his right," Chaudhri told AFP. "He's

head of his own party. Elections are coming up. He will mobilise his party for those elections."

The Pakistani government on Sunday placed all major airports on high alert, an airport security official told AFP, amid speculation that Sharif may try to land somewhere other than Islamabad or be diverted by the government.

Former industrialist Sharif, 57, says he plans to lead a triumphal motorcade from Islamabad to Lahore, his family's power base -- recreating a procession by the country's top judge earlier this year when Musharraf tried to sack him.

"Nawaz Sharif should respect

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



A woman moves out of her flooded home on a boat at Ekdala in Sirajganj yesterday along with all her salvageable belongings.

Barisal robber killed in 'crossfire'

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

A leader of a gang of robbers was killed in "crossfire" during a shootout between police and his cohorts at Barthi of Gournadi upazila early Sunday. Two police constables were also injured in the incident.

Habul Peayada, a convict and a leader of robbers of Gournadi-Agoljhara-Kalkini region of Barisal and Madaripur districts, was arrested Saturday morning, police sources claimed.

Police sources claimed a police team started for Barthi, following

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

2 JMB men get 10yrs for bomb attack on court

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

A court here sentenced two Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) men to 10 years' rigorous imprisonment for their role in bomb attacks on the city's judge court on August 17, 2005.

Judge Diproman Sarker at the Sylhet Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal also fined the two -- Mohsin Khan and Abdul Hai -- Tk 5,000 each, defaulting on which will carry one more year in jail.

The convicts -- who hail from

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Iraq asks neighbours to bar 'terrorists'

10 police, soldiers die in attacks

AGENCIES, Baghdad

Iraq's foreign minister urged neighbours to prevent "terrorists and killers" from crossing into his country and warned Sunday that the violence in Iraq could spill across its borders.

Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari's comments came during the opening of a daylong conference

that brought to Baghdad officials from all of Iraq's neighbours and other Mideast countries, as well as representatives from the UN and the Group of Eight industrialized nations.

The first such conference in March saw the first direct US-Iraqi talks since the war began, focusing on border problems, Iraqi refugees and energy issues, includ-

ing oil supplies.

"Despite our emphasis on national reconciliation at home, we also need to reconcile with our neighbourhood, with the international community at large," Zebari told the group.

Zebari's appeal to Iraq's neighbours occurred on the eve of the start of congressional hearings in

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

Prayer Timing

September 10

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-35	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-14	6-17
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

