



Federer's 4th in a row at US Open

AFP, New York

Roger Federer captured his 12th Grand Slam crown Sunday by winning his fourth US Open in a row, moving three major titles shy of surpassing the all-time record of 14 Slam wins set by Pete Sampras.

The Swiss world number one defeated Serbian Novak Djokovic

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Mirza Khokon gets 8yrs for tax evasion

Fined Tk 2.5 lakh, wealth worth Tk 12.96 lakh confiscated

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

An anti-corruption court yesterday sentenced Mirza Khokon, ward commissioner of Dhaka City Corporation, to eight years in jail on two counts in a tax evasion case.

Judge Shahed Nuruddin of the Third Special Court at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar MP Hostel also fined Khokon Tk 2.50 lakh, defaulting on which carries another six months in jail.

The judgment was passed in absentia.

Khokon was handed down three years under Section 165 of Income

Tax Ordinance 1984 for giving false information while five years under Section 166 of the same ordinance for concealing wealth information in his tax return.

The ward commissioner, however, will have to serve five years in total as the two sentences will be effective simultaneously, the court said adding that his jail term begins from the day of his surrender or arrest.

The court also ordered confiscation of some Tk 12.96 lakh, information on which he concealed in the tax return.

Rahima Khatun, assistant tax

commissioner at National Board of Revenue, filed the case with a Dhaka court on July 30 this year, complaining that Khokon -- brother of detained former housing and public works minister Mirza Abbas -- dodged Tk 12,96,863 in income tax during 2005-2006 fiscal year.

The court issued arrest warrant against him the same day. Charges were framed against him on August 16.

Earlier on August 5, the court ordered attachment of his property. Khokon has been on the run since the joint forces launched anti-graft drive across the country.

Ki-moon lauds Bangladeshi peacekeepers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon during his recent visit to southern Sudan applauded Bangladesh peacekeepers for their dedication in promoting international peace and security.

"With my deep admiration and commendation for all the noble work Bangladesh Contingent [Bancon] has been making for peace and security of Sudan. I wish you all the best and continued success," the UN secretary-general

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PROF YUNUS MURDER 8 JMB men charged

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in Rajshahi pressed murder charges against eight militants of Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB) yesterday in connection with the killing of Prof Muhammad Yunus, a Rajshahi University (RU) teacher.

CID Inspector Mohammad Helauddin, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, submitted the charge sheet and prayed for acquitting five activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir who were accused of murder.

The IO said previously police reports said Shibir activists were behind the gruesome murder but the line of investigation changed following the confessional statements of executed JMB chief Abdur Rahman.

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DU VIOLENCE Duta for teachers' exemption from charges

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) yesterday hoped that the four DU teachers, charged with instigating violence on the university campus last month, would be exempted from the case.

In a press release, Duta said the

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PHOTO: AFP

Former Pakistan prime minister Nawaz Sharif returns home yesterday after an eight-year exile. Hours later, law enforcers arrested him at the airport and deported him to Saudi Arabia.

TK 1 CRORE BRIBERY CASE Charges pressed against ex-minister Salahuddin, ex-MP Salimul Haq

COURT CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday pressed charges against detained former state minister for communications Salahuddin Ahmed and Kazi Salimul Haq, chairman of Econo Ball Pen Company Limited, in a Tk 1 crore bribery case.

Meantime, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) President Azizul Baree Helal was shown arrested under the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) for alleged destructive activities even though his name was earlier dropped from two cases filed for violence on the Dhaka University (DU) campus.

Besides, detained former communications minister Nazmul Huda was sent to jail following the completion of a three-day remand in a Tk 1 crore extortion case.

SALAHUDDIN CASE

ACC Assistant Director Ashraful

Islam -- also the investigation officer (IO) of the case -- submitted the charge sheet to the court of Dhaka's chief metropolitan magistrate, showing 26 people as prosecution witnesses.

The ACC filed the case against the two with Shahbagh Police Station on May 29 this year, alleging that they took Tk 1 crore in bribe from one Mir Zahir Hossain, owner of a construction firm, in exchange for winning a work order for his business.

The former Cox's Bazar MP has been in jail custody while Salimul Haq in hiding after the case was filed. The IO prayed for the issuance of arrest warrant for the Econo chairman.

HELAL CASE

Metropolitan Magistrate ABM Abdul Fattah passed the order showing Helal arrested for alleged destructive activities in the country

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T20 WC starts today in S Africa

Hosts take on WI in opener

AFP, Johannesburg

South Africa were reminded of a painful home ambush four years ago as they prepared to open the inaugural Twenty20 World Championship against the West Indies here on Tuesday.

Graeme Smith's home team is a front-runner along with the world Test and one-day champions Australia to win the 12-nation competition in the shortest version of the game.

But the South Africans will be

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Prayer Timing		
September 11		
	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		



PHOTO: STAR

Yesterday afternoon's downpour waterlogged many streets of the capital due to poor drainage system. The photo was taken from Sat Rasta intersection in Tejgaon.

WB to grant \$75m as flood assistance

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank (WB) will provide \$75 million loan in budget support to Bangladesh as emergency flood assistance.

The proposal of providing the loan will be placed before the bank's board on September 28 for approval, Xian Zhu, WB country director for Bangladesh, said at a press conference at his office in Dhaka yesterday.

The WB country director said that the bank would initially release half of the government's requirement for post flood recovery programmes. The donors, including the WB, will increase the assistance further after getting government estimation of total losses due to the floods, he added.

The government earlier sought \$150 million additional assistance from the donors to cover the economic losses caused by the recent

floods.

Economic Relations Division (ERD) sources said that the government has already received \$68.3 million in aid till Sunday from 14 bilateral and multilateral donors.

The WB has been monitoring the flood situation regularly conferring with the government and other development partners, Zhu said adding that it has put forward a two-pronged financial assistance strategy to contribute to the country's flood relief effort.

The bank believes that the \$75 million will ease the pressure on government budget resulting from the non-programmed flood-related spending. "The government's relief effort is putting a strain on its 2008 fiscal year budget. Expenditures earmarked for development activities are being redirected for flood relief," the bank added.

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US marks 9/11 under shadow of 'war on terror'

AFP, New York

America marks the sixth anniversary of the September 11 attacks today with more low key commemorations than in the past and in the face of mounting concern over the US-led "war on terror."

In New York, where more than 2,700 people were killed when two hijacked planes ploughed into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Centre, rescue workers were to read out the names of the dead in a solemn ceremony on Tuesday.

As in previous years, al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden released a taped message ahead of the commemorations, mocking the United

States as "weak" and threatening to escalate the increasingly unpopular war in Iraq.

Unlike past commemorations, most of Tuesday's ceremony will be held at a park near Ground Zero, the area where the Twin Towers once stood, and not in the site itself, where work is under way on new skyscrapers and a memorial.

In what has become an annual ritual, the reading of the names will pause for four moments of silence to mark the exact times that the planes hit the towers and when the massive office blocks collapsed.

Church bells are to toll at 8:46 am (1246 GMT) to mark the exact

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