

**Ex-BNP MP  
Anny sued  
for extortion**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former BNP lawmaker Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny was sued on Monday night for extorting money from a dredging firm.

Shamsul Haque, senior manager of Abdul Monem Limited, filed the case with Shahbagh Police Station in the capital.

According to the complainant, Anny obstructed the company from contesting bids for four projects on dredging of a river in 2005 and demanded Tk 50 lakh in exchange for allowing it to submit tenders for the bids.

Shamsul said they gave Tk 25

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**TERMINATING STUDY ON DEEP-SEA PORT  
Economic loss to  
be assessed**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The advisory committee on economic affairs yesterday directed the shipping ministry to assess the financial impact of the government's decision to terminate the feasibility study on the country's first deep-sea port at Sonadia.

The committee in its July meeting decided to postpone the site selection process and the project's

further activities as the government does not think that the project, which is scheduled to end in 2055 involving Tk 42,000 crore, is viable.

"We directed the shipping ministry to see if there is any financial impact associated with the termination or continuation of the feasibility study," said Finance Adviser Mirza Azizul Islam who chaired the meeting.

The shipping ministry in the meeting, however, spoke in favour

of going ahead with the study, saying there is no scope to postpone it.

It said the government will have to pay the consulting firm full contract fee if the feasibility study is terminated halfway.

The four-party alliance government initiated the deep-sea port plan in 2005 and appointed a Japanese consulting firm, Pacific

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**GRAFT CASES  
Arrest warrant  
against ex-MP  
Salimul Haq,  
ex-secy Akhter**

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against former BNP lawmaker Kazi Salimul Haq and wife of detained former power secretary ANH Akhter Hossain in connection with two graft cases.

Three prosecution witnesses of two graft cases against former president and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad gave their statements before a Dhaka court yesterday.

Detained Rajshahi City

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**City bogs down  
in tailbacks**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The traffic congestion in Dhaka city has become unbearable in the last couple of days -- even to the ones who had been accustomed to it as an everyday phenomenon.

The monsoon coupled with poor drainage system have worn out the road network in the city so badly that over ninety percent of the city roads turn hazardous for traffic even after a few millimetres of rainfall.

The sufferings of commuters worsened further as the road repair work of Dhaka City Corporation is being interrupted by heavy rainfall.

The road from Matsya Bhaban to Shahbagh was found clogged with hundreds of stationary vehicles yesterday. And the sight was almost the same everywhere in the city, said sources.

"The horrendous traffic jam of Dhaka stops everything but the clock. ...Would you believe that it took me 80 minutes to get to Banani Chairman Bari from Panthapath?" said a frustrated commuter, Koushik Ahmed.

From the foot over bridges at Farmgate and Shahbagh, bumper-to-bumper traffic was seen moving inch by inch on Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue during the peak hours yesterday afternoon.

Roads around Gabtoli, Mohakhali and Sayedabad intercity bus terminals, major intersections at Jatrabari, Bijoy Sarani, Sonargaon Hotel, Bangla Motor and Hotel Sheraton, long stretch of Mirpur Road from Lalmatia to New Market, and most roads at Dhanmondi -- all were found choked up with vehicles.

No immediate relief, however, is likely to end the sufferings of the commuters and residents of the capital city as the government is only considering a long-term strategy to solve the congestion problem, said sources.

Dr Salehuddin, additional executive director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB), said, "The government is trying to resolve the crisis. ...We will start working on the 20-year-long Strategic Transport Plan (STP)."

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**Home redefines  
political party**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The explanation of the meaning of a political party given by the home ministry in a gazette notification on Sunday contradicts with the definition in the constitution.

"To meet the objective of this circular, part of any political party will also be included as political party," said the home ministry gazette notification that amended the Emergency Power Rules relaxing the restrictions on indoor politics. It also fixed some conditions for holding party activities.

According to article 152(1) of the constitution, a political party includes a group or combination of persons who operate within or outside parliament under a

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## Prayer Timing

September 12

	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



FROM LEFT... Law enforcers prevent Brig Gen (retd) Hannan Shah, adviser to the BNP chairperson, from entering the party central office in the capital yesterday. Members of the city unit of Awami League at an informal meeting at the party central office.

**Laden taunts US on  
9/11 anniversary**

AFP, Washington

al-Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden eulogized one of the September 11 hijackers in a video released yesterday's sixth anniversary of the attacks that still traumatise the United States.

As Americans remembered the almost 3,000 people killed, attempted bomb attacks and security alerts kept the world on terrorist alert. A powerful bomb was disarmed in Ankara and German

police launched a major operation at a US military base after receiving threats.

The al-Qaeda leader was seen in a still image on the new video in which he gives a commentary praising hijacker Walid al-Shehri, according to IntelCentre, a US-based monitoring group that obtained an early copy of the video.

In the audio, Bin Laden describes Al-Shehri as "a young man who personally penetrated

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**Deportation of Sharif  
challenged  
in court**

AFP, Islamabad

President Pervez Musharraf faced a fresh showdown with Pakistan's Supreme Court after the opposition yesterday launched a legal challenge against the deportation of former prime minister Nawaz Sharif.

Embattled US ally Musharraf had Sharif, the man he toppled in a 1999 coup, arrested on corruption

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**17 killed in Pak  
suicide blast**

AFP, Peshawar

A suicide bomber blew himself up inside a minibus as police tried to arrest him in northwest Pakistan yesterday, killing 17 people including a policeman and a soldier, officials said.

The blast happened in Dera Ismail Khan, a remote town close to Pakistan's troubled tribal areas bordering Afghanistan where there have been several attacks blamed on pro-Taliban militants.

Pakistan has suffered a string of bombings since security forces raided the radical Red Mosque in Islamabad in July, piling pressure on President Pervez Musharraf as he clings to power ahead of elections.

"It was a suicide attack. Police started chasing him because he was acting suspiciously and he jumped into a minibus before blowing himself up," police chief Mohammad Khalil told AFP.

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