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TRANSCOM

ELECTRONICS

Musharraf, Benazir strike power sharing deal

Pak president can stand for re-election, rules court

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf struck a last-minute deal yesterday with former premier Benazir Bhutto that paves the way for power-sharing and clears a key hurdle to his smooth re-election.

Musharraf, a key US ally who seized power in a coup eight years ago, was relieved as the Supreme Court in a crucial ruling said he can run for re-election on Friday and that the today's presidential vote can go ahead.

The decision effectively leaves a sword hanging over the head of Musharraf, a key US ally, while the court decides whether it will validate the result of Saturday's crunch



vote, which he is widely expected to win.

Opponents challenged the validity of the election, but the Supreme Court's ruling clears the

way for the vote, carried out by an electoral college of the national and federal parliaments, to go ahead.

But the deal with Benazir's

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Complainant of extortion case against former MP shot dead

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jhenidah

Underground operatives gunned down the complainant of an extortion case filed against former BNP lawmaker Moshiur Rahman in the district town on Thursday night.

Witnesses said a gang of three sprayed bullets on Subodh Kumar Kundu, 52, while he was talking with some of his friends near Castle Bridge at around 8:45pm and left the scene. Subodh died instantly.

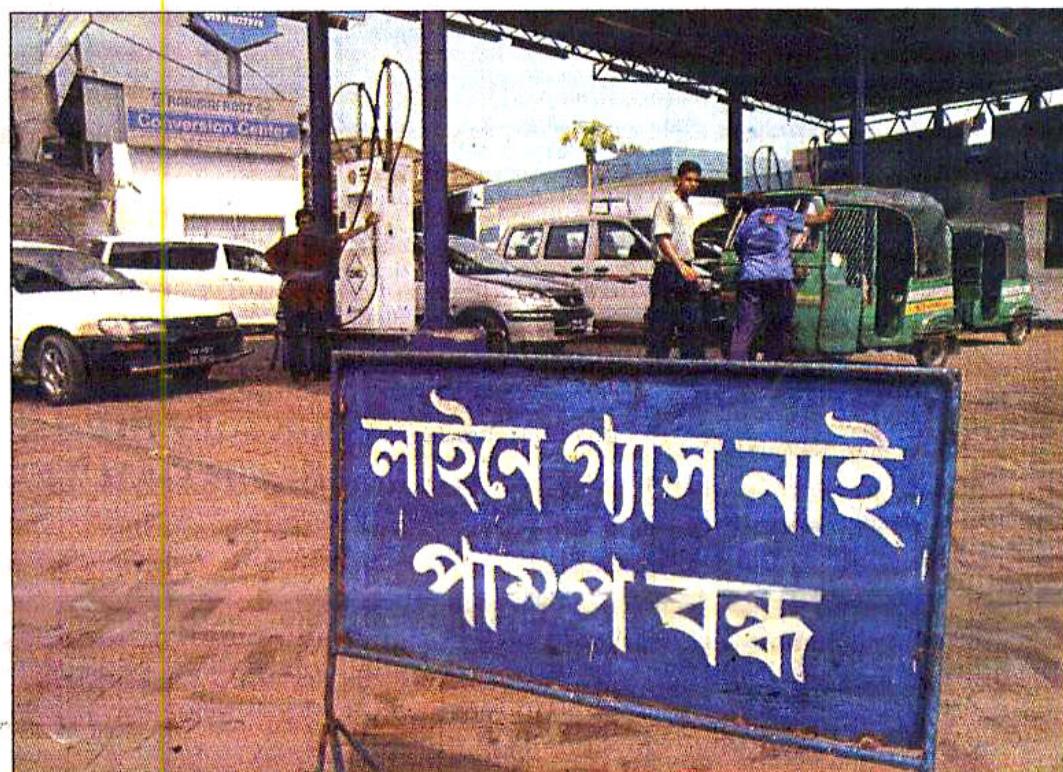
On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy. They also retrieved six bullets from the spot.

Shimul Biswas, a self-professed regional leader of outlawed Gono Mukti Fauj, phoned local journalists the same night and claimed responsibility for the murder.

Subodh filed a Tk 50.85 lakh extortion case against the former lawmaker with a court here on September 16 this year.

Immediately after the killing, police picked up seven people including Moshiur's brother and nephew for quizzing.

The officer-in-charge (OC) of Sadar Police Station said they are yet to unearth the clue to the murder.



This CNG filling station in Baridhara in the city was closed yesterday as it failed to generate gas pressure due to frequent power cuts, even though the signboard says otherwise.

RECOVERY FROM FLOOD DAMAGE

Agri ministry seeks Tk 100cr for seeds

PINAKI ROY

The agriculture ministry sought Tk 100 crore from the finance ministry so that it can distribute seeds of different crops and paddy seedlings to flood-hit farmers across the country.

"We sought Tk 100 crore from the finance ministry. But it is just as a proposal, we do not know how much we would get," says a high official of the agriculture ministry.

Earlier, the government had allocated Tk 65 crore which was spent to supply paddy seedlings and vegetable seeds to farmers. But the second round of flooding this year severely damaged crops again in 39 districts of the country.

Agriculture experts said even though flood damage was severe, it would not be impossible to make up for food shortages and the loss to crops. Many farmers who

had suffered losses, the ministry sources said.

However, the finance adviser on Tuesday told journalists not being specific about the agro sector, that overall loss caused by floods would be around \$200 million.

Sources in the agriculture department had initially said the agro sector suffered loss of a few hundred crore taka due to floods.

But, the second round of flooding this year severely damaged crops again in 39 districts of the country.

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had suffered losses, the ministry sources said.

RMG workers demonstrate for arrears, Eid bonus

UNB, Savar

Workers of three garment factories here yesterday staged demonstrations demanding their arrears and Eid bonus.

Police said some 1,500 workers of Panna Textile went on work abstention in the morning and then demonstrated demanding festival bonus and other arrears.

At one stage, the angry workers ransacked the factory office. Later, police swung into action and brought the situation under control.

The workers resumed their duties after the factory owner assured them of meeting their demands.

Besides, workers of Shanta

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FNB terms TIB remarks 'sweeping'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

In reaction to Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) report on the problems of good governance in NGOs, the Federation of NGOs in Bangladesh (FNB) yesterday vented its disapproval of the "sweeping comments" made in the report.

The TIB report, presented at a discussion on October 4, termed NGOs of Bangladesh a "mid-level corrupt sector", which lacked transparency and accountability towards its beneficiaries.

"The report would have benefited the NGOs if it was prepared based on statistical surveys following scientific methodology, instead of taking accounts of only 20 NGOs," said a statement signed by FNB Director M Tajul Islam.

"There are scopes for debate on a large portion of the report," the statement said adding that the report took accounts of only 20 of

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Two murdered, businessman's body recovered

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A teenager was gunned down in Mohammadpur, a hotelier was stabbed to death in Gazipur and police recovered the decomposed body of a businessman in Mogaibazar during the last couple of days.

The dead were identified as Rashed Iqbal, 30, a vegetable-oil businessman of Moulibazar, Dhaka, Mohammad Kamal, 15, and Rakib Hasan Rajib, owner of Bikrampur Hotel in Gazipur Chourasta.

Police recovered Rashed's decomposed body at the living room of his rented Mogaibazar Kazi Office Road home early yesterday. His body was hanging from the ceiling fan with hands and legs tied and a T-shirt over his head.

Police held the landlord of the house and his two sons for questioning in connection with the murder.

Sources said Rashed's wife has

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Fresh extortion case against former MP Giasuddin

UNB, N'ganj

Another extortion case was filed against former BNP lawmaker Mohammad Giasuddin on Thursday.

Police said Abu Taher, a contractor of Shiddhiganj Power Station, filed the case against Giasuddin and his four associates with Shiddhiganj Police Station.

Other accused in the case are Shiddhiganj BNP President Abdul Hye Rajib, and BNP activists Salauddin, Jahangir and Zaman.

In the FIR (first information report), Abu Taher stated that Giasuddin demanded Tk 10 lakh in toll from him and sent his four associates to his office on August 13, 2004 to take the money.

Taher further said he later gave the money to the former lawmaker through a cheque.



Devotees offer their Juma prayers at the Baitul Mukarram mosque in the capital yesterday. Failing to find room inside

PHOTO: STAR

Suu Kyi to consider junta's talks offer

US envoy heads to meet Myanmar leaders

AFP, Yangon

Myanmar's state media late Thursday said he was willing to see the Nobel peace prize winner if she ends her support for sanctions against the regime.

Aung San Suu Kyi would consider the offer "in a positive light," said Nyan Win, a spokesman for her National League for Democracy (NLD). "It's up to Daw (Ms) Aung San Suu Kyi to decide," he said.

The regime extended the rare offer of talks as UN special envoy Ibrahim Gambari prepared to brief the UN security council on his four-day trip this week to Myanmar, during which he met both the top general and the opposition leader.

The US chief of mission in Myanmar, Shari Villarosa, was Friday due to pass on a "very clear message" in her talks with the general to start "meaningful" dialogue with the opposition, said State Department spokesman Sean McCormack.

Villarosa -- whose government has spearheaded global protests against Myanmar -- was invited by the regime to its remote capital Naypyidaw but had received no word on whom she would meet, US officials said.

Aung San Suu Kyi, whose NLD won 1990 elections by a landslide but was never allowed to rule, continues to symbolise the nation's democratic aspirations.

Last week, she was briefly allowed to greet some of the country's revered Buddhist monks before the junta came down hard on the protesters, killing at least 13 people and detaining more than 2,000, according to state media.

The rallies had begun with

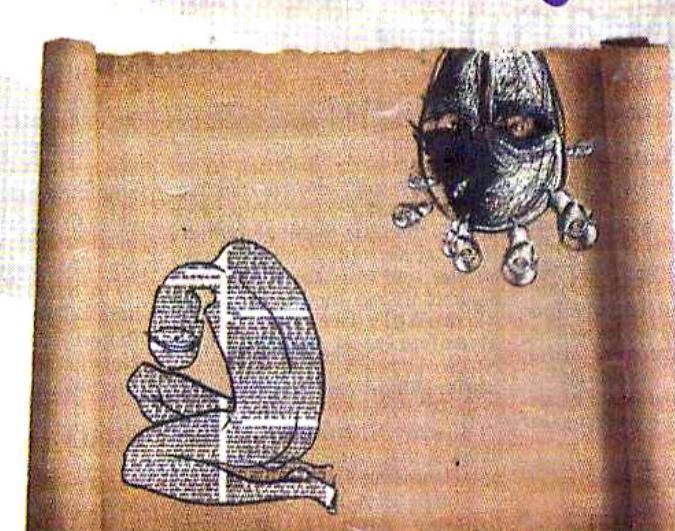
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WATCH OUT FOR

The Daily Star

Star Literature

Eid Special Issue !



Hitting the newsstands on October 10 with the daily newspaper, it contains original and brand-new translations of fourteen Bengali authors.

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Designed to give translation efforts in Bangladesh a much-needed boost, this volume promises to be both entertaining and provide food for thought.



Tale of an unsung tree lover in Bogra



HASIBUR RAHMAN BILU, Bogra

Brick kiln labourer Alimuddin Pramanik of Dupchachia upazila set an imitable example by planting 15,000 trees, mostly palm and date, on government land out of his caring thoughts for the environment.

Alimuddin died in 1992 at the age of 64, leaving behind a big family of 12 members. His trees are still standing on both sides of the Bogra-Naogaon road from Dupchachia to Choumuhoni, a 3km stretch. He also planted trees in the 2km area comprising Masinda, Kamargachhi and Chhatagar villages.

Alimuddin planted trees for the sake of clean environment for the next generation, his family members said, adding that the "environmentalist" day labourer planted the trees on

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