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EXTORTION CASE Tarique, Koko granted HC bail

UNB, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday granted bail to Tarique Rahman and his younger brother Arafat Rahman Koko, the two sons of detained former premier Khaleda Zia, in extortion cases.

Passing the orders on two separate petitions, a division bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman and Justice Zubayer Rahman Chowdhury also stayed the proceedings of the cases.

The HC bench also asked the government to explain why placing the cases under the Emergency Power Rules "should not be declared illegal".

"The rule is made returnable in eight weeks," says the identical order.

Barrister Mahbubuddin Khokon and Barrister Nasiruddin Ashim appeared for Tarique, senior joint secretary general of the BNP, and his brother Koko—both in jail custody.

The two brothers are facing a number of graft cases.

India hands over 2 Bangladeshi 'criminals'

STAR REPORT

Two Bangladeshi 'criminals' arrested by Indian law enforcers were handed over yesterday to Bangladesh authorities at Benapole checkpoint.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of West Bengal arrested Rafiq Mallik and Babul alias Jewel, alleged accomplices of high-profile criminal Khandaker Tanveerul Islam Joy, four months ago for staying illegally in India.

Bangladesh CID meanwhile brought the two suspected criminals to CID office in Jessore where the two are undergoing interrogation about their ties with Joy, said CID sources.

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Adviser promises artefacts to come back by April

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Adviser to the Cultural Affairs Ministry Ayub Quadri yesterday said the artefacts being sent to Paris will be brought back home by April, describing the ongoing protests as a result of miscommunication.

He said this at a press conference held at the auditorium of the Press Information Department.

The cultural ministry arranged the news conference only after sending the first consignment of artefacts to the Guimet Museum for exhibition amid protests by art connoisseurs.

"Some of the protesters are my teachers. It was a mistake I didn't

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Income tax collection jumps by 193pc

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The National Board of Revenue (NBR) has recorded a 193 percent rise in income tax collection totaling Tk 739.11 crore in the tax year 2007-08 from Tk 252.11 a year ago.

"We have recorded such a rise mainly because of raising the ceiling of tax-free income. The introduction of Universal Self Assessment has also augmented our tax collection efforts," NBR Chairman Muhammad Abdul Mazid said in a press briefing yesterday -- a day after the deadline to

submit individual income tax returns for the current tax year.

The tax administration, which previously extended the date of submission of income tax returns till December 2, said the number of income tax payers has increased by 20 percent as 6,45,617 individuals submitted income tax returns in the 2007-08 tax year compared to 5,35,994 tax payers a year ago.

Referring to Cyclone Sidr, Mazid said the money donated for relief to the 'Senabani Tran Tahabil', the relief fund of the Army, would also be treated as tax-free until

December 31, 2007. "We will treat the donation to the fund as tax-free income until December 31, this year."

Prior to this, the donations made to the Chief Adviser's Relief Fund have been tax-free.

To ensure small and medium enterprises collect value added tax (VAT) and deposit it to the exchequer, the NBR from November 1 would make it mandatory the use of electronic cash register machines at restaurants, sweetmeat stores, fast food outlets,

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Rehabilitation starts along with relief operations: CA

UNB, Dhaka

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said rehabilitation work in cyclone battered areas has started alongside the relief operations.

He said this while receiving donations for the Chief Adviser's Relief and Welfare Fund from local and foreign organisations for the cyclone victims at his office.

The head of the caretaker government said a major part of donations given to the relief and welfare fund has been sent for rebuilding the damaged houses in the affected areas.

"It's a matter of satisfaction that people and our friends are unitedly coming forward in aid of the cyclone affected people," he told the contributors.

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Verdict in case against six RU teachers today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

The verdict of the case against six Rajshahi University (RU) teachers for violating the Emergency Power Rules (EPR) will be delivered today. Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Ruhul Amin will pronounce the verdict in presence of the accused.

Former officer-in-charge (OC) of Motihar Police Station Khondoker Ferdous Ahmed filed a case against former RU vice-chancellor Dr M Saidur Rahman Khan, syndicate member and Progressive Teachers' Society Convener Dr M Abdus Sobhan, and Moloy Bhumiak on August 26 for instigating violence on RU campus on August 22.

Later, the names of Dulal Chandra Biswas, Sayed Selim Reza Newton and Abdullah Al Mamun were included in the charge sheet submitted on September 1.

The verdict of another case against 14 people including two RU teachers for violating the EPR will be delivered on December 6.

Hearing on charge framing against four DU teachers adjourned

STAR REPORT

A Dhaka court yesterday adjourned the hearing for framing charge against four Dhaka University (DU) teachers and 15 others until December 12 in a case for instigating violence on DU campus in August this year.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Sultan Mahmud set the date following time petitions submitted by the defence lawyers on behalf of their clients.

Police produced the accused teachers and a student before the court at 12:15pm under tight security.

Police pressed charges against Dhaka University Teachers' Association (Duta) President Prof Sadrul Amin, Duta General Secretary Prof Anwar Hossain, Science Faculty Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid and Applied Physics

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Lull at Patharghata fish depot

SHAMIM ASHRAF AND SOHRAH HOSSAIN, from Patharghata

The Patharghata fish depot is no longer a noisy joint. What once used to be the largest fish port in Barisal division now resembles an almost abandoned bazaar.

There is no noise of trawlers docking in, no unloading of fish baskets, no hue and cry of depot workers and certainly no noise of trucks waiting to transport the fish.

Late in the afternoon yesterday, workers from three trawlers were gossiping idly near the port. Others

were wandering around, all having no work to do as they have no boats or equipment left to go fishing with.

Cyclone Sidr has sunk most of what belonged to them into the Bishkhali river.

Shukhmohon Jaladas, a man in his 40s, came forward to tell us the story of how Sidr crushed his only trawler and lone means of livelihood. Abdus Sattar, who lost two trawlers in the cyclone, had a similar story to tell.

Sattar said he was hoping government officials will come forward with financial assistance to help the fishermen back to their

feet again. The whole fish trade at Patharghata has come nearly to a halt after 273 out of about 700 trawlers of the area were destroyed or sunk in the cyclone.

Fifteen trawlers with 173 fishermen remain missing till date.

Golam Mostafa Chowdhury, President of Barguna District Fishing Trawlers Owners Association said that some people whose boats were not badly damaged, or those who had the means to repair their trawlers, had started fishing again.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 2

UN kicks off climate conference in Bali

AP, Bali

Delegates and scientists from around the world opened the biggest-ever climate change conference Monday, urging rapid progress in building a new international pact by 2009 to combat global warming or risk economic and environmental disaster.

Some 10,000 conferees, activists and journalists from nearly 190 countries gathered on the resort island of Bali for two weeks of UN-led talks that follow a series of scientific reports this year concluding that the world has the technology to slow global warming, but must act immediately.

The Bali meeting will be the first major climate change conference

since former Vice President Al Gore due to arrive next week and a UN scientific council won the Nobel Peace Prize in October for their environmental work, fuelling the growing sense of urgency as ice-caps melt, oceans rise and extreme weather increases.

"The eyes of the world are upon you. There is a huge responsibility for Bali to deliver," said Yvo de Boer, the executive secretary of the conference. "The world now expects a quantum leap forward."

The immediate aim of the Bali conference will be to launch negotiations toward a pact to replace the Kyoto Protocol on global warming when it expires at the end of 2012, and set an agenda for the talks and

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Murali reclaims world mark for Test wickets

REUTERS, Kandy

Sri Lanka off-spinner Muttiah Muralidaran took two wickets against England on Monday to move clear at the top of the all-time

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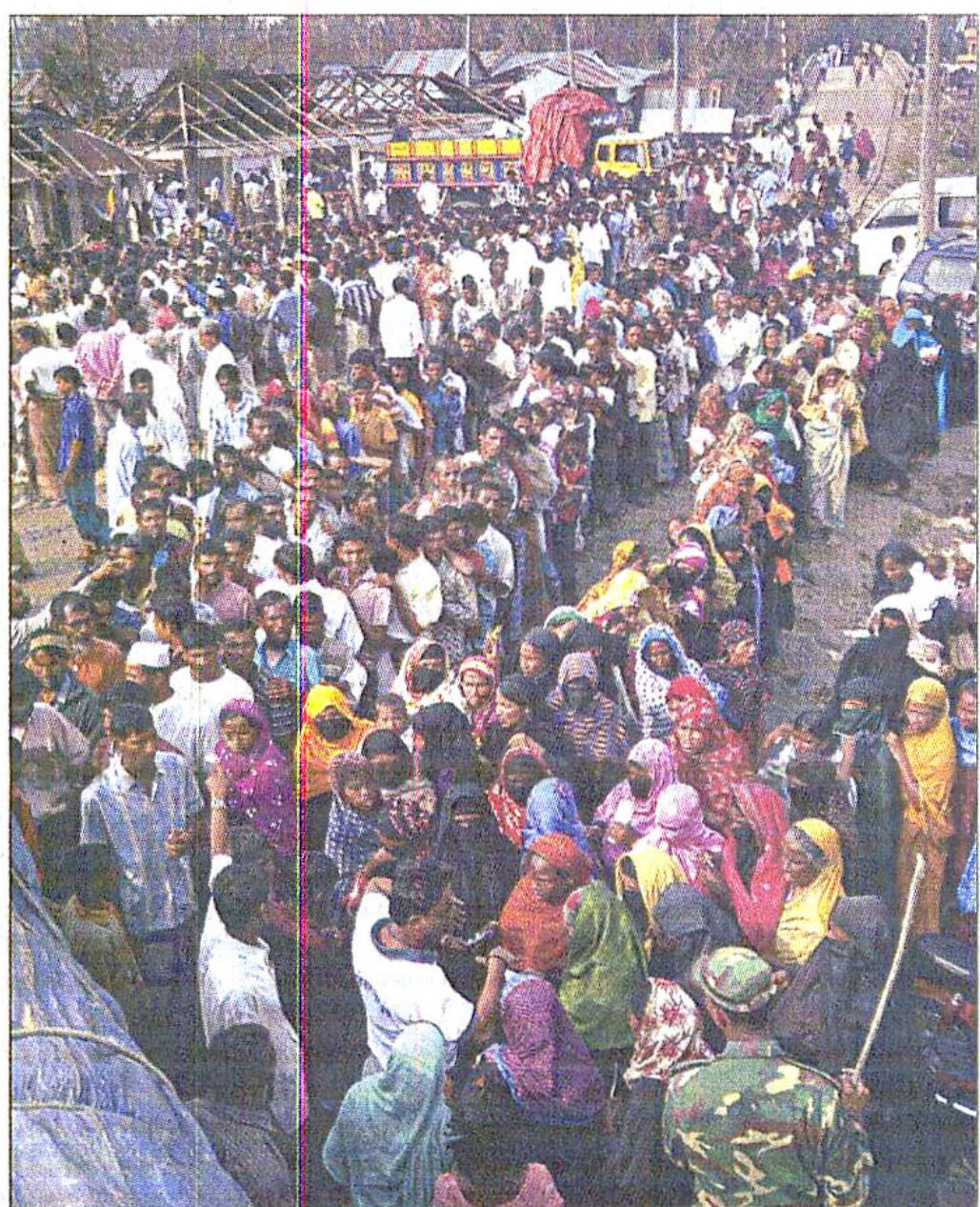


PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Cyclone Sidr victims throng Taffalbari Bazar in Southkhali, Sharonkhola every day in the hope of getting relief materials. The photo was taken yesterday.

Sharif barred from polls

Pak opposition mulls boycott

AFP, Lahore

Pakistani authorities yesterday banned former premier Nawaz Sharif's from standing in next month's general election, further damaging the credibility of a vote that the opposition may yet boycott.

The ruling came as Sharif prepared to hold crunch talks with fellow opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, in which he aimed to persuade her not to participate in the

emergency-ruled nation's polls on January 8.

Electoral officials upheld a challenge against Sharif's candidacy on the grounds that he was convicted of criminal charges in the wake of his 1999 ouster by Pervez Musharraf, who is now president.

"The nomination papers of Nawaz Sharif are hereby rejected," election commission returning officer Raja Qamaruz Zaman said in the eastern city of Lahore.

A rival election candidate for Sharif's seat, Khawaja Tahir Zia, had asked the commission to disqualify Sharif because he had been convicted in a hijacking case in 2000.

The case involved Sharif's attempt to stop a plane carrying Musharraf, who was then army chief, from landing in Pakistan in October 1999. Musharraf ousted Sharif as a result of that incident.

Sharif's lawyers said they

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Prayer Timing

December 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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