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Venus retains Wimbledon crown

BBC ONLINE, London

Venus Williams captured her fifth Wimbledon title by beating her sister Serena 7-5, 6-4 in a high-quality final at the All England Club here on Saturday.

The 28-year-old becomes one of only four players to lift the trophy five times or more in the Open era. Serena made a blistering start, forging a 4-2 lead, but Venus clawed her way back to 4-4 before breaking at 6-5 to snatch the first

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JP to contest all polls before JS election

Says Ershad

RU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiya Party (JP) Chairman HM Ershad yesterday said his party would contest the upazila and parliamentary elections for establishing democracy in the country.

"People want to see Jatiya Party in power," said Ershad at a convention of party representatives from Rajshahi city and districts under greater Rajshahi at the Zilla Parishad Auditorium in Rajshahi. He also urged the party activists to be united and work for people's welfare.

Terming the government decision to revive Upazila Parishad a

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HC hearing today on legality of Supreme Judicial Commission law

UNB, Dhaka

The hearing on a writ petition challenging the legality of the Supreme Judicial Commission Ordinance 2008, which provides for constitution of the recruitment body for the higher judiciary, takes place at a three-member bench of the High Court today.

Justice MA Rashid heads the three-member bench for hearing the writ. The two other members are Justice Nazmun Ara Sultana and Justice M Ashfaqul Islam, court sources said.

Rights activist Advocate Idrisur Rahman, who filed the writ petition

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Human chain before sub-jail tomorrow

Demand for release of Khaleda, her sons, Nizami

UNB, Dhaka

Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal will form a human chain in front of the make-shift jail in Sangsad Bhaban complex tomorrow demanding unconditional release of former premier and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, her two sons and Jamaat Ameer Motiur Rahman Nizami.

Jubo Dal President Mia Mohammad Selim announced the programme at a press briefing at BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain's Nam flat yesterday, as a move for the release of Khaleda and her sons--Tarique Rahman and Arafat Rahman--has

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Prayer Timing		
July 6		
Azan	Jamaat	
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

Malaysia door opens again for workers

PORIMOL PALMA

Malaysia recently resumed issuing job approvals to Bangladeshi jobseekers -- bringing an end to a temporary ban the South-East Asian country had imposed in October last year on the hiring of workers from Bangladesh.

Authorities say the withdrawal of the ban was made possible due to the efforts of both the sides -- Malaysia and Bangladesh.

Amid numerous reports of unemployment, underpayment and various other contract violations by the employers, the two sides have also been working to resolve the workplace issues faced by the Bangladeshi workers who had already been working in Malaysia.

Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the expatriates welfare and overseas employment secretary, told The Daily Star on May 20, "Malaysia has been issuing fresh job approvals regularly for about a month now. The country is now more sincere in addressing foreign workers' issues. We also took a few measures in this regard."

Even though 100 percent of the issues could not be claimed to be solved, the magnitude of the problems has been reduced, he observed.

"Our high commission in Kuala Lumpur has been asked to attest job demand letters only after inspecting the factories. On the other hand, to avert further untoward incidents, we asked the recruiting agencies to visit the

factories before sending workers there," Chowdhury said.

Ever since Malaysia's latest initiative of recruiting Bangladeshis started in August 2006, numerous reports surfaced about worker abuse, non-payment of wages and violations of contractual agreements by employers in the country. A number of Bangladeshi workers even faced unemployment after arriving in the country as they were recruited for firms that existed only on paper.

Several hundred Bangladeshi workers were also stranded in Kuala Lumpur airport, drawing the attention of national and international media. Till today, around 400 workers are still staying in a shelter set up by the Bangladesh High

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A truck losing control early yesterday rammed the electric poles bearing a transformer in Motijheel in Dhaka. The accident switched off power supply to a number of neighbouring areas.

PHOTO: STAR

Musharraf's army helped spread nuclear tech

Says scientist Qadeer Khan

AP, Islamabad

Pakistan's Foreign Ministry insisted yesterday that its nuclear proliferation case was closed, a day after the disgraced architect of its atomic programme claimed the army under President Pervez Musharraf helped spread the technology.

Nuclear scientist Abdul Qadeer Khan told The Associated Press on Friday that Pakistan's army supervised a 2000 shipment of used P-1 centrifuges to North Korea. It must have been sent with the approval of Musharraf, the then-army chief who took power in a 1999 coup, Khan alleged.

"It was a North Korean plane, and the army had complete knowledge about it and the equipment," Khan said. "It must have gone with his (Musharraf's) consent."

The comments caused a stir in Pakistani media, and newspapers played the story prominently on their front pages Saturday. Mohammad Sadiq, spokesman for the Foreign Ministry, offered only limited comment, however.

"The nuclear proliferation issue is a closed case," Sadiq said, reiterating a longtime Pakistani stance. "We do not think that a debate is required on it."

Pakistan has repeatedly denied

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Nasim suffers second brain haemorrhage

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Doctors at LabAid Hospital yesterday said the ailing Awami League (AL) leader Mohammad Nasim suffered brain haemorrhage for the second time on Friday.

The doctors confirmed it after having a Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI) of him.

However, no symptom of the internal bleeding was exposed physically and the condition of Nasim is clinically stable, the doctors at the hospital said.

They also decided to keep Nasim in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) until the decision of the next board meeting.

Expressing concern over the second time internal bleeding, the doctors said most of the stroke patients suffer further haemorrhage that increases the risk factor.

The detained former home

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JAGANNATH HALL More trees felled for construction of new building

DU CORRESPONDENT

The authorities of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday felled two more full-grown trees to make room for a new dormitory building for Jagannath Hall.

The five-storey building, to be constructed in between the hall pond and Udayan High School compound, is expected to accommodate around a thousand students. The new facility would have the capacity to be extended upto ten stories.

The authorities have previously chopped down quite a good number of full-grown trees for the construction project.

A number of resident students of the hall and Bangladesh Paribesh Andolan (Bapa) have expressed dissatisfaction over the felling of the trees, saying that the

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Trees are being felled on Jagannath Hall premises at Dhaka University yesterday to make space for an extension building to accommodate increasing students.

PHOTO: STAR

Asia Cup final today

CRICINFO, undated

After a frenetic 11-day period which saw 12 matches, Sri Lanka and India have survived the cramped schedule, the heat, and a few wobbles to make their way to yet another Asia Cup final.

Historically, these two sides have been the strongest in the tournament, winning seven of the eight editions so far; the finals on

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Quake in Assam jolts north-western districts

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

An earthquake with its epicentre in the Indian state of Assam and measuring 5.1 in the Richter scale jolted north-western Bangladesh last night sending a wave of panic among people of that region.

The quake began at 10:56pm

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MADDHAPARA HARD ROCK MINE Namnam to be asked to extend bank guarantee period until May '09

STAR REPORT

Petrobangla has directed Maddhapara Granite Mining Company Ltd (MGMCL) to ask the unfinished hard rock mine's North Korean developer Namnam to extend the term of \$4.2 million bank guarantee till May 2009, sources say.

Although it is the task of Petrobangla, which signed the agreement with Namnam for developing the mine in 1994, MGMCL is now preparing to ask Namnam to extend the guarantee period till May 24, 2009.

Since June 2007, Namnam kept no bank guarantee against the

unfinished work of the mine and Petrobangla did not take any action against the North Korean company.

The government accepted the unfinished mine from Namnam in May last year on condition that Namnam would finish a number of incomplete tasks within a one-year guarantee period till May 2008.

However, as Namnam did not finish any of these tasks, the government extended the guarantee period till May 2009, once again asking the company to finish the work.

The MGMCL on May 26 at a meeting with Namnam identified as many as 35 defects or outstanding work at the mine.

Some of the very important tasks include non-construction of a Skip Replacement Building, non-supply of Main fan with reversal system, flawed roadways in three levels, flawed permanent support of underground pump station and unfinished slope preparation work.

Of these, the work for slope preparation alone requires a cost of Tk 30 crore.

On June 16, the energy ministry held a review meeting on the mine. It observed that the mine was taken over in May 2007 with the condition that Namnam would do the unfinished work, which it did not

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Afghan MP shot dead, 10 militants killed while planting bombs

16 'civilians' slain in US-led airstrike

AFP, AP, Asadabad

Gunmen in a dangerous part of southern Afghanistan assassinated an Afghan lawmaker, while a roadside bomb militants were planting detonated prematurely, killing 10 Taliban, officials said Saturday.

An Afghan provincial governor said yesterday 16 civilians including women, children and doctors were killed in US-led coalition air strikes but the force insisted the dead were militants.

The gunmen killed parliament member and former military commander Habibullah Jan after he visited an Afghan army compound in the Zhari district of Kandahar late Friday, said Kandahar provincial council member Bismillah

Afghanmul. Zhari is a volatile part of Kandahar contested heavily by militants and Canadian forces over the last two years.

The air strikes were carried out on Friday in the remote district of Waygal in the mountainous north-east province of Nuristan, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) from the border with Pakistan.

Provincial governor Tamim Nuristani told AFP 16 civilians were killed as they were travelling out of the area after being told by security forces to leave ahead of an operation against Islamic insurgents.

"They included two women, two children and workers and shopkeepers travelling in two

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48 rebels killed in Lanka fighting

Troops capture major LTTE base

PTI, AP, Colombo

At least 48 Tamil Tiger rebels and a soldier were killed in a series of gunbattles in Sri Lanka's strife-torn north with the army yesterday claiming to have captured a major LTTE base after three days of fierce fighting.

At least 17 LTTE cadres were killed as troops on Friday captured LTTE's "Michael Base" in north-east Welioya, the defence ministry said, adding forces attacked Tamil Tiger rebels along northern front lines in the Jaffna, Vavuniya, Welioya and Mannar regions.

According to the sources, the LTTE camp is one of the strategic satellite bases of the rebels' main "One Four Base" complex situated inside the Mulaithiuvu jungle in the north.

Troops marching towards North of Janakapura, into Mulaithiuvu, succeeded after three days of fierce fighting, the ministry said. The structure of the base extends over 200 square metres that includes several underground bunkers.

In other clashes, troops killed an LTTE cadre and wounded two others in a confrontation, it said adding six LTTE rebels were killed and five others injured in an encounter at North Kiribbanwewa area in Welioya.

The army also captured a LTTE bunker after injuring eight tiger rebels in the region, it said.

A soldier was wounded while on duty when an anti-personnel mine exploded in Ampadankulam area in North-western Mannar

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Police with the help of locals bring out an anti-drug procession at Batiaghata upazila in Khulna yesterday to raise social awareness against drug abuse.

PHOTO: STAR

Actress, model held with Yaba

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) on Friday night arrested three people including a film actress and a model with 12 pieces of Yaba tablet in the capital's Pallabi.

The arrestees are film actress Yasmin Shikdar Mou, model Bipasha Akhter Munni, and their friend Kaisarul Islam, a first-year student of Mirpur College.

DNC Assistant Director Fazlur Rahman told The Daily Star that acting on a tip-off a team of DNC officials raided Mou's rented flat at Rupnagar Housing at Pallabi at around 10:30pm and arrested the three with the banned drug.

The DNC official said the detainees addicted to Yaba were engaged in peddling it.

However, talking to journalists at the DNC office the arrestees admitted to taking Yaba but denied peddling the banned drug.

DNC Labagh Circle Inspector Khandaker Iqbal Hossain filed a case with Pallabi Police Station in this connection.