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Govt asked not to harass Moudud, Mosharraf, Patal, Anne
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday directed the government not to harass or arrest three former BNP ministers and a lawmaker without following due process of law after their release from jail custody.

The four are former law minister Moudud Ahmed, former health minister Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, former state minister Fazlur Rahman Patal and former lawmaker Shahiduddin.

Lankan battles kill 15 rebels, 7 soldiers
AP, Colombo

A series of gunbattles between government forces and the Tamil Tigers killed 15 rebels and seven soldiers in war-torn northern Sri Lanka, the military said yesterday.

Bomb attack injures 5 in Old Dhaka
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least five persons including a traffic constable and an ansar member were injured when criminals charged two hand bombs at Roy Saheb Bazar of under Kotwali Police Station in Old Dhaka yesterday.

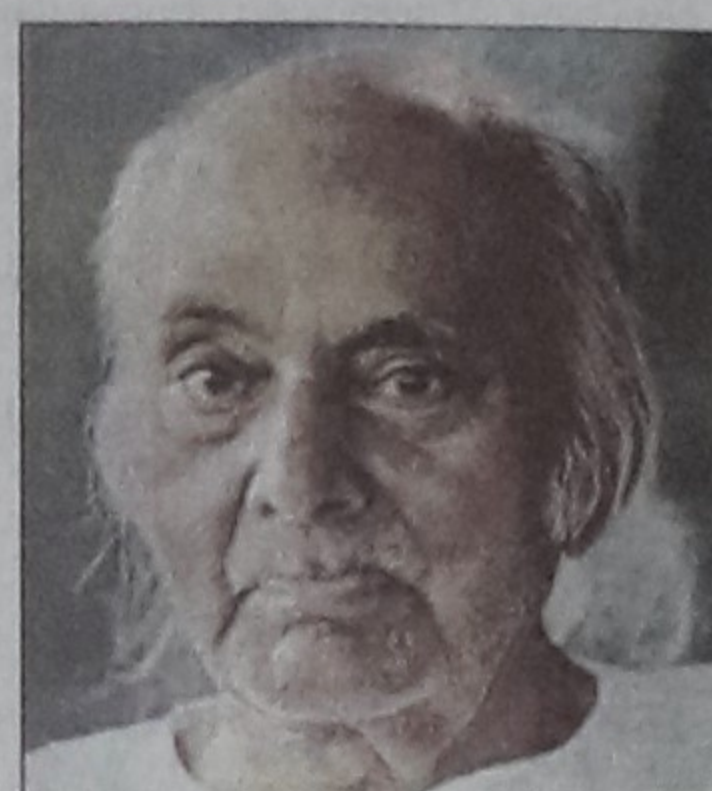
Zardari says sorry to Sharif, asks him to rejoin coalition

PTI, Islamabad

Pakistan People's Party chief Asif Ali Zardari has apologised to PML-N leader Nawaz Sharif, who pulled out of the ruling coalition after accusing the PPP of reneging on promises and asked him to rejoin the government for the sake of the country and democracy.

The democratic journey we started with my late wife Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif... We had some successes. Together we elected a Prime Minister and defeated a dictator," he said in the message aired on the state-run PTV. Zardari said it was "unfortunate" that Sharif has "refused to travel with us in the coming journey" and asked the PML-N chief to set aside "personal differences" and return to the coalition "in the interest of democracy and Pakistan".

While announcing his decision to pull out of the coalition, Sharif had accused Zardari of violating several agreements on reinstating dozens of judges who were sacked by former President Pervez Musharraf during last year's emergency.



Nazrul's death anniversary today

UNB, Dhaka

The 32nd death anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be observed across the country with due respect today.

300 cars requisitioned every day by cops

It has become a permanent system to meet vehicle demand by police

KAILASH SARKAR

In the name of public interest, Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) continues temporarily requisitioning around 300 private vehicles on a daily basis through a controversial requisition law that the police chief himself terms a "blacklaw".

reality is that requisition will continue in this manner because nobody will take the initiative," says a top police official.

Although the existing laws direct the authorities to provide compensation to the vehicle owners and meal allowances to the drivers and helps the DMP doesn't do so, allege drivers and owners.



This street between the GPO and Baitul Mukarram market in the city is almost entirely occupied by hawkers squeezing traffic into one lane and putting pedestrians into difficulty. The photo was taken yesterday.

Steps to prevent landslides soon

Homes on foothills to be made risk-free

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The government-formed Hill Management Committee has decided to immediately implement protective measures to prevent landslides and make the dwellings in foothill areas risk-free instead of going for large-scale evacuation.

Wasa, Bangladesh Railway, Department of Environment and other organisations concerned were present at the meeting.

Iceland president due Friday

UNB, Dhaka

Iceland President Olafur Ragnar Grimsson arrives in Dhaka on Friday on a four-day visit to Bangladesh.

Six areas identified in facing climate change

Dhaka to place action plan in London conference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country is preparing to face the aftermath of climate change in around 50 different sub-sectors under six thematic areas of agriculture, health, livelihoods, disasters management, environment and development.

Change and Bangladesh," Rabinranath Roy Chowdhury, joint secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, said the government has formed a high-powered committee to implement the national action plans.

of Dhaka University yesterday. In his presentation, the joint secretary said Bangladesh is going to be affected by frequent natural disasters including cyclones, storms and floods. The Sundarbans, the world heritage site and habitat of the Royal Bengal Tiger, will be more vulnerable due to climate change, he said.

The experts speaking at the symposium emphasised invention of new variety of crops, which will cope with the changed weather.

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BSF kills 1

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Thenidiah

Indian Border Security Force (BSF) shot dead a Bangladeshi national on Shyamkur border under Moheshpur upazila yesterday morning.

HOME SECRETARIES MEET IN DHAKA FRIDAY

Delhi to press Dhaka for extradition treaty

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The three-day ninth home-secretary level meeting between Bangladesh and India begins in Dhaka Friday, with New Delhi likely to press for an extradition treaty to exchange criminals hiding in each other's territory to escape arrest at home.

extradition. The foreign ministry official said Saarc leaders at their recent summit in Colombo signed an agreement on mutual legal cooperation and counter-terrorism, covering the extradition issue.

"Since a multi-lateral agreement is already in place, Bangladesh is assessing whether there is any need for a bilateral one with India on exchange of criminals," he said.

Dhaka reckons that criminals could be also exchanged in good-will gestures.

"India has so far handed over six Bangladeshi criminals. It means that they can nab the other thugs and hand them over to us," a Criminal Investigation Department (CID) official told this

Prayer Timing
August 27

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-30	5-05
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-33	6-36
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) sources said the Indian border guards opened fire on Shahabul when he went to his cropland near border pillar no 61 at around

Bangladesh has, however, consistently maintained that such a treaty must take in all Saarc countries.

"India is keen to sign an extradition treaty with Bangladesh only, but Dhaka is not interested as the treaty should involve all members of the regional forum," said a foreign ministry official.

In 2002, India sought Dhaka's cooperation in mutual legal assistance, counter-terrorism and