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Serena wins US Open

AGENCIES, undated

American Serena Williams defeated second seed Serbian Jelena Jankovic 6-4, 7-5 in the women's US Open final for her ninth career Grand Slam title and the world number one ranking.

"I am so excited," Williams said. "I wasn't even going for number one. It's just an added bonus."

Williams, playing in her first US Open final in six years, also picked up 1.5 million dollars in first-place prize money and moved into third on the all-time money list, just ahead of Martina Navratilova.

The 26-year-old Williams won her 32nd career singles title and wiped away some of the disappointment of losing to sister Venus in the Wimbledon final earlier this year.

"It was magical. It was like everything coming together like magic," Williams said.

She celebrated by throwing her

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6 Titas staff tell Tac a different tale now

Confess to have only Tk 10 lakh ill-gotten wealth

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Six Titas Gas officials yesterday confessed to having ill-gotten wealth worth only about Tk 10 lakh before the Truth and Accountability Commission (Tac) whereas taskforces' investigation revealed some of their colleagues became millionaires through corruption.

Sources say the six are from the ranks of meter reader, assistant accountant and junior-level officer who claimed before the commission that they don't have much ill-gotten wealth for disclosure.

Ironically, a taskforce of the National Coordination Committee (NCC) to Combat Corruption and Serious Crimes, tasked to investigate graft in Titas Gas, in February this year found that over 150 supervisors and meter readers became millionaires by tampering with bills, depriving the government of crores of taka in revenue income.

The NCC sent the list of the six Titas officials upon receiving their application to make voluntary disclosures about their ill-gotten wealth. The Tac sources, however, did not disclose what was the NCC report regarding corruption of the six sent along with the list.

Sources say as Tac does not have any authority to conduct investigation into disclosures of graft-suspects, many of them are likely to slip through by confessing to having a lesser amount of wealth in comparison with the huge wealth they have amassed through illegal means.

"The graft-suspects facing Tac are confessing to the wealth they are unable to conceal anyway. They have more ill-gotten wealth which could be unearthed through investigation, but they will just slip through by using Tac and confessing to a lesser amount," an Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC) official observed.

"Moreover, ACC also decided that all the investigation against corruption-suspects facing Tac through ACC will remain closed as the Tac ordinance confers. It would help the clever graft-suspects to take a chance and be free from corruption charges by returning a lesser amount of their ill-gotten property," he added.

Of the 136 Titas staff confessed

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Climate talks in London tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The much talked-about international conference on climate change with special focus on Bangladesh will be held tomorrow in London.

Bangladesh is going to present a policy paper stating its action plans in the conference, jointly organised by Bangladesh and the UK where the government is expecting to form a climate change funds to tackle adverse impact of global warming.

The joint effort by the two countries will try to link mitigating and adapting to climate changes with meeting the Millennium Development Goals and overall development.

The UK government has already assured to give at least a fund of 50 million pound for adaptation, which is the first big attempt by any rich nation.

Other developed nations Denmark, Netherlands as well as

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Rice meant for open market sales being sold at a pharmacy in East Rampura in the capital yesterday.

Pirate killed in Rab shootout

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Mir Mosharrif Hossain Kochi alias Kochi Bhai, 40, a notorious pirate of the Sundarbans, was killed in a "shootout" between his cohorts and Rab personnel at Purba Hatampur under Patharghata upazila of Barguna district early yesterday.

Major Habibur Rahaman, deputy director of Rab-8, Patuakhali, said a gang of seven to eight pirates opened fire on a Rab patrol team when it challenged the gang aboard a trawler anchored at Purba Hatampur on the river Bishkhali at around 4:00am.

The Rab men returned fire, leading to a gunfight between the two sides.

Rab sources said Kochi received bullets during the shootout and died instantly while his accomplices managed to flee with the trawler.

One revolver, two rifles and 18 bullets were recovered from the scene. The body was sent to Barguna Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Rab said Kochi was wanted in several criminal cases including for murder. A case was filed with Patharghata Police Station.



Despite Dhaka Metropolitan Police's efforts to minimise traffic jams in the capital, poorly parked cars narrow the usable part of a street in Motijheel commercial area creating congestion.

HASINA'S GRAFT CASES SC drops govt petitions from docket

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court (SC) yesterday dropped from its case docket two government petitions for staying High Court (HC) orders that had stayed the proceedings of Niko and barge-mounted power plant corruption cases against former premier Sheikh Hasina.

Attorney General Salauddin Ahmed moved the government

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CA not happy with literacy rate

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The current literacy rate of the country -- at only 63 percent -- is not satisfactory considering the number of programmes taken in the country to beat illiteracy.

Chief Adviser of caretaker government (CG) Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed yesterday said, "It is regrettable that though the country's efforts in literacy campaign are long-running, the achievement relatively low."

He said this while inaugurating programmes organised by the Primary and Mass Education Ministry at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the capital to mark International Literacy Day-2008 yesterday.

The theme for this year is 'Literacy is the best remedy'.

The Chief Adviser called on all including teachers, guardians, government employees, representatives of non-government organisations and development partners to work together to free the nation from the curse of illiteracy.

"We have to prove that if we have the will, any task is possible. Today that should be our vow to make the literacy campaign a success," Dr Fakhruddin said.

The CA also said that education for all is essential to establish good governance in the country and remove discrimination, corruption and injustice from society.

"The objectives of the government are to establish good governance, transparency, accountability and universal human rights, and to attain these goals, education is necessary," he said.

"Though the campaign for literacy came out formally in the last century, the actual campaign began in this region in the seventeenth century with religious studies and informal education. In spite of that, our literacy rate is still low," he related.

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12 more city lagoons pose threat to public health

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) has destroyed fishes in four polluted lagoons in the city over a week but another 12 water bodies are yet to be attended to.

The situation poses a potential threat to public health as illegal fishing in the lagoons lead to these harmful fishes ending up in the kitchen markets of the city.

"We have already sent a proposal to the Wasa head office for permission to take up the 12 other lagoons," Wasa Executive Engineer Kamrul Hossain Bhuiyan said.

Wasa destroyed the fishes in two lagoons using poison in two

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DELAY DUE TO LEGAL TANGLES Keraniganj central jail to take 7 more years to complete

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

The sufferings of inmates crammed into the Dhaka Central Jail is likely to continue as the construction of a new central jail in Keraniganj has delayed due to legal tangles.

The construction work began last year but it was put on hold for months due to legal complications. Officials said the jail is expected to be completed by 2015.

Construction work of the jail started with the filling up of low lands. But the High Court (HC), upon writ petitions by land owners seeking compensation, issued an injunction on land filling in March this year.

Sources involved in the project said the five-year "Construction of

Keraniganj Central Jail Project" was approved in fiscal year 2005-2006 but could commence in September 2007 due to land-related complications.

The work stopped by the HC injunction resumed in April this year after the writ petitions were disposed of.

The project was initiated with an aim to move the Dhaka Central Jail and minimise sufferings of the prisoners having to stay in crammed cells.

"It may take us up to 2015 to finish the construction work," said an official, adding that people who lost their land to the project have lodged writ petitions with the HC, delaying the implementation of the project.

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Iran's first nuclear reactor by Feb

AFP, Moscow

The start-up of the first reactor at Iran's Bushehr nuclear plant will be "irreversible" by February next year, a senior Russian nuclear official was quoted by ITAR-TASS news agency saying yesterday.

"Between December 2008 and February 2009 various technical measures will be carried out... that will make the physical start-up process of the first Bushehr reactor irreversible," the report quoted the head of the Russian company working on the facility, Atomstroiexport, as saying.

Atomstroiexport president Leonid Reznikov said he had travelled to Iran earlier this month to check on progress in construction of the plant, ITAR-TASS said.

He said further high-level meetings between Russian and Iranian officials would be held September 29.

The West suspects that Iran is developing nuclear weapons under cover of a civilian nuclear energy program that includes the Bushehr plant. It has imposed sanctions on Teheran and refused to rule out the use of force.

Teheran vehemently denies that it is developing nuclear weapons and says that it has a sovereign right like any country to develop nuclear power.

Last Friday, Iran dismissed as baseless remarks by French President Nicolas Sarkozy that Tehran was pursuing its controversial nuclear programme for military purposes.

Sarkozy's comments, made the previous day during a visit to Iran's regional ally Syria, are "baseless," foreign ministry spokesman Hassan Ghasghavi said in a statement received by AFP.

"Nuclear weapons are not part of Iran's defence doctrine," he added.

Russia signed the deal to build the Bushehr plant in 1995. That deal also included training of Iranian nuclear specialists and delivery of

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Sharif now assures support to Zardari

AFP, Islamabad/ Miranshah

Former Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif met president-elect Asif Ali Zardari yesterday to congratulate him on his election victory and pledge support in tackling the country's problems while 21 people were killed in missile strikes by suspected US drones.

Sharif led a delegation of top leaders of his Pakistan Muslim League (PML-N) party at the meeting held at Prime Minister's House.

"Sharif's basic aim was to personally extend felicitations to Zardari on his election as president," party spokesman Siddique Farooq told AFP.

"He also assured support to Zardari in strengthening the democratic set up in the country," Farooq said, after the meeting which lasted about an hour and was described as "cordial."

Zardari is under pressure from the opposition to reverse

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SMS to get HSC results

DU CORRESPONDENT

The examinees of upcoming Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC), Alim, Fazil and HSC (vocational) examinations will be able to get their results via Short Message Service (SMS) of state-owned mobile phone operator TeleTalk.

The examinees will get the results within minutes by sending SMS to TeleTalk from any mobile operators in the country.

Mohammad Habibur Rahman, general manager (marketing) of TeleTalk Bangladesh Ltd, disclosed it at a press conference at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity in the capital yesterday.

Habibur Rahman said the examinees have to type the first

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Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
8	9		6-12
9	10	4-22	6-11
10	11	4-23	6-10

Prayer Timing
September 9

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-21	4-27
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-12	6-22
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

পবিত্র রমজানে ইফতার, তারাবী ও সেহরীকালীন সময়ে বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ পরিস্থিতি

পবিত্র রমজান মাসে রাত্রিকালীন বিদ্যুৎ পরিস্থিতি উন্নতির লক্ষ্যে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন বাড়ানোর পদক্ষেপ নেয়া হয়েছে। এর ফলে বিদ্যমান গ্যাস ঘাটতি সত্ত্বেও গত ৩রা সেপ্টেম্বর সর্বোচ্চ ৩৭৫৭ মেগাওয়াট বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন করা হয়েছে। যা অব্যাহত পূর্ববর্তী সপ্তাহের যে কোন দিনের তুলনায় প্রায় ৪০০ মেগাওয়াট বেশী। এতদসত্ত্বেও ইফতার, তারাবী ও সেহরীর সময় বিদ্যুতের চাহিদা বিপুল পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধির কারণে দেশের সর্বত্র লোড-শেডিং করতে হচ্ছে। এ জন্য বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের কাছে আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

কোন বিশেষ এলাকার গ্রাহকগণ যাতে মাত্রাতিরিক্ত লোড-শেডিং এর আওতায় না আসেন সেজন্য লোড-শেডিং-এর শিডিউল প্রণয়ন এবং তা কঠোরভাবে প্রতিপালনে সর্বোচ্চ নজরদারি নিশ্চিত করা হয়েছে। ধর্মপ্রাণ রাজাদারদের সুবিধার্থে ইফতার, তারাবী এবং সেহরীর সময় প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত বৈদ্যুতিক বাতি, এয়ারকুলার এবং যাবতীয় বৈদ্যুতিক যন্ত্রপাতি ব্যবহার থেকে বিরত থেকে সীমিত বিদ্যুতের সর্বোত্তম ব্যবহার নিশ্চিত করার কার্যক্রমে সহায়তা করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

০৫/০৯/২০০৮ এবং ০৭/০৯/২০০৮ ইং তারিখে প্রকাশিত বিজ্ঞপ্তিতে বানান ভুলের কারণে বিজ্ঞপ্তী সংশোধন পক্ষ থেকে ক্ষমা প্রার্থনা করাছি।

বিদ্যুৎ বিভাগ