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**Pintu denied bail, arrest warrant issued against Obaidul Karim**  
 COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday rejected a bail petition of detained former BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in connection with the killing of his employee Fakaruddin alias Sohel in April 2004.

Meantime, another Dhaka court issued an arrest warrant against Orion Group Chairman Obaidul Haque in connection with a case filed for irregularities in importing a car and evading Tax worth Tk 85 lakh on its purchase.

**CASE AGAINST PINTU**  
 Judicial Magistrate Shahriar Arafat passed the order after Pintu's lawyers submitted a petition seeking bail saying that their client had been implicated in the case as part of a conspiracy to harass him.

Pintu, an accused in a number of criminal cases, was shown

**Second Dhaka-Ctg highway in limbo**  
 Fresh pre-qualification bid awaits govt nod

**M ABUL KALAM AZAD**

The second Dhaka-Chittagong highway project is gathering dust for over a year after the Roads and Highways Department (RHD) failed to find a suitable firm for the project in July last year.

Officials concerned say though they are ready to take a fresh move they have yet to get the government nod about it and have no idea when they might avail it.

The RHD is however preparing ground so that it can invite firms for the pre-qualification race soon after getting the permission.

Although initiated in 2005 and approved by the cabinet in July

**AKM Mosharraf, ex-MP Milon freed on bail**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Former state minister for energy AKM Mosharraf Hossain and former BNP lawmaker AKM Fazlul Huq Milon were released from prison on bail yesterday.

Mosharraf was freed from Kashimpur jail at about 2:45pm and Milon from a prison cell of the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University at about 12:15pm.

Deputy Inspector General of Prisons (DIG-Prisons) Maj Shamsul Haider Siddique told The Daily Star, "We received the bail papers on Monday. They were released after the papers were verified."

Mosharraf has been accused in four cases including the Gatco, Niko and Barapukuria Coal Mine scam cases.

The joint forces arrested the



Local residents and traders plant paddy seedlings on the Kolapara-Kuwakata road in a unique protest against the authorities' negligence in repairing this dilapidated road.

**TAILBACK TALE 7**

**Jam worsens near New Market as Eid nears**  
 SHARIFUL ISLAM

With Eid shopping binge gathering momentum, the capital's Gausia, New Market and New Elephant Road areas witness increasing traffic jams.

Locals said traffic jams in these areas worsen during weekends and holidays and in the evenings as a huge number of people throng the markets.

Haphazardly parked cars on Mirpur Road and hawkers occupying pavements are the major causes of nagging traffic jams. Many are forced to walk on the road risking accidents.

Asked about unauthorised parking on the Mirpur Road, Traffic Sergeant Motiur Rahman said, "We



Traffic gets standstill around 11 in the morning yesterday on Mirpur Road near New Market as cars parked illegally by the roadside only contribute to worsening the congestion.

**BDR shops to be shut down**  
 Low sales, BDR's pre-poll duty cited as reasons

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**

Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) is set to close its fair price outlets across the country from September 29 after running those for over one and a half years due to low volume of sale.

Another reason behind the move to close the outlets is the decision to engage the BDR members in maintaining law and order and border security ahead of upcoming national elections, sources said.

BDR in the meantime officially stopped selling powdered milk imported from China at its outlets.

Visiting several outlets in the capital yesterday, The Daily Star correspondent found a few consumers many of whom were yet to know about the closure of the sale as no notice had so far been hung as of yesterday.

BDR officials, however, said they had been informed about the

**Khaleda for release of all political leaders before Eid**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday demanded release of all detained political leaders before the Eid to create a congenial atmosphere for elections.

She also expressed gratitude to people from all walks of life as well as party leaders and activists for pressing the demand for her release, her two sons and political leaders.

"They played a courageous role against repression and in favour of

**CA attends Bush reception**  
 UNB, New York

Chief Adviser (CA) Fakhruddin Ahmed attended a reception hosted by US President George W Bush Monday evening.

Bush and Lara Bush hosted the reception at Waldorf Astoria Hotel at 7:00pm local time in honor of the heads of state and government and their spouses, now here for attending the UN General Assembly (UNGA) session.

The chief adviser exchanged greetings and pleasantries with President Bush at the reception.

CA's wife Neena Ahmed also attended the reception.

**KHALEDA-HASINA MEET Saifur sceptic about dialogue**  
 UNB, Dhaka

Former finance minister and BNP standing committee member M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the proposed dialogue between Khaleda Zia and Sheikh Hasina might bring respite among the people, but he felt it would not produce any tangible results.

Talking to reporters at his Gulshan residence after iftar, he said a free and fair parliamentary

**Hasina's bail petitions sent back by HC**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A vacation bench of the High Court (HC) yesterday sent back two bail petitions filed on behalf of Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in the Niko and barge-mount power plant corruption cases filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Hasina's counsel said that the petitions would be submitted to another bench for hearing on September 29.

Meanwhile, the HC bench comprising Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal yesterday told the petitioners' counsel that it did not have the jurisdiction to hear the petitions filed on Monday.

Hasina's counsel barrister Rafique-ul Huq told The Daily Star that they had wrongly filed the bail petitions on behalf of Sheikh Hasina with the HC bench of Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman and Justice Sheikh Abdul Awal, which had no jurisdiction to hear the petitions.

"We took back the bail petitions from this bench of the High Court and met with the chief justice to request him to constitute another bench for hearing these petitions. The chief justice assured us that he would provide jurisdiction to the

**Sri Lanka in talks with Norway peace brokers**  
 Military kills 26 more rebels

**AFP, Colombo**

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapakse held talks with Norwegian peace facilitators, the first since Colombo pulled out of a tattered truce in January while 26 more Tamil Tigers were killed in ground fighting across Lanka's north, his office said yesterday.

Rajapakse and Norway's senior peace envoy Erik Solheim discussed the military drive to dis-

**Toxic Milk Powder Chinese brand items seized in Ctg, Sylhet**  
 STAR REPORT

A mobile court and a surveillance team of Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution (BSTI) yesterday seized Chinese brand milk formulas from several shops in Chittagong and Sylhet.

The outlets were also fined for keeping the milk formulas.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: A mobile court seized six cans of Sweet Baby-1 and Sweet Baby-2 brand milk powder from QPS Departmental Store near GEC intersection in the port city. It fined the shop Tk 5,000 and destroyed the seized items.

Executive Magistrate Md Zakir

**60 'militants' killed in Pakistan**  
 Shadowy group claims Marriott Hotel bombing responsibility

**AP, AFP, Islamabad/Khar**

Security forces backed by helicopter gunships and artillery killed more than 60 insurgents in northwest Pakistan in offensives aimed at denying al-Qaeda and Taliban militants safe havens, officials said yesterday.

The attacks come amid intense US pressure on Pakistan to crack down on militants blamed for attacks both at home and on coalition forces in neighbouring Afghanistan.

A truck bombing over the weekend at a luxury hotel in the capital Islamabad that killed 53 people underscored the threat extremists pose to the nuclear-armed nation.

A shadowy group calling itself the "Fedayeen of Islam" claimed responsibility for the deadly bombing of Islamabad's Marriott Hotel in a telephone call to Al-Arabiya television, the channel said on Monday.

The Dubai-based television's correspondent in the Pakistani capital said he received a text message on his mobile phone showing a telephone number, which he called and then heard a recording in which the group said it carried

**Sehri, Iftar timings**

Ramadan	Sep	Sehri	Iftar
23	24		5-57
24	25	4-28	5-56
25	26	4-29	5-54

**Prayer Timing**  
 September 24

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-28	4-34
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	5-57	6-07
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

**CONJOINED TWINS Banya finally back home**  
 STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Banya, the surviving one of the conjoined twins separated in August, is going home for the first time since the surgery that has changed her life, and for



Banya, the surviving one of the conjoined twin, is seen with her mother yesterday as the baby was released from hospital yesterday.

**Bush 'confident' in quick US bailout**  
 Global financial crisis features in UNGA debate

**AFP, New York**

President George W Bush said yesterday he had reassured worried world leaders at the UN General Assembly he was "confident" the US Congress would quickly act to rescue the crisis-hit US economy.

Hours before giving his farewell address to the annual gathering, Bush held his first-ever meeting with Pakistan's President Asif Ali Zardari amid growing doubts about the fate of a 700-billion-dollar US economic bailout package.

Bush said he had heard from "world leaders wondering whether or not the United States has the right plan to deal with this economic crisis" and assured them his approach was a "robust plan to deal with a serious problem."

"They're wondering about our Congress and I've assured them as well that having spoken to the leaders of the Congress from both political parties there is the desire to get something done quickly," said the US president.

White House spokesman Tony Fratto said he was confident that lawmakers would act "this week" on the mammoth package despite growing questions about whether it includes enough congressional oversight and direct help for the US public.

"There's a natural give-and-take when it comes to the legislative process. There are good ideas that need to be listened to," Bush told reporters as he met with Zardari.

"But I'm confident, Mr. President, and as I've told you and other leaders, that there will be a bipartisan bill, that the Republicans and Democrats will come together to get this piece of legislation passed, which is necessary to address the financial situation and provide a rescue plan to make sure that there's some stability in the markets," said Bush.

The US president began his day with a telephone call to the Dalai Lama "to express his concern" over the health of Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, who cancelled a tour of Germany and Switzerland after his

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