

	max	min		max	min		max	min
Bangkok	34	27	Hong Kong	30	28	Moscow	12	07
Beijing	34	18	Islamabad	33	23	New York	31	21
Colombo	29	23	Karachi	32	26	Paris	23	13
Chicago	25	20	London	19	12	Singapore	31	23
Dubai	41	31	Los Angeles	25	17	Tokyo	30	25



**Short stories**

**Coming closer**



German Chancellor Angela Merkel (R) welcomes French President Nicolas Sarkozy at the government guest house, some 70 kms north of Berlin on Monday. The leaders called for an effort to help ensure greater transparency in financial markets —Reuters

**Mexican truck explodes; 37 die**

**Piedras Negras:** A truck carrying explosives for the mining industry exploded after running into another vehicle in northern Mexico, killing at least 37 people, a federal police official said on Monday. The two cars collided on Sunday evening on a highway in Coahuila state, near the town of Sacramento, Luis Horacio de Hoyos said. Soldiers, police, emergency officials, nearby residents and reporters were on the scene when the vehicle suddenly caught fire, igniting the truck full of explosives. —AP

**Right to freedom**



A demonstrator is arrested by police during a protest in Santiago for the 34th anniversary of the Sept 11, 1973 coup in Chile on Sunday —AFP

**Suharto gets \$106 mn in damages**

**Jakarta:** The Indonesian Supreme Court ordered *Time* magazine to pay \$106 million in damages for defaming former Indonesian dictator Suharto by alleging his family amassed \$15 billion during his 32 year rule, officials said on Monday. The May 1999 cover story in the magazine's Asian edition said much of the money had been transferred from Switzerland to Austria before Suharto stepped down. —AP

**Afghanistan remembers Masood**



An Afghan man offers prayers near the grave of Afghan resistance leader Ahmed Shah Masood during his 6th death anniversary in Kabul on Monday. Masood, nicknamed the 'Lion of the Panjshir' for his armed struggle against the Taliban was killed on September 9, 2001 —AP

**Qaeda for 9/11 hijacker video**

**Cairo:** Al-Qaeda said on Monday that it will release a new video of Osama bin Laden presenting the last testament of one of the Sept 11 suicide hijackers, marking the sixth anniversary of the attacks. The announcement came only days after bin Laden appeared in his first video in three years, giving an address to the American people, lecturing them to abandon capitalism and convert to Islam. —AP

**FARC victims arrive in Colombia**



The relatives of the lawmakers, whose corpses were recovered by the Red Cross, hug upon their arrival in Colombia. The bodies belong to a group of 11 hostages killed in custody of the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces in June. —AP

# Was Musharraf right to deport Sharif?

Deportation of Nawaz Sharif slammed by cross section of society

Amir Mir, Islamabad

The deportation of Nawaz Sharif has been widely slammed across Pakistan by the opposition parties, human rights activists, civil rights groups and the general public, maintaining that such underhand tactics won't help General Musharraf prolong his dictatorial rule.

The chairperson of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan, Asma Jahangir, has described the deportation of Sharif as a day light kidnapping for which she suggests criminal cases should be lodged against those responsible.

"Nawaz Sharif could have been arrested for whatever charges the government wished to pursue against him. However, since the days of the Musharraf regime have been numbered, it deemed it fit to go to the last extent and commit a grave contempt of court", she said.

Resenting the deportation of Sharif, the New York-based Human Rights Watch has said that the Musharraf regime was bent upon eroding the authority of the superior judiciary besides victimising its political opponents.

Ali Dayan Hasan of the HRW said the deportation was tantamount to contempt of court for which all those responsible should be charged.

Dayan said Musharraf would have respected independent court decisions had he been serious



Authorities place shipping containers to block supporters of Nawaz Sharif on their way to Islamabad —AP

about human rights, the rule of law and a return to democracy.

Renowned lawyer Chaudhry Aitzaz Ahsan said Sharif's forced exile was in total violation of the law of the land and the apex court should take strict notice of this utter contempt of court. He said the apex court could even ask the government to produce Sharif before the court. Aitzaz expressed the hope that the Saudi authorities

would not stop Sharif from travelling back to Pakistan because he has been sent into forced exile against his will.

"We will challenge the deportation in the Supreme Court," Khawaja Asif, a lawmaker of Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz, said. The party will hold countrywide demonstrations on Tuesday against the government's move to deport Sharif, he said.

Meanwhile, there was division in Musharraf's camp right up until the end on how to handle Sharif. While some had advocated taking a hard line, Mushahid Hussain, a top official in the ruling party, said last week he feared a backlash if the government interfered. "If you try to block him and do something contrary to the Supreme Court ruling, it could have unintended consequences," he said.

## 'Down with the dictator'

Amir Mir, Islamabad

Unprecedented security arrangements were made in and around Islamabad International Airport to avoid any fuss being created by the Sharif supporters. There was a curfew-like situation in Islamabad as all entry points of the federal capital were sealed. No one from the media was allowed to enter the airport building after its premises were declared a no go area.

However, the international media people that accompanied Sharif from London to Islamabad were able to cover the event once Sharif was allowed to disembark the plane and reached the VIP lounge.

Hours before the arrival of Sharif, thousands of his supporters, party leaders and workers were arrested from various parts of Punjab, especially in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. Prominent among those arrested included former Pakistan president Mohammad Rafiq Tarar, the acting president of the Sharif Muslim League, Javed Hashmi.

Police also fired teargas and used batons to disperse hundreds of the Sharif supporters about three kilometres away from the Islamabad Airport. The angry protesters, waving party flags and holding portraits of Sharif, threw stones at police and chanted slogans like "Down with the dictator", "Go Musharraf go".



**Respect law: EU**

The European Union urged Pak to respect its Supreme Court ruling and allow Sharif to stay in the country. "In our view, the SC's view is very clear and should be respected," said Christiane Homann, the EC's external affairs spokeswoman.



**Uphold law: UK**

The British government called upon Pakistan to ensure that due legal and judicial process is followed and the rule of law upheld, commenting on the developments in Pakistan, adding that the Britain is concerned about the latest developments.



**Bhutto plans return in Oct**

An aide to Benazir Bhutto said on Monday she would likely return from exile in October in the hope of contesting national elections. "Bhutto has decided to travel to Pakistan," spokesman Wajid Hassan said. "She has planned it next month, probably. She will announce it on September 14 as to the date of her arrival in Pakistan. She has got to go back and lead the party into the elections, to campaign for the party," he said.

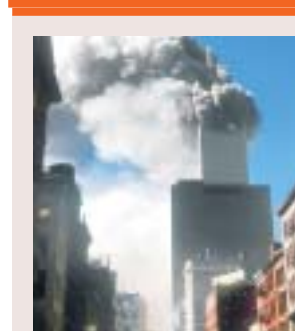
# Germany learns new lessons from Hamburg 9/11 trauma

Europeans get terror training inside Pak

Soud Mekhennet & Michael Moss, Frankfurt

The accused conspirators in a bombing plot disrupted last week in Germany were part of what the authorities say is a small, but growing, flow of militants from Germany and other Western countries who are receiving terrorism training at camps in Pakistan.

Beginning early last year, at least five of the suspects travelled to the tribal regions of Waziristan, where they learned to prepare chemical explosives and military-grade detonators that they intended to use to build three car bombs, according to German officials and a confidential German intelligence document that details the allegations. The authorities said the man they had identified as the leader of the plot, Fritz Martin Gelowicz, 28, apparently found his way to the camp in Waziristan through contacts he made at an Islamic centre he attended in Neu-



Six years after three Hamburg-based Arab students led the Sept. 11 attacks on America, German security officials say militant Islamists still pose a serious threat but they are now better placed to detect them.

Ulm, Germany. Other suspects in the suspected conspiracy then followed Gelowicz to the camp, where their instructors included militant Islamists from Uzbekistan who are aligned with Al-Qaeda, according to the confidential document. As further evidence of traffic between Germany and the

tribal areas of Pakistan, intelligence officials said six other men from Germany who had received similar training had been detained in Pakistan, and they suspect that numerous other Germans have attended the camps without being identified by the authorities. German officials say they are troubled by evidence that Al-Qaeda and other groups are training Western-born recruits whose passports allow them easy access to other Western countries.

"They started to look especially for people from Europe, because they wanted to train them and later to use them here in Germany for operations," said a high-ranking German intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the continuing investigation. The accusations in Germany contain similarities to two high-profile cases in Britain.

The leader of the suicide bombers who killed 52 people in the 2005 London subway and bus attacks trained at a camp in northwestern Pakistan, according to court papers. —NWT

## The loyal guard



Harrods worker Maggie Bartram watches Cedric, a highly aggressive and deadly Egyptian Cobra, which was brought in to guard a precious Rene Caovilla sandal, one of a pair encrusted with rubies, sapphires and diamonds which are now on sale \$125,887 in London —AP

New York writer-director Sharbari Ahmed has Archie Panjabi in the lead role and wants to cast a Bollywood actress as her mother

# 'Muslim' comedy Raisins not Virgins ropes in Indian actors

Uttara Choudhury, New York

Gifted Bangladeshi American playwright Sharbari Ahmed is turning her irreverent but not offensive off-Broadway Muslim comedy *Raisins not Virgins* into a movie exploring American Muslim identity and New York dating angst.

Mumbai-born British actress Archie Panjabi, who acted as Indian "Wall Street" journalist Asra Nomani in *A Mighty Heart*, will hold Ahmed's film together as the irrepressible New York ad-woman Sahar Salam who loves her Manolo Blahnik shoes and bottle of Stoli. Sahar, 28, finds herself without the conventional trappings of a baby, husband and religion but with a battle-axe for a mother who pushes her into meeting charming Fordham

University law student Rizwan Rahman who is the "altruistic semi-activist sort."

Sahar surprises everyone, especially herself, by falling in love with Rahman. But Jewish scholar Aaron Waldman then becomes her love interest when Rahman travels to the Middle East and gets sucked into its gathering turmoil.

"It is timely. The average American is pretty interested in knowing what is going on in a Muslim's head. The original play climaxed with the events of September 11. The play is its own animal and the ending is very different from the film. But the arc of the characters are the same and some of the dialogue is the same," Ahmed told DNA.

If dialogue from the play is



retained then audiences may hear Sahar famously burst out; "Its insanity, people are killing themselves hoping to get laid in heaven while all they might get is an eternity's worth of raisins!" It is widely believed that Muslim "mar-

"Sahar's mother is the most endearing character and my dream is to have a Bollywood queen like Jaya Bachchan or Hema Malini. I will try and get the script in the hands of one of them."

—Sharbari Ahmed

tyrs" enjoy rich sensual rewards on reaching paradise. But Ahmed cleverly highlights a new study which suggests they may be disappointed.

The film will touch on the current situation in Iraq but

more significantly stress the reclamation of the concept of jihad by a woman. "Sahar struggles to find herself spiritually and be Muslim on her own terms. If being Muslim means falling in love with a Jew and having children with him — that is what it means; without her converting into Judaism or compromising her Islamic values. She herself doesn't see the contradictions. Sahar is trying to reclaim Islam for herself — on her own terms," says Ahmed.

When *Raisins not Virgins* was staged as a play in Harvard, Ahmed received an angry email from a law student accusing her of being pro-Jew and anti-Muslim. "But I don't take Islam to task. I take Muslims to task and the way Islam is being practised. I don't criticise the Prophet, I

don't criticise God — it is just an internal struggle and journey that my protagonist is going through."

As an after thought, she adds; "Islamic fundamentalists in the US are under the radar because of Homeland Security. They have bigger things to worry about than me expressing myself."

Ahmed is travelling to India in December to research her novel *Bombay Duck* and round off her cast; "Sahar's mother is the most endearing character and my dream is to have a Bollywood queen like Jaya Bachchan or Hema Malini. I will try and get the script in the hands of one of them."

*Raisins not Virgins* has been selected for the Lark and Indo-American Arts council play festival starting on September 26 in New York.