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Egypt leadership in chaos



DANIEL BEREHULAK - GETTY

A protester stands on a barricade of barbed wire Thursday as Egyptian military police stand guard during a demonstration against presidential candidate Ahmed Shafiq outside the Supreme Constitutional Court in Cairo.

Ruling dissolves democratically elected parliament

BY DAVID D. KIRKPATRICK
New York Times

CAIRO — A panel of judges appointed by Egypt's ousted president, Hosni Mubarak, threw the nation's troubled transition to democracy into grave doubt Thursday with rulings that dissolved the popularly elected parliament and allowed the toppled government's last prime minister to run for president, escalating a struggle by remnants of the old elite to block Islamists from coming to power.

The rulings by Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court were quickly condemned as a coup by Islamists, liberals and scholars. The court's action, coming two days before a presidential runoff, set up a showdown with the Islamists who controlled parliament. Islamists said Thursday night that they refused to dissolve the legislature and



NASSER NASSER - AP

Egyptian presidential candidate Ahmed Shafiq addresses supporters Thursday during an election rally.

vowed to win the presidency despite the signs of opposition within the government overseeing the vote.

The rulings recalled events that have played out across the region for decades, when secular elites have cracked down on Islamists poised for

'This is an all-out power grab by the military. Egypt witnessed a coup today, I think it is fair to say.'

SHADI HAMID, RESEARCH DIRECTOR OF THE BROOKINGS DOHA CENTER

electoral gains. Citing a misapplication of rules for independent candidates, the court sought to overturn the first democratically elected parliament in more than six decades and the most significant

SEE EGYPT, 5A

SBI, DAs spar over failed tests

Agency refuses to release certification data on 25 analysts

BY MANDY LOCKE AND JOSEPH NEFF
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A year and a half ago, in the face of mounting criticism, State Bureau of Investigation leaders vowed that the agency's forensic crime laboratory would employ the best and brightest analysts and get them nationally certified in their specialty.

Over the last year, SBI leaders worked hard to deliver. But a problem surfaced this month: About 25 analysts failed those certification exams, results that SBI leaders say they accidentally kept a secret.

Now, SBI leaders are resisting handing over the information, saying the test results are private personnel records and can only be turned over with a court order.

District attorneys say they were blindsided and must now revisit hundreds if not thousands of old cases since December that were handled

by analysts who failed the exam.

"It makes it look like we're hiding stuff," said Ben David, New Hanover County District Attorney and incoming president for the N.C. Conference of District Attorneys. "We have to live in sunshine as much as possible. Recent history should have made all of us more sensitive to this."

The SBI was embroiled in scandal two years ago after an auditor found that hundreds of old blood examinations were incorrectly reported. The (Raleigh) News & Observer reported widespread issues at the SBI, including policies and practices that showed bias for the prosecution.

SEE SBI, 5A



David

House brings state one step closer to fracking

BY JOHN MURAWSKI
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RALEIGH — After several hours of personal pleas and pointed debate, the N.C. House approved a controversial bill that would legalize fracking in the state within several years.

But opponents were relieved that supporters appeared to lack the votes needed to override a veto from the governor, who has remained silent on the issue in recent weeks.

The House voted 66-43 in favor of the measure that would overhaul the state's energy policy to allow drilling for natural gas. Proponents had hoped for a stronger show of support, loading the bill with a host of environmental safeguards and public protections.

North Carolina shale basins



Shale basins were formed by geotectonic plate movements more than 200 million years ago.

Source: Geology.com

The News & Observer

The legislation now goes back to the Senate, which last week approved a different version of the proposal. That chamber is widely expected to endorse the House version on Tuesday.

But the real decision now comes down

to Gov. Bev Perdue, who has 10 days in which to veto the legislation. She has expressed support for fracking in the past, with the caveat that it had to be done safely. She is still reviewing the contro-

SEE FRACKING, 10A



TODD SUMLIN - 2003 CHARLOTTE OBSERVER FILE PHOTO

B.B. DeLaine, shown here in 2003, holds a photo of his father, who filed a school segregation lawsuit that became *Brown vs. the Board of Education*. B.B. died Thursday, at 74.

B.B. DeLaine was a 'quiet crusader'

He continued his father's courageous fight for civil rights

BY DAVID PERLMUTT
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It wasn't enough just to be the Rev. J.A. DeLaine's son, and watch his father's courage.

In the early 1950s, J.A. DeLaine spearheaded a lawsuit in Clarendon County, S.C., that led to the U.S. Supreme Court outlawing segregated public schools. It cost him his church, his home and nearly his life.

All the while, his son B.B. DeLaine watched and learned — and found the doggedness to continue in Charlotte his father's fight for equal rights.

As a senior at Johnson C. Smith University in 1960, he helped organize and lead sit-ins at Charlotte's segregated lunch counters uptown. Later, he'd be the first black teacher

in Chappaqua, N.Y., and then at Charlotte's Garinger High.

Early Thursday, Brumit B. DeLaine, who would carry his father's quiet determination all his life, died at Presbyterian Hospital after battling cancer and congestive heart failure for two years. He was 74.

When he heard the news, U.S. Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., reflected on B.B. DeLaine and his family:

"He was the product of a family that believed that each of us is our brother's keeper," Clyburn said. "... B.B. turned the trials of his childhood into action. His story is the story of the civil rights movement. His family are unsung heroes who changed the course of history."

A memorial service is being planned, his older brother, Joe DeLaine, said.

"Like my father, my brother was not only a quiet crusader, but very determined to push for things that improved people."

SEE CRUSADER, 10A

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COUNCIL STILL SPLIT ON BUDGET

Charlotte council members continued their stalemate, and the city manager said he would draft an emergency measure to keep the city operating. **1B**

Stanford sentenced to 110 years for Ponzi scheme

Financier R. Allen Stanford ran what authorities have called one of the largest Ponzi schemes in U.S. history. **2A**

Charlotte father charged with fatally shooting son

An argument between father and son ended Thursday morning with the 20-year-old son slain. **1B**

One Wells Fargo building sold for \$245M

Wells Fargo & Co., which occupies about 70 percent of the building, will lease its space through at least 2021. **2B**

TODAY'S MUST-READS

History: New dating may put cave art in the age — and hands — of Neanderthals. **6A**

Review: Lawrence Toppman says "Rock of Ages" rolls as a spoof, drags when it's serious. **Page 4, CLT**

82° 59°

Forecast: Mostly sunny. **Saturday:** Mostly sunny. **10C**



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