

Polish PM slams ‘destabilising’ court ruling

AFP, Warsaw

Poland’s prime minister yesterday accused the Supreme Court of “destabilising the legal order” after it ruled that judges chosen by new government-backed institutions were not authorised to issue verdicts.

The Supreme Court decided on Thursday that the judges were not free from outside influence, further inflaming a long-running controversy over reforms by the ruling Law and Justice (PiS) party.

The PiS has passed a slew of judicial reforms arguing that they tackle corruption in a system still stuck in the communist era, but critics including top European judicial bodies say they undermine the rule of law and threaten democracy.

Timber trader

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leaving him critically injured, said Rezaul Karim, inspector (investigation) of Sadar Police Station.

Locals took Shahed to TMSS Medical College where he died, the police official said.

On information, police held Rubel and Shanto from the area around 3:00pm, he said, adding that the victim’s body was sent to Bogura Shaheed Ziaur Rahman Medical College for an autopsy.

No case was filed in this connection as of 8:30pm.

Family may file

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“Her sugar level was 15 during fasting today [yesterday]. How long she’ll remain in such a condition?”

She said though the BNP chief has been receiving treatment at the BSMMU for nearly a year, her condition is not improving.

“That’s why we want her to be freed for her advanced treatment at any other state-of-the-art hospital.”

About the present condition of Khaleda’s health, Selima said, Khaleda was vomiting and suffering from fever and serious pain.

“Her left hand have got bent and she is suffering from acute pain. Her proper treatment is not possible at this hospital [BSMMU].”

Selima said the treatment given by the BSMMU doctors was not helping improve Khaleda’s condition. “Rather, her condition is deteriorating gradually. Even, she can’t speak properly.”

She said Khaleda urged people to pray for her early recovery.

Along with Selima, her younger brother Shamim Eskandar, his wife Kaniz Fatema and son Ovik Eskandar and her late brother Sayeed Eskandar’s wife Nasrin Eskandar went to meet Khaleda around 3:00pm and had over an hour-long meeting, said BNP chairperson’s media wing member Shamsuddin Didar.

Khaleda has been in jail since she was convicted in the Zia Orphanage Trust corruption case on February 8, 2018. She was found guilty in another corruption case later the same year, though her party claims both cases are politically motivated.

The BNP chief has been receiving treatment at the BSMMU since April 1 last year.

3 killed

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Cox’s Bazar Sadar Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, the BGB official said, adding that the body of the deceased had been kept at the hospital morgue.

BGB recovered 1.3 lakh pieces of yaba pills, a locally made firearm and a bullet from the spot.

Two BGB personnel -- Lance Nayek Nurul Amin, 27, and Lance Nayek Shahinur Rahman, 25 -- also got injured in the “gunfight”, he added.

In Magura, an alleged robber was killed in what law enforcers claimed was a gunfight between two robber gangs early yesterday.

The victim is Mintu Gazi, 40, reports our Jhenidah correspondent quoting Saiful Islam, officer-in-charge of Magura Sadar Police Station.

After hearing several gunshots, a police patrol team rushed to Barunatoil Bridge area and recovered Mintu with a bullet injury.

They took him to Magura Sadar Hospital where doctors pronounced him dead, the official said.

Police also recovered a gun, two bullets and two machetes from the spot.

In Natore, a “murder accused” was killed in a “gunfight” with police in Gurudaspur upazila early yesterday.

Deceased Abu Hanif Bepari was accused of murder and several other cases, including robbery, said Akramul Hossain, additional superintendent of police in Natore.

Police detained Hanif from Dhaka’s Badda area on Wednesday, SP Akramul said.

The “gunfight” took place when a team of police, along with Hanif, went to Pargurudaspur area and raided a banana orchard to detain his associates, he added.

Two policemen sustained injuries during the incident, he confirmed.

Police seized a pistol, a pipe gun and five bullets from the spot.

No president

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Schiff’s prosecution team detailed how Trump flagrantly undertook last year to force Kiev to help him tarnish his possible 2020 reelection rival, former vice president Joe Biden.

“President Trump used the powers of his office to solicit a foreign nation to interfere in our elections for his own personal benefit,” House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler told the chamber.

“Since President George Washington took office in 1789, no president has abused his power in this way,” Nadler said.

“The president has repeatedly, flagrantly, violated his oath... The president’s conduct is wrong. It is illegal. And it is dangerous.”

Over nine hours the Democrats methodically dismantled Republican claims that Trump did nothing wrong.

They left few doubts that Trump’s sole motivation in secretly freezing aid to Ukraine last July was to force Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelensky to announce one investigation into Biden and a second into an unsupported story that Kiev helped Democrats in the 2016 election.

To puncture a key White House argument that the US constitution requires a specific crime to remove

a president, they played old videos in which two of Trump’s closest defenders, Republican Senator Lindsey Graham and storied criminal defense attorney Alan Dershowitz, said that abuse of power itself is a clear impeachable offense.

And they detailed the extensive role of Trump’s personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani in the scheme to pressure Zelensky, even while US intelligence and diplomatic chiefs disagreed with it.

“Donald Trump chose Rudy Giuliani over his own intelligence agencies. He chose Rudy Giuliani over his own national security advisors... That makes him dangerous to our country,” said Schiff, who leads the House Intelligence Committee.

Yet, three days into arguments into the historic trial, there were few signs that any of the Republican majority that Trump commands in the Senate would buy into the evidence and turn against him.

“What we heard from the managers yesterday, the day before, it is the same thing, day after day after day,” said Republican Senator John Barrasso.

“We’re hearing the same things over and over,” said Trump attorney Jay Sekulow. “We will be putting on vigorous defense of both facts and rebutting what they’ve said.”

BNP’s mayoral aspirants

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member, wishing not to be named.

BNP leaders said Ishraque mulls taking up 60-day priority programmes to resolve the important public issues.

He is also considering launching a 24-hour hotline service at the regional offices of the Dhaka South City Corporation so that people can lodge their complaints and get remedies promptly.

Ishraque, a post graduate from University of Hertfordshire, wants to introduce “One Stop Service” centres for smooth and prompt issuance of birth and death certificates and trade licence.

He mulls discussing the holding tax issue with the city dwellers before reaching a decision in this regard. He also plans to provide safe water and improved sewerage and drainage services to the city residents in close coordination with the Dhaka Wasa and other utility service providers.

Son of former Dhaka mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka, Ishraque plans to establish community centres, modern gymnasiums, and day-care centres for children in each wards of the south city.

Regarding smooth movement of people, he wants to install elevators or escalators at all footbridges in phases, and introduce bus services on some routes for the freedom fighters, elderly, physically challenged and underprivileged people.

He expects to launch community police in each ward to ensure safety and security of the south city residents.

About dengue and chikungunya diseases, Ishraque would create a city health database and give special attention to protect the people from

such vector-borne diseases.

He wants to set up primary health check-up centres at the parks and gymnasiums of the city corporation.

In the Dhaka north city, Tabith plans to take an initiative to organise night markets or farmers’ markets at the entry points to the city and some other major areas to facilitate the farmers and the consumers.

He has plans to introduce “food courts” at public places and make arrangements for relocating the street food shops.

Son of BNP leader Abdul Awal Mintoo, Tabith wants to provide free treatment to the members of the underprivileged families and set up mobile health care service centres in association with development agencies.

He has a plan to introduce modern school bus service on specific routes for safe transportation of students to and from schools.

Tabith, a post graduate from George Washington University, also wants to award bright students with “city scholarship” each year for their success in primary-, junior- and SSC-level examinations.

To reduce illegal parking, a major cause for traffic congestion in the capital, the BNP mayoral hopeful wants to build multi-storied parking facilities or parking lots in busy areas on a commercial basis.

He also aims to take an initiative to build a circular road around the capital, as planned by Rajuk, to ease traffic congestion.

Like Ishraque, Tabith also plans to introduce “One Stop Service” for providing prompt services, including issuance of birth and death certificates,

At the White House, Trump unleashed a barrage of tweets attacking the process as “loaded with lies and misrepresentations.”

“Most unfair & corrupt hearing in Congressional history!” he tweeted

Democratic prosecutors will complete their arguments Friday with a focus on the second impeachment charge, obstruction of Congress, before Trump’s legal team holds the floor in his defense for three days.

Democrats are hoping their arguments will at least persuade some Republicans, who hold a 53-47 majority in the Senate, to support their call to issue subpoenas next week for four top current and former Trump aides to testify, and for internal White House records about the Ukraine affair.

But all indications were that Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, in coordination with the White House, will seek to stifle witness requests and bring the trial to a close with a vote to acquit Trump by the end of next week.

Both Trump and McConnell said early this week that the White House could claim executive privilege to refuse the subpoenas, forcing a court challenge that could prolong the case well into February.

and trade licence.

For the recreation activities of the city residents, he wants to introduce boating, fishing and cable car ride in Hatirjheel area on a limited scale.

To ensure safety of the people, the mayoral hopeful plans to install CCTV cameras on the streets, lanes and by lanes in phases.

Scientists start

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could one day be transported there.

“Having our own facility allows us to focus on oxygen production, measuring it with a mass spectrometer as it is extracted from the regolith simulants,” said Beth Lomax of the University of Glasgow.

“Being able to acquire oxygen from resources found on the Moon would obviously be hugely useful for future lunar settlers, both for breathing and in the local production of rocket fuel.”

Before the technology could be taken to the surface, it will need tweaking to get it ready for use in the harsh environment of the Moon.

“And now we have the facility in operation we can look into fine-tuning it, for instance by reducing the operating temperature, eventually designing a version of this system that could one day fly to the Moon to be operated there,” said ESA research fellow Alexandre Meurisse in a statement.

Oxygen is the most abundant element in moon dust, with experiments on samples delivered back down to earth showing it represents as much as 45 percent of its weight.

rose Tk 5 to 10 per kg in the last 10 to 15 days.

Ikramul Haque, an employee of a private company in the city’s Mirpur, said in recent times he had been finding it difficult to maintain his four-member family due to the price hike of daily essentials.

“A few days ago, onion [prices] suffered us a lot; and now it’s rice. I have been going through a situation where I cannot fulfill the demands of my kids on most occasions,” he said.

“I don’t know when we will get a respite from the price hike,” said Ikramul, while talking to The Daily Star at a kitchen market in Mirpur 7.

Abul Kalam Azad, a retail store owner in the same area, said the government should address the issue of price hike as it creates a misunderstanding between the shopkeepers and customers.

Gunman kills six in Germany attack: police

AFP, Frankfurt Am Main

Six people were killed and two seriously wounded in a shooting in southwestern Germany, police said yesterday.

The shooter, believed to have a personal motive, launched an assault in the town of Rot am See.

Police in nearby Aalen told AFP a man with a personal connection to the victims had been arrested and there was no indication that other gunmen were involved.

The police told local TV that the suspect was a German.

16 Jamaat

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gunpowder, and some books on jihad from them.

A case was filed with the police station under the Explosive Substances Act, the police official said.

Tigers lose

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Yesterday, it was the experienced Shoaib Malik who guided Pakistan to the target with three balls to spare as the 37-year-old remained not out on 58 off 45 balls with five boundaries.

However, Bangladesh did manage to keep the pressure on the Pakistan batsman for much of the chase. Substitute fielder Nazmul Hossain Shanto dropped a rather tough chance at long off with Malik on 47, and Mustafizur Rahman the aggrieved bowler, when the hosts required 17 off 16 balls.

Pakistan got the win off another dropped chance when Mohammad Mithun dropped a simple outfield chance off Mohammad Rizwan, who crossed over for two to complete the win.

However, Bangladesh did make a good start in defence of the target as Shafai Islam removed Pakistan skipper Babar Azam for a duck in the first over.

Mustafizur then removed Mohammad Hafeez with a cutter before Malik and Ahsan Ali held the ship together for Pakistan. Ahsan too departed on 36 but it was a difficult task for the Tigers to defend a small total in the end.

Shafail ended up with two for 27 from his four overs while Aminul

Islam, an expensive Mustafizur and Al Amin Hossain -- who was the best bowler on display, conceding just 18 runs from his fur overs -- took a wicket each for Bangladesh.

Earlier, Bangladesh got off to a stable start after electing to bat. The visiting batsmen were surprised by the slow nature of the pitch. Both openers Tamim Iqbal and Mohammad Naim had to adjust to the surface, which once again raised questions over the slow strike rate from the openers.

When Tamim eventually departed after scoring 39 off 34 balls with five fours Bangladesh were 71 for one after 11 overs. Naim soon followed after scoring a team high of 43 off 41 balls which included three fours and two sixes.

On 100 for two after 15 overs, Bangladesh managed to score just 41 runs in the last five overs as the visitors lost some quick wickets on a sluggish Lahore pitch.

Liton Das, coming in at number three, departed for twelve while young Afif Hossain and Soumya Sarkar -- at number five and six respectively -- could not make an impact.

Skipper Mahmudullah Riyad remained unbeaten on 19 off 14 balls. He later said that they were at least 15 runs short. Bangladesh batsmen conceding a total of 45 dot balls did not help matters.

Pressure mounts

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The 17 judges, including the ones from Myanmar, China and Gambia, unanimously took the decision, which is quite rare, the professor of international relations said.

The provisional measures ordered by the court, are legally-binding. In accordance with the Statute of the Court, the UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will promptly transmit the notice of the provisional measures to the UN Security Council, according to a statement issued yesterday by a spokesperson of Guterres.

Guterres strongly supported the use of peaceful means to settle international disputes, it said.

He further recalls that, pursuant to the Charter and to the Statute of the Court, decisions of the court are binding and believes that Myanmar will duly comply with the order from the court, it added.

Asked what role China and Russia can play when the orders are sent to the UN Security Council as these veto powers earlier opposed any concrete actions against Myanmar for the atrocities, Imtiaz said, “Even if the Security Council doesn’t work, Myanmar is legally-bound to implement the orders.”

He reckons that China and Russia will not oppose the ICJ orders because they will be then globally described as complicit in genocide.

There were questions as to whether Dhaka was able to truly internationalise the Rohingya crisis, but with the ICJ ruling, it has been ensured that a global body, of which Myanmar is a member, will watch Myanmar’s actions, he said.

If China, Japan and India don’t work effectively to help Myanmar enforce the ICJ orders, Bangladesh will now tell them that they will be complicit in genocidal acts, he added.

This is an opportunity for Bangladesh to strongly negotiate with Myanmar and its allies and put pressure on the country to find a sustainable solution to the Rohingya crisis which originated in the 1970s.

Some 750,000 Rohingyas fled brutal military campaign and took shelter in Bangladesh, joining some 300,000 others who had fled earlier waves of violence in Rakhine.

They have been denied citizenship, basic rights like education and health, and freedom of movement.

Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud bin Momen said the challenge for Bangladesh was to use the global pressure created on Myanmar and its allies.

“The World Court will take five to six years to complete the trial. Meanwhile, we will continue to engage bilaterally with Myanmar,” he said at an event in the capital Thursday night.

Masud said the ICJ ruling will create confidence among the Rohingyas for returning to their homeland in Rakhine.

Japan, China and India are with Bangladesh, he said, adding, “They have geo-strategic interests in the region... We have economic and strategic partnership with them and will nurture that and try to solve the problem.”

COMPLY WITH ICJ ORDERS

The UK has encouraged Myanmar to comply with the legally-binding provisional measures.

“The Court was clear that Myanmar must do more to protect the Rohingya,” said Heather Wheeler, UK minister for Asia and the Pacific, in a statement.

Malaysia said the ICJ order is a step in the right direction to address the situation.

“The decision [of ICJ] reflects the serious concern of the international community on the need to address effectively the plight of the Rohingya and establish accountability and justice in respect of alleged serious human rights violations against the Rohingya,” said a Malaysian foreign ministry statement.

“As a fellow state party to the 1948 Genocide Convention, Malaysia calls on Myanmar to fulfil its obligations... to ensure that the crisis is not prolonged.”

Amnesty International said the ICJ decision sends a message to Myanmar’s senior officials that the world will not tolerate their atrocities, and will not blindly accept their empty rhetoric on the reality in Rakhine State today.

An estimated 600,000 Rohingya people who remain there are routinely and systematically denied their most basic rights, it said.

“Myanmar must comply with the ICJ’s ruling and take immediate action to cease ongoing violations against the community and to prevent the destruction of evidence,” said its Regional Director Nicholas Bequelin.

In a statement, 103 civil society bodies of Myanmar said political and military policies have always been imposed with violent force and intimidation upon the people of Myanmar on the basis of their political and religious beliefs and ethnic identities.

“Lessons from history have shown that aforementioned acts of violence and intimidation were committed with impunity, using mechanisms of political power and military might. The inability and incapability of Myanmar’s internal justice mechanism enable perpetrators to continue to carry out violent acts with impunity,” it said.

Fire ravages

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said the fire broke out around 4:15am yesterday.

On information, 15 firefighting units rushed to the spot and brought the fire under control around 5:45am, she said.

What caused the fire could not be known till last night.

Lima said a slum dweller, Parveen, 35, suffered burns in the fire and was admitted to the burn unit of Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Hospital sources said almost 90 percent of her body was burnt.

Another person, Shahidul, who was injured in his leg, was admitted to a private hospital, Lima said.

Visiting the spot yesterday morning, this correspondent saw a signboard of the Ministry of Housing and Public Works near the slum. According to the board, the land of the slum is designated for a project meant for people from the lower and lower-middle income group.

Talking to The Daily Star, a slum dweller, Abdul Mannan Sheikh, 60, said he woke up to screams of his neighbours.

He said although he, along with six family members, managed to run to safety, the fire razed their home to the ground.

Meanwhile, several slum dwellers suspected that the incident could be an act of sabotage as a quarter was trying to evict them from the slum.

“They want to evict us. That’s why they set the fire,” said a woman.

Asked, Abul Kalam Azad, officer-in-charge of Rupnagar Police Station, said they were not aware of any act of sabotage in regard to the fire incident.

Two probe committees were working to find out the cause of the fire, said police and fire service officials.

Last night, Hazera was gazing blankly into the distance, sitting on a road adjacent to the slum.

Approached by this correspondent, she said her husband and two daughters live in their village home in Pirojpur’s in Mothbaria and she sends home Tk 5,000-7,000 every month.

“My husband is bedridden. My daughters go to school. How will I manage everything now;?” asked a worried Hazera.

“My husband is suffering from various illnesses. My daughters go to school. How do I meet the expense?” she said.