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Yea or nay?

Scots vote on independence; United Kingdom's fate on knife-edge

REUTERS, Edinburgh

Scotland voted yesterday on whether to stay within the United Kingdom or end the 307-year-old union with England and become an independent nation in a finely balanced referendum with far-reaching consequences.

From remote highlands and islands to the tough city estates of Glasgow, people were almost equally divided over a vote watched closely by Britain's allies, investors and restive regions at home and abroad.

Pre-voting opinion polls gave the "No" campaign - those in favor of remaining in the United Kingdom - a slight edge. But hundreds of thousands of people still making up their minds held the key as polling stations opened.

Tennis star Andy Murray sent a powerful last-minute message in support of the pro-independence "Yes" vote, tweeting "Let's do this" after months of silence on his views.

Many people see the choice as one of "hearts or heads" - whether emotional stirrings and yearnings would outweigh pragmatic concerns over the risks and uncertainty that an independent state would face.

"I've waited all my life for this," said the first voter in Edinburgh's Waverley Court, a businessman who gave only his first name, Ron. "It's time to break with England. 'Yes' to independence."

As he spoke, a couple of workers hurrying by in the morning mist and drizzle shouted "Vote No!"

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A pro-Scottish independence campaigner in Edinburgh on Wednesday and a pro-union campaigner in West Glasgow yesterday.



PHOTO: AFP

SC VERDICT IN SAYEDEE CASE Attorney gen finds investigation weak

ASHUTOSH SARKAR

A weak investigation in the war crimes case against Delawar Hossain Sayedee was to blame for the Supreme Court commuting his capital punishment to imprisonment until death, Attorney General Mahbubey Alam said yesterday.

"The investigation agency should have found out the charge sheet in Ibrahim Kutti murder case filed by his wife," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

"Had enough documents been placed before the Supreme Court about Sayedee's direct involvement in killing Ibrahim, his death sentence might have been upheld."

Mahbubey Alam said he himself had gone to Barisal and Pirojpur looking for the original case documents, which were supposed to mention Sayedee's name in connection with the Ibrahim murder. But he had not found any of those.

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It's impossible to make both parties happy

Tribunal judges about criticism of verdict

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday expressed discontent over comments made before the media against judges following the Supreme Court judgment on war criminal Delawar Hossain Sayedee.

"In every case, there are two sides. In a criminal case, it is not possible to make both parties happy," said tribunal chairman Justice Enayetur Rahim.

On Wednesday, the country's apex court commuted the Jamaat-e-Islami leader's

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Ruet closed after hartal violence

11 Shibir men held; they explode bombs, clash with police; BCL men stab Shibir activist

RU CORRESPONDENT

The Rajshahi University of Engineering and Technology (Ruet) was declared closed last night indefinitely from Saturday, after a series of violence ensuing Islami Chhatra Shibir's efforts to enforce Jamaat-e-Islami's countrywide hartal against the conviction of its leader Delwar Hossain Sayedee.

All resident students were asked to vacate the dormitories by 10:00am today.

Police arrested 11 Shibir leaders and activists at Ruet for creating anarchy on the campus.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra League activists of the university stabbed a Shibir man in the presence of cops at Shaheed Lt Selim Hall. The injured, Rakib Hossain, was admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with three or four stabs in the left thigh.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 3

Produce 2 war crimes suspects on Sept 23

Tribunal asks jail authorities

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The war crimes tribunal yesterday directed the jail authorities to produce before it on September 23 two suspects for crimes against humanity committed in Chapainawabganj during the Liberation War.

Mahidur Rahman, 84, of Dadanchak village, and Afsar Hossain alias Chutu, 65, of Satrosia village, of the district, were arrested on Tuesday in a criminal case.

The duo, now in

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3 killed in city road crashes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people, two of a family and a sub-inspector of police, were killed in road accidents amid a thin flow of traffic in the capital's Paribagh and Kafrul during the Jamaat-enforced countrywide hartal yesterday.

Firoza Begum, 50, and her sister-in-law Chanbura, 35, were killed and three others injured when a bus rammed a three-wheeler near Ruposhi Bangla Hotel.

The speeding bus hit the Mohammadpur-bound three-wheeler around 7:00am, leaving four of a family and the driver of the three-wheeler

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Road-accident victim Firoza's sister Shahnaz in tears at DMCH yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Dhaka-Delhi JCC meet tomorrow

India to be asked not to allow its territory for anti-Bangladesh criminals

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka will seek reassurance from New Delhi that Indian territory will not be allowed to be used for any criminal activities against Bangladesh.

"India must give us this assurance and we will certainly seek it," said Foreign Minister AH Mahmood Ali prior to leaving Dhaka to attend the third Bangladesh-India Joint Consultative Commission (JCC) meeting to be held in New Delhi tomorrow.

Ali said Bangladesh also expects that India would not allow its soil to be used for terrorist activities against Bangladesh as Bangladesh cleared its position regarding the matter. "I think it's there. I'll tell more once I get back home,"

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Robber killed in 'gunfight' with police

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narail

A leader of a robber gang was killed in a "gunfight" with police in the district's Kalia upazila early yesterday.

The dead, Sekendar Ali Sarder alias Seken Sarder, was son of late Abdur Rahim Sarder of Harishpur village.

Matiur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Kalia Police Station, said Sekendar stood accused in five criminal cases, including robbery

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The Daily Star

Integral Energy Limited

ONLINE POLL

Do you think it is justified for the private bus operators to charge higher fare from the passengers ahead of the Eid-ul-Azha and Durga Puja?

Yes (17%)

No (83%)

TOTAL VOTES: 214

TODAY'S POLL

Do you agree with Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) executive director Sultana Kamal that the risks of child marriage would increase if girls' eligibility for marriage is reduced?

PLEASE CAST YOUR VOTE AT www.thedailystar.net

PRAYER TIMING September 19

	Azhan	Jamaat
Fazr	4:35	5:10
Juma	12:30	1:15
Asr	4:30	4:45
Maghrib	6:09	6:12
Esha	7:45	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

India, China pledge to end border row

AFP, New Delhi

Indian and Chinese leaders yesterday pledged to resolve a longstanding border dispute as a stand-off between troops on the Ladakh frontier overshadowed a rare summit in New Delhi.

India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi said he had expressed concerns to China's visiting President Xi Jinping about "incidents" on the disputed border in the northern Ladakh region, where reports said hundreds of troops were facing off.

"I expressed concern on the incidents on the border and said peace and tranquillity on the border is the foundation for good relations," said Modi at a briefing after formal talks with Xi.

"(Xi) agreed that the boundary question must be resolved soon."

The two countries have long been embroiled in a bitter dispute over their border, with both sides accusing soldiers of crossing over into the other's territory.

Xi, the first Chinese president to visit India in eight years, said Beijing was committed to working with New Delhi to maintain "peace and tranquillity" until the border issue could be settled.

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Hitler's food taster reveals horrors

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Every meal could have been her last. And when she had finished eating the bland vegetarian dishes put before her, 25-year-old Margot Wölk and her young female colleagues would burst into tears and "cry like dogs" because they were grateful still to be alive.

Margot Wölk was no Nazi, but she was one of 15 young women who were employed at Adolf Hitler's heavily guarded Prussian "Wolf's Lair" headquarters during the Second World War. Her job was to taste the Nazi leader's food before it reached his lips, to make sure it wasn't poisoned.

She was the only one to survive. All her colleagues were rounded up and shot by the advancing Red Army in



Margot Wölk, the food taster

January 1945. Now a frail 96-year-old widow, Margot Wölk has overcome feelings of shame and broken decades of silence about her time as Hitler's food taster to tell her story to German television.

"The food was always vegetarian," she told Berlin's RBB television channel, for a programme about her harrowing and sometimes horrific experiences, which was aired on Tuesday. "There were constant rumours that the British were out to poison Hitler. He never ate meat. We were given rice, noodles, peppers, peas and cauliflower," she recalled.

But she added: "Some of the girls started to shed tears as they began eating because they were so afraid. We had to eat it all up. Then we had to wait an

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