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IMMIGRATION BAN IN US Trump's order partly halted

Federal judge stays Muslim deportations; global outrage, protests against ban

AFP, New York

US airports braced for fresh protests yesterday against Donald Trump's temporary immigration ban, which a federal judge partially blocked by ordering authorities not to deport refugees and other travelers detained at US borders.

The ruling coincided with a wave of anger and concern abroad, including among US allies, and rallies at major airports across the United States.

"Victory!!!!!!" the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), which had sued the government, tweeted after US District Judge Ann Donnelly in New York issued an emergency stay.

"Our courts today worked as they should as bulwarks against government abuse or unconstitutional policies and orders," the ACLU said.

But the ruling, which did not touch on the constitutionality of Trump's order, did not quiet protestors at New York's John F Kennedy Airport, where thousands had gathered.

"People are prepared to stand against this" said David Gaddis.

"It's not surprising that people are mobilising," the 43-year-old said. "Every day he's in office, it's a national emergency."

Mass protests also broke out at major airports, including Washington, Chicago, Minneapolis, Denver, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Dallas.

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Protestors rally against the Muslim immigration ban at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York yesterday. President Trump signed the controversial executive order that halted refugees and residents, from predominantly Muslim countries, from entering the US. PHOTO: AFP

Female 'pir' found dead in Mirpur

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police have recovered the body of a "pir" from a tin-roofed house near the Martyrs' Graveyard in the capital's Mirpur yesterday evening.

Nurjahan Begum, 72, lived alone, Farukul Islam, inspector (investigation) of Darussalam Police Station, told The Daily Star. He added that she was found with her throat slit.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College morgue for an autopsy.

Locals told this paper that Nurjahan was known as Kheta Pagli in the area and she had quite a following for the last eight year. Her followers considered her a pir. They built her the house and many of them gave her food and money.

Locals said her followers had been looking for her since early afternoon.

Failing to find her, they pushed the partly open door of her room in the evening and found her body covered in a blanket.

Myanmar's NLD lawyer gunned down

AFP, Yangon

A prominent Muslim lawyer and member of Myanmar's ruling party was shot dead along with a taxi driver outside Yangon's international airport yesterday, officials said.

Ko Ni, a legal advisor to Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) party, was gunned down as he got into a taxi outside arrivals around 5:00pm (10:30GMT) by an assassin who also killed the driver.

"According to our initial information, Ko Ni and the taxi driver were killed," a security source at the airport told AFP, asking not to be named.

"An unknown man shot him in the head while he was hiring a taxi. He was later arrested," the source added.

Zaw Htay, a spokesman at the president's office, said Ko Ni had just

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No meddling in local govt affairs

UP chairmen, members want to get rid of influence by MPs, politicians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Union parishad chairmen and members yesterday demanded the government take effective measures to keep lawmakers and other politicians from meddling in the affairs of local government institutions.

In many cases, lawmakers and chairmen of district councils and upazila parishads irrationally try to influence union parishads' activities. They even try to exercise their power to get development projects awarded to their selected contractors, said UP chairmen and members at a press conference at Dhaka Reporters Unity in the capital.

As a result, it becomes difficult to ensure accountability and transparency of actions taken by UPs, thus affecting the overall development in unions, said elected representatives of more than 500 UPs under the banner of Self-governed Union Parishad Advocacy Group-Bangladesh.

A UP should be given the power to coordinate all the development in its area, and be kept free from bureaucratic tangles, said Swapan Das, president of the group as he read out a written statement.

Recently a trend has been observed that the government suspends UP chairmen and members on political consideration, showing different excuses, though they have been elected by the people.

There should be a legal framework to ensure that no elected representatives of UPs can be suspended until they are convicted by the court, Swapan said.

The government has raised the amount of honorarium of UP chairmen to Tk 8, 000 and UP members' to Tk 5,000. But still the amounts are insufficient.

"We demand a rational and further raise in our honoraria," the group's president said.

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N'GANJ 7 MURDERS CJ wants quick death reference

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Justice Surendra Kumar Sinha yesterday instructed the officials concerned of the High Court to prepare on priority basis the paper book of death reference in the sensational Narayanangj seven-murder case.

The chief justice would assign a High Court bench to hear the death reference after the paper book was prepared, Additional Registrar of the HC Subbir Faiz told The Daily Star.

The death reference of the seven-murder case reached the HC on January 22.

If a lower court sentences any person to death, its judgement is examined by the HC through hearing arguments for confirmation of the death sentence. The case documents and judgement reach as death reference to the HC from the lower court in seven days after the verdict is pronounced.

A paperbook contains all the details of a case, trial proceedings, statements, evidence, verdicts and other documents. The book is necessary for the HC to hear and dispose of a death reference or an appeal.

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Princes reveal plans for statue of Diana



MAIL ONLINE

She will forever be the 'people's princess'. Now, 20 years after her death, the public will be able to see Princess Diana again – in the form of a statue being commissioned by Princes William and Harry.

The memorial will be erected in the gardens outside Kensington Palace, so her sons will also be able to see it from their apartments.

Announcing their decision on Saturday, the princes said: "It has been 20 years since our mother's death and the time is right to recognise her positive impact in the UK and around the world with a permanent statue."

"Our mother touched so many lives. We hope the statue will help all those who visit Kensington Palace to reflect on her life and her legacy."

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One held for torching school

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Gaibandha

Police in Gaibandha yesterday detained a suspect in connection with a case filed over torching a high school in a remote char of Kunderpara in Sadar upazila early Friday.

The detainee is Ranju Mia, 30, son of Mujibur Rahman of Char Pardiya in Sadar upazila.

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PRAYER TIMING JANUARY 30
Fazr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 5:35 12:45 4:15 5:46 7:15
JAMAAT 6:10 1:15 4:30 5:50 7:45
SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

PM's van puller gets air force job

A CORRESPONDENT, Faridpur

The rickshaw-van puller, who carried Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her family members around her ancestral village in Gopalganj's Tungipara on Friday, is being recruited into Bangladesh Air Force.

Squadron Leader Harun-Ur-Rashid of Birshreshtha Matur Rahman Airbase in Jessore handed over the appointment letter to Imam Sheikh around 11:30am in the latter's home in Tungipara, reports Bangla daily Prothom Alo.

They also handed over Tk 40,000 for the treatment of Imam's ailing father and for the renovation of their home.

The van itself, on which the premier took the ride, will be kept in a museum.

After completing all formalities, Imam started his journey to Jessore around 12:00pm.

"We never expected that the prime minister would

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Earthen vessels of molasses being sold at Kaliganj Bazar of Jhenidah. Inset, solidified molasses, popularly known as patali gur, also being sold there. Good price of molasses is making gachhis, people who produce molasses, smile this year.

PHOTO: STAR

India may change Tipaimukh plan

Minister tells JS

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

India had informed Bangladesh they might bring changes to the shape of the controversial Tipaimukh hydroelectric project on an international river, a minister told the House yesterday.

In reply to lawmakers' queries, Water Resources Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud also said talks at various levels were going on to ensure that Bangladesh faced no negative impacts if India implemented the proposed interlinking river project.

"A joint survey is being carried out to find out possible impacts of the project. India has recently informed that they might bring changes to the shape of the Tipaimukh hydroelectric project," the minister said in a written statement.

"The joint survey would be finalised based on the data provided in light of changes in the shape of the project," Anisul added.

Construction of the proposed 1,500MW Tipaimukh hydroelectric project downstream the confluence of the Barak and the Tuivai rivers in Manipur of India, just around a kilometre north of Jakiganj area in Sylhet, would lead to huge destruction of ecology and biodiversity in Bangladesh as well as in the Indian state, environmentalists warn.

Information available in different websites shows that implementation of the project would lead to chopping off of more than 78 lakh trees and 27,000 bamboo columns from more than 25,000 hectares of forestland in the state.

Green activists say these forests are critical habitats of many endangered species including barking deer, gibbons, leopards, grey sibia, serow and the rufous-necked hornbill, the state bird of Manipur.

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