

Israeli ex-PM Olmert freed from prison

AFP, Ramla

Israeli ex-prime minister Ehud Olmert was freed from prison yesterday after being granted parole from a 27-month sentence for corruption scandals that brought down his promising political career. Olmert did not speak to reporters when leaving the Maasiyahu prison in central Israel.

Flash floods kill 11 in Pakistan

AFP, Islamabad

At least 11 people were killed and scores more people were injured in flash floods triggered by heavy rains in Pakistan's southwestern province of Balochistan, officials said yesterday. Provincial disaster management authorities said twenty house had been damaged by the flash floods.

Roadside bomb kills 2 near Somalia's capital

REUTERS, Mogadishu

A roadside bomb struck a minibus north of the Somali capital Mogadishu late on Saturday, killing two people and injuring six others, police said. The blast occurred on a busy road in the Elasha district less than 20 kilometres northeast of the capital, said Dahir Ahmed, a police major.

Central America hit by massive power outages

AFP, San José

A huge power outage plunged millions of people across Central America into darkness Saturday, as authorities from Panama to Costa Rica to El Salvador scrambled to restore electrical service. The blackout affected some five million people in Costa Rica alone, where officials largely had managed to restore service after a nationwide power outage lasting about five hours.



Greenpeace activists ride along a banner with a silhouette of German Chancellor Angela Merkel onto the Golden Opportunity ship carrying coal as part of protests ahead of the upcoming G20 summit, in Hamburg Harbour, Germany, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Eye on China, India sends more troops near Sikkim

PTI, New Delhi

India has pushed in more troops in a "non-combative mode" to strengthen its position in an area near Sikkim, where its soldiers have been locked in a stand-off with Chinese troops for almost a month now in what has been the longest such impasse between the two armies since 1962.

India brought in more troops after the destruction of two of its bunkers and "aggressive tactics" adopted by the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), sources said. In a "non-combative mode", the nozzle of a gun is placed downwards.

Giving details for the first time about the events that preceded the faceoff between the two armies, the sources said the PLA on June 1 asked the Indian Army to remove the two bunkers set up in 2012 at Lalten in Doka La, which falls in the vicinity of Chumbi Valley at the corner of India-Bhutan-Tibet tri-junction.

The Indian Army, which had been patrolling this area for many years, decided in

2012 that two bunkers would be positioned there as a backup option, besides providing security to the Bhutan-China border.

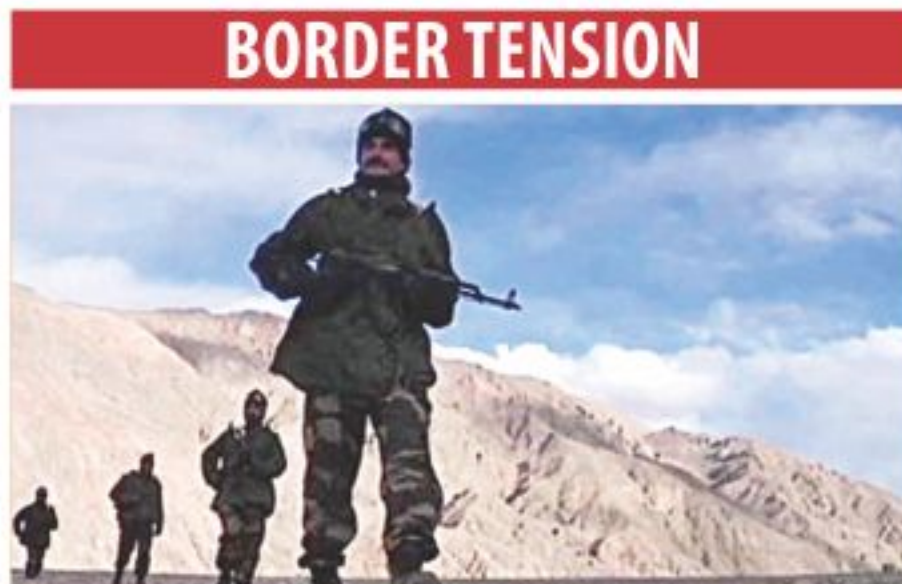
The Indian Army forward positions informed Sukna-based 33 Corps Headquarter in North Bengal about the Chinese warnings on the bunkers, the sources said.

However, during the night of June 6, two Chinese bulldozers destroyed the bunkers, claiming that the area belonged to China and that India or Bhutan had no right over it, the sources said.

Indian troops on the ground prevented the Chinese men and machines from doing any further damage or transgressing into the area, they said.

Additional forces from nearby brigade headquarters, located 20 km from the face off point, were moved in on June 8 during which a scuffle led to soldiers on both sides suffering minor injuries.

PLA troops were rushed in from its 141 division located in the area, prompting the Indian Army to also strengthen its position.



BORDER TENSION

TOKYO ASSEMBLY VOTE Japan PM Abe set for huge loss: exit polls

AFP, Tokyo

Embattled Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's conservative party was set for a major defeat in the Tokyo assembly election yesterday, exit polls showed, as he struggles with a series of setbacks and scandals that have driven down his popularity at the national level.

Former TV anchorwoman Yuriko Koike, who was elected the city's governor in a landslide last year, was expected to seize a comfortable majority of the 127-seat Tokyo assembly, which the ruling Liberal Democratic Party previously controlled but is now bracing for a historic defeat.

While the vote is local, it serves as an important indicator of national political sentiment.

KULBHUSHAN JADHAV CASE

Pak denies India consular access

THE HINDU ONLINE

Pakistan yesterday again rejected India's request for consular access to Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was sentenced to death in April this year under charges of espionage and terrorism.

India on Saturday requested Pakistan to grant full and early consular access to Jadhav, as the two countries exchanged lists of prisoners lodged in each other's jails. Pakistan has turned down at least five such requests since Jadhav's arrest from Balochistan province last year.

Pakistani foreign office spokesman Nafees Zakariya said the attempt to equate Jadhav's case with civilian prisoners and fishermen is a travesty of logic. "Commander Jadhav is a serving Indian Naval officer and sent to Pakistan by RAW for espionage, terrorism and subversive activities which resulted in a loss of many innocent lives and damage property," he said in a statement issued in Islamabad.

He said Pakistan ensured the effective implementation of bilateral consular agreement with India, while India deliberately delayed the release of civilian Pakistani prisoners. "Five Indian prisoners who completed their sentence were repatriated on June 22. In contrast 20 Pakistani civilian prisoners who have completed their sentences still await their repatriation while consular access to 107 Pakistani fishermen and 85 Pakistani civilians is also pending," Zakariya explained.

The spokesman also blamed India for delaying the release of two juvenile Pakistani prisoners Babar Ali and Ali Raza for almost a year, despite their release by Indian courts. Zakariya said Pakistan has implemented the 2008 bilateral agreement on consular access in full letter and spirit and now expects India to reciprocate.

WAR ON IS IN PHILIPPINES

Duterte threatens to jail martial law critics

AFP, Manila

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has threatened to jail critics of his use of martial law in the violence-wracked south, days before the Supreme Court is set to rule on its legality this week.

Duterte declared military rule across the region of Mindanao, home to about 20 million people, in late May to quell what he said was a fast-growing threat from the Islamic State (IS) group there.

The Philippine leader has insisted he would ignore the findings of the court, which has constitutional oversight, vowing only to listen to recommendations from the armed forces.

"It's not dependent on the whim of the Supreme Court. Should I believe them? When I see the situation is still chaotic and you ask me to lift it? I will arrest you and put you behind bars," Duterte said in a speech before local officials on Saturday.

"We can talk of anything else and make compromises maybe but not when the

interest of my country is at stake."

Government forces are continuing to battle militants occupying the city of Marawi, with aerial bombardment and ferocious street-to-street combat that has left some 400 people dead and forced nearly 400,000 people in the wider area to flee their homes.

Duterte has faced a backlash from opposition lawmakers, who last month asked the Supreme Court to reject the declaration of martial law, which they have slammed as unconstitutional.

The 1987 constitution imposes limits on martial law to prevent a repeat of the abuses under dictator Ferdinand Marcos, who was deposed by a famous "People Power" revolution the previous year.

The charter allows the Supreme Court to review the factual basis for proclaiming martial law, which is limited to an initial period of 60 days. If a president decides to extend martial law, congress can review and revoke it.



Heavy rain pounds several parts of Indian states

PTI, New Delhi

Rain pounded several parts of the country throwing life out of gear as the southwest monsoon advanced to several states.

Torrential rain led to a deluge-like situation in parts of Gujarat and triggered fresh landslides in Himachal Pradesh, even as the flood situation in Assam remained grim with more rain likely to hit the northeast region yesterday.

Sharp showers pounded Tankara taluka of Gurjarat's Morbi district in a short span of time. The rainwater breached several check dams, leading to heavy waterlogging on Saturday.

Tankara gauged a massive 280 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours. Teams of the disaster management department with the help of National Disaster Response Force personnel rescued around 14 people stranded in floodwaters in the district.

Suigam taluka in Banaskantha, Kodinar taluka in Gir Somnath and Kalyanpur in Devbhoomi Dwarka received 110 mm of rainfall overnight, which led to traffic snarls.

Chief Minister Vijay Rupani said the state's disaster management authority has been put

on alert to tackle any emergency situation.

The low-lying areas in Ahmedabad are waterlogged. The city recorded 31 mm of rainfall.

A 17-year-old youth was killed after a cloudburst struck a village in south Kashmir's Kulgam district on Friday.

Meanwhile, the 300-km-long Jammu-Srinagar national highway, the only all-weather road connecting the Valley to the rest of India, was reopened for vehicular

traffic after a day-long closure due to rainfall-induced landslides in Ramban and Udhampur districts of Jammu and Kashmir.

Widespread rain led to fresh landslides in Himachal Pradesh. The Manali-Leh road was blocked near Koksar.

In Assam, floods have affected more than 2.68 lakh people in Barpeta, Lakhimpur, Jorhat, Karimganj, Cachar, Dhemaji, Karbi Anglong and Biswanath districts.

The Assam State Disaster Management Authority's report said 453 villages have been inundated and over 5,272 hectares of crop area damaged by the swirling flood waters.

TORRENTIAL RAIN LED TO A DELUGE-LIKE SITUATION IN GUJARAT IN ASSAM, FLOODS HAVE AFFECTED 2.68 LAKH PEOPLE

Afghan Taliban kill 13 pro-govt fighters

AFP, Mazar-i-sharif

The Taliban have killed 13 pro-government fighters in northern Afghanistan, ambushing them as they were on their way to take part in an operation against the insurgency, officials said yesterday.

The attack on the fighters, part of a local militia working with the government, took place Saturday afternoon in the volatile Chimtal district of northern Balkh province, some 40 kilometres from the provincial capital Mazar-i-Sharif.

It underscored rising insecurity in the war-torn country as the resurgent Taliban step up their assaults, with government forces struggling to contain them.



An injured opposition activist is taken away by volunteer medics during protest against the government of President Nicolas Maduro, at the Francisco Fajardo highway in Caracas, on Saturday. Venezuela marks three months of violent protests within a political and economic crisis with protesters demanding President Nicolas Maduro's resignation and new elections.

PHOTO: AFP

TACKLING DENGUE CRISIS

Sri Lanka deploys hundreds of troops

AFP, Colombo

Sri Lanka deployed hundreds of soldiers to destroy mosquito breeding grounds as the country battles the spread of deadly dengue fever that has killed a record 215 people this year, officials said yesterday.

Humid monsoon weather, stagnant water from recent flooding, as well as mounting piles of rotting garbage accumulating in the capital, have combined to create abundant areas for mosquitoes to multiply.

This has caused rates of dengue, a tropical disease that is spread by mosquitoes, to surge to over 71,000 people infected in the first six months of this year, a record figure that far surpasses last year's total of 55,000.

Troops, backed by police and health officials, have launched an intensive campaign to identify dengue hotspots to be sprayed with insecticides, the military said in a statement.

"Twenty five teams will separately move into the worst-affected areas in and around Colombo and search for dengue breeding spots and other vulnerable areas," the statement said.

The scale of the spread of the disease has been unprecedented and caught Sri Lankan authorities off guard. Health ministry officials said the 215 deaths in the first six months of this year compared with 78 reported during the whole of 2016.

Authorities have blamed a garbage disposal crisis in Colombo for the spread of dengue.

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Memo No. APSCL/Pro-19/2017/897 Date : July 01, 2017

"e-Tender Notice"

e-Tenders are invited through e-Gp portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) by Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd. (APSCL), Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria as stated below :

SL No.	Tender ID No.	Name of Works & Supply	Tender Publishing Date & Time at e-GP portal	Tender Closing Date & Time
1.	Tender ID: 106780	Supply of Pump and Motor with Controller set for Unit 3, 4 & 5 of Ashuganj Power Station Company Ltd.	June 28, 2017 08.30 BST	July 18, 2017 15.00 BST
2.	Tender ID: 107818	Supply of Different Types of Electric Pneumatic and Hydraulic Tools for Mechanical Maintenance Division of 225MW CCPP of APSCL.	June 29, 2017 16.15 BST	July 18, 2017 15.15 BST
3.	Tender ID: 107821	Supply of Different Types of Spare Parts for E&IC Maintenance Division of 225MW CCPP of APSCL.	June 29, 2017 20.00 BST	July 18, 2017 15.30 BST

This is online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in e-GP portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, please register on e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>)
Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP system portal and e-GP help desk (helpdesk@procure.gov.bd).

(Md. Rafiqul Haque)
Manager (Procurement)
APSCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria-3402
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International Tender Notice # 06/2016-17

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from Microsoft authorized distributors, resellers, dealers or authorized partners for Upgradation and Migration of Biman E-mail System from Microsoft Exchange Server 2010 to 2016 on Windows Server 2016 platform by supplying Microsoft licensed softwares at Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tender documents with detail schedule of works, terms & conditions, etc. will be available in Cash & Banking Section, Ground Floor, Balaka Bhaban, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Bangladesh on cash payment of BDT 5,000/- (BDT five thousand) only per set (non-refundable) and also will be available from Biman's outstations in Dubai, London, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur & Kolkata office on cash payment of USD 75.0 (USD seventy-five) only per set (non-refundable) on all working days up to 23/07/2017 during office hours.

Tenderers shall have to submit 2.5% of the quoted price in BDT/USD as earnest money in favour of Biman Bangladesh Airlines Ltd in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order/Bank Guarantee with tender, without which the tender will not be accepted.

Tenders will be received in Room # 409, Project Section, 3rd Floor, Balaka, Kurmitola, Dhaka, Bangladesh up to 1400 hrs on 24/07/2017 and will be opened on the same day at 1430 hrs in presence of tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Md. Azizul Islam
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GD-1345