

# US warrant

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It says the vessel and all the oil aboard are subject to forfeiture based on violations of US sanctions. It also cites violations of bank fraud, money laundering and terrorism statutes.  
The US State Department has also threatened to issue a visa ban on anyone working on the ship.  
The US move comes after it tried -- and failed -- to block the tanker's release on Thursday.  
The July 4 seizure came amid surging tensions in the Gulf after several alleged Iranian attacks on smaller tankers.  
The US -- citing Tehran's threat to American allies -- expanded its military presence in the region with a new aircraft carrier task force, missile batteries and strategic bombers.  
Iran called the detention of the Grace 1 an "illegal interception" staged by the United States, while Washington cheered it as "excellent news."  
Ties between Tehran and Washington are at a low point since US President Donald Trump withdrew last year from a landmark 2015 nuclear deal between major powers and Iran, reimposing crippling unilateral sanctions.



Iranian oil tanker Grace 1 is seen as it sits anchored after the Supreme Court of the British territory lifted its detention order, in the Strait of Gibraltar, southern Spain, on Friday. PHOTO: REUTERS

# 22,000 cases

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appointed in order to speed up the hearing and disposal of the cases, he said.  
The lawyer proposed a system where judges would be able to accept or reject a case at the initial stage as many unnecessary cases are filed with the courts.  
Refused by the lower courts, people seek bail from the HC creating a long backlog of bail petitions in the HC, he said.  
Contacted, Law Minister Anisul Huq told The Daily Star that some new judges might be appointed to the HC, but the government had no plan to appoint new judges to the Appellate Division as the chief justice had not said anything to the government in this regard.  
Recruitment of lower court judges through the Bangladesh Judicial Service Commission is a continuous process, he said without elaborating on this issue.  
Supreme Court Registrar General Md Zakir Hossain told this correspondent that the rate of case disposal saw a rise in recent years.  
In 2014, Bangladesh Law Commission recommended the government recruit 3,000 judges at lower courts for quick disposal of pending cases and reducing sufferings of justice seekers.

# Bhola

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could not identify him and other relatives unless they were introduced to her.  
Her condition had improved slightly on Friday, five days after she had been violated allegedly by her two neighbours.  
The schoolgirl was brought to the DMCH early on Thursday after doctors at hospitals in Bhola and Barishal had failed to stop the bleeding.  
Family members said she was raped at her aunt's house on the eve of Eid-ul-Azha when she went there to have mehendi on her arms.  
While she was waiting on the veranda, Al Amin, 27, a tenant at the house, gagged her with a strip of cloth and forced her into his room, said police.  
Al Amin and his associate Manjur Alam, 25, tied her up and violated her, they added.  
According to law enforcers, another youth named Jamal Akand allegedly assisted the duo in the crime. The victim's father filed a case accusing the three.  
Al Amin and Manjur were killed in a "gunfight" with police on Wednesday. The other accused is now behind bars.

# Separatists vacate key offices in Yemen's Aden

AFP, Aden  
Southern separatists vacated key public buildings in Yemen's second city Aden on Saturday that they had seized from unionist forces loyal to President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi, his information minister said.  
The supporters of the separatist Southern Transitional Council pulled out of the headquarters of Hadi's government, the supreme court and the central bank as well as Aden's main hospital, Muammar al-Iryani said on Twitter.  
Hadi's government has refused to enter talks with the separatists until they withdraw from the positions they seized in deadly fighting last week.  
Iryani said preparations were also underway for a pullout by the United Arab Emirates-trained fighters from the interior ministry and the Aden oil refinery.  
The start of the withdrawal had

been announced by the Saudi-led military coalition which has been backing Hadi's government against northern-based Huthi rebels since 2015.  
The UAE is Saudi Arabia's main partner in that coalition but trained and equipped the separatists as part of its efforts to consolidate control of the south.  
The fighters of the so-called Security Belt last week ousted unionist forces loyal to Hadi from what was the capital of the formerly independent south in clashes that left around 40 people dead.  
The coalition condemned the takeover of the city and urged the Security Belt to withdraw to clear the way for peace talks.  
On Thursday, a joint Saudi-UAE military delegation travelled to Aden to discuss the details of a separatist pullback.

AFP journalists saw Saudi and Emirati military vehicles deployed around the positions vacated by the separatists on Saturday.  
The presidential palace was also placed under Saudi and Emirati protection, they said.  
The coalition said the positions that had been occupied in Aden would be handed over to the government.  
Several other installations, including military camps, remain under the control of the separatists, however, and it was not immediately clear if they too would be vacated as part of the withdrawal.  
The Yemeni embassy in Washington tweeted a foreign ministry statement welcoming the Saudi initiative to address the "coup" in Aden.  
It said the separatists "must first commit to total withdrawal from areas forcibly seized by STC in past few days before start of any talks".

# Greenland isn't for sale but it is increasingly valuable

AFP, Washington  
President Donald Trump's reported wish to buy Greenland may have been rejected by Denmark, but it underscores the rapidly rising value of the massive, ice-covered island due to global warming and to China's drive for an Arctic presence.  
The accelerating polar ice melt has left sparsely populated Greenland, a self-governing part of Denmark, astride what are potentially major shipping routes and in the crosshairs of intensifying geopolitical competition

between superpowers.  
It also has untapped natural resources like oil, minerals and valuable rare earth elements that China, the United States and other major tech economies covet.  
A Chinese government-backed group's offer last year to build three new international airports on Greenland sparked alarms in Copenhagen and Washington.  
The Chinese plan was finally nixed in exchange for Danish funding and a pledge of support from the Pentagon.

# Rawhide trade into a tailspin

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The traders and rawhide merchants put the prices of the dumped rawhide at around Tk 100 crore.  
Delwar Hossain, president of Bangladesh Hide and Skin Merchants' Association, yesterday said, "Many tanners came to the rawhide market at Posta in the capital, but we did not sell any. We want them to pay us dues of Tk 400 crore."  
Merchants said the tanners should at least pay 50 percent of the money in cash so that the total outstanding amount does get even bigger.  
The tanners also should say when and how they will clear the dues, Delwar told The Daily Star over the phone.  
"We will place this issue before the commerce minister at a meeting tomorrow [today]," he said.  
The market in Posta is the biggest rawhide market of the country. The situation was similar in the rawhide markets in Amin Bazar on the outskirts of the capital, in Mymensingh, Thakurgaon and Jashore.  
Tanners buy hide from the merchants on credit throughout the year and clear the dues in phases. They pay at least 40 percent of the dues every year before Eid-ul-Azha.  
Several merchants told this paper recently that the tanners paid only 5 percent of the outstanding amount before the Eid celebrated on Monday.  
Tanners paid merchants between

Tk 30 crore and Tk 35 crore, which was inadequate to buy rawhide at the government-set rates, Delwar said.  
He further said tanners had paid the merchants Tk 75 crore before the Eid last year, when rawhide prices crashed to a 10-year low, dealing a heavy blow to seasonal traders.  
Alamgir Hossain, a rawhide merchant at Posta, said some tanners came to the market yesterday to buy rawhide, but they were ready to make only 25 percent of the payment.  
"We want assurance that all our dues will be paid. I followed our association's decision of not selling rawhide today," he said. Meanwhile, talking to journalists after an association meeting at Posta yesterday, Delwar said, "Tanners claimed they paid merchants all the dues. This is totally untrue. Tanners want to run their businesses keeping us in a tight spot."  
Meanwhile, leaders of Bangladesh Tanners Association (BTA) yesterday claimed that they had started buying rawhide from merchants.  
BTA General Secretary Shakawat Ullah told reporters at the Savar Tannery Industrial Estate that tanners began buying hide at Shambhuganj market.  
"Usually, we start buying rawhide 10 to 15 days after Eid-ul-Azha. For this year, we planned to start buying the hide from August 20, but we started earlier following a rumour that rawhide was thrown away amid a

poor demand," he said.  
Before the Eid, the commerce ministry had fixed the rawhide rates in consultations with other ministries, different divisions and departments, tanners and rawhide merchants.  
The prices of rawhide of cows and buffaloes were fixed at Tk 45-50 per square foot in the capital and Tk 35-40 elsewhere.  
The price of rawhide of castrated goats was fixed at Tk 18-20 per square foot, while it was Tk 13-15 for that of uncastrated goats.  
This Eid, over 1 crore animals were sacrificed across the country. Of them, some 45 lakh were cows, bulls, and buffaloes, said rawhide traders.  
Rawhide merchants have collected some 90 lakh pieces of hide from seasonal traders and farmers, said Delwar.  
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, Md Mofizul Islam, senior secretary to the commerce ministry, said his ministry was not aware whether tanners started buying rawhide yesterday.  
"We have called a meeting at the ministry Sunday [today] to discuss the issue. Tanners, merchants and other stakeholders will attend the meeting," he said.  
The secretary also said the ministry may also fix a minimum price rate of rawhide at the field level to avoid similar crisis in future.

# Eleven killed on roads

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injured when the vehicle plunged into a roadside ditch on Friday night, said Inspector Abu Musa of Hazirhat Police Station in Rangpur.  
Also on Friday night, traffic constable Robi Chowdhury, 33, was killed when he was hit by a truck around 9:30pm in Jhaugara area on Mymensingh-Haluaghat road.  
He was trying to stop a truck from driving down the wrong side of the road, said OC Khondaker Shaker Ahmed of Kotwali Police Station.  
He died at Mymensingh Medical College Hospital about an hour after he was hit.  
The truck driver has been arrested, the OC said.  
In Gopalganj, 11-year-old Amin Sheikh, son of Al-Amin Sheikh, was run over and killed by a bus

of Tungipara Express when he was crossing a road yesterday morning, said OC Monirul Islam of Gopalganj Sadar Police Station.  
Meanwhile, Sobuj Sheikh, 26, of Hatbariya village of Gopalganj, died on Friday evening, a day after he was injured in a road crash.  
In Narayanganj's Rupganj, a motorcyclist was killed and his pillion injured when a car hit them on Kanchan-Kuril road near Nela Market yesterday afternoon. Five people in the car were also injured as it fell into a ditch.  
Ibrahim Sarkar, 42, of Dhaka's Kawla area sold clothes, said Shahjahan Khan, Sub-Inspector of Rupganj Police Station.  
Our correspondents in Benapole, Brahmanbaria, Noakhali, Dinajpur, Mymensingh, Narayanganj and Faridpur contributed to this report.

# Robotic tail

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waist with a harness.  
"When a human tilts their body one way, the tail moves in the opposite direction."  
As Japan greys it is leading the industrial world in seeking ways to keep its ageing population mobile and productive.  
While other nations have turned to immigrant workers to replenish a shrinking workforce, less welcoming Japan has focused more on a technological solution.  
The robotic tail, which uses four artificial muscles and compressed air to move in eight directions, will remain in the lab for now, however, as researchers look for ways to make it more flexible, Nabeshima said.  
Apart from helping the elderly get around, the team are also looking at industrial applications for the artificial appendage, such as a balance aid for warehouse workers carrying heavy loads.

# Court deals setback to Trump rule

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would only apply to the nine Western states that make up the 9th Circuit. Only two of those nine, California and Arizona, are on the border with Mexico.  
That left open the possibility that the sweeping ban, which requires most asylum-seekers to first seek safe haven in a third country, could be applied in the other border states of Texas and New Mexico.  
The appellate court ruling came on the same day that California and other states, as well as a coalition of advocacy groups, filed lawsuits to stop a separate Trump initiative to reduce legal immigration by denying visas to poor migrants.  
The flurry of legal activity is attempting to halt major policy moves by the Trump administration to crack down on immigration, an issue central to the Republican president's political fortunes.  
One of Trump's main objectives has been to reduce the number of asylum claims by mostly Central American

migrants who have crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in record numbers during his presidency.  
His July 15 rule promptly drew legal challenges including from a coalition of groups led by the American Civil Liberties Union.  
On July 24, U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar in San Francisco issued a preliminary injunction blocking it from taking effect.  
The government appealed Tigar's decision. In Friday's ruling a three-judge panel found the Trump administration had failed to comply with portions of the law that governs rule-making.  
"The court properly refused to let the new asylum ban go into effect, though currently limited to the Ninth Circuit. We will continue fighting to end the ban entirely," ACLU attorney Lee Gelernt said in a statement.  
The White House said in a statement that it "strongly" disagreed with the decision and hoped the injunction would be lifted on appeal.  
"While the injunction remains

overbroad - even as modified by the Ninth Circuit's decision - we will now be able to apply the rule at issue to curb asylum abuse outside of the Ninth Circuit," the statement said.  
The ruling could provide an incentive for more asylum-seekers to cross the U.S. border in California and Arizona, as opposed to Texas and New Mexico.  
The Trump administration has said it needs to curtail asylum cases because the vast majority are ultimately found to be without merit.  
Opponents counter that it is unrealistic to expect people fleeing persecution to seek asylum in ill-equipped countries they may have traveled through on their way to the United States, such as Mexico or Guatemala.  
STATES CHALLENGE TRUMP  
In Friday's other legal development, four states led by California plus the District of Columbia sued the Trump administration over its attempt to curtail legal immigration.

# BNP to seek global focus

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"The government is 'regulating' the judiciary. So, it has become a bit uncertain as to whether we'll get justice," he said.  
On July 31, the High Court denied the BNP chairperson bail in the graft case in which she was sentenced to seven years' rigorous imprisonment by a court.  
Fakhrul said they had also decided to continue holding their party's divisional rallies to intensify their movement for Khaleda's release.  
"As the government doesn't allow any programme in August, we'll begin on September 1, marking our founding anniversary."  
The BNP held divisional rallies in Barishal, Chattogram and Khulna last month to mount pressure on the government to free Khaleda from jail.

About dengue outbreak, the BNP leader said experts were saying the situation would deteriorate further in one month, but the government was yet to procure any effective insecticides to kill mosquitoes.  
He alleged that dengue patients were not getting proper treatment at hospitals. "We demand the government take steps for providing free treatment to the dengue-infected people."  
The BNP leader said their meeting denounced the government's fail-ure and indifference to ensure fair price for rawhides.  
He said they also blamed the ruling party's "business syndicate" for the drastic fall in the prices of rawhides. "They did it to destroy the leather industry. We urge the government to take immediate steps to save this industry."

# Road crash

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Memorial Hospital where doctors pronounced the two dead.  
The Deputy High Commission of Bangladesh in Kolkata started the process of sending the bodies home, said family sources.

# Govt to work

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twins Rabeya and Rokeya in our country."  
She said Bangladeshi physicians gathered huge experience through conducting the surgery titled "Operation Freedom".  
The PM congratulated the physicians, nurses and other staff members for carrying out the operation successfully. She hoped that the twins would return to their mother's lap soon.  
Hasina said the medical institutions, who were involved in the surgery, would have to be more developed and modernised in light of their experience.  
Elaborating her government's steps for the development of medical science, she said Bangladesh's first medical university was established during the tenure of a previous Awami League government.  
Members of the Hungarian medical team highly appreciated the cooperation of the Bangladeshi doctors. They also praised the

hospitality of the Bangladesh government in this regard.  
They observed that the successful surgery created a new kind of friendship between Bangladesh and Hungary.  
Speaking on the occasion, the twins' father Rafikul Islam expressed gratitude to the PM for taking the responsibility of her daughters' treatment.  
He also thanked the doctors who performed the surgery.  
Director General of Armed Forces Medical Services Maj Gen Fashir Rahman, leader of the Hungarian medical team Dr Csapody and its members Dr Csokly and Dr Pataki, among others, spoke at the programme.  
The three-and-a-half-year-old twins from Pabna's Chatmohor upazila had been suffering from a rare embryological disorder.  
The conjoined babies were separated after a successful 33-hour operation at the CMH on August 2. Doctors said such a surgery was very rare in the world.

# Thousands of travelers delayed at US airports by computer outage

REUTERS, Washington  
Thousands of travelers at US airports faced delays on Friday because of a nationwide outage of US Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) processing systems that lasted several hours.  
In a tweet at 6:37 p.m. EDT (22:37 GMT), CBP said "the affected systems are coming back online and travelers are being processed."  
It said there was "no indication the disruption was malicious in nature at this time."  
Earlier, CBP said officers were processing international travelers using alternative procedures, which caused "longer than usual wait times."  
The computer issue was not impacting departures.