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Tunisia's biggest party urges polls

Warns against 'autocratic regime'

AFP, Tunis

Opponents of Tunisia's President Kais Saied, who sparked a crisis by ousting the premier and suspending parliament, yesterday challenged him to hold new elections instead of building an "autocratic regime".



President Kais Saied

The moderate Islamist Ennahdha party, which was the strongest group in the coalition government, has labelled Sunday's power grab a "coup d'etat" while the US, EU and other powers have also voiced strong concern.

Ennahdha yesterday challenged the president to call new legislative and presidential elections, warning against any delay that would be "a pretext to maintain an autocratic regime".

The party also accused Saied of having "worked with undemocratic forces to overturn the constitutional rights of elected officials, and replace them with members of his own chosen cabal".

After violent clashes Monday, it claimed "organised thugs" were being used to "provoke bloodshed and chaos", and urged its supporters "to go home in the interests of maintaining the peace and security of our nation".

The young North African democracy of 12 million people, the cradle of the Arab Spring uprisings a decade

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Maintaining no physical distancing, people standing in long queues in front of Delduar Upazila Health Complex in Tangail to receive coronavirus vaccines. The photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

Jamuna to inject up to Tk 1,000cr into Evaly

MAHMUDUL HASAN and KHONDOKER MD SHOYEB

Industrial giant Jamuna Group is going to invest up to Tk 1,000 crore in beleaguered e-commerce platform Evaly.

Initially, Jamuna will invest Tk 200 crore and the rest in phases, Evaly said in a statement yesterday.

"We, as a local venture, are really pleased to have another local company by our side," said Mohammad Rassel, founder and CEO of Evaly.

Through this investment, Jamuna has become part of the ongoing investments coming into Evaly. The business group has the opportunity to invest in the next phase as well, he said.

The disclosure comes at a time when several agencies, including the Anti-Corruption Commission, have been carrying out investigations into the alleged embezzlement or transfer

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Humayun Ahmed's family serves legal notice on GP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Writer and director Humayun Ahmed's family members sent a legal notice to Grameenphone, the country's largest mobile phone operator, for infringing on intellectual property rights.

Grameenphone used four popular characters created by Humayun -- Baker Bhai from Kothao Keu Nei, Elachi Begum from Ayomoy, Sobhan Saheb from Bohubrihi and Taiyab Ali from Ure Jay Bok Pokkhi -- commercially without permission.

Barrister Hamidul Mizbah sent a legal notice to Grameenphone on behalf of Humayun's wife Meher Afroz Shaon, daughters Nova Ahmed, Sheela Ahmed and Bipasha Ahmed, son Nuhash Humayun, and brother Zafar Iqbal.

The mobile operator launched a series of promotional programmes in July 2020, under a campaign titled "Kemon Achen Tara", which was released on Grameenphone's official Facebook page and YouTube channel, for which no permission or licence was obtained from family members or heirs.

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ROAD TO FREEDOM THIS DAY IN BANGLADESH LIBERATION WAR HISTORY

Yahya will commit suicide: Nixon

JULY 28, 1971

SHAMSUDDOZA SAJEN

CONVERSATION AMONG NIXON, KISSINGER AND FARLAND

American President Richard Nixon, his security adviser Henry Kissinger and the US Ambassador to Pakistan Joseph Farland held a discussion today on issues surrounding Bangladesh War.

Ambassador Farland presented a grim picture and said, "If we push [Pakistan President] Yahya [Khan] to the point where he reacts, the reaction will be such that the entire subcontinent will be [in turmoil]."

Nixon commented on this point, "He [Yahya] will commit suicide."

Kissinger added, "They [Indians] think that by, well, if they can undermine East Pakistan then in West Pakistan so many forces would be, will unloosen, will be turned loose that the whole Pakistan issue will disappear. The Indians and West Pakistanis they hate each other."

As to the future course of action, Nixon advised, "Let's not aggravate the problem; let's try to help on the problem -- East Pakistan. And the main thing ... let's not stir it up. It's stirred up too much. Inevitably it will be a bloodbath down there."

Ambassador Farland shared that since March 25, 1971 the US had sent over 2,200 rounds of .22 ammunition for survival rifles. He added that 40 to 50 percent of what is in the pipeline was for spare parts for trucks and for communication equipment without which the "starving refugees could not be fed".

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NSO 'should be sanctioned'

4 US Democrats suggest action against Israeli cyberfirms over Pegasus revelations

AGENCIES

Four Democratic lawmakers in Washington on Monday suggested blacklisting or imposing sanctions against the Israeli firm NSO Group that licensed spyware used by governments to hack the smartphones of journalists, human rights activists and business executives.

They also said recent revelations of misuse reinforced their conviction that the "hacking-for-hire industry must be brought under control".

The Democrats' statement was in response to an investigation by The Washington Post and 16 media partners into a list of phone numbers that included surveillance targets and that appeared to be concentrated in countries thought to have been clients of the NSO Group.

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Huge comet heading close enough to us to become visible



CNN ONLINE

Astronomers have discovered the largest known comet, and it's about a thousand times more massive than others.

Comet Bernardinelli-Bernstein, so named because it was found by University of Pennsylvania department of physics and astronomy graduate student Pedro Bernardinelli and Professor Gary Bernstein, is between 62 to 124 miles (100 to 200 kilometres) across.

The team announced the discovery in June. This unusual comet will make its closest approach to our sun in 2031, but you'll likely need a large amateur telescope to see it.

The giant comet, also known as C/2014

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3

AI statement on DSA 'motivated'

Says info minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Information and Broadcasting Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday rejected Amnesty International's statement over the Digital Security Act (DSA), saying that the statement was "motivated".

Talking to reporters at his residence in the capital, the minister also said Amnesty International has lost its acceptability.

"Amnesty International has been issuing statements against Bangladesh and its government one after another," said Hasan, also ruling Awami League joint general secretary.

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Low over the Bay triggers caution at ports

UNB, Dhaka

The maritime ports of Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist local cautionary signal number three as a low pressure area has been formed over the north Bay and adjoining areas.

"Under its influence, deep convection is taking place and steep pressure gradient lies over the north Bay and adjoining areas," said a Met office bulletin yesterday.

Squally weather may affect the areas of the maritime ports, north Bay and adjoining coasts, it said.

SEE PAGE 5 COL 3



PRAYER TIMING JULY 28

Fajr Zohr Asr Maghrib Esha
AZAN 4:20 12:45 5:00 6:50 8:15
JAMAAT 4:55 1:15 5:15 6:55 8:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION



The man being rescued had jumped into the Buriganga off the Babu Bazar Bridge in the capital after allegedly snatching a mobile phone from a pedestrian. Stuck in dense layer of water hyacinth, he floated on the water for around two hours. Rescuers later handed him over to police.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

WB to finance extra jobs for poorer nations

Indonesia records 2,069 deaths in a day

AGENCIES

A new World Bank financing mechanism will allow developing countries to purchase Covid-19 vaccines collectively through the Covax facility, it was announced Monday.

Covax was set up to ensure 92 developing territories could access coronavirus vaccines to fight the pandemic, with the cost covered by donors.

The new mechanism will allow those countries to buy additional doses on top of the subsidised ones they will already receive via Covax.

Using money from the World Bank and other development banks, the facility says it will make advanced purchases from vaccine manufacturers based on aggregated demand across countries.

The financing mechanism builds on the existing Covax cost-sharing arrangement which aims to provide 430 million additional doses, or enough doses to fully vaccinate 250 million people, for delivery between late 2021 and mid-2022 for the 92 countries.

Those doses could be purchased through new financing arrangement. Countries should also have some flexibility in selecting to buy particular vaccines that align with their preferences.

Covax is co-led by the World Health Organization

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