Russia blew up dam to prevent

Says Ukraine; Moscow repels attack on warship in Black Sea

REUTERS, Kyiv

offensive

The Khakhovka dam was blown up by Russian forces to prevent Ukrainian troops from advancing in the southern Kherson region, deputy defence minister Hanna Maliar said

Ukraine has accused Russian forces of blowing up the dam from inside its associated hydroelectric power station. The site has been under Russian occupation since the early weeks of Russia's invasion in February last year.

Moscow has blamed the destruction of the dam on Ukraine. Each side has accused the other of shelling civilians as rescue efforts are



"The explosion of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station was apparently carried out with the intention of preventing the Ukrainian Defence Forces from launching an offensive in the Kherson sector," Maliar said on the Telegram messaging app.

She said the action, which unleashed a vast flood which inundated towns and villages, trapped residents and swept away entire houses, was also aimed at helping allow the deployment of Russian reserves to the Zaporizhzhia and Bakhmut areas.

Meanwhile, Russia's defence ministry said yesterday that Ukraine had made unsuccessful attempt to attack a vessel of Russia's Black sea fleet which was protecting natural gas pipelines.



Annecy's residents gather to support the victims and their families in Annecy, France yesterday, following the attack by a Syrian refugee who stabbed six people, including four young children. Public prosecutor Line Bonnet announced that the Syrian refugee detained over the stabbings, named as Abdalmasih H, had been charged with "attempted murder".

THE TAIWAN STRAIT 10 Chinese warplanes cross median line

Taipei sends up fighters, deploys ships to keep watch

REUTERS, Taipei

INTERNATIONAL

Taiwan's air force yesterday scrambled into action after spotting 10 Chinese warplanes crossing the sensitive median line of the Taiwan Strait, as the island's defence ministry said four Chinese warships also carried out combat patrols.

Taiwan sent up its own fighters and deployed ships and land-based missile systems to keep watch, it said, using typical wording for how it responds to such Chinese activities.

Chinese military activity, after 37 Chinese military aircraft on Thursday flew into the island's air defence zone, some of which then flew into the western Pacific.

China, which views democratically governed Taiwan as its own territory, has over the past three years regularly flown its air force into the skies near the island, though not into Taiwan's territorial air

In a short statement, Taiwan's defence ministry said that as of 2:00 pm (0600 GMT) yesterday it had detected 24 Chinese This is the second time in less than a air force planes, including J-10, J-11, J-16 week that Taiwan has reported renewed and Su-30 fighters, as well as H-6 bombers. Thursday's flights.

It did not specify where the aircraft flew but said 10 had crossed the median line of the Taiwan Strait, which separates the two sides and had previously served as an unofficial barrier. China says it does not recognise that and has been routinely crossing it since last year.

Four Chinese naval ships were also engaged in "joint combat readiness patrols", the ministry added, without giving details.

China's defence ministry did not immediately respond to requests for comment. It has not commented on PARTY FUNDING PROBE

Scots ex-leader Sturgeon held

REUTERS, London

Former Scottish first minister Nicola Sturgeon was arrested yesterday, the BBC and Sky reported, after Police Scotland said a 52-year-old woman was in custody being questioned as part of its investigation into the Scottish National Party's funding. The police investigation is looking at what happened to more than 600,000

pounds raised by Scottish independence campaigners in 2017, which was supposed to have been ring-fenced but may have been used for other purposes. In April, Sturgeon's husband, Peter Murrell and the party's then treasurer were both arrested and then released without charge pending further investigation as part of the same inquiry. "A 52-year-old woman has today, Sunday 11 June, 2023, been arrested as a suspect in connection with the ongoing investigation into the funding and finances of the Scottish National Party," Police Scotland said in a statement on Twitter. "The woman is in custody and is being questioned by Police Scotland detectives." A spokesperson for the SNP could not immediately be reached for comment. Sturgeon, Scotland's longest serving leader of its semi-autonomous government, caught the political world by surprise when she announced her resignation in February.

POST-CHARGES SPEECH Trump magnifies attacks on Justice Dept

Former President Donald Trump used the first public appearance since his federal indictment to ratchet up attacks on the Justice Department, accusing prosecutors, without evidence, of a politically motivated campaign to keep him from the White House. Speaking on Saturday at Georgia's state Republican convention, Trump alleged that President Joe Biden, a Democrat, orchestrated the criminal charges in order to undermine his main political rival's presidential campaign, as well as to distract from federal and congressional investigations into Biden's son. There is no evidence to support Trump's allegations.

WIND, HEAVY RAINS At least 27 killed in Pakistan

AGENCIES

Heavy rains followed by strong winds killed at least 27 people, including eight children, in northwest Pakistan, officials said yesterday.

"At least 12 people were buried alive after the roofs and walls of their houses collapsed," Taimur Ali Khan, a spokesman for the provincial disaster management authority told AFP.

The storms hit four districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province late Saturday, with 15 people killed in Bannu district, including five siblings aged between two and 11.

More than 140 people were injured and more than 200 livestock died, he said. Authorities have declared an emergency in all four of the districts.

Freedom fighter's decade-long fight ends

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 $Mohammad\,Kamrul\,Islam\,Chowdhury,$ director of the Department of Social Services, also helped him get the error corrected in his NID card and connected Roy with the relevant officials of the Ministry of Liberation

Finally, on April 10, the ministry issued a circular recognising him as a freedom fighter and announcing his allowance

Accordingly, Roy has withdrawn Tk 20,000 as allowance for the month of May.

"It would not be possible for me to get the recognition with their [Pappu and Kamrul] cooperation. I am really grateful to them," said Roy, who has been residing in Poschim Boragari Bottoli village in Domar upazila of Nilphamari since 1973.

A joyous atmosphere was found when the correspondent called on Roy at his home on Saturday as his battlefield mates -- Monoronjan Roy, Swadesh Roy and Biswanath Roy came to visit him.

Roy no longer works. But, he has preserved his axe in his living room.

"This axe acted as my saviour during my hard days. Now, I am overwhelmed by boundless joy. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the government. I am thankful to those who helped me get the recognition," he said.

No need for UN involvement 2 Bangladeshis among top in nat'l polls

International monitors need to come and observe the elections to certify them free and fair, he said.

ministry will comply instructions, he added.

The BNP is calling for the restoration of the caretaker government system for the polls likely to be held in December or January. The ruling Awami League says the constitution now has no provision for such a system.

Asked if any friendly countries have suggested any dialogue among the political parties to avoid violence in leading up to the elections, Shahriar Alam said he has not been part of any meeting where such dialogue or any form of polls-time government other than the one in the constitution was proposed.

UN Special Rapporteur's language maligns Dhaka's efforts

The state minister said the comments made by the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Tom Andrews have "maligned"

Bangladesh's efforts for the safe and dignified repatriation of Rohingyas.

On June 8, Tom Andrews issued a statement saying Bangladesh On foreign observers, the foreign must "immediately suspend" a pilot repatriation project for Rohingyas to return to Myanmar, insisting that the current conditions in Rakhine State were "anything but conducive" for the safe return of the refugees.

"Whatever he [UN Special Rapporteur] said, the language he used is undermining, disrespecting and maligning our efforts," Shahriar Alam said.

"We will communicate this issue to the UN higher authorities," he

reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to safe and dignified

"Our efforts must go on. As part of that, initially, we want to repatriate a small portion of Rohingvas. If those, who are volunteering to return to their motherland, find Myanmar authorities are not keeping their pledges, they may return. We are doing it as a trial, it is not a large-

scale repatriation," he said.

100 Asian scientists

to the field of sustainability.

She obtained her PhD in zoology the internationally renowned $conservation\ organisation\ Wild Team,$ which works to protect the rapidly disappearing natural assets of Bangladesh.

She won the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award in 2022 for her contributions to conserving aquatic ecosystems and vulnerable species in Bangladesh. She focuses on the risk of plastic pollution in the country's waterways. She is also empowering women from poor and marginalised communities to turn discarded fishing nets into products such as carpets to help create alternative sources of income for women while protecting aquatic habitats.

Senjuti Saha, one of the leading young scientists in Bangladesh who has been championing the cause has been included in the list for her contribution to life sciences.

She was the first in the world to (wetland ecology) from the University show that the chikungunya virus of Cambridge. She is a board member could cross the blood-brain barrier and cause meningitis in Bangladeshi children.

She has won multiple domestic and international awards for her contribution to medical science research including the Women of Inspiration 2021 Award by Junior Chamber International, Bangladesh and the Webby Award in 2020 for Infectious Disease Detectives (with Chan Zuckerberg Initiative).

Senjuti is also a member of the Polio Transition Independent Monitoring Board, created by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative led by the World Health Organization.

Scientists from China, India, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Hong Kong, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam have also secured their of equity in global health research, places on the prestigious list.

'Nothing wrong' with a nuke deal with West

Says Iran's Khamenei

REUTERS, Dubai

Iran's supreme leader said yesterday that reaching a deal with the West over Tehran's disputed nuclear work was possible if the country's nuclear infrastructure remained intact. state media quoted Ayatollah Ali Khamenei as saying.

"There is nothing wrong with the agreement (with the West), but the infrastructure of our nuclear industry should not be touched," he said, adding that Tehran should continue working with the U.N. nuclear watchdog under the framework of safeguards.

121 money laundering cases filed in 5 years

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suspicious transactions.

The minister said after receiving the intelligence reports from BFIU the relevant investigative agencies including the ACC, CID, Security Exchange Commission, Directorate Customs Intelligence and Investigation, Central Intelligence Cell of the National Board of Revenue, and Directorate of Narcotics Control, are carrying out necessary investigations and are taking actions in this regard.

In response to a question from Awami League MP Habibur Rahman, the finance minister said, 5.4 lakh taxpayers of the country have not submitted their income tax returns within the stipulated time in the current fiscal year.

In reply to a query of AL MP Panir Uddin Ahmed, the finance minister said the government has no plans to increase the interest rate on national

Meanwhile, State Minister for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Zunaid Ahmed July 2022 and April this year, the ministry has requested Bangladesh Telecom Regulatory Commission to remove 1,431 links to content on different social media and sent alerts against 120 emergent cyber threats.

In reply to a query from ruling Awami League MP M Abdul Latif, the junior minister said social media Facebook, TikTok, Messenger,

Govt may allow trade unions at SEZs

an agreement with the government on that particular matter.

However, under the EPZ Labour Act, there are provisions of labour welfare associations that have scopes for negotiations with the investors.

"We will ensure that this negotiation process continues. The main thing is that workers can reach out to their employers ... There is not much to do [in this case]. If we allow trade unions, the investors will accuse us of violating the

agreement," Shahriar said.

He further said Bangladesh Labour Act is mostly applicable to the export-oriented factories, but eventually, the government will implement the law in the industrial units that manufacture products for domestic market.

In South Asia, Bangladesh has ratified the highest number of ILO

conventions, he pointed out. Last year, Bangladesh presented a road map for labour reforms before

the ILO. Taking into cognisance of the trade partners' observations, the government will bring some amendments to Bangladesh Labour Act, he said. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

will visit Switzerland to attend the ILO's "World of Work Summit: Social Justice for All" in Geneva on June 14-Shahriar said, "As Bangladesh is

have to go for GSP Plus, FTA and PTA. We have started working on it. "We have a clear pathway for the EU's GSP Plus that will start after the GSP facility ends in 2029. Beyond 2029, we have to have GSP Plus for

getting out of LDC category, we will

continued duty-free facility." Therefore, the ILO is a very important platform for Bangladesh,

"The prime minister's presence in the ILO event in Geneva will establish and reaffirm that we want to be engaged and improve our working environment."

Grand Slam titles. Court's all-time mark of 24 will now be in his sights at Wimbledon next month.

Djokovic wins record

There is little sign of Djokovic slowing down. He is now the oldest French Open champion but 11 of his Slam trophies have now been won after he turned 30.

On Monday, he will reclaim the world number ranking and start his 388th week in top spot. The sense of Sunday's occasion

certainly attracted sports A-listers. NFL legend Tom Brady watched

from the Djokovic box, football stars Kylian Mbappe and Zlatan Ibrahimovic sat side by side in the VIP area which also accommodated former world heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson, a regular this weekend.

Djokovic was playing in his seventh French Open final and boasted a 4-0 career record over Ruud, not having lost a single set.

However, the fourth-ranked Norwegian was the more composed of the two at the start, sprinting out of the blocks for a 2-0 lead when Djokovic shanked an overhead.

Ruud, the 2022 runner-up to Nadal, stretched to 3-0 and 4-1 before Djokovic retrieved the break in the seventh game when his opponent buried an easy smash into the net

with an open court begging. It came at the end of a lungbusting 28-shot rally.

Djokovic missed a break point in the ninth game, tumbling to the red clay as he chased down a Ruud drive. His frustration boiled over when he angrily accused umpire Damien

Dumusois of rushing the players between changeovers on a heavy, humid afternoon in the French capital. Fired up, he then raced through the tiebreak, sealing the opener with

a running forehand. Tellingly, that was Djokovic's sixth tiebreak at this French Open and in none of them had he committed a single unforced error in the 55 points

Despite being Djokovic's junior by 12 years, Ruud, who also lost the 2022 US Open final to Carlos Alcaraz, suddenly looked spent.

Djokovic broke for 2-0 in the second set and despite Ruud saving two set points in the eighth game, the Serb moved closer to his dream. Ruud saved a break point in the

Diokovic was hit with a warning for taking too long between points. But he wasn't thrown out of his

third game of the third set before

stride. Djokovic broke for love at 6-5 and sealed his place in history when Ruud went wide.

savings certificates for the benefit of retired government employees. Palak told parliament that between

YouTube -- are regularly monitored

by the government.