

2020 ELECTION
SUBVERSIONTrump's trial
postponed

REUTERS

A US judge on Friday formally postponed former President Donald Trump's trial on federal charges that he sought to overturn the 2020 election results, which was scheduled to begin next month. The delay, which was widely expected, stems from an appeal by Trump on claims that he is immune from prosecution for official actions taken while he was president.

The case in federal court in Washington has been paused since December while Trump pursues the appeal. US District Judge Tanya Chutkan did not set a new trial date on Friday, but said she would wait until the case returns to her court.

The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit heard arguments on Trump's immunity claim on January 9, but has not yet issued its ruling.



A young boy carries empty jerrycans in Rafah. Inset, people check the damage following Israeli bombardment in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: AFP

Sri Lanka minister
arrested over fake
drug scam

AFP, Colombo

A Sri Lankan court remanded a senior cabinet minister in custody yesterday over the purchase of fake medicines for state hospitals when he was in charge of the health portfolio.

Former health minister Keheliya Rambukwella was ordered to be held until February 15 pending investigations into a 144 million rupee (USD465,000) scam involving what were meant to be life-saving drugs.

Police told the court in Colombo the health ministry had intended to buy a stock of the antibody immunoglobulin, which is used on immune-compromised patients.

What the ministry paid for turned out to be mostly water.

"The drug had been issued to hospitals between July and September when patients reported adverse reactions triggering quality tests," an investigator told AFP.

Rafah a 'pressure cooker
of despair'

UN says

AFP, Geneva

The UN voiced fears Friday about worsening conditions in southern Gaza, saying a surge in people seeking safety in Rafah had made the town a "pressure cooker of despair".

The United Nations' humanitarian agency OCHA said it was deeply concerned about the escalation of hostilities in Khan Yunis, which had resulted in increased numbers heading further south to Rafah in recent days.

"Most are living in makeshift structures, tents or out in the open," OCHA spokesman Jens Laerke told a briefing in Geneva. "Rafah is a pressure cooker of despair, and we fear for what comes next."

"Khan Yunis has also come increasingly

under attack, and it's been shocking to hear about the heavy fighting in the vicinity of the hospitals, jeopardising the safety of medical staff, the wounded and the sick, as well as thousands of internally displaced people seeking refuge there."

Of the people rushing southwards, Laerke said: "Are they truly safe? No. There's no safe place in Gaza; also not in Rafah. "Every week we think it can't get any worse. Well, go figure: it gets worse."

Richard Peeperkorn, the World Health Organization's representative for the occupied Palestinian territories, said Rafah used to be a town of around 200,000 people but the area was now sheltering more than half of Gaza's two million-plus population.

"When you hear about potential

attacks, it should not happen... Rafah should not be attacked," he said, via video-link from

The UN's top court on January 26 said Israel must facilitate "urgently needed" humanitarian aid into Gaza.

Laerke said that over recent weeks, "I do not detect any improvement whatsoever in the humanitarian situation, anywhere in the Gaza Strip."

Peeperkorn said that the WHO planned 15 missions to northern Gaza in January, of which three were facilitated, while four of 11 planned missions to the south were facilitated. He called for humanitarian corridors.

He said the WHO was extremely concerned about malnutrition in Gaza and the threat of famine.

HISTORIC SHIFT

Sinn Fein leader
now first minister
of Northern Ireland

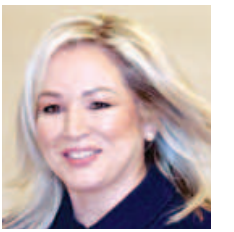
AFP, Belfast

Michelle O'Neill yesterday became the first nationalist leader of Northern Ireland's government, a historic moment for the British territory prompted by the return of power-sharing after the biggest pro-UK party ended a two-year boycott.

In a special sitting, the Northern Ireland Assembly first voted to resume devolved governing and then nominated the pro-Irish unity Sinn Fein politician as first minister.

The appointment at the assembly of a Roman Catholic pro-Irish unity first minister in a nation set up as a Protestant-majority state under British rule is hugely symbolic.

It not only reflects Sinn Fein's position as Northern Ireland's biggest party but also shifting demographics, since the island of Ireland was split into two self-governing entities in 1921.

Michael Jordan's
unpaired sneakers
sell for \$8 mln

REUTERS

A set of six individual Air Jordan sneakers worn by Michael Jordan during NBA finals sold for USD eight million at an auction in New York, setting a new global auction record for game-worn sneakers, auction house Sotheby's said on Friday. The shoes, worn by one of basketball's greatest players in the clinching games of his six career NBA Finals championships, became the second highest price achieved for Michael Jordan sports memorabilia.

Tk 150 fine, 5 days' drill for cop

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policemen who are witnesses do not show up for hearings.

CASE AGAINST SHYAMOL, FRIENDS

According to the complaint, Assistant Sub-Inspector Shahidul Islam accompanied by constables Md Russel, Mehedi Hasan, and Saiful were on duty at a checkpoint on the Dhaka-Nababganj Road at 9:10pm that day.

After they stopped five speeding motorcycles, a biker named Sajib Mondol and five to six of his accomplices assaulted the policemen.

While a man named Shyamol was trying to snatch the shotgun from constable Saiful, the firearm went off and Shyamol was hit in the foot.

The motorcycleists then picked up three branches from roadside and assaulted the policemen, it said.

Sub-Inspector Asaduzzaman of Sirajdikhan Police Station investigated the case and pressed charges against all the accused on June 26, 2019.

Shyamol and Rakib said none of the accused had any criminal record.

At their request, three policemen accompanied Rakib while he took Shyamol to Keraniganj Upazila Health Complex and later to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Shahidul Islam Khan, one of the two locals who were named as witnesses in the case, said he was at home during the incident.

"A policeman I know called me and asked me to go there. I did not see anything. I was briefed about the incident by the police after I reached

the scene," Shahidul, currently a Union Parishad member, told this newspaper, adding that he did not even know he was being named in the case as a witness.

On February 9, 2020, Mongol Ali, the other man who is a witness in the case, testified at a Munshiganj court that he happened to be nearby and went to the scene hearing a gunshot.

The police told him a gun went off after several motorcycles ignored a police signal and rode on.

PUNISHMENT: TK 150 FINE, DRILL FOR 5 DAYS

Weeks after the incident, police formed a three-member committee to investigate why constable Saiful used his firearm.

The committee in its report said constable Saiful's carelessness, lack of skills, and negligence in duty were responsible for the incident.

The report added that Shyamol and his friends had attacked policemen at the scene.

The committee ordered Saiful to deposit Tk 150, the price of the bullet, to the government exchequer and to perform a two-hour punishment drill for five days, said a letter written by the home ministry to the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC).

Commenting on the matter, Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said it is unlikely that people with no criminal record would attack police and try to snatch a firearm.

Referring to the Police Regulations of Bengal 1943, he said when a shooting takes place, it has to be separately

investigated by a superior police officer, the district police chief, and an executive magistrate.

"But the procedure is rarely followed," he told The Daily Star.

Mustafizur Rahman, senior secretary at the home ministry, could not be reached for comments last night.

A police report rarely goes against the police, and this has created a culture of impunity.

"This is why we have been seeing trigger-happy policemen in recent years," he added.

'COMPENSATE SHYAMOL'

A fact-finding committee of the NHRC later recommended that the home ministry give Shyamol Tk 2 lakh to partially compensate for his treatment costs and file a departmental case against the policemen responsible.

The ministry later requested the NHRC to reconsider its recommendation for compensating Shyamol. The latter turned down the request.

Contacted, NHRC Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed said, "The culture of punishing those responsible and compensating the affected has not been established in our country. We are trying. In some cases we ensure compensation and punishment."

"It is unfortunate that a man has been crippled permanently due to a shot fired carelessly by the police. The state cannot avoid responsibility," he added.

Shyamol's father Abdul Wahab said, "We are a poor family. I'm still having to spend what little we have because of the case."

Dealing with Myanmar now more challenging

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"There are fears that Myanmar is moving towards further destabilisation. So, Bangladesh has much to be worried about," said Dr Obaidul Haque, associate professor of international relations at Dhaka University.

One of the reasons Bangladesh maintains relations with the Myanmar junta is Rohingya repatriation. It is time for Dhaka to make pragmatic decisions, he told this correspondent.

Myanmar's decades-old ethnic conflicts intensified since the military coup in February 2021. Political leaders have formed a parallel National Unity Government (NUG) and its armed fighters, called Peoples' Democratic Force (PDF), have joined the rebel forces to defeat the junta.

The US and other western countries strongly oppose the military junta and support the NUG. The US Congress enacted the BURMA Act to support Myanmar civilians.

On the other hand, China throws its weight behind the military junta. For keeping Myanmar's bordering states secure, China also maintains good ties

with the ethnic rebel groups, including the Arakan Army.

"China does not want different armed groups to take control in Myanmar. It goes against China's trade and security interests," said Prof Sk Tawfique M Haque, director of the South Asian Institute of Policy and Governance at North South University.

He said many think the Myanmar junta will fall, but it is very unlikely to happen because of the support it gets from China.

On the other hand, despite India's support for a federal democracy in Myanmar, it will not want instability in Myanmar considering its own security interests and connectivity projects, he added.

An unstable situation in Myanmar has serious security implications for Bangladesh.

"What will happen if more people from Myanmar flee to Bangladesh?" Obaidul Haque said.

Bangladesh faces the dilemma of how to deal with the Arakan Army if the Myanmar junta loses control in Rakhine State or in Nyaupayidaw, he said.

"Will the Arakan Army declare independence? How will Bangladesh react to it? If Myanmar junta falls, which ethnic groups would take control of the entire country? Will the ethnic groups recognise the NUG? Will the NUG be able to manage the other ethnic rebel groups? All these issues are cause for concern for Bangladesh," said the DU teacher.

He said it is high time Bangladesh sees the bigger picture.

"I think there is a strong need for a national security council that would study the Myanmar affairs and provide policy inputs. We should have political consensus about it. There should also be discussions among the academia, security experts and think tanks," said Obaidul.

Foreign Minister Hasan Mahmud said Dhaka keeps contact with the Myanmar junta for Rohingya repatriation, but also understands that the current situation in the neighbouring country is not favourable for repatriation.

"We are closely watching the Myanmar situation," he told journalists last week.

Dismembered body of man recovered

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After getting a phone call from Sajal, Milon went to meet him at their office on Wednesday morning around 10:00am. Then he went missing. Milon's wife Mimo Khatun filed a general diary about a missing person with the Kushtia Police Station that very evening.

Nath said Milon was kept captive inside his office for ransom. Failing to get the ransom, the criminals killed him there.

After he was killed, his body was cut into nine pieces and the pieces were buried in four different places in the shoal.

Khatun wept in front of Kushtia General Hospital's morgue yesterday. She accused the police of negligence, claiming that the police failed to track her

husband's phone while there was still time.

"When I went to the police station on Wednesday evening, the police could have tracked the location of my husband's phone. But they didn't take action on time," she said.

Nath denied Khatun's allegations.

During the investigation, the police first arrested Sajal, then learnt that SK Sajeeb, BCL's district unit's expelled vice president, led the killing, Nath said.

On Friday afternoon, four more suspects, including Sajeeb, were arrested.

The other three arrestees are Ilti, Jony and Linkon, all around 25 years old. They have been involved in various other crimes, including blackmail, SIM

cloning, counterfeiting, extortion, and selling narcotics.

During the preliminary interrogation, the police became certain that the arrestees, led by Sajeeb, murdered Milon for money, Nath said.

Nath said that Sajeeb coerced Sajal to call Milon to their office. Once Milon arrived, Sajeeb demanded shares from his business, which Milon could not provide, whereupon Sajeeb and his accomplices beat Milon to death.

Sajeeb was made the organising secretary of Kushtia District Chhatra League in 2021. Sajeeb was expelled a year later for vandalising Kushtia's 250-bed General Hospital and physically harassing interns.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
তত্ত্বাবধায়কের কার্যালয়
২৫০ শয্যা বিশিষ্ট জেনারেল হাসপাতাল, জয়পুরহাট।
joypurhat@hospi.dghs.gov.bd

স্মারক নং- তত্ত্বাবধায়ক/জয়/২৪/৮৯

তারিখঃ ০৩/০২/২০২৪ ইং।

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This is an 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 system portal (<https://www.eprocure.gov.bd>), For more details, please contact support desk contact numbers.

e-Tender are invited in e-GP system portal (www.eprocure.gov.bd) by Dr. Sardar Rashed Mobarak, Superintendent, at 250 Bedded General Hospital, Joypurhat for the Procurement of;

Tender Id	Name of Goods	Tender/Proposal Publication Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Last Selling Date & Time	Tender/Proposal Closing/Opening Date & Time
937063	Procurement of Diet for the F.Y 2023-2024 at 250 Bedded General Hospital, Joypurhat.	04-Feb-2024 16:00	18-Feb-2024 16:00	19-Feb-2024 12:00
937064	Procurement of Washing for the F.Y 2023-2024 at 250 Bedded General Hospital, Joypurhat.	04-Feb-2024 16:00	18-Feb-2024 16:00	19-Feb-2024 12:00
937065	Procurement of Stationary for the F.Y 2023-2024 at 250 Bedded General Hospital, Joypurhat.	04-Feb-2024 16:00	18-Feb-2024 16:00	19-Feb-2024 12:00

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e-Tender will be accepted only as stated in above list; accepted tenders will be opened online immediate as stated in above list.

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03.02.24
(Dr. Sardar Rashed Mobarak)
Superintendent
250 Bedded General Hospital
Joypurhat