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Prof Yunus must inform court to go abroad: HC

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court has said Nobel laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus and three others, accused in a labour law violation case, must inform the Labour Appellate Tribunal if they go abroad.

The court also issued a rule yesterday questioning the legality of the tribunal's order that stayed the conviction and sentences of Prof Yunus and three other top officials of Grameen Telecom in the case.

The HC asked the state to explain why the tribunal's stay order should not be scrapped.

The bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Kazi Ebadoth also halted the stay order till the disposal of the rule.

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Ambulances, bikers and hawkers occupy a part of the road in front of National Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedic Rehabilitation, popularly known as Pangu Hospital, obstructing traffic in Dhaka's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. The photo was taken yesterday. PHOTO: PRABIR DAS

Man dies in jail custody

Magistrate finds injury marks on body; family claims he was tortured to death

FM MIZANUR RAHAMAN, Ctg

A 38-year-old man died under unusual circumstances in jail custody yesterday. He had injury marks on his body.

Family alleged that he was tortured by prison guards or inmates.

Rubel Dey, of South Jayisthapura in Chattogram's Boalkhali upazila, died at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

Boalkhali police detained him on January 27 night while he was selling homemade liquor in Jayisthapura area. Later, police recovered 200 litres of liquor from his possession and Sub-inspector SM Abu Musa of the police station filed a case against him under the Narcotics Control Act.

Next day, Rubel was sent to the Chattogram Central Jail by a court. However, his family and relatives claimed that Rubel, who was a farmer, used to drink sometimes.

His cousin Rajib Dey told The Daily Star at CMCH, "After the arrest, we met my brother at Chattogram Court building on January 28 evening and found he was alright. On Friday, we went to the Chattogram jail to visit him, he was carried in a wheelchair and guarded by four prison guards.

"We asked the guards about his condition, but they did

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Protests rage on over rape at JU

STAR REPORT

Students continue to stage protests against the rape of a 19-year-old woman on the Jahangirnagar University campus on Saturday night, which was allegedly carried out by a group of Chhatra League men and their associates.

Demanding justice for the victim, demonstrations were held at Jahangirnagar University, Dhaka University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, and Shahbagh in the capital yesterday.

In a notice yesterday, the JU administration ordered students staying illegally at various residential halls and those admitted under the dependent quota to vacate halls within five working days.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan), in a statement yesterday, said, "A university is the highest educational institution and a centre of knowledge. When a heinous crime like rape takes place on a university campus, we cannot help but be shocked and outraged."

"Due to the culture of impunity, the recurrence of

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Militants kill 10 cops in Pakistan

REUTERS, Dera Ismail Khan

At least 10 police personnel were killed and six others injured in a pre-dawn attack by militants on a police station in northwest Pakistan yesterday, police said, as violence escalated ahead of general elections this week.

At around 3:00 am local time militants attacked the police station with sniper fire and then entered the building, said police

to the election.

A national assembly candidate was shot dead on Wednesday elsewhere in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa. On the same day, another political leader was shot dead in his party's election office in Balochistan province.

On Tuesday, a bomb attack following an election rally killed four people in Balochistan. Islamic State claimed responsibility.

Draban lies in an area considered a



The body of a policeman being taken away from the police station.

PHOTO: AFP

officers in Pakistan's Draban region in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province.

"After entering the building, the terrorists used hand grenades which caused more casualties to the police," said Malik Anees ul Hassan, the deputy superintendent of police in Draban.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack and whether it was related

stronghold of the Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam party. The conservative religious party's leader, Maulana Fazal Ur Rehman, travelled last month to Afghanistan to meet the Taliban's supreme spiritual leader, local media reported, one of his few known meetings with foreign dignitaries.

The party has also called for a delay in Pakistan's polls due to security concerns.

King Charles diagnosed with cancer

REUTERS, London

Britain's King Charles has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and the



75-year-old will postpone public-facing duties while he undergoes treatment, Buckingham Palace said yesterday.

Charles, who became king in September 2022 following the death of his mother Queen Elizabeth, is "wholly positive" about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible, the palace said.

Charles spent three nights in hospital last month where he underwent a corrective procedure for an enlarged prostate. The palace said a separate issue of concern had been spotted during the hospital visit, but did not given any further details beyond saying the king had a "form of cancer".

A royal source said that it was not prostate cancer.

"His Majesty has today commenced a schedule

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What ails the Panama Canal?



AZMIN AZRAN

The Panama Canal is one of the world's most important maritime shortcuts.

Connecting the Atlantic ocean to the Pacific via the narrow isthmus of Panama, this canal allows cargo ships to cross back and forth between the oceans quickly.

However, droughts and seasonal weather patterns – worsened by climate change – have become a threat to the navigability and the future of the Panama Canal.

The alternative route to go between the Pacific and

the Atlantic would be to sail around the Southern tip of South America, across the turbulent Drake Passage or the Strait of Magellan, both of which take an additional three weeks.

For global logistics operations, choosing to take the Panama Canal is usually a no-brainer. But in recent days, the decision has become harder to make.

Drought conditions mean the Panama Canal Authority limited the number of ships allowed to use the canal to 24 per day since the beginning

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US keeping close watch on situation in Myanmar

Says embassy spokesperson

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

The US is very concerned over the escalation of conflicts in Myanmar and is keeping a close watch on the situation.

"We are following it very closely. Obviously, we are very concerned as the world is concerned," Stephen F Ibelli, spokesperson for the US embassy in Dhaka, said yesterday while speaking to journalists on the sidelines of opening of the first-ever TechCamp in Bangladesh to empower young journalists at a city hotel.

The comment comes when The Daily Star asked if the US would play any role as Myanmar is getting more destabilised with the ethnic rebel groups and the Myanmar junta fighting tough battles and the rebel groups taking control of many parts of the Southeast Asian country.

Ibelli was also asked if the letter by US President Joe Biden to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina means that the relations between the two countries have eased as the US was very critical of the previous elections and was calling for free and fair polls.

In response, he said the US ambassador and many US officials said they did not find the elections on January 7 free and fair.

"However, we work with many countries around the globe, many countries that are not democracies, many countries that have different forms of government.

"And I think this is the same for Bangladesh ... we are looking to work with Bangladesh in mutual areas of

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A BITWA excavator extracting mud from the riverbed of the Turag near Dhaka's Gabtoli to improve navigability and widen the channel. Cargo vessels carry the mud to different areas to fill up low-lying land. The photo was taken on Saturday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

GRAMMYS 2024

Taylor Swift makes history

REUTERS, Los Angeles

Pop superstar Taylor Swift set another record on Sunday, winning the Grammy award for album of the year for an unprecedented fourth time



as women dominated the music industry's top honours.

Swift also announced that she would release a new album in April.

The 34-year-old won album of the year for "Midnights," eclipsing music legends Frank Sinatra, Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder, who each claimed the prize three times.

Swift said she was thrilled by the honour and gushed about the fulfilment she feels from writing and singing songs. "It makes me so happy," she said. "All I want to do is keep doing this."

Earlier, Swift claimed the prize for best pop vocal performance and used the moment to announce that

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