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Army can take steps against Aziz if it wants

Says finance minister

UNB, Dhaka

Finance Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali yesterday said the army can take steps against its former chief, Aziz Ahmed, if it wants.

While speaking to reporters at the Secretariat on loan defaulters, the minister mentioned the possibility of military action against Aziz.

Earlier, he met International Monetary Fund (IMF) Executive Director Krishnamurthy V Subramanian.

When asked which economic indicator he would highlight as positive, the minister gave a vague response.

However, when pressed on the economy's biggest challenge, he acknowledged inflation but also noted improvements in areas such as foreign reserves and revenue collection.

He downplayed concerns about the dollar exchange rate, stating that the IMF recommended crawling peg system was working effectively.

He Said, "Now we have to catch the debtors."

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Kolkata Knight Riders captain Shreyash Iyer celebrates with Venkatesh Iyer after beating Sunrisers Hyderabad by eight wickets in the most one-sided final of the Indian Premier League history at the MA Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai yesterday.

PHOTO: BCCI

KKR thrash SRH to win 3rd IPL title

AFP, Chennai

Mitchell Starc bowled a sensational opening spell to fire Kolkata Knight Riders to their third Indian Premier League title with an eight-wicket thrashing of Sunrisers Hyderabad in the Sunday final.

Kolkata bowled out Hyderabad for IPL's lowest total of 113 in a final as Australia's left-arm quick Starc returned figures of 2-14 to live up to his top billing in the world's most lucrative T20 tournament.

Kolkata's batsmen had it easy and despite Sunil Narine's early departure, Rahmanullah Gurbaz, who made 39, and Venkatesh Iyer, on 52 not out, helped the team home with 9.3 overs to spare after a partnership of 91.

Iyer, a left-handed batsman, reached his 50 in 24 balls and hit the winning runs to trigger celebrations for Kolkata, who remained

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Star Savar correspondent assaulted



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Savar correspondent of The Daily Star, Aklakur Rahman Akash, was mercilessly beaten up yesterday morning while he was covering an ownership dispute at a ceramic factory there.

Akash was undergoing treatment at Popular Medical College Hospital in the capital, with injuries to his face, eyes, head, and other parts of his body.

Akash said he went to the spot after hearing reports of vandalism at the Bengal Fine Ceramics Ltd in Bhagalpur.

He added that there had been a long standing dispute over ownership of the company. Around 9:30am, a group equipped with sticks entered the factory, vandalised it, and drove away the workers.

"I went there after

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Ready for new truce talks

Says Israel; 81 more Palestinians killed as bombardments across Gaza continue

AGENCIES

Israel's armed forces bombarded Gaza yesterday, but officials also said diplomatic efforts were expected to resume in coming days towards a truce and hostage release deal.

Air strikes and artillery shelling rained down again overnight on northern, central and southern area of Gaza in the more than seven-months-old offensive.

Fighting has centred on the far-southern city of Rafah, where Israel has vowed to destroy the last remaining Hamas battalions despite a chorus of international opposition to a ground invasion of the city.

Israel's assault there from early May led Egypt to shut its side of the Rafah border crossing -- but yesterday, aid trucks from Egypt again rolled into Gaza, this time via the nearby Kerem Shalom crossing.

US President Joe Biden said Saturday his administration was engaged in "urgent diplomacy to secure an immediate ceasefire that brings hostages home".

Mediator Egypt was also continuing "its efforts to reactivate ceasefire negotiations", said Al Qahera News, which has links with Egyptian intelligence.

Israel media has said intelligence chief David Barnea had agreed a new framework for talks on a



- 8 rockets fired at Tel Aviv from Rafah: Israeli army
- Aid trucks again roll into Gaza through Kerem Shalom crossing
- Hamas says it captured Israeli soldiers in ambush
- Death toll in Gaza now 35,984

ceasefire in a meeting with America's CIA chief and Qatari mediators in Paris.

An Israeli official, requesting anonymity, told AFP that "there is an intention to renew these talks this week".

However, senior Hamas official Osama Hamdan told Qatar's Al Jazeera network that so far "there is nothing practical on this issue. It is just talk coming from the Israeli side."

Meanwhile, Israel's army said at least eight rockets were fired towards Tel Aviv yesterday from Rafah.

An AFP correspondent in the Gaza Strip reported seeing rockets being fired from Rafah, and the military said that "some of the rockets were intercepted" by Israeli air defences. Hamas armed wing al-Qassam Brigades said it launched a "big missile" attack on Tel Aviv yesterday.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has come under increasing domestic pressure over the fate of the hostages, with demonstrators rallying again in Tel Aviv on Saturday.

In recent days, the bodies of seven dead hostages have been retrieved from Gaza, heightening the fear and pain of relatives of the remaining captives.

Hamas said its fighters had captured Israeli soldiers during fighting in Jabalia in northern Gaza

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DSA CASE 2 journalists convicted over 'false reports'

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka tribunal yesterday convicted two journalists of the weekly Aparadh Bichitra in a DSA case filed over publishing false and defamatory news reports.

Those convicted are SM Morshed, editor of the weekly magazine, and its senior reporter Ezaz Rahman.

Judge AM Julfiker Hayet of the Cyber Tribunal of Dhaka delivered the verdict while the two were present in the courtroom, Mamun Sikder, the tribunal's stenographer, told The Daily Star.

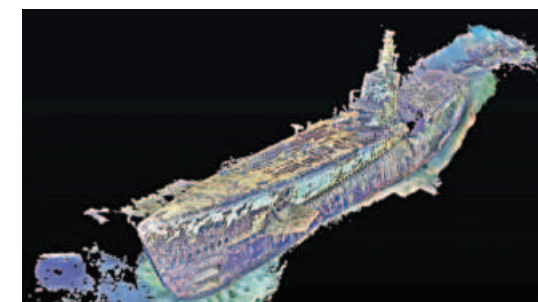
According to the judgement, Morshed was fined Tk 2 lakh, in default of which he would have to serve six months' imprisonment, while Ezaz was fined Tk 1 lakh, in default of which he would have to serve three months in jail.

During the trial, three prosecution witnesses testified.

On January 18, 2021, Islami Bank official Mohammad

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Wreck of famed US Navy WWII sub found off Philippines



CNN ONLINE

The wreck of one of the most storied US Navy submarines of World War II has been found in the South China Sea eight decades after its last patrol, the Navy's History and Heritage Command (NHHC) said Thursday.

The USS Harder lies under 3,000 feet of water off the northern Philippine island of Luzon, sitting upright and intact except for damage behind its conning tower from a Japanese depth charge, the NHHC said in a press release.

Harder was lost in battle on August 24, 1944, along with its entire crew of 79 submariners, while on its sixth patrol of the war, as the US sought to retake the Philippines from occupying Japanese forces.

"Harder was lost in the course of victory. We must not forget that victory has a price, as does freedom," NHHC Director Samuel J Cox, a retired US Navy admiral, said in the press release.

50 ruling party, pro-AL leaders now on China trip

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the invite of the Communist Party of China (CPC), an Awami League delegation, comprising 50 mid-level leaders from its front and associate bodies, is now in Zhejiang province for workshops.

The delegation, led by Tanvir Shakil Joy, vice president of the AL's volunteers' wing Swachchhasebak League and also the lawmaker of Sirajganj-1, left Dhaka on Saturday and would stay in China until June 4. This is the highest level of AL delegation to visit China.

Members of the delegation would be taking part in the workshops organised to mark the 75th founding anniversary of China.

The visit also aims to develop bilateral relations between the AL and the CPC.

The delegation, consisting of eight

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Traders moving rice grains from one boat to another at the floating rice market on the Sandhya river in Barishal's Banaripara upazila. Different varieties of rice arrive at this 200-year-old market from Bhola, Patuakhali, Pirojpur and more. These are sold on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 7:00am to 12:00pm. Local traders buy the grains at Tk 900 to Tk 1,300 per maund. The photo was taken recently. PHOTO: TITU DAS

Russian attack on Kharkiv kills 16

Dozens injured; Ukraine's President Zelensky condemns Russian 'madness'

REUTERS, Kharkiv

A Russian strike on a crowded DIY hardware store in Kharkiv killed 16 people and wounded dozens more, Ukrainian prosecutors said yesterday morning, the death toll rising as the country's second-largest city reeled from two attacks a day earlier.

Two guided bombs hit the Epicentr DIY hypermarket in a residential area of the city on Saturday evening, regional governor Oleh Synyehubov said on national television, adding that "unfortunately, 16 have already been recorded dead".

The strikes caused a massive fire which sent a column of thick, black smoke billowing hundreds of metres into the air.

Forty-three people were injured, the local prosecutors' office said, adding that ten of the twelve dead had still not been identified. Kharkiv Mayor Ihor Terekhov said about 120 people had been in the hardware store when the bombs struck.

"The attack targeted the shopping centre, where there were many people - this is clearly terrorism," Terekhov said. In a post on the Telegram app, Ukraine's Interior Minister Ihor Klymenko said 16 people were still missing after the strike.

The past week has seen an uptick in strikes on the city after Russian troops stormed across the border, opening a new front north of the city.

Russia has bombarded Kharkiv, which lies less than 30 kilometres (20 miles) from its border, throughout the war, having reached its outskirts in a failed bid to capture it in 2022.