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The corrupt will face music

Says PM; cabinet okays proposal to form company to run Padma Bridge

PARTHA PRATIM BHATTACHARJEE

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said corrupt people will have to shoulder the responsibilities of their deeds.

The Anti-Corruption Commission is an independent body and it will investigate into allegations of corruptions following its own process, she said.

Speaking to her cabinet colleagues during an unscheduled discussion after a cabinet meeting yesterday, Hasina said action would be taken against the corrupt people regardless of their identities, a cabinet member told The Daily Star quoting the PM.

The meeting was held at the Prime Minister's Office in the capital's Tejgaon.

Hasina directed the cabinet members to bring forward the wrongdoings of the previous BNP-led alliance government.

She said that people have forgotten those wrongdoings, including the 10-truck arms haul, the huge hauls of ammo and explosives in Bogura's Kahu and Dupchanchia upazilas, and the recovery of arms in Cox's Bazar's Pekua.

The premier said it is time now to bring those incidents before the people.



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Students of Dhaka University under the banner of "Students against Discrimination" stage a demonstration in TSC area yesterday demanding reinstatement of the 2018 government circular that scrapped the quota system in civil service.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Power supply from Adani plant resumes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Electricity supply from a unit of the Adani power plant in India's Jharkhand resumed yesterday after 60 hours of disruption, according to the Bangladesh Power Development Board (PDB).

Technical glitches halted power supply from the 1,496-megawatt coal-fired Adani plant on Friday morning.

PDB spokesperson Shameem Hasan told The Daily Star that the unit resumed its production around 7:45am.

"Now it is producing more than 500 megawatts of electricity," he said around 11:15am.

Earlier, the PDB officials said the Adani authorities found a leak in a valve of the circulating water pump of the plant, which is why they forcibly shut down the unit of the plant.

Another unit of the plant went into routine maintenance during the Eid holidays, which is supposed to resume this week.

Trump has immunity for official acts

US top court rules

REUTERS, Washington

The US Supreme Court yesterday found that Donald Trump cannot be prosecuted for official actions taken as president, but can for private acts, in a landmark ruling recognising for the first time any form of presidential immunity from prosecution.

The justices, in a 6-3 ruling written by Chief Justice John Roberts, threw out a lower court's decision rejecting Trump's claim of immunity from criminal charges involving his efforts to undo his 2020 election loss to Joe Biden.

The court's six conservative justices were in the majority and its three liberal justices dissented.

"We conclude that under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of presidential power requires that former president have some immunity from criminal prosecution for official acts during his tenure in office," Roberts wrote.

"At least with respect to the president's exercise of his core constitutional powers, this immunity must be absolute. As for his remaining official actions, he is also entitled to immunity," Roberts added.

Roberts said Trump's case will be sent back to the lower courts for further review.



Explain VAT claims against S Alam firms: HC to NBR

AG office says firms don't want to pay VAT

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday questioned the legality of government's demand for unpaid VAT and the consequent fines of over Tk 7,000 crore from S Alam Vegetable Oil Ltd and S Alam Super Edible Oil Ltd.

On June 9, the Customs, VAT & Excise Commissionerate, Chattogram in its adjudication orders asked the two companies to pay Tk 3,538 crore in "evaded VAT", Tk 3,531 crore in fines, and interest on the amounts, to the state coffers within 15 work days. Customs said the value added tax was evaded in fiscal years 2019-20 and 2021-22.

Yesterday, the HC in two rules asked the respondents as to why the VAT determination orders – issued by the commissioner of

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Hamas ally fires rockets into Israel

Most launches intercepted; Israeli tanks advance in north, south of Gaza

REUTERS, Gaza

The Palestinian Islamic Jihad group fired a barrage of rockets into Israel yesterday, in an apparent show of force as Israeli tanks pressed their advance deeper into Gaza amid fierce fighting, residents and officials said.

The armed wing of Islamic Jihad, an Iranian-backed ally of Hamas, said its fighters fired rockets towards several Israeli settlements near the fence with Gaza in response to "the crimes of the Zionist enemy against our Palestinian people".

The volley of around 20 rockets caused no casualties, according to the Israeli military. Most launches were intercepted. But it showed the group still possess rocket capabilities almost nine months into Israel's offensive it says is aimed at neutralising threats against it.

In some parts of Gaza, Hamas fighters continue to stage attacks on Israeli forces in areas that the army

had left months ago.

Yesterday, Israeli tanks deepened their incursions into the Shejaia suburb in eastern Gaza City for a fifth day, and tanks advanced further in western and central Rafah, in southern Gaza near the border with Egypt, residents said.

The Israeli military said it had killed a number of fighters in combat in Shejaia yesterday and found large amounts of weapons there.

Hamas said that, in Rafah, its fighters lured an Israeli force into a booby-trapped house in the east of the city and then blew it up, causing casualties.

Also in Rafah, the Israeli military said that an airstrike killed a Hamas fighter who fired an anti-tank missile at its troops.

The health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said yesterday that at least 37,900 people have been killed during nearly nine months of offensive. The toll includes at least 23 deaths over the past 24 hours, a ministry statement said.

- Arab mediators' efforts to secure truce stalled
- Israel conducts operation in Tulkarm in West Bank

FRENCH ELECTION

Parties rush to build anti-far right front

Second round of voting July 7



REUTERS, Paris

France's political parties rushed to build a united front aimed at blocking the path to government of Marine Le Pen's far-right National Rally (RN) yesterday, after it made historic gains to win the first round of a parliamentary election.

The RN and its allies won Sunday's round with 33 percent of the vote, followed by a left-wing bloc with 28 percent and well ahead of President Emmanuel Macron's centrists, who scored just 20 percent, official results from the interior ministry showed.

While financial markets rallied on relief the RN tally

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France edge Belgium to move into quarters



AFP, Düsseldorf

Jan Vertonghen's late own goal took France into the quarter-finals of Euro 2024 on Monday as they edged Belgium 1-0 in a tense tie in Dusseldorf.

France had dominated the last-16 clash but their profligate finishing looked set to force extra time until they finally found a way through with five minutes left.

Substitute Randal Kolo Muani collected the ball inside the Belgian penalty area and hit a shot that was going wide until a deflection off the unfortunate Vertonghen took it past goalkeeper Koen Casteels.

The lucky break sent the

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Super-sub forward Randal Kolo Muani screams in ecstasy after his strike led to a late own goal to help France scrape past Belgium with a 1-0 win in the teams' Euro 2024 last-16 encounter in Dusseldorf yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

India replaces colonial-era criminal laws

Critics say new laws could create confusion

REUTERS, New Delhi

India replaced colonial-era criminal laws with new legislation yesterday, which Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government said would make the country more just, but the opposition said risked throwing the criminal justice system into disarray.

The new laws were approved by parliament in December in Modi's previous term with the government saying they aim to "give justice, not punishment". It says they were needed as colonial laws had been at the core of the criminal justice system for more than a century.

Among the key changes is replacement of the sedition law frequently used as a tool of suppression, after its enactment under British colonial rule to jail Indian freedom fighters.

Under the new laws – which replace the Indian Penal Code, the Indian Evidence Act, and Code of Criminal Procedure – sedition is replaced with a section on acts seen as "endangering the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of India".

"About 77 years after independence, our criminal justice system is becoming completely indigenous and will run on Indian ethos," India's Home (interior) Minister Amit Shah told reporters. "Instead of punishment, there will now be justice."

Criminal cases registered under the repealed laws before yesterday will continue to follow them, Shah said,

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