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‘We’re being deprived of justice’ Says Prof Yunus after court hearing



COURT CORRESPONDENT

Nobel Laureate Prof Muhammad Yunus yesterday said it appears that there is an attempt to hurriedly conclude the trial of the case he and 13 others are accused in and that they were being deprived of justice.

“We are not getting justice; the people of the country understand what is in the background. Anyone present in the court will feel that there is an attempt to finish the trial process hurriedly,” he said.

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PHOTO: TITU DAS

Children of Kalbila village, adjacent to the Shapla beel, in Barishal’s Wazirpur upazila have to cross a bamboo bridge every morning just to get to school. They used to cross the waterbody by boat until around seven years ago, the locals built this makeshift bridge, which hundreds of villagers have to cross every day. Despite the children having to take such risks, the authorities concerned do not seem to be bothered.

Pak govt to ban Imran’s party To file treason case against the former prime minister

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan government is planning to ban former prime minister Imran Khan’s political party and move the country’s top court to press treason charges against him, the information minister said yesterday.

The move to ban Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) was based on the proven charge of the party receiving foreign funds from sources that are illegal in Pakistan, as well as rioting by the supporters last year that targeted military installations, Information Minister Attaullah Tarar said.

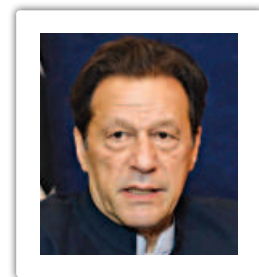
“The federal government will move a case to ban the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf,” he said, adding that the plan will be taken up before the cabinet, which was empowered to take a decision.

The government will also file a legal reference against Khan and former President Arif Alvi for treason charges under the country’s constitution before the Supreme Court, Tarar said.

Khan’s aide Zulfikar Bukhari said the decision was a move towards “soft martial law”. “This is a sign of panic as they have realised the courts can’t be threatened and put under pressure,” he said.

PTI candidates contested the February 8 election as independents after it was barred from the polls.

The Supreme Court had last week ruled that the party was eligible for more than 20 extra reserved seats in parliament, ramping up pressure on the country’s weak coalition government.



Israel hits Gaza from land, sea, air

80 more Palestinians killed; truce prospects dwindle

AFP, Palestinian Territories

Israel hammered the Gaza Strip from the air, sea and land yesterday as the offensive in the Palestinian territory showed no sign of abating, with Hamas saying it was pulling out of truce talks.

Shells rained down on the neighbourhoods of Tal Al-Hawa, Sheikh Ajlin and Al-Sabra in Gaza City, AFP correspondents reported, while eyewitnesses said the Israeli army had shelled the Al-Mughraqa area and the northern outskirts of the Nuseirat refugee camp in central Gaza.

Paramedics from the Palestinian Red Crescent said they had retrieved the bodies of five people, including three children, after Israeli air strikes in the Al-Maghazi camp, also in the central Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, eyewitnesses reported Israeli gunship fire east of Khan Yunis, in southern Gaza, and shelling and Apache helicopter attacks several homes in western areas of the southernmost city of Rafah.

The Israeli military said in a statement that it was continuing

its activity throughout the coastal territory, and said it had conducted raids in Rafah and central Gaza that killed “a number of militants”, as well as air strikes throughout the strip over the past day.

It also said its naval forces had been firing at targets in Gaza.

» Israel bombs UN-run school in Nuseirat camp

» Rafah residents say strikes blew up several homes

» Gaza death toll rises to 38,664

More than 38,664 Palestinians have been killed and 89,097 have been injured in the Israeli military offensive in Gaza since October 7, the Gaza health ministry said in a statement yesterday. Some 80 Palestinians were killed and 216 injured in the past 24 hours, the ministry added.

On Sunday evening, Israeli

forces struck a UN-run school in Nuseirat camp that was being used as a shelter for displaced people but which the military said “served as a hideout” for Hamas fighters.

The civil defence agency in Gaza said 15 people were killed in the strike, the fifth attack in just over a week to hit a school used as shelter by displaced Palestinians.

The relentless bombardments came as prospects dwindled for a truce and hostage release deal being secured any time soon.

Hamas, the Iran-backed group, said on Sunday it was withdrawing from ceasefire talks.

The decision followed an Israeli strike targeting the head of Hamas’s military wing, Mohammed Deif, which the health ministry in Hamas-run Gaza said killed 92 people.

Last week, US President Joe Biden had suggested a deal might be close, saying at a Nato summit that both sides had agreed to a framework he had set out in late May.

Hamas yesterday lashed out at the US, accusing it of supporting “genocide” by supplying Israel with “internationally banned” weapons.

Go for a time-bound roadmap to fight graft

TIB urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh yesterday urged the government to adopt and enforce a time-bound roadmap consistent with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina’s declaration of “zero tolerance against corruption”.

In a statement, it said, “TIB would like to consider the prime minister’s disclosure of action taken against a former employee at her residence, who accumulated huge amount of income and wealth; her declaration that [corrupt people must be removed from society whether] ‘far or near, no matter’; and that ‘zero tolerance against corruption’ will continue as a testimony to her firm commitment against corruption.”

TIB Executive Director Dr Iftekharuzzaman in the statement said, “Recently, many instances of high-level corruption have come to light, where individuals have allegedly amassed huge income and wealth through corruption, abusing their entrusted power or leveraging their relationships with those in powerful positions.”

At a press conference on July 14, in response to questions about the government’s initiative, Hasina disclosed that she took action against a former employee of her household who had amassed Tk 400 crore.

Terming the PM’s disclosure as an indicator of political will, Iftekharuzzaman said, “The prime minister has in reality expressed her dismay and discomfort towards the culture of normalisation of amassing illegal wealth

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Temple older than Machu Picchu found in Peru

CNN ONLINE

Archaeologists in Peru have unearthed the remains of what they believe are a 4,000-year-old temple and theater, shining a new light on the origins of complex religions in the region.



The team began studying the new archaeological site of La Otra Banda, Cerro Las Animas, in June. Last year, the local government alerted them to looting that had been taking place near the northern Peruvian town of Zaña, according to a press release from the Field Museum in Chicago, Illinois.

They excavated a plot roughly 33 feet long and 33 feet wide, finding signs of ancient walls made of mud and clay at just six feet deep.

“It was so surprising that these very ancient structures were so close to the modern surface,” Luis Muro Ynoñán, a research scientist at the Field Museum who led the team, said in the release.

The finds predate the country’s best-known archaeological site, the ancient citadel of Machu Picchu, which is believed to have been built by the Inca Empire in the 15th century, by about 3,500 years. They also predate the pre-Inca cultures of Moche and Nazca, researchers said.

Argentina’s glorious era carved into granite

KHALID HOSSAIN

As Argentina edged past Colombia in a high-intensity Copa America final in Miami yesterday (Bangladesh time), the defending champions added a laminated layer to their fascinating journey of serial success.

Also, quite refreshingly and crucial to their long-term output, the Albiceleste’s transformation from heavy reliance on Lionel Messi spreading stardust to becoming a well-rounded team capable of winning without him epitomises their coming of age.

Furthermore, their latest feat became particularly sweet as it mirrored Spain’s historic achievement of winning a World Cup sandwiched between two continental titles (Euro 2008 and 2012).

The narrative of Argentina’s redemption began in the long shadow of painful defeats: the 2014 World Cup final loss to Germany – who had also eliminated them in preceding edition’s quarterfinals – and consecutive Copa America final defeats in 2015 and 2016 before a meek, last-16 exit from the

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Argentina captain Lionel Messi, flanked by his teammates and coaching staff, lifts the Copa America trophy after the world champions beat Colombia 1-0 in extra time in the final at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

2 Bangladeshis shot dead near Sylhet border

Fingers pointed at ‘Khasi’ people in India’s Meghalaya

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Two Bangladeshis were shot dead allegedly by Khasi People of India’s Meghalaya along Kalairag border in Sylhet’s Companiganj upazila on Sunday afternoon.

The victims were Ali Hossain, 32, and Kawsar Ahmed, 30, of Kalairag village.

Foyzur Rahman, chairman of Uttar Ranikhai union, said, “So far, we learnt that two people were killed and several others were shot by the Khasi people of India inside Indian territory. But we could not confirm the identities of the injured.”

Quoting locals, Foyzur said the deceased along with others went to a hill to collect firewood.

Golam Fareastagir Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Companiganj Police Station, said members of Border Guard Bangladesh and India’s Border Security Force recovered the bodies from the no-man’s land around 7:00pm yesterday and handed those over to police after a meeting between the two border security forces.