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The damage Hasina did was 'monumental' Yunus tells The Guardian

STAR REPORT

Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus said that when he took charge, the country was "completely devastated," like "another Gaza," where not buildings, but entire institutions, policies, and international relations were destroyed.



"The damage she [deposed prime minister Sheikh Hasina] had done was monumental," Yunus said in an interview with The Guardian published yesterday.

Hasina has been in India after the ouster of her government amid a student-led mass uprising on August 5 last year.

Yunus' government has initiated prosecutions against senior police officers accused of extrajudicial killings, shut down secret detention centres, and established human rights commissions. Hasina is facing

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Ongoing pavement renovation by Dhaka South City Corporation under the Moghbazar flyover has put pedestrians in trouble. They have been struggling to walk as rickshaws frequently park on the pavement, while cyclists often use it to bypass traffic. The pavement has been in this state for 10 days. This photo was taken yesterday.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT ACC approves charge sheets against Hasina, Rehana, others

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti Corruption Commission (ACC) yesterday approved the charge sheets against ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina, her sister Sheikh Rehana, and four of their family members in six cases filed against them over the alleged misuse of power to obtain plots under the Purbachal New Town Project.

The four family members are Hasina's son Sajeeb Wazed Joy, daughter Saima Wazed Putul, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and daughter Azmina Siddiq Ruponti.

The charge sheets also include that names of 23 other individuals, including former and current public servants and Rajuk officials, such as former state minister Sharif Ahmed and ex-secretary at Prime Minister's Office Md Salaudhin.

ACC Director General Akhtar Hossain said that the process of submitting the charge sheets to the

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Six children raped in 6 dists Seven land in jail

STAR REPORT

At least seven people landed in jail yesterday on charges of rape in six districts.

Of the victims, a six-year-old girl was raped by two teenaged boys in Habiganj's Baniachong upazila on Sunday.

Quoting the victim's family, police said the girl was playing at home on Sunday afternoon. Luring to give her chocolates, two neighbours took her to a nearby bush and raped her.

The two were arrested at night after the victim's grandmother filed a case against the duo -- one is 15-year-old and another is 17, said Prabash Kumar Singh, an additional superintendent of Habiganj police.

A local court sent the two to jail yesterday, he said. Meanwhile, the victim's maternal uncle told The Daily Star that her father had been suffering from various diseases for a long time.

Hearing about the incident, his condition deteriorated, and he died around 11:00am yesterday, the uncle added.

Police officer Prabash, who visited the victim's house yesterday, also confirmed the news of the father's death.

In Laxmipur's Ramgati upazila, two men were sent to prison yesterday in a case filed over raping and provoking the victim to die by suicide.

The accused are Md Rakib, 24, and Md Helal Uddin, 27, residents of the same upazila.

Quoting the victim's family, police said Md Rakib somehow entered the 16-year-old girl's house late at night on March 1 and raped her.

Villagers held an arbitration on Thursday morning to settle the issue. But some people scolded the girl there. She died by suicide in the afternoon. Police later recovered the body, said Kabir Hossain, officer-in-charge of Ramgati Police Station.

A day later, the victim's mother lodged a case against 12 people, including Rakib, under the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act.

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Confiscate 1,006 bighas of S Alam, family Court orders ACC

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday ordered the Anti-Corruption Commission to confiscate 1,006 bighas of immovable properties owned by S Alam Group Chairman Mohammed Saiful Alam, his affiliated organisations, and his family members in connection with corruption allegations against them.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after ACC Deputy Director Tahasin Munabil Haque, who is leading the inquiry team, submitted an application to this effect.

On February 23, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 227 bank accounts of S Alam and his family.

On February 12, the same court ordered the ACC to freeze 437.85 crore shares of 42 companies belonging to S Alam and his family. The value of these shares stands at Tk 5,109,67,96,260.

On January 30, the court ordered concerned authorities to confiscate 58 acres of immovable property worth Tk 368 crore belonging to S Alam and his family.

CONFISCATE ASSETS OF SHAYAN F RAHMAN

The same Dhaka court yesterday ordered the ACC to take steps to confiscate the immovable properties in London owned by Ahmed Shayan Fazlur Rahman, son of Salman F Rahman, former private industry affairs

SEE PAGE 7 COL 5

Ukraine always striving for peace

Says Zelensky ahead of US talks, blames Russia for prolonging war

AGENCIES

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said yesterday ahead of talks with US officials in Saudi Arabia that Ukraine wants peace and Russia is the "only reason" that the war has dragged on.

"Ukraine has been striving for peace since the very first second of the war, and we have always said that the only reason that the war is continuing is because of Russia," Zelensky said on social media.

Zelensky arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday, a day ahead of crucial talks between Ukrainian and US officials on ending the war with Russia.

Kyiv will propose an aerial and naval ceasefire with Russia during talks with US officials in Saudi Arabia, a Ukrainian official told AFP.

Highly anticipated negotiations today on resolving the three-year conflict will see US and Ukrainian officials meet for the first time since Zelensky's disastrous White House visit last month.

Zelensky said he would meet Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the country's de facto leader, after which his team "will stay for a meeting on Tuesday [today] with the

American team".

At the talks in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah, US Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff has said Washington wants "to get down a framework for a peace agreement and an initial ceasefire as well".

Meanwhile, Russia said yesterday it was expelling two British "diplomats" on suspicion of carrying out espionage activities.

Announcing the expulsion of the embassy's second secretary and husband of the first secretary, Russia's FSB security service said "counterintelligence work had revealed an undeclared British intelligence presence under the cover of the national embassy."

It said the two "deliberately provided false information when obtaining a permit to enter our country, thus violating Russian legislation."

On the war front, Russian forces advanced further in Kursk region yesterday and curled behind Ukrainian forces as part of a major encirclement operation aimed at forcing thousands of Ukrainian soldiers to either flee or surrender in western Russia, reports Reuters.

- » Russia expels two British diplomats on suspicion of espionage
- » Ukraine to propose sky, sea truce at US talks in KSA
- » Russian forces advance in Kursk, curl behind Ukrainian forces

Present roadmap to justice, reform Nahid urges govt

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

National Citizen Party Convener Nahid Islam yesterday demanded that the government present a roadmap immediately, specifying within how many days justice for the July killings and reform initiatives will be visible to the people.

"... A clear roadmap must be announced without delay," said Nahid at an iftar event.

The NCP organised the event for the families of the July martyrs and injured at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

"We are being accused of trying to delay the election. We want to make it very clear, and we want to counter you, do not try to delay justice delivery and reforms," he added.

Nahid said Chief Adviser Prof Muhammad Yunus, other members of the advisory council and the army chief, have all committed to ensuring people's safety and justice.

"They cannot deviate from this commitment. They must face the people. Therefore, we will hold them accountable on justice delivery and

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Chinese scientists make vaccine for strokes, heart attacks

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

Scientists in China have developed a potential vaccine to prevent the build-up of plaque in arteries that can lead to blood clots, stroke and heart attacks.

The build-up of fatty plaque in arteries, a condition known as atherosclerosis, is one of the leading causes of death worldwide.

A new study published in the journal Nature Communications described a vaccine that may mitigate atherosclerosis development in mice.

"Our nanovaccine design and preclinical data present a potential candidate for prophylactic treatment for atherosclerosis," scientists at

Nanjing University of Science and Technology in China wrote.

Previous studies have helped create a digital library of various kinds of proteins that protect against inflammation and boost the body's immune response to atherosclerosis.

One such protein is called p210. It has been found to trigger an immune response against atherosclerosis progression, and it is what the new vaccine uses.



Workers painting a carriage after repairing it at Bangladesh Railway's Pahartoli workshop in Chattogram on Sunday. Work on refurbishing carriages is going on in full swing ahead of the Eid holiday travel rush. The workshop is working on 90 carriages.

PHOTO: RAJIB RAIHAN

Technological advances and the right to freedom of thought

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Prime Bank



PRAYER TIMING
MARCH 11

Fajr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:56	12:45	4:30	6:06	7:30
JAMAAT 5:06	1:15	4:45	6:21	8:00

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

SEHRI, IFTAR TIMING

RAMADAN	MARCH	SEHRI	IFTAR
10	11		6:06
11	12	4:54	6:07
12	13	4:53	6:07