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ICT seeks Interpol red notices for 9 ex-ministers



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The prosecution of the International Crimes Tribunal yesterday requested the home ministry to seek Interpol red notices against nine ministers and an adviser of the previous Awami League government.

Chief Prosecutor Tajul Islam disclosed the move during a views-exchange meeting with reporters at his office, saying that the individuals named in the request face multiple charges related to crimes against humanity committed during the July uprising.

The accused include Obaidul Quader, AL general secretary and former minister of road transport and bridges; Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, former home minister; AKM Mozammel Haque, ex-minister

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The BNP yesterday organised a large rally in the capital to show solidarity with the Palestinian people. Party supporters gathered at Nayapaltan and marched, carrying flags, banners, and placards while chanting slogans against the Israeli atrocities in Gaza.

PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

1cr new jobs in 18 months Promises Fakhru if BNP voted to power

STAR REPORT

If voted to power in the next national election, the BNP has said it will generate employment for one crore people within its first 18 months in office.

The party has also set a target of achieving a \$1 trillion GDP by 2034. In addition, the BNP aims to reduce the tax burden on citizens and explore ways to increase revenue collection.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir outlined the proposals in a post on his verified Facebook page yesterday.

He also noted that BNP's acting chairman Tarique Rahman shared three key messages in a goodwill note on the occasion of the Bangladesh Investment Summit 2025.

They are: unity is the foundation of national development; it was the government of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman that first enacted laws to attract foreign direct investment (FDI); and the governments led by Khaleda Zia consistently pursued investment-friendly policies.

In the post titled "S1 Trillion Economy," Mirza Fakhru wrote that if the BNP wins the upcoming election and forms the next government, the party plans to raise the foreign direct investment (FDI)-to-GDP ratio from the current 0.45% to 2.5%. It has also set a long-term goal of reaching a \$1 trillion GDP by 2034.

Currently, Bangladesh has a GDP worth around \$450 billion.

To enhance revenue collection, the BNP wants to

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ESCALATING US-CHINA TRADE WAR

Global economy in tailspin

US stocks back in free fall; US hitting Beijing with 145% tariff

AGENCIES

The US-China trade war intensified yesterday, sending the global economy into unknown territory and dampening relief after President Donald Trump's earlier climbdown from a wider tariff onslaught against the rest of the world.

The White House clarified that Trump's big hike in tariffs on China announced 24 hours earlier had actually taken his total levies this year on imports from the world's second biggest economy to a staggering total of 145 percent -- not the previously reported 125 percent.

This was because the latest tariff hike comes on top of a 20 percent tariff already imposed earlier. China has retaliated with levies of 84 percent on US imports.

The superpower confrontation threw a deep shadow over the jubilation that Trump was retreating from threats to impose punishing tariffs on dozens of other countries -- everywhere from European Union allies to Asian manufacturing hubs like Vietnam and even tiny, remote ocean islands.

Trump maintained a blanket 10 percent tariff on most countries. However, his retreat from more damaging levies against European countries prompted the EU to pause plans for its own retaliation.

Amid relief, Asian and European stock markets rocketed, with Tokyo closing 9.1 percent higher.

But the realisation that Trump's splashy about-face on Wednesday masked the reality of a surging trade war with China dampened spirits.

EU suspends counter-tariffs for 90 days after Trump U-turn

China's 84% levy on US goods comes into effect

Beijing says tariffs 'goes against the world', curbs Hollywood imports

Wall Street's main indexes tumbled yesterday on concerns over the impact of high US tariffs on global economy, with stocks pulling back sharply from the day-ago gains when Trump moved to pause the levies on some countries.

The 90-day halt in tariffs had lifted the S&P 500 .SPX to its biggest single-day percentage gain since 2008 on

Wednesday. The Nasdaq .IXIC posted its biggest one-day jump since 2001.

At 12:19 pm ET, the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI fell 1,872.86 points, or 4.61 percent, to 38,735.59, the S&P 500 .SPX lost 298.72 points, or 5.45 percent, to 5,158.18 and the Nasdaq Composite .IXIC lost 1,091.78 points, or 6.38 percent, to 16,033.20.

Most S&P 500 sectors nursed losses. Information technology .SPHRT and energy .SPNY led the fall, down more than 7% each.

Big Tech came under pressure once again, with Apple AAPL.O down 7%, Microsoft MSFT.O 4.7% and Nvidia NVDA.O 8.5%.

Gold prices hit a record high as the US dollar crumbled.

Trump says he wants to use tariffs to reorder the world economy by forcing manufacturers to base themselves in the United States.

Howard Lutnick, his commerce secretary, was bullish, posting on social media Thursday that "the Golden Age is coming. We are committed to protecting our interests, engaging in global negotiations and exploding our economy."

Amid questions over how far Trump is ready to push, the European Union welcomed the US president's partial row-back on his original threat to impose 20

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PURBACHAL PLOT GRAFT Arrest warrants issued against Hasina, Putul

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued arrest warrants against 18 people, including former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and her daughter Saima Wazed Putul, on charges of irregularities in plot allocation in Purbachal New Town.

Judge Md Zakir Hossain of Dhaka Metropolitan Senior Special Judge's Court passed the order after taking cognisance of the charges.

The judge directed the officers-in-charge of over a dozen police stations in Dhaka and other parts of the country to submit progress reports on the execution of the arrest warrants by May 4.

On March 25, Anti-Corruption Commission Assistant Director Anan Jannat Keya, also the investigation officer in the case, submitted the charge sheet against the 18 accused, showing them as fugitives. She appealed to the court to issue arrest warrants against them as they had not been granted bail by any court.

According to ACC documents, Hasina, in collusion with senior Rajuk officials, had six plots allotted to herself, her son Sajeb Wazed Joy, daughter Putul, younger sister Sheikh Rehana, Rehana's son Radwan Mujib Siddiq Bobby, and Rehana's daughter Azmina Siddiq, in violation of rules.

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No country wishes Bangladesh well more than India Says Jaishankar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Indian External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said yesterday that no country wishes Bangladesh well more than India.

"That's almost in our DNA. As a well-wisher, as a friend, I think we hope they go the right way and do the right thing," he added.

Jaishankar, who was participating in an interactive session at the Rising Bharat summit in New Delhi organised by the News18 TV channel, said, "Democracies require elections. That's how mandates are given and mandates are renewed. So, we hope that they go down that path."

He also said, "Our relationship with



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BNP men hand witness in Salauddin Quader's case to police

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Cox's Bazar

Freedom fighter Nurul Absar, 76, who had testified in court against executed war criminal and former BNP standing committee member Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, was confined by BNP and Jubo Dal activists in Ramu upazila of Cox's Bazar and later handed over to police yesterday.

Absar was in the house of Abdul Gani Majhi in Paschimpara area of the upazila when pro-BNP men surrounded the house in the early hours, said police.

Absar is a resident of Chandonpura village in Rangunia upazila of Chattogram.

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'People asking us to stay for 5 more years' Says home adviser

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Home Adviser Lt Gen (retd) Jahangir Alam Chowdhury yesterday said that people are telling them to stay for five more years.

"Law and order situation in the country has improved. Efforts to maintain law and order have intensified and will increase further. People are telling us, 'You should stay for five more years,'" he said while speaking to reporters after visiting the Shantiganj Police Station in Sunamganj.

Responding to a query about India's reply to the return of Sheikh Hasina, the adviser said, "We have an agreement with India regarding the



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HARBINGER OF SPRING

A citrine wagtail perches delicately between blooming water lilies on the tranquil waters of the Muhuri river in Feni -- its vibrant yellow plumage contrasting beautifully with the soft pink petals. Often found in wetlands and marshes across Asia and Europe, the small songbird is known for its distinct tail wag while foraging. Much like other feathered friends, the wagtail also plays its part in maintaining the ecological balance of nature by controlling insect populations, and dispersing seeds. In parts of Asia, its seasonal migration is associated with the arrival of spring.

PHOTO: NOBLE CHAKMA

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