

INTERNATIONAL

US top court curtails power of lone judges to block Trump

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump said yesterday he can now push through a raft of controversial policies after the Supreme Court handed him a "giant win" by curbing the ability of lone judges to block his powers nationwide.

In a 6-3 ruling stemming from Trump's bid to end birthright citizenship, the court said nationwide injunctions issued by individual district court judges likely exceed their authority.

"This was a tremendous win," Trump told reporters in a hastily arranged press conference at the White House. "I want to just thank again the Supreme Court for this ruling."

Trump said he would now proceed with "so many policies" that had been "wrongly" blocked, including his bid to end birthright citizenship, and stopping funding for transgender people and "sanctuary cities" for migrants.

US Attorney General Pam Bondi, standing alongside Trump at the podium, said the ruling would stop "rogue judges striking down President Trump's policies across the entire nation."

Democrats swiftly blasted the decision, saying it would embolden Trump as he pushes the boundaries of presidential power in his second term.

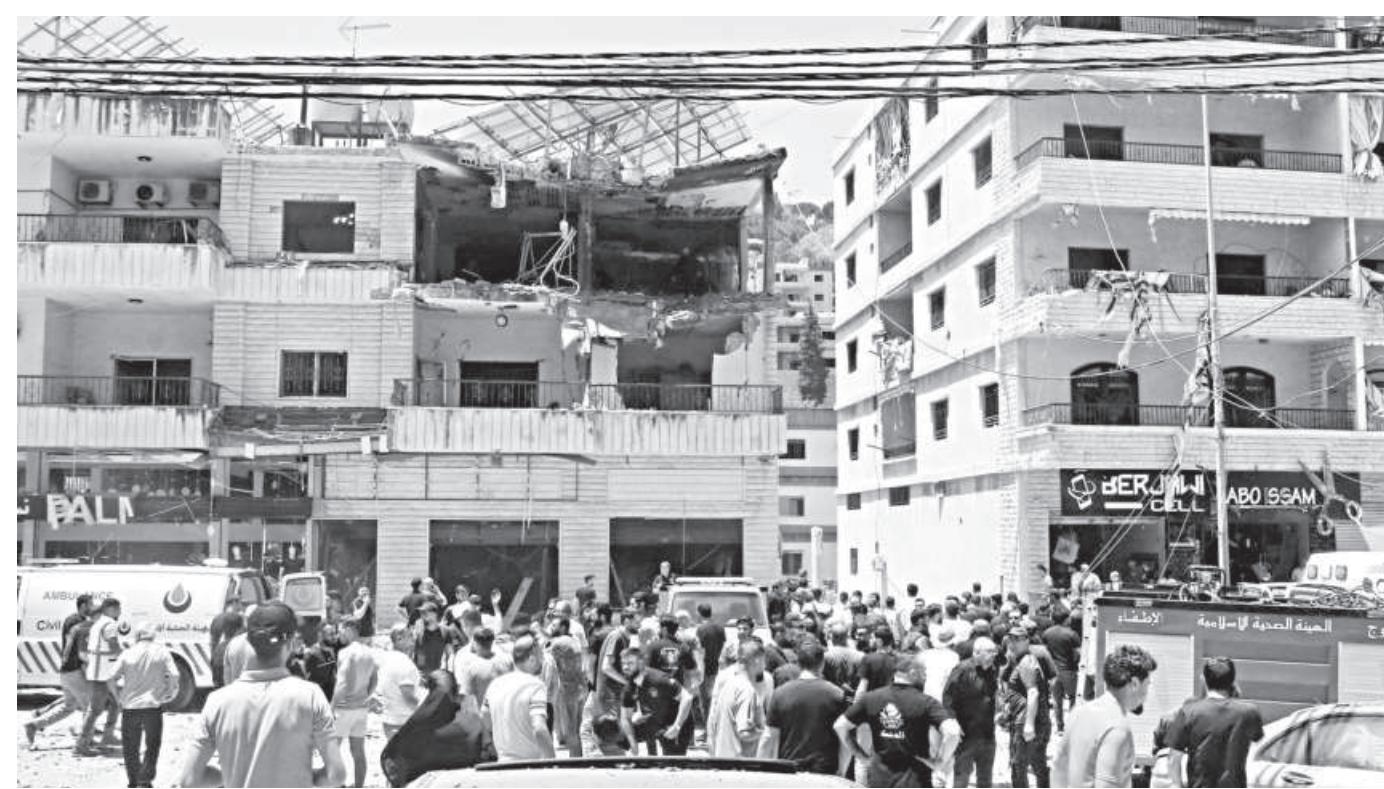
Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer called it a "terrifying step toward authoritarianism."

Trump, however, rejected concerns about the concentration of power in the White House.

"This is really the opposite of that," Trump said. "This really brings back the Constitution."

Trump separately hailed a "great ruling" by the Supreme Court to let parents opt their children out of LGBTQ-themed lessons at public schools.

The Supreme Court did not rule on the constitutionality of Trump's executive order seeking to end automatic citizenship for children born on US soil.



People inspect the damage after an Israeli strike on Nabatieh in southern Lebanon yesterday. According to Lebanon's health ministry, a woman was killed and 11 others were wounded in the strike in the country's south, despite a ceasefire between Israel and Hezbollah.

PHOTO: AFP

'\$30bn civil nuke deal, unfreeze funds'

Trump admin offers Iran to resume nuclear talks

CNN ONLINE

The Trump administration has discussed possibly helping Iran access as much as \$30 billion to build a civilian-energy-producing nuclear programme, easing sanctions, and freeing up billions of dollars in restricted Iranian funds – all part of an intensifying attempt to bring Tehran back to the negotiating table, four sources familiar with the matter said.

Key players from the US and the Middle East have talked with the Iranians behind the scenes even amid the flurry of military strikes in Iran and Israel over the past two weeks, the sources said. Those discussions have continued this week after a ceasefire deal was struck, the sources said.

Trump administration officials emphasized that several proposals

have been floated. They are preliminary and evolving with one consistent non-negotiable: zero Iranian enrichment of uranium, which Iran has consistently said it needs. But at least one preliminary draft proposal, described to CNN by two sources, includes several incentives for Iran.

Some details were hashed out in a secret, hours-long meeting between US special envoy Steve Witkoff and Gulf partners at the White House last Friday, the day before US military strikes against Iran, two sources familiar with the meeting told CNN.

Among the terms being discussed, which have not been previously reported, is an estimated \$20-30 billion investment in a new Iranian non-enrichment nuclear program that would be used for civilian energy purposes, Trump administration

officials and sources familiar with the proposal told CNN. One official insisted that money would not come directly from the US, which prefers its Arab partners foot the bill. Investment in Iran's nuclear energy facilities has been discussed in previous rounds of nuclear talks in recent months.

"The US is willing to lead these talks" with Iran, the Trump administration official told CNN. "And someone is going to need to pay for the nuclear program to be built, but we will not make that commitment."

Other incentives include potentially removing some sanctions on Iran and allowing Tehran to access the \$6 billion currently sitting in foreign bank accounts that it is restricted from freely using, according to the draft described to CNN.

Ukraine calls for EU sanctions

FROM PAGE 14

diplomatic communication, Ukraine's ambassador to India, Oleksandr Polischuk, said Dhaka had not responded to the communication and Kyiv will now escalate the matter as its intelligence showed entities in Russia mix grain procured from occupied Ukrainian territories with Russian wheat before shipping.

"It's a crime," Polischuk said in an interview at Ukraine's embassy in New Delhi. "We will share our investigation with our European Union colleagues, and we will kindly ask them to take the appropriate measures."

Ukraine's diplomatic tussle with Bangladeshi authorities has not been previously reported. The Bangladeshi and Russian foreign ministries did not respond to requests for comment.

A Ukraine official told Reuters Ukrainian law prohibits any voluntary trade between Ukrainian producers, including grain farmers in the occupied territories, and Russian entities.

The Ukraine Embassy has sent four letters to Bangladeshi's government, reviewed by Reuters, in which it shared vessel names and their registration numbers involved in the alleged trade of moving the grain from the Crimean ports of Sevastopol and Kerch, occupied by Russia since 2014, and Berdiansk, which is under Moscow's control since 2022, to Kavkaz in Russia.

The letters stated the departure and tentative arrival dates of the ships that left from Kavkaz for Bangladesh between November 2024 and June 2025.

The June 11 letter said Bangladesh can face "serious consequences" of sanctions for taking deliveries of "stolen grain", and that such purchases fuel

"humanitarian suffering."

The sanctions "may extend beyond importing companies and could also target government officials and the leadership of ministries and agencies who knowingly facilitate or tolerate such violations," the letter added.

In a statement to Reuters, Anita Hippler, EU Spokesperson for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, said the vessels in question were not currently subject to any restrictive measures.

The sanctions regime was designed to act against activities that undermine the food security of Ukraine including transportation of "stolen Ukrainian grain" and "any proven involvement of vessels in shipping stolen Ukrainian grain could provide the basis for future restrictive measures," she added.

Amid the war with Russia, the agricultural sector remains one of the main sources of export earnings for Ukraine, supplying grain, vegetable oil and oilsseeds to foreign markets.

In April, Ukraine detained a foreign vessel in its territorial waters, alleging it was involved in the illegal trade of stolen grain, and last year seized a foreign cargo ship and detained its captain on similar suspicions.

The EU has so far sanctioned 342 ships that are part of Russia's so-called shadow fleet, which the bloc says enable Moscow to circumvent Western restrictions to move oil, arms and grain.

Russia says Western sanctions are illegal.

Contacted, a foreign ministry official in Dhaka said he was not sure whether any letter from Ukraine had been received.

"I will have to check. I can update you on Sunday," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Beijing confirms

FROM PAGE 14

implement the Geneva agreement".

That clarification came after the US president told an event that Washington had "just signed" a deal relating to trade with China, without providing further details.

Beijing confirmed yesterday that an agreement had been reached. "It is hoped that the United States and China will meet each other halfway," a spokesperson for the commerce ministry said in a statement. It said both sides had "further confirmed the details of the framework".

Under the deal, China "will review and approve applications for the export control items that meet the requirements in accordance with the law".

China visit

FROM PAGE 14

delegation had an excellent meeting with CPC leaders.

He added that the CPC invited BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and expressed satisfaction with his leadership.

Fakhrul said the BNP too invited the CPC to visit Bangladesh, and it accepted the invitation.

The BNP leader further said that both parties discussed signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for a two-year political dialogue.

The other delegates are BNP Standing Committee members Mirza Abbas, Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, and Selima Rahman, BNP chairperson's advisers Zahir Uddin Swapan, Ismail Zabiullah, and Prof Sukomal Barua, media cell convener Moudud Hossain Alamgir Pavel, and BNP chairperson's personal secretary ABM Abdus Sattar.

India bans

FROM PAGE 14

said the notification signed by Ajay Bhaduri, director general of foreign trade.

"Import from Bangladesh shall not be allowed from any land port on India-Bangladesh border. However, it is allowed only through Nhava Sheva seaport... Import of certain goods from Bangladesh to India are regulated with immediate effect," the notification read.

The decision came a little more than a month after India had imposed port restrictions on the import of certain goods like readymade garments and processed food items from Bangladesh via land routes.

On April 9, India withdrew transhipment facilities previously extended to Bangladesh for garments exports to the Middle East and Europe, with exceptions made only for Nepal and Bhutan.

Is Bangladesh going to squander its fresh start?

FROM PAGE 14

rate has dipped from nearly 12% in July last year to 9% in May. The government has sought to clear bad loans from the banks and started hunting for billions of dollars that the previous government is believed to have siphoned abroad."

In recent weeks, both the International Monetary Fund and the ADB have approved multi-billion-dollar loans, but so far, the government's reforms have focused only on "low-hanging fruit", says the article quoting Chandan Sapkota of the ADB.

"Bangladesh still depends heavily on exports of textiles, has woeful infrastructure and is not creating enough jobs for its youngsters. These issues have grown urgent now that America is waging tariff wars."

While the interim government's action on the economy has been appreciated abroad, its foreign policy raises eyebrows, it says.

Yunus says Bangladesh is "reaching out to everybody", but in March he was in China for his first big bilateral trip.

"Reports suggest Bangladesh may buy Chinese J-10C and J-17 fighter jets—the same aircraft used by Pakistan in its conflict with India in May."

All these have strained Bangladesh's ties with India, which used to be Bangladesh's strongest ally and is providing shelter to Sheikh Hasina, adds the article.

"In April India cancelled a transhipment facility that allowed Bangladeshi goods to be sent abroad from Indian airports; that will increase costs for firms."

"Aligning with China could also hurt relations with America. Before that country cut foreign aid, Bangladesh was one of its biggest beneficiaries; much of the money helped Bangladesh host the 1.1m Rohingya refugees who live near the border with Myanmar. America is also the biggest market for Bangladeshi exports."

Yunus calls for

FROM PAGE 14

"The whole world—and young people can do this just the same. Enough is enough. Get out of the way. You made enough problems for us. Let the world grow in its own way; we create a new world for us, and that's our promise."

A video message from Thomas Bach, the honorary president of the International Olympic Committee, was broadcast at the event, in which he praised the profound impact of Prof Yunus's social business movement.

The inaugural ceremony was also addressed by Gwyn Lewis, UN Resident Coordinator in Bangladesh, Mitsu Izumo, founder of Japan's Euglena GG Ltd, Ismail Serageldin, former vice president of the World Bank, and Ashrafuzz Hassan, chairman of Grameen Group, among others.

DHAKA SATURDAY JUNE 28, 2025

ASHAR 14, 1432 BS

The Daily Star

9

Russian strike kills 5, wounds 14 in Ukraine

AFP, Kyiv

A Russian strike yesterday killed five people and wounded more than a dozen in Ukraine's industrial Dniproptetrovsk region, where Moscow has stepped up fatal bombardments.

Russian forces, which invaded Ukraine early in 2022, are vying to gain a foothold in Dniproptetrovsk for the first time in the war.

"Three people have been killed in an enemy attack. Fourteen people have been wounded," regional governor Sergiy Lysak said of the attack on the town of Samar, outside the region's main city Dniproptetrovsk.

Russian forces earlier this week struck both Dniproptetrovsk and Samar with missiles, leaving at least 23 dead. Ukrainian military officials have said that previous Russian strikes near Samar hit Ukrainian military training facilities.

Moscow earlier this week claimed to have captured two more villages near the border of the Dniproptetrovsk region.

Separately, authorities in the northern region of Kharkiv said Russian attacks killed one person and wounded three others, without specifying where the attack had taken place.

India arrests 3 after student gang-rape in Kolkata

AFP, New Delhi

Indian police have arrested three men accused of gang raping a law student in Kolkata, officials said yesterday, a case that has reignited anger in a city still scarred by the rape and murder of a doctor last year.

The survivor said she was assaulted on Wednesday evening inside a room on the college premises, Indian media reported, with the three accused including two current and one former student.

The All India Trinamool Congress (AITC), the ruling party in West Bengal state, said the "full weight of the law will be brought to bear".

The case again highlights the chronic issue of sexual violence in the world's most populous country, where an average of nearly 90 rapes a day were reported in 2022.

It has also sparked fresh political clashes between the AITC and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

36 Bangladeshis detained

FROM PAGE 14

recruitment cells within their own community.

"These cells were set up to indoctrinate radical beliefs, raise funds for terrorist activities, and to ultimately overthrow the legitimate government in their home country."

Contacted by The Daily Star, Bangladeshi High Commissioner to Malaysia Shamsheen Ahsan said he had noticed the statement issued by the Home Ministry of Malaysia.

"We are in touch with the authorities concerned for more specific information on the charges," he added.

Willing to discuss issues

FROM PAGE 14

research issues and to frame our approach.

An Indian newspaper recently reported – citing a senior official at the Ministry of External Affairs who attended a bilateral meeting with Bangladeshi counterparts in May – that the dialogue offered a chance to raise concerns over India's growing domestic water demands, which are expected to shape the terms of the proposed treaty.

The risk is that a large chunk of Bangladesh's voters decide that this decision has denied them a proper choice at the ballot box. The Awami League remains surprisingly popular: it is first choice for 14% of decided voters, and that is almost certainly an undercount.

The article quotes Human Rights Watch as saying that the interim government "arbitrarily" targeted Awami League supporters in a way similar to that of the previous government's abusive clampdown on opponents.

Mid-May, India imposed port restrictions on the import of key goods from Bangladesh, significantly curtailing overland trade in items such as readymade garments, processed foods, plastic products, and wooden furniture.

The Indian commerce ministry barred the import of all types of readymade garments from Bangladesh through land ports. These imports will now be permitted only through two designated sea route – Nhava Sheva, and Kolkata.

Asked to comment on the recent trilateral meeting between Bangladesh, China and Pakistan in Kunming on June 19, Jaiswal said, "We maintain a constant watch on the developments in our neighbourhood that have a bearing on our interests and our security."

"Our relations with individual countries, while they stand on their own, take into account the evolving context as well," he remarked.

BNP urges CA, CEC

FROM PAGE 1

to the nation, we will be reassured."

Salahuddin said the election timing was discussed earlier in a meeting between Yunus and BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman in London, where it was decided that the polls should be held in the first half of February 2026.

The chief adviser will officially convey that message to the chief election commissioner or the Election Commission. We are waiting for that. Yesterday [Thursday], the chief adviser met the chief election commissioner. We expected that either the Chief Adviser's Office or the Election Commission would inform the press on what was discussed during the meeting."

CEC AMM Nasir Uddin paid a courtesy call on Yunus at the latter's residence, Jamuna, on Thursday.

Salahuddin told journalists that the EC had repeatedly stated that it would complete all election-related preparations by September.