

Thailand gets third leader this week

New cabinet sworn in

AFP, Bangkok

Thailand saw its third person helming prime minister's office in a week yesterday, as the king swore in a new cabinet.

The PMO was upheaved on Tuesday when the Constitutional Court suspended PM Paetongtarn Shinawatra pending an ethics probe.

Power passed to deputy prime minister Suriya Jungrungreangkit who took office for only one full day. Former defence minister Phumtham Wechayachai was sworn in as interior minister by the king yesterday morning, taking on a deputy prime minister role outranking Suriya's – thus becoming the acting premier.



A mourner reacts while holding her injured child during the funeral of Palestinians who, according to Gaza's health ministry, were killed in an overnight Israeli strike on a tent, at Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

NUCLEAR WEAPON-FREE ZONE China willing to take lead in signing SE Asia treaty Says a foreign ministry spokesperson

REUTERS, Beijing

China firmly supports establishing a Southeast Asia nuclear weapon free zone and has made clear its willingness to take the lead in signing the treaty, a Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson said yesterday.

"We stand ready to stay in communication with Asean countries on this matter," Mao Ning told a regular press conference.

Malaysia said China and Russia have agreed to become signatories to the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (SEANWFZ), while the US is currently reviewing the treaty before signing, said Malaysian Foreign Minister Mohamad Hasan.

Mohamad said the involvement of superpowers in the treaty would help preserve Southeast Asia as a region of peace, free of nuclear weapons, per

Bernama.

On Wednesday, the United States lifted restrictions on exports to China for chip design software developers and ethane producers, a further sign of de-escalating US Sino trade tensions including concessions from Beijing over rare earths.

Synopsys, Cadence Design Systems and Siemens, three of the world's largest electronic design automation (EDA) software developers, said they are restoring access to their software and technology for customers in China.

Earlier in the day, the US also sent letters to ethane producers to rescind a restrictive licensing requirement on exports to China imposed in late May and June.

Beijing's move on rare earths, part of retaliation against Trump's earlier tariffs this year, has upended supply chains central to automakers.

First day ends

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is scheduled for July 8, and Bangladesh officials remain hopeful that a breakthrough may be reached by then.

Commerce Secretary Mahbubur Rahman will fly to the US to join the talks. "I will join the July 8 meeting in Washington," Rahman told The Daily Star.

According to sources, the USTR urged Bangladesh to carry out further technical work to bridge remaining differences. While progress has been made on several fronts, sticking points remain, particularly around rules of origin (RoO), geopolitical alignment clauses, and the structure of tariff reciprocity.

The Trump administration's initial tariff announcement raised duties on Bangladeshi exports to 53 percent from a prior effective rate of 16 percent. Bangladesh is seeking to bring the figure down through a negotiated agreement, offering reciprocal zero-duty access to many US goods in return.

But negotiations have stalled over several "tough conditions," according to officials familiar with the matter. One key demand from Washington is for Bangladesh to adopt regional rather than domestic value addition in its exports, a move Dhaka fears could hurt local industries.

Another contentious clause in the draft agreement would require Bangladesh to mirror US sanctions or embargoes against third countries, effectively aligning Dhaka's trade policy with Washington's geopolitical stance, according to the officials.

For example, if the US imposes a ban on Chinese goods, Bangladesh will be expected to follow suit. "That's simply not feasible given our heavy reliance on Chinese inputs for industrial production," one of the

officials said.

Commerce Secretary Rahman acknowledged the challenges: "It is very difficult to reach a consensus under such tough conditions. Negotiations must continue."

LIMITED LEVERAGE

Bangladesh's relative trade size with the US appears to be working against it. While bilateral trade stands at roughly \$10 billion – of which Bangladesh exports \$8 billion worth of goods – the volume pales in comparison to Vietnam's \$200 billion trade relationship with the US.

The Trump administration has already signed tariff deals with the UK and Vietnam, and others are reportedly in the final stages. Under a three-month pause announced in April, Trump pledged to sign 90 reciprocal agreements, but only a handful have been concluded so far.

"Vietnam agreed to zero-duty imports of US goods, and in return secured a 20 percent tariff on its exports to the US, far lower than the 37 percent rate initially imposed," Rahman noted. "Their deeper trade ties made it easier to reach a deal."

By contrast, Bangladesh's lower level of economic interdependence with the US means it has limited leverage to push back on US demands, despite offering substantial concessions.

As the July 9 deadline nears, uncertainty is weighing on exporters worldwide. Surveys showed that manufacturing sentiment is deteriorating across much of the US, Asia and Europe, in part due to anxiety over US tariff policies.

While Washington continues to push for far-reaching bilateral deals, analysts warn that many may remain unsigned due to the complexity of conditions attached.

Iran nuke program set back by up to two years

Claims Pentagon, says evolving US intelligence about the impact of strikes being closely watched

REUTERS, Washington

The Pentagon said on Wednesday that US strikes 10 days ago had degraded Iran's nuclear program by up to two years, suggesting the US military operation likely achieved its goals despite a far more cautious initial assessment that leaked to the public.

Sean Parnell, a Pentagon spokesman, offered the figure at a briefing to reporters, adding that the official estimate was "probably closer to two years." Parnell did not provide evidence to back up his assessment.

"We have degraded their program by one to two years, at least intel assessments inside the Department (of Defense) assess that," Parnell told a news briefing.

US military bombers carried out strikes against three Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22 using more than a dozen 30,000 pound (13,600 kg) bunker-buster bombs and more than two dozen Tomahawk land attack cruise missiles.

The evolving US intelligence about the impact of the strikes is being closely watched, after President Donald Trump said almost immediately after they took place that Iran's program had been obliterated, language echoed by Parnell at Wednesday's briefing.

Such conclusions often take the



US intelligence community weeks or more to determine.

"All of the intelligence that we've seen (has) led us to believe that Iran's – those facilities especially, have been completely obliterated," Parnell said.

Over the weekend, the head of the UN nuclear watchdog, Rafael Grossi, said that Iran could be producing enriched uranium in a few months, raising doubts about how effective US strikes to destroy Tehran's nuclear program have been.

Several experts have also cautioned that Iran likely moved a stockpile of near weapons-grade highly enriched uranium out of the deeply buried Fordow site before the strikes and could be hiding it.

But US Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth said last week he was unaware of intelligence suggesting

Iran had moved its highly enriched uranium to shield it from US strikes.

A preliminary assessment last week from the Defense Intelligence Agency suggested that the strikes may have only set back Iran's nuclear program by months. But Trump administration officials said that assessment was low confidence and had been overtaken by intelligence showing Iran's nuclear program was severely damaged.

According to Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi, the strikes on the Fordow nuclear site caused severe damage.

"No one exactly knows what has transpired in Fordow. That being said, what we know so far is that the facilities have been seriously and heavily damaged," Araqchi said in the interview broadcast by CBS News on Tuesday.

“

I have investigated it day by day for 630 days and, frankly, after five months I could tell you that it was genocide. You don't need a scientist to establish what is genocide. You just need to connect the dots.

UN Special Rapporteur on the Occupied Palestinian Territories
Francesca Albanese on Gaza situation

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড এর গ্রিন ফ্যাক্টরি অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০২৫ অর্জন

বাংলাদেশ সরকারের শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় কর্তৃক পরিবেশবান্ধব শিল্পায়ন, কার্বন নিঃসরণ হ্রাস, জ্বালানি দক্ষতা, বর্জ্য ব্যবস্থাপনা, টেকসই শিল্পায়ন ও কর্মপরিবেশে উৎকর্ষতার স্বীকৃতি স্বরূপ খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড 'গ্রিন ফ্যাক্টরি অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০২৫' অর্জন করেছে। সম্প্রতি ঢাকার গুসমানী স্মৃতি মিলনায়তনে আয়োজিত গ্রিন ফ্যাক্টরি অ্যাওয়ার্ড-২০২৫ অনুষ্ঠানে প্রধান অতিথি শ্রম ও কর্মসংস্থান মন্ত্রণালয় এবং নৌপরিবহন মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় উপদেষ্টা প্রিন্সিপ্যাল জেনারেল (অব.) এম সাখাওয়াত হোসেনের কাছ থেকে এই সম্মানজনক পুরস্কার গ্রহণ করেন খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড এর ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক কমন্ডার এম আব্দুল লতিফ, (এল), ওএসপি, এনভিসি, পিএসসি, বিএন।

খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড প্রতিরক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়ের অধীনস্থ ও বাংলাদেশ নৌবাহিনী দ্বারা পরিচালিত একটি সরকারি বাণিজ্যিক প্রতিষ্ঠান। ১৯৫৭ সালে প্রতিষ্ঠিত এই প্রতিষ্ঠানটি রূপনা নদীর পশ্চিমতীরে অবস্থিত। এখন পর্যন্ত এটি বাংলাদেশের সরকারি/বেসরকারি বিভিন্ন ধরনের নৌগরিক ও সামাজিক সুবিধা বিদ্যমান রয়েছে। প্রতিষ্ঠানটি প্রাথমিক বিদ্যালয়, কলেজিয়েট স্কুল, কারিগরি প্রশিক্ষণ কেন্দ্র, মসজিদ ও মাদ্রাসা পরিচালনা করছে, যা কর্মীদের সন্তানদের শিক্ষার ভূমিকা রাখছে। এসব উদ্যোগ ও সুবিধাদি খুলিলিকে একটি পরিবেশবান্ধব, শ্রমিকবান্ধব ও মানবিক প্রতিষ্ঠান হিসেবে প্রতিষ্ঠিত করেছে।

এই অর্জন শুধু একটি পুরস্কার নয়, বরং পরিবেশসম্মত, দায়িত্বশীল ও টেকসই শিল্প গড়ে তোলার প্রতিশ্রুতির বাস্তব রূপ। এটি প্রত্যেক শ্রমিক, কর্মচারী এবং নেতৃত্বের সম্মিলিত প্রচেষ্টার ফল। এ অর্জনের জন্য আমাদের বোর্ড অব ডাইরেক্টর সহ সকল সম্মানিত ক্রেতা, সরবরাহকারী, সংশ্লিষ্ট অঙ্গসংগঠন ও শুভাকাঙ্ক্ষীদের আন্তরিক কৃতজ্ঞতা ও ধন্যবাদ জানাই।

কর্তৃপক্ষ
খুলনা শিপইয়ার্ড লিমিটেড

GD-1528

BALI ISLAND 5 dead, 29 missing after ferry sinks

AFP, Denpasar

At least five people were dead and dozens unaccounted for yesterday after a ferry sank in rough seas on its way to Indonesian resort island Bali, according to rescue authorities who said 31 survivors had been plucked from the water so far.

Rescuers were racing to find 29 people still missing at sea after the vessel carrying 65 passengers and crew sank before midnight on Wednesday, as it sailed to the popular holiday destination from Indonesia's island Java.

"The ferry tilted and immediately sank," survivor Eka Toniaryah told reporters at a Bali hospital.

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