



Ukrainian serviceman prepares Hornet drone to launch towards Russian troops near front line in Donetsk, yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Deal a ‘declaration of US defeat’

FROM PAGE 12
through Pakistan’s mediation.

“That is why, the Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding became a declaration of America’s defeat,” he said, adding that security in the Middle East must be ensured by the countries of the region.

Meanwhile, the US Senate passed a largely symbolic resolution Tuesday calling for an end to President Donald Trump’s war with Iran, delivering a fresh rebuke to the White House as it tries to negotiate a lasting settlement with Tehran.

The US maintains several military bases across the Middle East, notably in the Gulf where US Secretary of State Marco Rubio kicked off a tour yesterday in a bid to reassure allies, reports AFP.

Rubio arrived in the United Arab Emirates on Tuesday and was scheduled to hold closed-door talks with its leader, Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, before flying to Kuwait and then Bahrain, where he will attend a Gulf Cooperation Council meeting.

Rubio said he intended to discuss the US-Iran memorandum of understanding with Gulf leaders, which does not address Iran’s missile programme and proxies – two long-standing concerns for Gulf nations and

Israel.

But Iran was defiant, appearing to insist that the Gulf nations might do better by aligning themselves with the Islamic republic instead of with the West.

“We see the future of the region not in confrontation but in interaction and not in elimination but in coexistence,” Ghalibaf said.

Iran’s chief negotiator also reiterated that peace in Lebanon, which was drawn into the war when Tehran-backed Hezbollah launched attacks on Israel, was a fundamental pillar of reaching a definitive agreement with the US.

Lebanon and Israel are discussing a US-backed proposal for Israeli forces to pull out of some of the territory invaded in the war with Hezbollah and hand it to Lebanese army control during talks in Washington, officials on both sides said.

But Israel’s Defence Minister Israel Katz said Israeli troops will not withdraw from southern Lebanon, highlighting the hurdle to peace talks.

Pakistan said yesterday that technical talks will resume next week. “I presume on Tuesday,” foreign ministry spokesman Tahir Andrabi told journalists in Islamabad, adding

next Monday or Wednesday were also possible dates.

One of the key sticking points has been Iran’s nuclear programme, long a source of friction with Western powers who suspect Tehran is building a bomb, a claim it has systematically denied.

Trump said Tuesday that Tehran had “fully and completely agreed” to allow United Nations inspectors to return to the country, but Iran said it has no intention of doing so.

Yesterday, the head of the UN’s nuclear watchdog said inspections of Iranian nuclear sites were “going to happen”.

Three stranded tankers carrying 5 million barrels of crude oil were exiting the Strait of Hormuz yesterday, with two heading to Asia, shipping data showed.

Oman said it was working with the United Nations’ International Maritime Organisation (IMO) to put in place a temporary transit corridor for vessels passing through the Strait of Hormuz, reports Reuters.

In a post on X yesterday, Oman’s Maritime Security Centre has said the corridor is in line with Oman’s commitment to international law and ensuring toll-free navigation of the strait, reports Al Jazeera online.

Trial of Taposh, Nanok begins at ICT

FROM PAGE 12
Testifying before the tribunal, Shahidul said Farhan, a Class XI science student at Dhaka Residential Model College, had joined a peaceful protest near old Dhanmondi-27 on July 18.

He alleged that police and AL activists attacked the demonstrators and opened indiscriminate fire, during which Farhan was shot in the chest.

After learning that his son had been taken to a hospital in Lalmatia, Shahidul rushed there and found injured students covered in blood and crying in pain.

“I ran to the ICU and saw Farhan wearing an oxygen mask. I stood there praying to Allah. After some time, the doctors removed the mask and covered his face with a cloth. Then I understood that my son was no more,” he told the tribunal.

AL men sued over attack

FROM PAGE 12
leaders and activists of AL, whose political activities are now banned.

Rabiul Hasan Rabbi, a resident of Bholakot union, lodged the case under the Anti-Terrorism Act with Ramganj Police Station on Monday night, said Officer-in-Charge Firoz Uddin Chowdhury.

Talking to this correspondent, Tuhin Malik, an accused in the case, said he was in jail during the incident but was still named in the case.

“I was arrested on June 3 in a case filed in Dhaka and was released on bail on June 17. Being named in an incident that occurred on June 16 is unfortunate,” he said, adding that jail records could verify his claim.

Tuhin said that he is a trader from Kochukhet, Dhaka, and claimed that he is not involved in politics. “I have been falsely implicated and tagged as an Awami League supporter.”

Police and locals said Rabbi, who had been associated with Chhatra Dal, the pro-BNP student organisation,

filed the case over the vandalism.

The Daily Star tried to contact Rabbi, but he did not respond to calls.

Efforts to reach former AL MP Anwar by phone were unsuccessful, as his phone was switched off.

The vandalism at Farid Ahmed Bhuiyan Academy occurred following the recovery of the body of Mehedi Hasan, a 14-year-old eighth-grader, from the school dormitory.

After allegations of murder spread, agitated locals attacked, vandalised, and set fire to the institution between 11:00pm and 2:00am that night.

On information, the local upazila nirbahi officer and Ramganj police brought the situation under control.

On June 18, the victim’s father, Zia Uddin, filed a murder case. The case statement stated that Mehedi was subjected to severe physical and mental torture over false allegations of phone theft, which led to his death. The case names eight accused and leaves nine to 10 others unidentified.

Ramganj police later arrested

including former BGB officers Lt Col Mohammad Redowanul Islam and Maj Rafat Bin Alam Moon, who were present in the dock.

The other accused are Rashedul Islam, then ADC of Khilgaon Zone, and Mashiur Rahman, then officer-in-charge of Rampura Police Station. Both are absconding.

Liton, who said he and his wife joined protests in Rampura on July 19 and were injured, testified that police and BGB personnel stationed around Rampura Bridge opened fire on protesters, killing several people, including 13-year-old Tamim Shikdar, Jan Sharif, Hafez Moslem Uddin, Sagar and Ashik.

Jan Sharif had been distributing water among protesters, he said.

Liton also alleged that helicopters overhead fired tear gas shells and sound grenades.

Shariful Islam, vice-principal of the institution and the dormitory supervisor, and Sajidul Islam, a 19-year-old student of the institution, in connection with the case.

According to the vandalism case statement, the accused gathered in front of the institution on June 16, chanting the slogan “Joy Bangla, Joy Bangabandhu”. When the complainant and witnesses arrived at the scene, they were attacked and injured by the accused, who also vandalised the institution.

The statement added that cashing in on public outrage over the student’s death, the accused launched a planned attack, vandalised property, and committed arson, creating a reign of terror, damaging institutional infrastructure, and worsening the local law-and-order situation.

Contacted, OC Firoz Uddin said the accused’s involvement would be investigated. “If any individual’s claim of being elsewhere or in prison during the incident is proven true, appropriate legal action will be taken.”

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Interpretation of Quranic verse

FROM PAGE 12

had been misinterpreted, Najibur said, “Does it mean that they will increase if we praise them and beat us if we do not? That is a wrong and highly misleading interpretation.”

“On this matter, Rasul (PBUH) gave stern warnings that these are not subjects of mockery or ridicule,” he added.

“We must take this matter very seriously. The Quran and Hadith must never be misinterpreted or disparaged,” he told Speaker Hafiz Uddin Ahmad, drawing his attention to the issue.

The Speaker said Farid was a senior parliamentarian.

“I do not believe he would make any sarcastic comment about the Quran and Hadith. Still, we will examine it. If any wrong interpretation is given of the Quran and Hadith, it will be expunged.

“Misinterpretation of the Quran and Hadith will never be acceptable in Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country,” he said, amid desk-thumping

by lawmakers.

Home Minister Salahuddin Ahmad then intervened, saying he did not want to debate the issue.

“However, it would send the wrong message to suggest, in any way, that one of our honourable MPs had misinterpreted a Quranic verse,” he said.

The minister noted that Farid was a Mawlana and a madrasa graduate. “He mentioned the verse in context. If we show gratitude for Allah’s blessings, Allah will increase them for us.”

He added that the government would also condemn any statement by an MP that was even inadvertently disrespectful to Islam. “This should not be politically misinterpreted, and it should not be politically used,” he said.

As opposition members continued to object, the Speaker said, “I already said Alamgir Mohammed Mahfuz Ullah Farid would not make sarcastic comments here. I do not want a debate on this.”

“Most of us here are Muslims, as are

92 percent of the country’s people. I therefore do not want any contentious discussion in parliament on such a sensitive issue,” he added.

The Speaker then gave the floor to Jamaat-e-Islami MP Mujibur Rahman, saying, “Do not raise anything that creates debate. Most here are Muslims, most respect the religion.”

Mujibur said, “Why was this verse revealed? The context is that Allah has placed countless blessings in this world. He said that if you try to count Allah’s blessings, you will not be able to finish counting.”

He suggested that the Speaker consult a scholar if he deemed it necessary.

“This verse does not mention human contributions,” he said.

The Speaker replied, “There are many madrasa-educated scholars here, more on that side. We have acknowledged that. But even in my treasury bench, there are one or two.”

The Speaker then resumed the budget discussion.

BSF push-ins leave 13 stranded

FROM PAGE 12

be verified by the Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB).

In Naogaon, BGB said it foiled an attempt by the BSF to push nine people into Bangladesh through the Sapahar border early yesterday.

According to a press release issued by Naogaon Battalion (16 BGB), BSF personnel from the Ellenpur camp attempted to push the group – three men, three women and three children – through border pillar 244/MP under the Adatala border around 4:00am.

After receiving information, a BGB patrol team rushed to the spot and prevented their entry into Bangladesh. The group later remained stranded at the border’s zero line.

Border patrols had been strengthened to prevent any illegal entry into the country, said Lt Col Mohammad Ariful Islam Masum, commanding officer of 16 BGB.

In Dinajpur, four people were detained after entering Bangladesh through a border point in Dinajpur

Sadar early yesterday, BGB said.

The detainees claimed that BSF personnel had allowed them to cross into Bangladesh, said Lt Col Arifuzzaman, commanding officer of BGB-29 Battalion in Phulbari.

Locals spotted the group in Shalki Duapara Patharbari village near the Bontara-Manipur border before they were taken to the Shankarpur Union Parishad office.

According to local Union Parishad member Pankaj Bashak, preliminary information suggests the detainees are residents of Mirzapur village in Narail’s Kalia upazila and had been living in India illegally for a long time.

In Kurigram’s Roumari upazila, two people who had been stranded in the no-man’s-land near the Gaytapara border since June 14 went missing early yesterday.

The authorities had no information about their whereabouts, said Subedar Shafiquil Islam, commander of the Gaytapara BGB camp under Jamalpur 35 BGB Battalion.

Three other people have remained stranded under the open sky near the

Two UPDF men killed in separate incidents

FROM PAGE 12

groups in Panchhari and Ramgarh upazilas on June 23 and June 24, respectively.

“During the operations, members of the armed organisation opened fire on the army, leading to an exchange of gunfire between the two sides. Subsequently, in the Barkalak area of Panchhari upazila, two members of the armed group surrendered with two AK-47 rifles, two magazines, and 132 rounds of ammunition.

“Meanwhile, in another operation conducted in the Hajachhara area of Ramgarh upazila, one member of the armed group was killed during an exchange of fire. Later, one AK-47 rifle, one magazine, one pipe gun, 27 rounds of ammunition, and other materials

were recovered from the scene,” the statement said.

Ramgarh Police Station OC Md Nazir Alam said security forces had yet to hand over the body to police. He said the incident occurred in a remote area and that police had initiated the necessary procedures.

The UPDF claimed another member, Mongsanu Marma alias Jibon, 29, was injured and detained.

Meanwhile, another UPDF activist, Sujan Chakma, 48, was shot dead around noon in Murapara area of Babuchhara in Dighinala upazila. The UPDF blamed the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (JSS-Santu Larma) for the killing, an allegation the group denied.

Dighinala Police Station Officer-in-Charge Iqbal Bahar said Sujan was

sitting at a shop in Murapara when four or five masked men arrived on motorcycles, opened fire and fled.

Police recovered the body and took it to the police station.

In a statement, UPDF (Prasit) spokesperson Angya Marma protested both incidents, demanded justice for the killings and called for Mongsanu’s release.

He claimed that security forces, who had earlier taken position in Premtola area of Ramgarh, attacked UPDF activists. As a result, Bobin Tripura was killed and Mongsanu Marma remains missing, he added.

In the statement, Angya Marma described the claims of an exchange of fire with the security forces and the recovery of weapons as “false and fabricated”.

Dhaka rejects Delhi’s explanation over Zahed’s airport harassment

FROM PAGE 2
reconfirming that the purpose of the visit was to attend the multilateral meeting.

“He, however, chose to return to Dhaka on his own volition,” he told a media briefing at the ministry in New Delhi.

Regarding a comment by the India’s external affairs ministry on minorities in Bangladesh, the spokesperson said Bangladesh believes every state bears equal responsibility to ensure the protection of rights and security of all citizens, including minorities, living within its territory.

The spokesperson reiterated that the Bangladesh government remains committed to safeguarding the rights and ensuring the security of all citizens, including members of minority communities.

Mob beats man

FROM PAGE 12

East Police Station, said locals caught the man on suspicion of mugging and later assaulted him. He died at the scene.

Police later recovered the body and sent it to Shaheed Ahsan Ullah Master General Hospital in Tongi.

Zillur said efforts were underway to identify the deceased through fingerprint verification.

Asked whether the victim had actually been involved in any mugging, he said the matter was under investigation.

Police were gathering further information about the incident, he added.

Relief for Croatia

FROM PAGE 12

every ball was in the possession of the opponent and many other balls as well that really destroyed us,” Dalic said after his team eliminated Panama from Group I contention.

“And we didn’t manage to overcome this initially, and this is why I was a little bit angry, and I reacted to this.”

After having slipped to defeat by England in their curtain-raiser, Croatia came into this match well aware that a loss would deny them any

chance of making the knockout round of the expanded 48-team tournament.

Despite all that was at stake, Croatia, who reached the final in 2018, made a slow start against a powerful Panama side before their pedigree ultimately surfaced after the break of the high-stakes Group I encounter.

“I didn’t expect that it was going to be such a difficult match, to be quite honest,” said Dalic. “We didn’t react the best, and perhaps it could be due

to the pressure, because we really needed to get these three points to move on to the second stage.”

Dalic, said his team’s performance needs to be better in all segments, especially defence, for their match against Ghana on Saturday in Philadelphia.

“I am not the happiest to be with the play, to be honest, especially, especially in the first half,” said Dalic. “But I will forget this, and now focus on what awaits us.”