

Pak court orders release of former PM Abbasi

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan's former prime minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi was granted bail yesterday after months in detention on graft charges.

Abbasi was one of several senior political figures arrested in a corruption crackdown overseen by the government of his successor, former World Cup cricketer Imran Khan.

Allies of Abbasi's Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N) party claim the current premier has mounted a witch hunt against his opponents.

Malaysia's

FROM PAGE 16

"We have agreed on a point that we have to open the market very soon," he said.

Talking to journalists, Segaran said they wanted workers from Bangladesh.

Before the meeting, he met Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen at his ministry office on that day.

In September 2018, Malaysia suspended hiring Bangladeshi workers on allegation of malpractices in the recruitment process and high recruitment costs.

In November last year, minister Imran visited Kuala Lumpur and held talks with Segaran about the labour market's reopening.

They emphasised the necessities of "standardising the recruitment process, employment and repatriation of Bangladeshi workers to ensure safe, transparent and orderly migration," according to a joint statement issued then.

As per the meeting outcome, the 4th JWG meeting was scheduled to be held in Dhaka in November last year.

But the meeting was postponed and deferred to February this year.

Since 2012, the Southeast Asian country hired Bangladeshi workers under a government-to-government system known as G2G.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding in 2016. Since then, Malaysia had been hiring Bangladeshi workers under a G2G plus system involving government organisations and 10 Bangladeshi private recruitment agencies.

In 2017, the Bangladesh government set Tk 1.6 lakh as migration cost for labour recruitment in Malaysia.

Malaysia hired 40,274 workers from Bangladesh between 2012 and 2015, says Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

The BMET data says the country hired around 3.15 lakh Bangladeshi workers in the next three years which dropped to 545 last year because of the suspension of hiring.

In terms of labour recruitment, Malaysia is the fourth largest market for Bangladeshi workers after Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates, and Oman.

Bangladesh air

FROM PAGE 16

Microscopic flecks are small enough to enter the bloodstream via the respiratory system, leading to asthma, lung cancer and heart disease.

Among the world's megacities of 10 million or more people, the most PM 2.5 toxic in 2019 was the Indian capital New Delhi, followed by Dhaka.

Air pollution researcher Abdus Salam said IQAir collected data from a number of machines installed in and outside Dhaka. It also collected data from satellite.

"The data quality is good, but what is important is that those data should be validated with standard equipment," he told this newspaper.

Salam, also a professor of Dhaka University, said no data from any other organisation showed that the country's air quality was good.

According to Air Quality Index, air quality between 0 to 50 is healthy, 51 to 100 is moderate, 101 to 150 is unhealthy for sensitive groups, 151 to 200 is unhealthy, 201 to 300 is very unhealthy, and 301 to 500 is dangerous.

World Health Organization says air pollution causes an estimated seven million premature deaths a year globally, mainly as a result of increased mortality from cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and respiratory infections.

It is estimated that more than 80 percent people living in urban areas are exposed to air quality levels that exceed WHO guideline limits, with low- and middle-income countries most at risk.

The IQAir report said air pollution constituted to be the most pressing environmental health risk facing the global population.

The South Asian countries are of particular concern, with 27 of the world's 30 most polluted cities are in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. The major population centres of New Delhi, Lahore, and Dhaka rank 5th, 12th and 21st respectively, according to IQAir report.

According to the report, air quality data shows clear indications that climate change can directly increase the risk of exposure to air pollution, through increased frequency and intensity of forest fires and sandstorms.



Members of the Israeli border police clash with Palestinians protesting Israeli settlements and a controversial US-brokered peace plan, in the Jordan Valley area of the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Woman dies in custody

FROM PAGE 16

tortured and killed. Police have denied torturing her.

Abdul Latif, officer-in-charge of Mohammadpur Police Station, said they arrested the woman along with three others from a house on Nurjahan Road for their alleged involvement in "sex work".

Two of the other arrestees were women, he said.

The OC said, "We raided the flat on Monday evening after receiving a phone call at 999 reporting that some antisocial activities were going on in there," said Latif.

"They were kept at Mohammadpur Police Station. Around 3:00am, Kalpana suddenly started yelling and saying that she was feeling unwell," he said.

She was immediately taken to Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College Hospital (ShSMCH) and later shifted to National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases where doctors said "she was brought dead," the police official added.

Her body was taken back to Suhrawardy Medical College morgue for an autopsy, the OC said.

Victim's daughter Ayesha Akhter Nupur said their mother left home around 3:00pm saying that she was going to visit the hospital.

As she did not return until late at night, we started calling her, she said, adding that the phone was switched off for the whole night.

"Finally, we found the phone turned on around 11:00am. A police official received the call and told that our mother died," said Ayesha.

The victim's family said she had been suffering from chest pain for the last couple of days.

She even had a medical check-up at the Suhrawardy hospital a few days ago, family members said.

The victim's sister Nilufar Yasmin said, "The police could have let us know that they have arrested her. Why they had to switch her phone off? "Why did they kill her?" asked the lamenting sister.

The family denied police's claims regarding her involvement with any criminal or anti-social activities and said police "fabricated the story" as she died in their custody.

The family also alleged that they were not allowed to see the body before the post-mortem.

"If we were allowed to see the body, we would have been able to inspect it for signs of abuse or torture," said Kalpana's brother Bacchu Miah.

He demanded a fair probe into the death.

The other arrestees were taken to

the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court from where they were released after paying a fine of Tk 300 each.

As soon as they walked out of the court premises, some female police members detained the two females and pushed into a police van around 5:45pm, witnessed our court correspondent.

Meanwhile, rights bodies Ain o Salish Kendra (ASK) and Human Rights Forum Bangladesh (HRFB) issued statements demanding an independent inquiry into the death of the woman.

"...Unless a crime has been proven in court and a person convicted of the crime, everyone has a right to be treated with the same dignity. Besides, the constitution states, 'No person shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading punishment or treatment,'" stated the press release sent by ASK.

Meanwhile, the statement issued by HRFB said, "The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court had issued clear directives regarding the conduct of law enforcers during arrest and remand, which is reportedly not being followed in many cases."

On February 18, a mother of two died several hours after she was picked up from home by the Detective Branch of police in Gazipur.

'The game is over now'

FROM PAGE 16

USSR WILL PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN ECONOMIC REHABILITATION: BANGABANDHU

Bangabandhu expresses his firm confidence that Soviet help and assistance would play a significant role in the economic rehabilitation of Bangladesh. The sentiment is expressed by the Prime Minister in his goodwill message which is read out at a function organised by the Bangladesh-Soviet Maitree Samity in Dhaka. Recalling the Soviet support both inside and outside the UN, Bangabandhu says that Soviet Union frustrated the international conspiracy of anti-Bangladesh forces and upheld Bangladesh's cause. He also recalls the letter of Soviet President Nikolai Podgorny sent to the then Pakistan President Yahya Khan and says that the Soviet Union protested the Pakistan military action in Bangladesh when the barbarous force was killing the innocent people of Bangladesh.

RS. 9 CRORE BRITISH INTEREST-FREE LOAN
Two interest-free British commodity loans worth Rs. 9,18,65,000 are signed today in Dhaka between

Declare March 7

FROM PAGE 16

across the country during the Mujib Borsho and to submit a compliance report in a month.

Besides, the HC issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to include Bangabandhu's historic March 7 Speech in textbooks for all students so that they can learn about the significance of the speech.

The court also ordered the authorities to build a liberty tower at the place where Bangabandhu gave

the speech, Deputy Attorney General Abdullah-Al-Mahmud Bashar told The Daily Star.

The HC bench of Justice FRM Nazmul Ahasan and Justice KM Kamrul Kader came up with the order and rule while hearing the petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Bashir Ahmed in November 2017.

Following the petition, another HC bench on November 20 that year issued a rule asking the government to explain why it should not be directed to declare March 7 as "National Historic Day".

Many Egyptians who lived through Mubarak's time in power view it as a period of autocracy and crony capitalism. His overthrow led to Egypt's first free election, which brought in Islamist President Mohamed Mursi.

Mursi lasted only a year in office after mass protests in 2013 led to his overthrow by then defence chief General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, who is now president.

Mubarak-era figures, meanwhile, are gradually being cleared of charges, and laws limiting political freedoms have raised fears among activists that the old regime is back.

Mubarak had long maintained his innocence and said history would judge him a patriot who served his country selflessly.

Hosni Mubarak dies

FROM PAGE 16

affairs, Anwar Gargash, said the Arab world had lost a statesman who took significant national and historic positions.

Mubarak did not leave the country after his overthrow, unlike Tunisia's Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, who fled with his family to Saudi Arabia after being ousted in protests that triggered the "Arab spring" revolts that spread to Egypt and elsewhere in the region.

In contrast, the Mubarak family has stayed in Egypt since 2011 but kept a low profile.

Egypt's presidency said in a statement yesterday that it mourned the death of ousted President Hosni Mubarak as a "military leader and war hero" and has offered its condolences to his family.

Pilkhana carnage

FROM PAGE 16

Pilkhana headquarters during the three-day "BDR Week". They killed 74 people, including 57 army officers.

The mutiny finally ended the following day with the surrender of firearms, ammunition and grenades through a negotiation between the then government and the BDR rebels.

A total of 58 cases were filed in connection with the incident.

Some 152 people were sentenced to death and

423 others to different jail terms in the killing case. Besides, 277 accused were acquitted.

Among the convicts, 262 mutineers were sentenced to different jail terms and 161 people, including late BNP leader Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and local Awami League leader Torab Ali, were sentenced to life imprisonment.

On the other hand, 5,926 BDR personnel were sentenced to different jail terms ranging from four months to seven years in the 57 mutiny cases.

Rising cases raise

FROM PAGE 16

South Korea, Italy and Iran have each logged sharp increases in infections and deaths, while several Middle Eastern countries and Croatia also reported their first confirmed COVID-19 cases.

WHO chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus insisted the virus could still be contained, praising China's drastic quarantine measures in several cities for helping to prevent an even bigger spread.

"For the moment we are not witnessing the uncontained global spread of this virus and we are not witnessing large-scale deaths," Tedros told reporters in Geneva on Monday.

He added, however, that countries should do everything they can to "prepare for a potential pandemic" -- a term is used to describe an illness that spreads across numerous communities. The White House plans to spend \$2.5 billion to combat the epidemic, according to US media. There are 53 cases in the United States so far.

IRAN HOTSPOT

Iran has emerged as a major hotspot with the death toll rising to 15 as three more people succumbed to the disease yesterday.

The country has been scrambling to contain the epidemic since last week when it announced its first two deaths in Qom, a centre for Islamic studies and pilgrims that attracts scholars from abroad.

Iran has confirmed 61 cases so far, making its mortality rate exponentially higher than anywhere else in the world and raising suspicion that many more people have contracted the disease there.

A WHO team was due in Iran yesterday. Iran's deputy health minister confirmed that he has tested positive for the new coronavirus.

Several neighbours have enacted measures to block arrivals from Iran but the virus has already spread to Afghanistan and elsewhere in the Middle East.

The WHO has warned that poorer countries with weak health care systems are the most at risk.

GAMES OFF

South Korean President Moon Jae-in warned that the outbreak was "very grave" as the country's death toll rose to 10 and the number of confirmed infections approached 1,000 -- the largest total outside China.

Scores of events have been cancelled or postponed as the outbreak has spread in the world's 12th-largest economy, from K-pop concerts to the World Team Table Tennis championship.

Parliament closed for cleaning yesterday after confirmation a person

with the coronavirus had attended a meeting last week.

More than 80 percent of the infections have been in and around Daegu, South Korea's fourth-largest city.

Streets there have been largely deserted for days, apart from long queues at the few shops with masks for sale.

Most of the country's infections are linked to the Shincheonji Church of Jesus, an entity often accused of being a cult. The US Centers for Disease Control warned Americans against "all nonessential travel to South Korea".

In Japan, a fourth former passenger of the coronavirus-stricken Diamond Princess cruise ship died, according to local media. The man was in his 80s.

Nearly 700 people from the quarantined ship have tested positive for the illness so far.

Infections have also spiked inside Japan, with at least 160 cases including one death.

The government has expanded the number of hospitals that can receive suspected patients and asked people with moderate symptoms to stay home.

Businesses were asked to "let people stay away from offices, to avoid rush hour commuting hours, and to encourage telecommuting," Health Minister Katsunobu Kato said.

Italy -- which has reported seven deaths and over 200 cases -- has locked down 11 towns, while upcoming football matches in its Serie A and the Europa League will be played behind closed doors.

Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte has said that residents could face weeks of lockdown.

Croatia reported the first known case in the Balkans region yesterday after a man who recently returned from Italy was found to be infected.

Hundreds of people were confined to their rooms at a Tenerife hotel yesterday after an Italian tourist was hospitalised with a suspected case of coronavirus, health officials in the Canary Islands said.

Two people in Austria have tested positive for the new coronavirus, authorities said yesterday.

CHINA CASES SLOW
In China, 508 new cases were reported, with all but nine at the outbreak's epicentre in central Hubei province.

The death toll nationwide reached 2,663 after 71 more people died, the lowest rise in almost three weeks.

Reassured by the official numbers, the country is gingerly returning to business.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh		National Board of Revenue	
Rajswa Bhaban, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.			
National Tender Notice			
1	Ministry Division	Internal Resources Division (IRD)	
2	Agency	National Board of Revenue (NBR)	
3	Procuring Entity Name	Member (Customs: Policy & ICT)	
4	Procuring Entity Code	N/A	
5	Procuring Entity District	Dhaka	
6	Invitation for	Tender Goods (Single Lot)	
7	Invitation Ref No	08.01.0000.091.53.001.19	
8	Date	26/02/2020	
KEY INFORMATION			
9	Procurement Method	Open Tendering Method	NCT
FUNDING INFORMATION			
10	Budget and Source of Funds	Revenue Budget	Government
11	Development Partner (if applicable)	N/A	
PARTICULAR INFORMATION			
12	Project / Programme Code (if applicable)	N/A	
13	Project / Programme Name (if applicable)	ASYCUDA World Implementation Programme	
14	Tender Package No	Package-05	
15	Tender Package Name	VPN data link between NBR and Customs House & LC Stations and Broad Band Internet Connection at NBR & NDC	
16	Tender Publication Date	26/02/2020	
17	Tender Last Selling Date	24/03/2020	
18	Tender Closing Date and Time	25/03/2020	2 : 00 PM
19	Tender Opening Date and Time	25/03/2020	2 : 30 PM
20	Name & Address of the Office(s)	Address(s)	
	Selling Tender Document (Principal)	Second Secretary (ASYCUDA WORLD) Room no-227/224 (First floor), Rajswa Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
	Selling Tender Document (Others)	N/A	
	Receiving Tender Document	Second Secretary (ASYCUDA World) Room no-227 (First floor), Rajswa Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
	Opening Tender Document	Member (Customs: Policy & ICT) (4 th floor), Rajswa Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	
21	Place/Date of Pre-Tender Meeting	Room- 230 (1st floor), Rajswa Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka-1000.	15/03/2020 11 : 00 AM
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER			
22	Eligibility of Tenderer	As per tender data sheet	
23	Brief Description of Goods or Works	VPN data link between NBR and Customs House & LC Stations and Broad Band Internet Connection at NBR & NDC	
24	Tender Document Price	3,000	BDT
	Lot No	Identification of Lot	Location
25	1	Single	National Board of Revenue (NBR)
			Tender Security Amount in Taka
			06 months
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS			
26	Name of Official Inviting Tenderer	Syed Golam Kibria	
27	Designation of Official Inviting Tenderer	Member (Customs: Policy & ICT)	
28	Address of Official Inviting Tenderer	(4 th floor), Rajswa Bhaban, National Board of Revenue, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.	
29	Contact details of Official Inviting Tenderer	Phone: 8391894 e-mail: syedgolam.kibria13@gmail.com	
30	Special Instruction	1. The Procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason. 2. If there is govt. holiday or unavoidable situation arises on the date of tender receiving/ opening in that case, the next working day will be considered valid date for receiving/ opening of the tender at the same place and time.	
(Syed Golam Kibria) Member (Customs: Policy & ICT) National Board of Revenue Segunbagicha, Dhaka.			
GD-369			