

PROTEST AGAINST NAT'L SECURITY LAWS

Dozens arrested in Hong Kong

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Hong Kong police arrested at least 53 people yesterday after scuffles erupted during a relatively peaceful protest against planned national security legislation to be implemented by the mainland Chinese government.

Armed riot police were present as a crowd of several hundred moved from Jordan to Mong Kok in the Kowloon district, staging what was intended as a "silent protest" against the planned law.

However, chanting and slogans were shouted towards police and later scuffles broke out in Mong Kok, prompting police to use pepper spray to subdue parts of the crowd. Hong Kong Police said on Facebook that 53 people had been arrested and charged with unlawful assembly, adding that earlier some protesters tried to blockade roads in the area.

The proposed national security law has raised concerns among Hong Kong democracy activists and some foreign governments that Beijing is further eroding the extensive autonomy promised when Britain handed the territory back to China in 1997.

"The governments wants to shut us up and to kick us out," one protester, Roy Chan, 44, said. "We must stand up and strike down all those people who deprive Hong Kong people's freedom."

China has said the law will target only a small group of troublemakers as it tackles separatism, subversion, terrorism and foreign interference in Hong Kong.

China's National People's Congress Standing Committee reviewed a draft of the bill yesterday, according to state media Xinhua.



A man gestures the protest slogan 'Five demands and not one less' as he is arrested and led onto a bus by police during a protest against China's planned national security law in Hong Kong, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

S'pore to continue with home-based learning post Covid-19

Pandemic or not, home-based learning (HBL) is set to become routine in Singapore, with schools setting aside several days every month for online learning. Minister for Education Ong Ye Kung, in his video address to school leaders at the Annual Workplan Seminar last Thursday, said that due to the pandemic, teachers, students and parents went through "an unexpected crash course" in HBL. But while recognising that HBL cannot be a substitute for school, where there is social interaction, the building of soft skills and values transmission, he said that HBL encourages more independent, self-directed learning, which is one of the most important lifelong skills. "The sensible thing to do is to complement classroom teaching with HBL, and make HBL a permanent and regular feature of education," he said.

Rolling Stones warn Trump of legal action over song use

British rock legends The Rolling Stones have threatened legal action against Donald Trump for the US president's use of their song "You Can't Always Get What You Want" at campaign rallies. The band has appointed performing rights organisation BMI to try to stop him using the song. The letter is the latest in a campaign to stop Trump using the song at rallies which dates back to 2016. The Stones are not the first major act to call on the president to stop using their songs. Queen complained when Trump walked on stage to their anthem "We Are The Champions" during a Republican Party event in 2016. Pharrell Williams, Rihanna, Aerosmith, Adele, Neil Young and the estate of singer Prince have all hit out after the use of songs by Trump.

Egypt belly dancer jailed for 'debauchery'



A high-profile Egyptian belly-dancer, Sama el-Masry, was sentenced to three years in prison and fined 300,000 Egyptian pounds (\$18,500) on Saturday for inciting debauchery and immorality as part of a crackdown on social media postings. El-Masry was arrested in April during an investigation into videos and photos on social media, including the popular video-sharing platform TikTok, that the public prosecution described as sexually suggestive. The dancer, 42, denied the accusations, saying the content was stolen and shared from her phone without consent. Cairo's Misdemeanours Economic Court on Saturday said she had violated family principles and values in Egypt as well as establishing, managing and using sites and accounts on social media with the aim of committing "immorality". El-Masry said she would appeal.

SOURCE: REUTERS, AFP, ANN

China sent martial artists to border before India clash

AFP, Beijing

China reinforced its troops near the Indian border with mountain climbers and martial arts fighters shortly before a deadly clash this month, state media reported.

Tensions are common between the two nuclear-armed neighbours in the mountainous border terrain, but this month's fighting was their deadliest encounter in over 50 years.

Five new militia divisions including former members of a Mount Everest Olympic torch relay team and fighters from a mixed martial arts club presented themselves for inspection at Lhasa on June 15, official military newspaper China National Defense News reported.

State broadcaster CCTV showed footage of hundreds of new troops lining up in the Tibetan capital.

Tibet commander Wang Haijiang said the Enbo Fight Club recruits would "greatly raise the organization



and mobilization strength" of troops and their "rapid response and support ability," China National Defense News reported, although he did not explicitly confirm their deployment was linked to ongoing border tensions.

Chinese and Indian troops clashed later that day in the most violent confrontation between the two powers in decades, in the Ladakh region 1,300 kilometres away.

India says 20 of its own soldiers were killed in brutal hand-to-hand

combat that day, while China suffered an unknown number of casualties.

Both sides have blamed each other for the battle, which was fought with rocks and batons without any shots fired. A bilateral accord prevents the use of guns, but the fighting was still fierce, with rudimentary weapons.

India said Thursday that it had reinforced troops in the contested Himalayan border region, saying it was matching a similar buildup by China.

Chinese state media have in recent weeks highlighted military activity including high-altitude anti-aircraft drills in the Tibet region.

India claims Chinese troops ambushed Indian soldiers and forced them down a ridge where they had gone to remove a Chinese "encroachment". China has in turn accused Indian soldiers of twice crossing the Line of Actual Control, the unofficial boundary, provoking its troops.

RUSSIA-TALIBAN BOUNTY INTELLIGENCE

Trump denies he was briefed amid uproar

AFP, Washington

US President Donald Trump yesterday denied he had been briefed on intelligence that reportedly showed Russia had offered bounties to Taliban-linked militants for killing US soldiers in Afghanistan.

In a pair of early morning tweets, Trump angrily slammed the report by The New York Times as "Probably just another phony Times hit job, just like their failed Russia Hoax."

"Nobody briefed or told me, @VP Pence, or Chief of Staff @MarkMeadows about the so-called attacks on our troops in Afghanistan by Russians, as reported through an 'anonymous source' by the Fake News @nytimes," he wrote.

"Everybody is denying it & there have not been many attacks on us..." "Nobody's been tougher on Russia than the Trump Administration."

On Friday, the Times reported that US intelligence had concluded that a Russian military intelligence unit offered rewards to Taliban-linked militants to kill troops of the US-led coalition in Afghanistan.

The rewards were purportedly incentives to target US forces as Trump tries to withdraw troops from the conflict-torn country -- one of the militants' key demands -- and end America's longest war.

Citing anonymous officials, The Times said Trump was briefed on the findings in March, but has not decided how to respond.

The Taliban and Russia have denied the report.



Gravediggers wearing protective suits rest between burials amid the outbreak of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) at Vila Formosa cemetery, in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Saturday. Brazil -- the second hardest-hit country after the US -- recorded 990 deaths on Saturday, the highest toll in the world that day.

PHOTO: REUTERS

'The beginning of another Palestine'

Kashmir Muslims fear demographic shift as thousands from outside get residency

AL JAZEERA ONLINE

Up to 25,000 people have been granted domicile certificates in Indian-administered Kashmir since May 18, raising fears of the beginning of demographic changes in the Muslim-majority Himalayan region.

The certificate, a sort of citizenship right, entitles a person to residency and government jobs in the region, which till last year was reserved only for the local population.

Last year on August 5, when India revoked the semi-autonomous status of the region, it also scrapped the local special citizenship law, guaranteed under Article 35 (A) of the Indian constitution. The move has drawn parallel with the occupied West Bank.

On Friday, Democratic presidential hopeful Joe Biden said, "India should take all necessary steps to restore the rights of all the people of Kashmir."

"The decision to provide non-Kashmiri residents with a domicile certificate is certainly the beginning of the end. This is the beginning



of Kashmir becoming another Palestine," Badar-UI-Islam Sheikh, a 29-year-old resident of the main city of Srinagar, told Al Jazeera.

According to a census conducted by India in 2011, out of 12.5 million total population, Muslims comprise 68.31 percent and Hindus 28.43 percent in Kashmir.

Article 35 (A) had barred outsiders, including Indian nationals from other states, from settling and claiming government jobs to maintain the demographic balance in the region.

In April this year, amid the coronavirus lockdown, the government notified domicile laws making an unspecified number of outsiders

eligible for residency and jobs.

According to the new law, any person who has lived in the region for 15 years, or has studied in the region for seven years and passed his class 10 or class 12 examination is eligible for domicile certificate. Also, children of Indian government employees who have served in the state for 10 years are eligible to settle and claim local residency rights. The law applies even if the children have never lived in Kashmir.

Kashmiri politicians across the divide have said the revocation of special citizenship rights was aimed at reversing the Muslim majority character of the region, which is now directly ruled from New Delhi.

"All our misgivings about the new domicile rules in J&K are coming to the fore," tweeted Omar Abdullah, the former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, which was earlier a state and now a federally administered region.

But the Indian government says the move to change the status of Kashmir was done to integrate the Muslim-majority region with the rest of the country in order to bring development.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Chittagong PWD Division-2, Chittagong
Phone: 031-614456 Fax: 031-614456
Email: ee_ctg2@pwd.gov.bd

e-Tender Notice (OTM)

Memo No. 25.36.1500.112/ Date: /06/2020

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works given below:

Sl. No.	Tender ID No.	Invitation Reference No.	Name of works	Tender closing date & time
01.	474549	e-tender/pwd/ctg2/dev/OTM/2019-20/05	Construction of 3-Storeied Modern Fire Station with 6-Storeied Foundation at Karnafuli Upazila of Chattogram District under "Establishment of 11 Modern Fire Service and Civil Defense Stations" Project	26-Jul-2020 11:00

This is an online tender, where only e-Tenders will be accepted in the National e-GP Portal and no offline/hard copies will be accepted.

To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

S.M. Shahariar Newaj
Executive Engineer
Chittagong PWD Division-2
Rahamatgonj, Chittagong

GD-1045

Pabna University of Science & Technology
Office of the Project Director, PUST, Pabna

Memo No. PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/20 & 21 Date: 27 June, 2020

e-Tender Notice (FY-2019-20)

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the Procurement of following works under "Pabna University of Science & Technology Development Project", PUST, Pabna.

Sl No.	e-Tender ID	APP ID	Package No. & Invitation Ref. No	Name of works	Tender publication date & time	Tender closing date & time	Method
01.	475961	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/21	Construction of Elevated Platform works under Pabna University of Science and Technology Development Project, PUST, FY 2019-20	29 June, 2020 10.00am	28 July, 2020 11.00am	OTM
02.	475954	158695	PUST/PD/e-GP/OTM/20	Construction of Amphitheatre works under Pabna University of Science and Technology Development Project, PUST, FY 2019-20	28 June, 2020 10.00am	27 July, 2020 11.00am	OTM

This is an online tender where only e-Tender will be accepted. To submit e-Tender, registration in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered banks branches. Further information and guideline are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd).

Engr. Lt Colonel G.M Azizur Rahman
afwc, psc (Retd)
Project Director

GD-1046 Pabna University of Science & Technology, Development Project