

## Ex-Pak PM's aide, TV channel face sedition charges

REUTERS, Islamabad

A close aide to Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan and a local media house will face sedition charges, accused of inciting mutiny in the powerful military, the country's interior minister said yesterday.

The charges were related to comments made by Khan adviser Shahbaz Gill and aired on ARY TV on Monday night, which the minister, Rana Sanaullah, said was a planned move to malign the military.

He said the accused would face sedition charges for inciting mutiny in the military. "We've set up a special team to probe it," he told reporters in Islamabad, adding, "It was a planned move to malign our institutions."

Gill and ARY TV's head of news, Ammad Yousaf, had been arrested, police officials Asad Abbas and Naem Tahir told Reuters. The arrests came late on Tuesday and early yesterday, a day after a state-run media regulator said in a statement that it had ordered ARY News to be taken off air for airing "false, hateful and seditious" content.

Khan said the charges were politically motivated, calling Gill's arrest an "abduction".

"Can such shameful acts take place in any democracy?" he said in a tweet. Gill had said in the TV appearance that there were attempts to create hatred against Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party among the middle and lower ranks of the military, whom he said loved the party.

He suggested the junior ranks were being pressured by the top brass and that these orders were against the wishes of the majority, and that the junior ranks should reconsider following orders that were against their principles.



Firefighters use water cannon to control a forest fire near Saint-Magne, France yesterday. A fire that destroyed thousands of hectares of tinder-dry forest in southwest France has flared again amid a fierce drought and the summer's latest heat wave, officials said. PHOTO: AFP

## CRISIS HIT LANKA Ousted leader to seek haven in Thailand

AFP, Bangkok

Sri Lanka's ousted leader Gotabaya Rajapaksa is seeking a new safe haven in Thailand as his Singapore visa runs out, a source and the Thai foreign ministry said yesterday.

Rajapaksa fled to the Maldives on July 13 and then to Singapore, where he announced his resignation after months of protests over the country's economic meltdown.

"His Singapore visa runs out on Thursday," a close associate of Rajapaksa told AFP in Colombo. "He had applied for an extension, but it had not come through as of Wednesday morning." The source said Rajapaksa now planned to go to Thailand for a short stay and return to Singapore.

The Thai foreign ministry confirmed it had received a request from Colombo for the 73-year-old deposed leader to visit Thailand.

## EU MIGRANT CRISIS

### Up to 50 missing after boat sinks off Greece

AFP, Athens

An air and sea rescue operation was underway yesterday after around 50 people went missing when a migrant boat sank in the Aegean Sea, the Greek coastguard said.

The vessel foundered at dawn off the islands of Karpathos and Rhodes after setting sail on Tuesday from Antalya, southern Turkey, heading for Italy.

"According to the statements of 29 rescued people, there were 80 people on the boat, so up to 50 people are missing," a coastguard press office official told AFP.

But state television channel ERT said the number of people on board had been between 30 and 60.

Coastguard spokesman Nikos Kokalakis told the channel: "It's not possible that the boat could have been transferring 80 migrants. We are talking about a lower number."

The rescue effort, ordered by merchant shipping minister Yannis Plakiotakis, according to a coastguard statement, included four vessels already sailing in the southern Aegean, two coastguard patrol boats and a Greek air force helicopter.

Strong winds of up to 50 kilometres per hour (30 mph) were hampering the operation, Kokalakis told Skai radio. "Many of those shipwrecked were not wearing life-jackets," Kokalakis said.

Another 27 people were transferred to land aboard a tanker that joined the search off the island of Kos.

## Military 'completes tasks' around Taiwan: China

Beijing plans regular patrols in direction of Taiwan Strait; Taipei ready to 'adjust allocation of forces based on factors'

REUTERS, Beijing/Taipei

China's military has "completed various tasks" around Taiwan but will conduct regular patrols, it said yesterday, potentially signalling an end to days of war games but also that Beijing will keep up its pressure on the island.

Furious at a visit to Taipei last week by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, China had extended its largest-ever exercises around the self-ruled island it claims as its own beyond the four days originally scheduled.

Last week's drills included launches of ballistic missiles, some of which flew over the island's capital of Taipei, and simulated sea and air attacks in surrounding skies and waters.

In a brief statement, the Eastern Theatre Command of the People's Liberation Army said its joint military operations around Taiwan had "successfully completed various tasks and effectively tested the integrated combat capabilities of the troops".

It added: "Theatre forces will keep an eye on the changes in the situation in the Taiwan Strait, continue to carry out training and preparation for combat, organise regular combat readiness patrols in the direction of the Taiwan Strait, and resolutely defend national sovereignty and territorial integrity."

Taiwan Defence Ministry spokesman Sun Li-fang said in response to China's statement that under the premise of not relaxing combat readiness, Taipei would "fully adjust the allocation of forces based on factors such as the enemy threat".

Earlier yesterday, a source briefed on the matter told Reuters that Chinese navy ships were active off both the east and west coasts of Taiwan.

As of the afternoon, the Chinese navy continued

activities near the median line, an unofficial buffer in the Taiwan Strait, and Chinese fighter jets also continued to fly close to the line, the source said.

Taiwan has dispatched airplanes and ships to the area to monitor the situation, the source said, adding: "They are like flies."

Video from state broadcaster CCTV yesterday showed Chinese fighter jets scrambling and refuelling in mid-air, as well as navy ships on what it said were drills around Taiwan.

China's military said the drills were focused on blockades and resupply logistics, "under a complex electromagnetic environment to refine joint containment and control capabilities", according to CCTV.

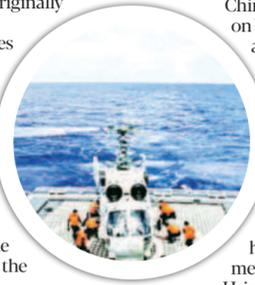
Taiwan's defence ministry said 17 Chinese fighter jets crossed the median line yesterday.

Andrew Hsia, deputy chairman of Taiwan's main opposition party, the Kuomintang, flew to China for what his party said was a pre-arranged trip to meet Taiwanese engaged in business.

Hsia told reporters he was not going to Beijing and did not have any official meetings arranged. China's Taiwan Affairs Office said it was "normal" for Kuomintang officials to visit.

However, Taiwan expressed "regret" at the trip coming amid the Chinese drills. "At this moment, the Kuomintang still insisted on going to China, disappointing our people," said President Tsai Ing-wen.

Taiwan's foreign minister said on Tuesday that China was using the military drills as a gameplan to prepare for an invasion of the democratically governed island. Yesterday, Taiwan's defence ministry released a video of exercises by its armed forces, saying its military was "at the ready, keeping our country safe" and China had not stopped its "incursions" nearby.



## BJP loses Bihar after ally switches sides

AGENCIES

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's party on Tuesday lost power in Bihar, the third most populous state in India, after its regional ally broke ranks to join an opposition alliance that lost the majority to form the next government.

Bihar sends the fourth most number of elected lawmakers to parliament and the fall in government there is a rare setback for Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which dominates politics in the country.

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, from the regional Janata Dal (United) party, told reporters he resigned after his party colleagues recommended exiting the BJP coalition. He accused the BJP of trying to undermine his party, a charge the BJP denied, reports Reuters.

Kumar said his new alliance, with the regional Rashtriya Janata Dal as its biggest constituent, had a comfortable majority and that a new government would be formed soon.

Yesterday, Kumar took oath as Chief Minister for eighth time and Tejashwi Yadav as his Deputy in the cabinet again, reports The Hindu.

## TOXIC CHEMICALS Rainwater unsafe to drink: study

AFP, Stockholm

Rainwater everywhere on the planet is unsafe to drink due to levels of toxic chemicals known as PFAS that exceed the latest guidelines, according to a new study by Stockholm University scientists. Commonly known as 'forever chemicals' because they disintegrate extremely slowly, PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances) were initially found in packaging, shampoo or makeup but have spread to our entire environment. "There is nowhere on Earth where the rain would be safe to drink, according to the measurements that we have taken," Ian Cousins, a professor at the university, told AFP.

## NEW YORK CIVIL PROBE Trump 'declined to answer' questions

AFP, New York

Former US president Donald Trump yesterday said he had declined to answer questions while appearing under oath in a New York state attorney general's civil probe into alleged fraud at his family business. "I declined to answer the questions under the rights and privileges afforded to every citizen under the United States Constitution," Trump said in a statement. Earlier, Trump said on social media he was in the offices of AG Letitia James, whose investigation is one of several active probes into the brash billionaire's business practices.



**This Russian war against Ukraine and against all of free Europe began with Crimea and must end with Crimea - its liberation. We will never give it up ... the Black Sea region cannot be safe while Crimea is occupied.**

Ukrainian President **Volodymyr Zelensky**

**UNIVERSITY OF DHAKA:** Applications in prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, are invited from the Bangladeshi nationals for filling up 2 (Two) permanent post of Associate Professor in the Department of Law, University of Dhaka in the pay scale of Tk. 50,000-71,200/- (National Pay Scale-2015).

**QUALIFICATIONS:** Candidates must have high academic qualifications preferably a PhD or an equivalent degree in Law. They should have at least 7 (seven) year's teaching and research experience in a University or an Institute of Advanced Research. They should have original research works published in recognized research journals. Experience and performance as a teacher as well as significant contribution to different areas of University activities specially in guiding the overall educational and co-curricular activities of the students will also be treated as qualification.

Eleven copies of application together with attested copies of certificates, testimonials, mark-sheets/grade sheets and proof of experience along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft of the value of Tk. 1000/- (One thousand) only, payable to the Registrar, should reach him on or before 07.09.2022. Candidates already in service must apply through proper channel.

GD- 1521

Government of the Peoples Republic of Bangladesh  
Local Government Engineering Department  
Office of The Executive Engineer  
Pirojpur  
www.lged.gov.bd

Memo No.46.02.7900.000.07.001.2022-1553  
e-Tender Notice No-02/2022-2023  
Date-10.08.2022

e-Tender is invited in the national e-GP system portal (http://www.eprocure.gov.bd) for the procurement of works office of the under signed.

Sl no	Tender ID No.	Package No & Name of work	Procurement Method	Last selling date & time	Closing & Opening Date & Time
1.	723361	IRIDP-3/PRJ/DW-44 (a) Improvement of Chirapara R&H - Chirapara JM Pry. school via Dumjuri road. (ch.00m-900m) [ID No-579474049] (b) Construction of 02 no 2x4.50mx4.50m culvert at ch.33m & 439m on the same road. Under Kawkhali Upazila. District: pirojpur.	LTM	28.08.2022 17:00 PM	29.08.2022 01:00 PM
2	723360	IRIDP-3/PRJ/DW-43 (a) Improvement of Hogla-Hogla Betka Bazar-Poler hat-Sirsa GPS- Raganathpur H/S & Killa-Saina-Hularhat Kheyaghat road. (ch.3955m-4430m & 4527m-6920m) [ID No. 579472007] (b) Construction of 03 no 1.50mx1.50m culvert at ch. 4150m, 4245m & 5515m on the same road. (c) Construction of 02 no 2.0mx2.0m culvert at ch.4930m & 5637m on the same road. Under Kawkhali Upazila. District: pirojpur.	OTM	04.09.2022 17:00 PM	05.09.2022 01:00 PM
3	723696	BJP/PIR/BAN/DW-267. (a) Improvement of BC road from East Bhandaria RHD to Bahandaria GC road at Ch. 1000-2160m including RCC drain at ch. 1890-2160m under Bhandaria Upazila, District-Pirojpur. Road ID No: 579144013. (b) Improvement of BC road from Golbunia Safahat road to 35 no. Golbunia GPS via H/O Hasan Golder, Hindupara and Karim Talukder road at Ch. 0.00-2000m including 02 Nos. 2.00mx2.00m RCC Box Culvert at ch. 1750m & 1850m under Bhandaria Upazila, District-Pirojpur. Road ID No: 579144103.	OTM	04.09.2022 17:00 PM	05.09.2022 01:00 PM

This is an online Tender, where only e-Tender 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. The fees for downloading the e-Tender documents from the national e-GP system portal have to be deposited through on line at any branches of registered Banks branches. Further information and guidelines are available in the national e-GP system portal and from e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Md. Akbar Sattar Howlader  
Executive Engineer  
LGED, Pirojpur  
0461-62463  
xen.perojpur@lged.gov.bd

GD- 1520