

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 Naeem 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.



A firefighting aircraft sprays fire retardant over trees during a wildfire near Belin-Beliet in Gironde, southwestern France, yesterday. The wildfire that officials thought was under control has reignited amid a record drought and extreme heat, possibly the result of arson.

PHOTO: AFP

SRI 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.



US uncovers Iran 'plot' to kill John Bolton

AFP, Washington

The US Justice Department yesterday said it had uncovered an Iranian plot to kill former White House National Security Advisor John Bolton, and announced charges against a member of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

The Justice Department said 45-year-old Shahram Poursafi had offered to pay an individual in the United States \$300,000 to kill Bolton, the former US ambassador to the United Nations.

The Justice Department said that plan was likely set in retaliation for the US killing of top Guard commander Qassem Soleimani in Iraq in January 2020.

Soleimani was head of Iran's Revolutionary Guard Corps' Quds Force and personally maintained its network of allies and proxies across the Gulf region. He was targeted by a US drone strike just after he landed at Baghdad's airport on January 7, 2020.

Since that strike Tehran has vowed to extract revenge, and US officials have said that the country had been looking to kill one or more US officials.

Another official believed on Tehran's target list was Mike Pompeo, who was secretary of state at the time of the assassination of Soleimani, and before that director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

China will 'not renounce the use of force'

Warns it will not tolerate Taiwan 'separatists', vows to 'continue to carry out military training and prepare for war'

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday vowed zero tolerance for "separatist activities" in Taiwan and reaffirmed that it would take the self-ruled island by force if necessary.

The warning from Beijing, which considers Taiwan its territory, came after days of unprecedented Chinese military drills around the island sparked by US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office yesterday issued a white paper laying out how it intends to claim the island through a range of economic incentives and military pressure.

"We are ready to create vast space for peaceful reunification, but we will leave no room for separatist activities in any form," said the paper. China will "not renounce the use of force, and we reserve the option of taking all necessary measures".

It added, however: "We will only be forced to take drastic measures to respond to the provocation of separatist elements or external forces should they ever cross our red lines."

China last issued a white paper on Taiwan in 2000. Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, the island's top policymaking body on China, rejected the paper and said the document "is full of... lies".

"Taiwan maintains that 'neither side belongs to the other', and firmly refuses 'one country, two systems' -- this is the current status of the Taiwan Strait and the reality," it said in a statement.

"One country, two systems" refers to the model under which Hong Kong and Macau were promised a degree of autonomy under Chinese rule. It has been proposed by Beijing as a solution for Taiwan.

Since the late 1990s, the island has transformed from an autocracy into a vibrant democracy, and a distinct Taiwanese identity has emerged.

Relations between the two sides have significantly worsened since Tsai became president in 2016.

Tsai and her Democratic Progressive Party do not consider Taiwan as a part of China.

Their platform falls under China's broad definition of Taiwanese separatism, which includes those who advocate for the island to have an identity separate from the mainland.

The Chinese white paper promised Taiwan economic prosperity as well as "greater security and dignity" after "reunification".

But that offer comes in the shadow of the biggest military exercises China has ever conducted around the island, including training for a blockade.

The drills have raised fears that China's Communist leadership could be preparing for an invasion.

The exercises were initially expected to conclude on Sunday, but have continued this week.

China's People's Liberation Army yesterday morning released details of exercises it conducted a day earlier, saying the drills were focused on establishing air dominance.

The military later said it had "successfully completed various tasks" in the Taiwan Strait.

It said it would "continue to carry out military training and prepare for war", without specifying whether more drills had been conducted yesterday or if there would be further exercises.

But Taiwan's defence ministry said it detected 36 Chinese warplanes and 10 ships operating around the strait yesterday, conducting joint air-sea operations.

Seventeen planes crossed the median line -- an unofficial demarcation between China and Taiwan that Beijing does not recognise.

Taiwan has accused China of using the Pelosi visit as an excuse to rehearse for an invasion.



AI spots

FROM PAGE 12

To test the system, they gave the AI a range of images and looked for "anomalies", as scientists refer to objects such as supernovae and tidal disruption events, which are very rare or interesting -- and deserving of more study.

They looked for the system to find objects that they already knew existed. But the scientists also found 11 of such anomalies using the system and verified them manually.

"This is a very good result," said Maria Przhinskaya, a co-author of the paper and research fellow at the Sternberg Astronomical Institute. "In addition to the already discovered rare objects, we were able to detect several new ones previously missed by astronomers. This means that existing search algorithms can be improved to avoid missing such objects."

Scientists say the algorithm can be used more universally, finding any interesting astronomical objects, not only unusual supernovae. One day, they could find entirely different kinds of objects using a similar AI that will look for those anomalies, the scientists suggest.

Consolation win

FROM PAGE 12

the Bangladesh bowlers ensured the hosts did not stage any comebacks like in the first two ODIs, bundling Zimbabwe out for just 151 in 32.2 overs.

Had it not been for Richard Ngarava and Victor Nyauchi's 68 run 10th wicket stand, the margin would have been wider.

The Tigers responded strongly, striking twice in the first two overs. Ebadot Hossain then marked his ODI debut with a double-wicket over to reduce the hosts to four for 18 after 5.4 overs. Mustafizur ripped through the middle and lower order as he ended with figures of four for 17 in 5.4 overs.

Earlier, Anamul played the role of the aggressor at the top after the Tigers lost the toss for the third time in a row and were asked to bat. The right-hander did

not shy away from using his feet, smashing a total of six boundaries and four sixes.

Anamul also starred in a 41-run opening stand with skipper Tamim Iqbal (19 off 30) and another crucial 77-run fourth-wicket stand with Mahmudullah. Riyadh that helped Bangladesh bounce back in the game after losing three wickets in quick succession inside the first Powerplay.

After Anamul, it was Afif who stepped up with useful boundaries in the death overs. Despite losing batting partners almost at regular intervals, the 22-year-old was able to come with some crucial blows late in the game to help Bangladesh's cause. The young left-hander, during his unbeaten knock, smashed a total of six boundaries and two maximums.

US ratifies

FROM PAGE 12

"Putin thought he could break us apart.... Instead, he is getting exactly what he did not want."

The White House said that ahead of the signing ceremony, Biden talked by telephone with Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson and Finland's President Sauli Niinistö.

President Biden congratulated them on the US Senate's swift, bipartisan ratification of their Nato

accession protocols, and welcomed Finland and Sweden moving one step closer to becoming Nato Allies," the White House said.

While the process plays out, "President Biden affirmed that the United States will work with Finland and Sweden to remain vigilant against any threats to our shared security, and to deter and confront aggression or threat of aggression," the statement said.

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**

ঢাকা বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

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

Date-10.08.2022

e-Tender Notice No-02/2022-2023

c- 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)

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GD- 1520