

Several hurt in clashes as Pak police try to arrest Imran

AFP, Lahore

Pakistan riot police yesterday used water cannon and tear gas to push back supporters of former prime minister Imran Khan who have gathered outside his house to prevent officers from arresting him.

Khan was ousted from office by a no confidence vote last year, and has been snarled in a series of legal cases as he campaigns for early elections and his return to office.

It is the second time in recent weeks that police have been despatched from the capital Islamabad to Khan's home in the eastern city of Lahore to serve an arrest warrant after he skipped several court dates linked to a corruption case citing security concerns.

"We are here basically to execute the warrants and to arrest him," Syed Shahzad Nadeem Bukhari, deputy inspector general of Islamabad police, told reporters outside Khan's residence in Lahore.

Officers were met by at least 200 Khan supporters, some wielding sticks and hurling stones, draped in the red and green flags of Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) party. Several police officials and PTI supporters were injured during the clash.

Police fired a water cannon and tear gas on the crowds as they attempted to clear a path to Khan's house, holding signs plastered with the arrest warrant for the 70-year-old opposition leader.

Khan recorded a video message which he released on Twitter. "Police have arrived here to put me in prison," he said. "They believe the nation will go into slumber when Imran Khan goes to jail."

PTI deputy leader Shah Mahmood Qureshi told reporters in Lahore that "we want to be peaceful".

Qureshi insisted police should deliver the arrest warrant to him and said he would "try to find a solution to avoid bloodshed".

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Visiting ADB President Masatsugu Asakawa calls on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Hotel Intercontinental in the city yesterday.

PHOTO: PID

Ukraine's future depends on eastern battlefields

Says Zelensky as Russian troops keep coming in waves

REUTERS, Near Kreminna

Ukraine's future hinges on the outcome of battles in the east, including in and around Bakhmut, President Volodymyr Zelensky said early yesterday, as Russian troops keep coming in waves along the frontline in eastern Ukraine.

Bakhmut has become the focus of Russia's invasion, with the months-long fight becoming Europe's bloodiest infantry battle since World War II.

"It is very tough in the east - very painful," Zelensky said in his video address, held nightly since Russia launched its invasion more than a year ago. "We have to destroy the enemy's military power. And we shall destroy it."

Kyiv and Moscow gave differing accounts of negotiations to extend the Black Sea

grain deal, established last year to prevent global famine by securing wartime exports from Ukraine and Russia, both among the world's top suppliers of food.

The arrangement, brokered by the United Nations and Turkey, is due to expire this week. Russia said it had been extended for 60 days, but Ukraine said the agreement required any extension to last 120 days. Turkey said talks were still ongoing.

In what would be the first international war crimes cases arising from the invasion, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is expected to seek the arrest of Russian officials for forcibly deporting children from Ukraine and targeting civilian infrastructure, a source told Reuters.

The Kremlin said the court has no jurisdiction over Russia. Moscow would be certain to reject

arrest warrants against its officials, but an international war crimes prosecution could deepen its diplomatic isolation over a campaign that has killed thousands of civilians and driven millions from their homes.

On the frontline near Kreminna, Oleksandr, 50, commander of a unit in Ukraine's 110th battalion, said Russian assaults were still relentless despite having claimed little ground there. The Russians are trying to edge back towards Lyman, a major transit hub Ukraine recaptured last year.

The Kremlin, for its part, said it was committed to using force to achieve its war aims, and Kyiv must accept "new realities" - its shorthand for Russia's claim to have annexed nearly a fifth of Ukraine, which it invaded a year ago.

Five killed in Somalia suicide attack, governor wounded

AFP, Mogadishu

At least five people were killed and 11 others, including a regional governor, wounded in a suicide attack yesterday in southern Somalia, a police commander told AFP.

A vehicle laden with explosives ploughed into a guest house hosting government officials in Bardera, 450 kilometres (279 miles) west of the capital Mogadishu, area police commander Hussein Adan, said.

"The explosion destroyed most parts of the building and five security guards died in the blast," Adan said.

Eleven people, including the governor Ahmed Bulle Gareed, were injured, he added.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, but Islamist group Al Shabaab remains a potent force in the troubled Horn of Africa nation despite multinational efforts to degrade its leadership.

Mohamud Saney, who witnessed yesterday's attack, said, they had "never heard anything as big as the explosion."

"It shook the earth like and earthquake."

Tigers whitewash world champions

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With nine wickets in hand and 59 needed off the last seven overs, England had the momentum until Mustafizur Rahman's 14th over turned the tables.

The Fizz, who had struggled with the ball till that point, removed Malan before Mehedi Hasan Miraz's inflicted a brilliant run-out to dismiss Buttler in the same over.

Mustafizur, who conceded just two runs off that over, came back in the 18th over and again showed his class. The left-arm seamer conceded just five runs with England needing 36 to win off the last three overs, setting the platform. The visitors eventually managed on 142 for six after 20 overs.

There were incredible scenes at the home of cricket in Mirpur after an unprecedented whitewash against reigning world champions, with Bangladesh Cricket Board president Nazmul Hassan Papon announcing a winning bonus for the team in the dressing room.

ADB promises all-out support

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To help Bangladesh manage the fallout of the global coronavirus pandemic, the lender provided \$2.29 billion. It also provided \$230 million in emergency support for addressing the impacts of devastating floods in northwest Bangladesh.

Besides, ADB has been extending low-cost financing for the mitigation and adaptation of climate change.

"We observe with great satisfaction that ADB always stands beside us with innovative financing and technical support in our challenging times," Hasina said at the event, which was jointly organised by the government and the ADB at the Intercontinental

Fair share?

FROM PAGE 1

true, then irrigation for Aman even in September and October will be affected.

Engineer M Inamul Haq said India has built many hydropower projects on the Teesta in Sikkim state and has claimed that those do not take away river water.

If this is true then the water of the Teesta should not have reduced and the West Bengal government should not have said that there is no water to share with Bangladesh, he said.

The Bangladesh government should take an initiative and arrange a joint visit to the project areas to see what they are actually doing, he said.

During a spot visit, farmer Alal Uddin, 70, of Gaddimari village, just 5km downstream of Teesta barrage in Hatibandha of Lalmonirhat, told our correspondent S Dilip Roy, "The Teesta

Everyone dealing with citizens' data

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violating the law, as well as ban them from processing data, and transferring data to foreign customers and international organisations. However this draft omitted a provision that was present in past drafts, which had granted indemnity to this agency by preventing the citizens from prosecuting them in court.

This draft allows those aggrieved by the agency's decisions to file appeals with the government. The law still exempts controllers using data "for the prevention or detection of crime or for the purpose of investigations; or the apprehension or prosecution of offenders" but does not mention how subjects seek redress for violations caused by these exemptions.

"In order to get a remedy a person needs to be proved that he or she has

Dhaka.

The world has been experiencing multiple challenges due to the war in Ukraine and sanctions and counter-sanctions, she said.

"We are the victims of this geopolitical crisis for which we are not responsible at all. This is holding back our hard-earned achievements and leading us to an uncertain world. We could not really predict any immediate solution to this crisis."

The impacts of the war are disproportionately falling on the poorest segments of the global community.

"It is extremely pertinent to

develop synergies among us to address the impacts of the multiple economic shocks."

This would require the continuation of concessional financing until the global economy returns to normal. "We are not seeking pity or donation - we want our just share as a partner of the global community," she added.

Finance Minister AHM Mustafa Kamal, PM's Principal Secretary M Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Sharifa Khan, secretary of the Economic Relations Division, and Edimon Ginteng, ADB's country director in Bangladesh, were also in attendance.

Asfa Uddaula, executive engineer of the Water Development Board (WDB) in Dalia, told The Daily Star on Tuesday afternoon that 1,450 cusecs (cubic feet per second) of water was received at the Teesta barrage from upstream that day.

He said after using water for irrigation, only 100 cusecs could be released downstream of the barrage. WDB officials told The Daily Star that out of the 115km course of the Teesta inside Bangladesh, at least 102km of it almost dries up during the dry season.

The Teesta gets more or less enough water only between July and October. India in 1983 built the Gajoldoba barrage on the Teesta 70km upstream of Bangladesh's Doani area in Lalmonirhat.

been harmed - is a breach of privacy equivalent to harm?" commented Christabel Randolph, advocate of Supreme Court, and technology, law and policy scholar at Georgetown University's Law Centre at an online discussion on the law held by Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust yesterday.

She also pointed out that data subjects can request controllers for access to their own data, but they have to pay a fee for it.

The law minister Annisul Huq and ICT state minister Zunaid Ahmed Palak met with civil society members at the law ministry yesterday to discuss the law and stated that there will be a followup meeting on April 6.

The civil society members also discussed about repealing the Digital Security Act.

RU CLASH

4 students in Dhaka for better treatment

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Four Rajshahi University students who were seriously injured in Saturday's clash with locals and police are in Dhaka for better treatment.

The injured students are Mesbaul Islam Sayem of the Persian language and literature department, Al Amin and Shahrulh Mahmud of the law department, and Alimul Saqib of the marketing department.

"Three of them had shotgun pellets in their eyes and they will be treated at the National Institute of Ophthalmology," said Yousuf Ali, head of the Ophthalmology Department at Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Man hit, killed by car in Dhaka's Matuail

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A man died after a private car hit him on the Dhaka-Chattogram highway in Dhaka's Matuail area yesterday.

The deceased was identified as Shahadat Hossain, 45, a courier service employee.

The accident happened around 5:00pm while Shahadat was crossing the road near Matuail Institute of Child and Mother Health, said Mahbubur Rahman, brother-in-law of the victim.

With critical injuries, he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where doctors declared him dead around 7:15pm.

Man hacked to death in public by BCL leader

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A man was hacked to death in broad daylight by rivals with sharp weapons in Natore's Gurudaspur upazila yesterday.

Helal Sardar, 34, a local transport workers' union activist, died on the spot, while his younger brother, Shishir Sardar, was critically injured for trying to save him.

Abu Taher, who led the attack, is the secretary of Bangladesh Chhatra League's Beelchalan Shahid Shamsuzzoha Govt College unit.

While, police arrested his accomplices Akash Hossain, and Abu Toha, no case was filed over the incident till the writing of this report.

Gurudaspur Police OC Abdul Matin said, "Helal previously attacked Taher over the lease of a local market. He was out on bail in a case filed by Taher's father."

Badhon Atiar, president of upazila unit BCL, said they would recommend the central committee for Taher's expulsion from the organisation.

No talks with PM

FROM PAGE 1

The prime minister on Monday at her press conference ruled out the possibility of talks with the BNP ahead of the next general election.

"With whom will we hold talks? We held a dialogue before the 2018 election. What was the result? They did nothing except making the election questionable."

Reacting to the PM's remarks, Fakhru said they long ago turned down the possibility of talks with the current government.

"The Awami League will be held responsible if the next election becomes uncertain or if something worse happens in the next election," he said, adding that people want a change as their backs have been pushed against the wall.

Beijing wants Dhaka

FROM PAGE 1

At another event earlier in the day, Yao Wen said his country supports Bangladesh's stance on rejecting foreign interference in its internal affairs.

When asked at the Spring Dialogue why China could not help address the Rohingya crisis, the envoy said his country began a trilateral initiative, but the coronavirus pandemic and conflicts in Myanmar since 2021 slowed down the process.

The lack of "trust between Bangladesh and Myanmar and foreign interventions" further complicated the crisis, he said without going into details.

He expects the repatriation of the first batch of Rohingyas to take place soon, he said.

Bangladesh foreign ministry officials earlier said 1,000 Rohingyas may get repatriated before June.

Yao Wen lamented that the food ration for Rohingyas saw cuts.

The western countries are spending billions of dollars on

"So, we will not make any compromise on the question of an acceptable election."

Fakhru said the prime minister's remark on the 2018 talks is nothing, but a mockery of truth. "We also have the same question about the outcome of the talks."

The prime minister, no matter how she came to power, committed in front of all and told the media that the government would not interfere with the national election in 2018 and police would no longer arrest, file fresh cases, and repress anyone ahead of the election, he added.

"Just three days after the talks, BNP leaders and activists across the country were forced to flee their homes in the face of repressions by the police."

Beijing wants Dhaka

military equipment for Ukraine, but they are not sending enough aid for the Rohingyas, he said.

"It is my promise. China will never be absent from helping the Rohingyas. China will play the role of a mediator and facilitator, but we will not take sides," he said.

About the US' passing of BURMA Act, which is meant to support civilian forces in Myanmar, he said China will support any efforts for reconciliation and peace, but not the things that create confrontation.

Mediating the resumption of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia is an example of how China is seeking global peace, he said, adding that China was trying to mediate between Russia and Ukraine and reduce India-China tension.

China has supported a number of mega projects in Bangladesh and it will make more investments in ICT, renewable energy, textile machinery and food processing, he said.

The Business Standard Editor Inam Ahmed moderated the dialogue.

N Korea fires two ballistic missiles: Seoul

AFP, Seoul

North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles yesterday, Seoul said, Pyongyang's second launch in three days and the first since South Korea and the United States began their largest joint military drills in five years.

Washington and Seoul have ramped up defence cooperation in the

face of growing military and nuclear threats from the North, which has conducted a series of increasingly provocative banned weapons tests in recent months.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the military had "detected two short-range ballistic missiles" fired between 7:41 am (22:41 GMT) and 7:51 am, which flew some 620 kilometres.