

PAKISTAN CRISIS Imran moves SC against 'undeclared martial law'

DAWN ONLINE

Pakistan's former prime minister Imran Khan yesterday filed a petition with the Supreme Court against the government invoking Article 245 in several provinces, terming it "undeclared martial law".

Under Article 245 of Pakistan's Constitution, the army can be called in to aid the civil administration to defend the country.

Imran, through his lawyer Hamid Khan, has requested the apex court to probe into the government's decision to call "in the aid of the armed forces in the Federal Capital Territory, Punjab, Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (K-P) in the purported exercise of powers under Article 245 of the Constitution".

In his petition, the PTI chief said the arrests, investigations and trial of citizens under the Army Act 1952 were "unconstitutional and void and of no legal effect and amounts to negation of the Constitution, rule of law and independence of the judiciary."

He also pointed out that the "dismantling of PTI through forcible quitting of party membership and office are unconstitutional and void being against Article 17 of the Constitution".

The ex-PM also urged the top court to order the formation of a judicial commission to probe the events of May 9 and 10.

The plea named Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, PML-N Supremo Nawaz Sharif and his daughter Maryam Nawaz, ex-president Asif Ali Zardari, Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, JUI-F chief Maulana Fazlur Rehman and other as respondents.

Meanwhile, the Interior Ministry yesterday barred Imran, his wife Bushra Bibi among 80 members of the PTI from leaving the country by putting them on the no-fly list.

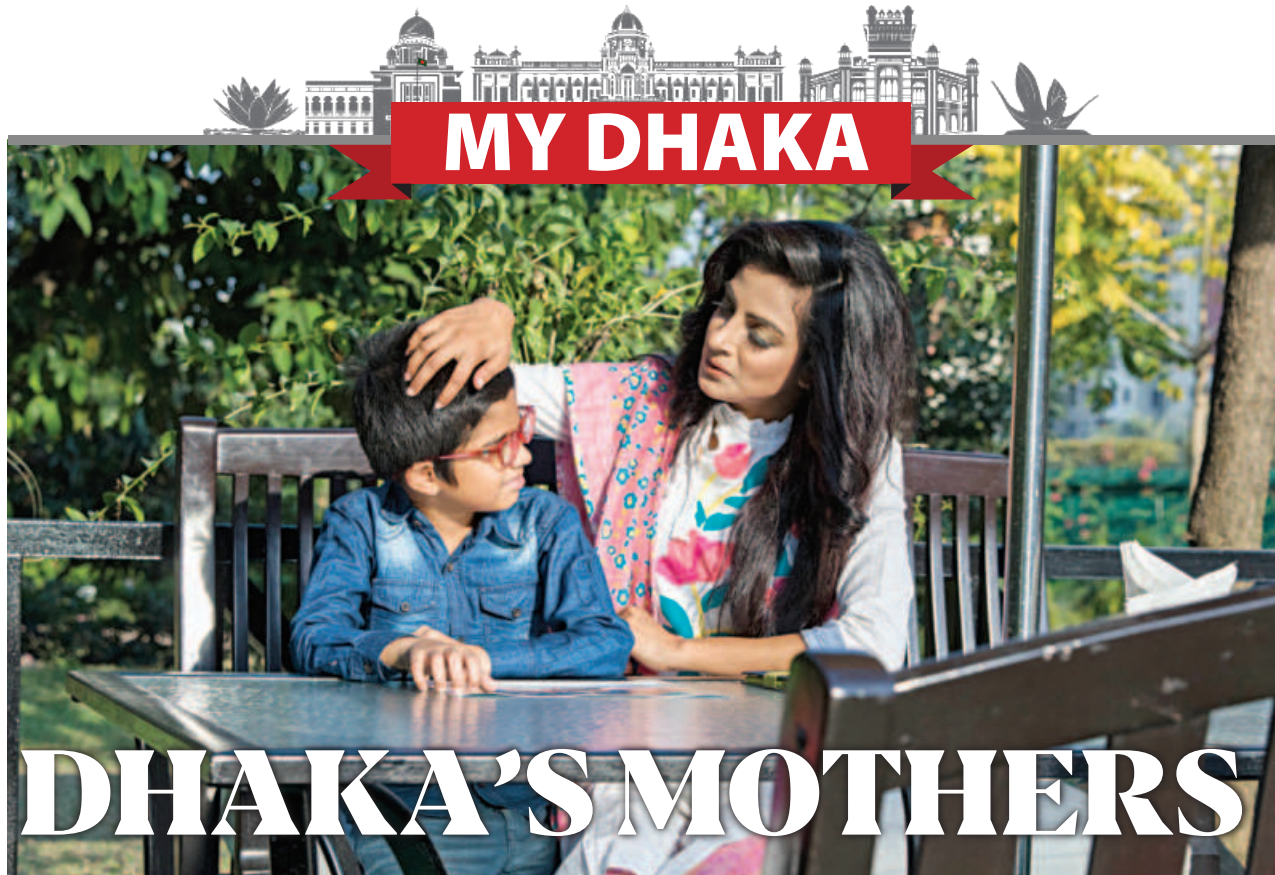
Prime Minister's special assistant Attaullah Tarar confirmed the development to Dawn.com. Tarar said the list of all the PTI members has been sent to all the exit points and airports in the country.

A Lahore anti-terrorism court yesterday approved the request to hand over 16 individuals accused of vandalising Jinnah House on May 9 in order to try them under the country's military laws.

The court ordered all 16 individuals, including ex-MPA Mian Akram Usman, to be handed over to commanding officer Irfan Athar.



We are unforgiving mothers. We take the job of motherhood so seriously that we can even ruin the child's entire childhood and be smug about it. We want it all – a successful career, well-mannered and well-fed goody-two-shoe children, a spick and span household, manicured garden, a good amount of savings in the bank, a docile and rich husband. I mean our list of necessities is boundless and all for the sake of a happy family picture at an Instagrammable event of family or friend. So, what if the stakes are too high? We are monsters in the guise of smart, happy, multi-tasking women.



DHAKA'S MOTHERS

PHOTO: STAR

RBR

We are anything but contented. We strongly believe that since we have borne the child for nine months, they are now our prisoners of conscience with zero freedom. Dhaka mothers are big drama queens too, if our child scores a 90 in their math test, we make a big, unnecessary fuss and stomp away from the room, giving the child a heart attack. We compel them to fare in everything in life, we make them competitive.

No pyjama parties, all group studies will be held in your living room, and no staying up late after 10:00pm; we need to control every fine detail of the child's life even if it is through shaming, withdrawal of love, or other punishments.

We act as if the children are our puppets or even worse our pets, we show them off to guests and relatives and make them perform a new trick every time. We expect the house to be unrealistically spotless when guests are coming, all has to be picture-perfect and the children and husband must willingly put a front of happy, social face. This is our litmus test, and we need it to be right, our social standing depends on it heavily.

We hardly knock on our children's

doors. In fact, they are not allowed to shut the door and of course, we do not know the meaning of privacy for children. We need to know everything



that is going on in their lives if they are going out with a friend then providing us with the friend's mother's number is mandatory. And also mandatory is answering, with complete satisfaction, questions like, where are you going?

Who are you going out with? How are you going? What time are you coming home? What is your friend's pet's name?

And if we see your party pictures then we assume that every friend is your boyfriend or girlfriend and expect you to duly make us understand otherwise.

We love our lectures and our favourite complaint is "Is this a hotel, am I housekeeping?" Or that famous line "You will understand my worth when I am no more". Then there is the subtle threat every Dhaka mum poses when she's cleaning the house that no one is helping her but at the same time declining any voluntary help. We Dhaka mothers are like martyrs, sacrificing everything for the sake of the family.

Yes, we are strict, authoritarian mothers but in our defence, we do all these so that our children can live a cushioned happy life. Our style of parenting emphasises on high standards, we are aggressive mothers, yet we are willing to fight your demons to plate you the best of everything in life.

Let all children remember their mothers as a soft yet firm elegant lady who always smells divine and has unlimited selfless love and all good intention for you.

AL loses in its bastion

FROM PAGE 1

At Ummul Qura Hifz Madrasa, two polling agents of a woman councillor said an agent of Zaida entered the centre around 8:10am but he was driven out by the polling agents of Azmat.

Returning Officer Faridul and Gazipur Deputy Commissioner Anisur Rahman visited Joydevpur Govt Girls High School around 11:00pm and warned Azmat's polling agents against wearing badges of boat instead of the ID cards issued by the presiding officer.

"Our magistrate will arrest you unless you wear the designated ID card," Anisur was heard telling several polling agents.

There were almost no voters at the Bangladesh Rice Research Institute High School and BRRI Pragati Primary School 12:00pm, but Azmat's supporters were seen chanting slogans in front of the centres, which is a violation of the electoral code of conduct.

Members of law enforcement agencies present there did nothing to stop them.

Glitches in the EVMs resulted in long queues of voters in at least three centres.

Faruk Hossen, presiding officer at Ananta Model Kindergarten, said an EVM had to be replaced after it

stopped working.

"It took some time to replace and the voters had to wait," he added.

Around 1:00pm, there was a long queue in front of two booths at the



PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN

Voters queue up at Chhoto Dewra Agrani High School centre in Gazipur City Corporation polls. The photo was taken at 9:22am yesterday.

centre and only 15 percent votes had been cast by the time.

A garment worker named Kulsum Khanam said she had been in the line for two and a half hours.

Many voters at Kazi Azmat Ullah College, Gazipur Govt Women's College, and Madinatul Ulum Hafizia

Madrasa said they had to wait for hours to cast their votes.

Zahid Hossain, who was at Azmat Ullah College, said, "I arrived at the polling centre before 8:00am, and

stopped working. It took some time to replace and the voters had to wait," he added. Around 1:00pm, there was a long queue in front of two booths at the

centre and only 15 percent votes had been cast by the time. A garment worker named Kulsum Khanam said she had been in the line for two and a half hours.

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Who said what

FROM PAGE 1

stability, and development gains in the country," the statement read.

It said the electoral reform process in Bangladesh continues in a consultative manner involving all stakeholders concerned.

The statement said that the entire executive machinery would remain at the disposal of the Election Commission to help it discharge its responsibilities.

Talking to reporters, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen said there is no reason to worry over the new US visa policy.

He said the government was not under any additional pressure from the US and termed the relationship with the US "excellent".

Momen said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina wants free and fair elections and this policy will further strengthen her position.

BNP, JP WELCOME US POLICY
US Ambassador Peter Haas had a meeting with key Awami League, BNP, and Jatiya Party leaders at his home yesterday.

The BNP and the JP leaders welcomed the US move afterwards and the AL leaders did not make any comments.

AL's information and research affairs secretary Selim Mahmud and central committee member Mohammad A Arafat, BNP's standing committee member Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury and international affairs secretary Shama Obaid, JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun, and praesidium member Major (ret'd) Rana Mohammad Sohail were present at the meeting.

Khasru hoped that the new US policy would play a supporting role in ensuring free, fair and credible elections.

"We welcome this decision of the US as it was made considering the concerns of the people of Bangladesh over the election," he said, adding that there was no reason for the BNP to be worried since it is not involved in election rigging.

The US move has sent the message that the people of Bangladesh cannot exercise their right to franchise and their constitutional rights have been

taken away, he said.

The ruling party should be worried about their future if they again indulge in vote rigging instead of restoring people's voting and democratic rights, Khasru said.

The JP secretary general said, "The US visa policy on Bangladesh suggests that the US wants fair and competitive

elections in Bangladesh. Our party also agrees with this stance."

Speaking to journalists at Dhaka University, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the government will facilitate and extend all-out cooperation to the Election Commission for a neutral general election.

People, who set fire to buses, resort to vandalism in the name of movement ahead of elections, and are engaged in political violence, will be in trouble

because of the new US policy, he added. Awami League praesidium member and Agriculture Minister Abdur Razaque said, "We're not afraid of it... our stance is clear. By no means we will do anything that thwarts democratic process. We'll not do anything that deprives our people from getting visas."

Asked, Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said these are inter-state matters. "It is our duty to do whatever is necessary to hold free and fair elections," he said.

At Channel i's Tiritiyo Matra programme aired Wednesday night, US Assistant Secretary of State Donald Lu said their view is that the defence of democracy is both necessary and essential for Bangladesh to continue to move forward as a leader in South Asia and around the world.

He said the new US visa policy will be implemented in a way that is fair and constructive. These restrictions would apply both to those giving orders and those taking orders for acts of violence, voter intimidation, or vote rigging.

Lu said, "...We believe Bangladesh is a true democracy that deserves to have free and fair elections."

He said they want the new policy to contribute to the dialogue in Bangladesh and efforts by everyone – the government, opposition, civil society – to create the environment for a free and fair election.

'We're very satisfied'

FROM PAGE 1
But that's not the only reason. Enquired about the absence of polling agents of independent mayor candidate Zaida Khatun, he said they didn't have any such reports.

Speaking to reporters in the morning, Alamgir said several EVMs were no working at the beginning of the voting, but the problem was fixed immediately and the voters were able to cast their votes.

He said that there were some problems with 10-12 CCTV cameras at some polling centres due to internet issues, but footage was still being recorded at those centres.

Voting ended at all 480 polling centres without any report of violence.

JCD leader shot dead in Narsingdi clash

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Narsingdi

A leader of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal was shot dead during a clash between two groups of the pro-BNP student body in Narsingdi town yesterday afternoon.

Deceased Sadekur Rahman, 32, was a former senior joint convener of District Chhatra Dal's convening committee.

Sadekur was declared dead at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital around 7:30pm after he was taken there with bullet injuries, inspector Bachchu Mia, in-charge of the DMCH police camp, told The Daily Star.

JCD leader Ashrafur Islam, 20, who was also shot during the clash, is under treatment at the same hospital, the inspector added.

Local JCD leaders said on January 26, the central JCD formed a five-member convening committee for the district.

Since then, JCD leaders and activists, who were did not get posts in the committee, have been demanding cancellation of the committee. They were protesting near the district BNP office in Chinishpur yesterday afternoon, said the district's former senior BNP vice-president Mainuddin Bhuiyan, adding that the leaders and activists of the other group then attacked the protesters.

2 students die on road

UNB, Kushtia

Two motorcyclists were killed in a head-on collision between their motorbike and a bus near Paikpara Mirzapur village in Kushtia's Khoksa upazila yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Abu Musa, 18, and Parvez Hossain, 18. Both of them were first-year students of Abu Taleb Degree College in Shomspur.

Sub-Inspector Mozammel Haque of Khoksa Police Station, who was present on the spot, said the highway police will prepare a report and decide on whether a case should be filed or not.

According to witnesses, the Kushtia-bound motorcycle collided with the bus coming from the opposite direction, leaving them dead on Kushtia-Rajbari road around 1:30pm.

The bus driver and other staff fled the spot following the accident.

Man held for killing wife

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Jamalpur

Police yesterday arrested a man for allegedly killing his wife in Jamalpur's Dewanganj upazila.

Helal Uddin, 35, of the upazila's Chikajani union, is a van driver.

His wife, Aklima Begum, 22, was found dead at his house in the union's Nayagram village yesterday noon.

She was the daughter of Ali Hossain of the upazila's Bahadurabad union.

Quoting family, Shyamal Chandra, officer-in-charge of Dewanganj Model Police Station, said Aklima and Helal married seven years ago and since then, she was being physically abused by Helal.

Police arrested Helal from his house around 12:00pm after he admitted to killing Aklima during a primary interrogation, OC added.

Rohingyas have to go through verification

FROM PAGE 12

Talking to The Daily Star, multiple Rohingya said the delegation assured them of providing education, medical and other facilities.

"We requested them to prioritise our prime demand of Myanmar citizenship. Besides, we also sought for security after our return," said Bazlul Islam, an inhabitant of camp-26.

Mainul Kabir, head of the Rohingya wing in Bangladesh's foreign ministry, said that repatriation was "the only way to solve the Rohingya

issue", reports AFP.

He said the Myanmar delegation "assured that the confusions that are being created will be resolved gradually", AFP added.

The first Myanmar delegation arrived in Bangladesh on March 15 on a five-day visit to scrutinise the list of Rohingyas sent by Bangladesh to their country for repatriation.

Then a 20-member delegation of Rohingyas and seven Bangladeshi officials visited Rakhine state on May 5 to see the arrangements made by the Myanmar authorities for a

planned repatriation.

This is the second delegation of Myanmar visiting Cox's Bazar to accelerate the Rohingya repatriation.

Around 1.2 million Rohingyas have been living in Bangladesh. Most of them fled a violent military crackdown in their homeland in 2017 and joined others who had fled to Bangladesh since the 1980s.

Since the biggest influx in 2017, Bangladesh and Myanmar signed a bilateral deal for repatriation. But two repatriation attempts have failed so far.