

MAHSA AMINI PROTESTS Iranian journo goes on trial

AFP, Tehran

Iran yesterday held the first trial session for one of the two detained female journalists who reported on Mahsa Amini's death in custody last year, her lawyer said.

Months of nationwide protests erupted after Amini, a 22-year-old Iranian Kurd, died on September 16 following her arrest for allegedly violating the country's strict dress code for women.

The journalists, Niloufar Hamed, 30, and Elaheh Mohammadi, 36, could face the death penalty after they were detained for covering Amini's death and its aftermath.

The pair are being tried separately by the revolutionary courts behind closed doors in Tehran. Mohammadi's trial began yesterday and Hamed's is scheduled to start the following day.

Mohammadi's lawyer described the session as "good and positive", telling AFP that the next court date would be confirmed later. Mohammadi, a journalist at Ham Miham, was taken into custody on September 29 after she travelled to Amini's hometown of Saez in Kurdistan province to report on her funeral ceremony.

N KOREA SAT LAUNCH Japan puts missile defences on alert

REUTERS, Tokyo

Japan put its ballistic missile defences on alert yesterday, vowing to shoot down any projectile that threatened its territory after North Korea notified it of a satellite launch between May 31 and June 11.

The nuclear armed North says it has completed its first military spy satellite and leader Kim Jong Un has approved final preparations for the launch.

It would be the North's latest step in a series of missile launches and weapons tests in recent months.

Japan expects North Korea to fire the rocket carrying its satellite over the southwest island chain as it did in 2016, a defence ministry spokesperson said.



Migrants stand near the wall on Polish Belarusian border near Bialowieza, Poland yesterday. A group of migrants, including women and children, are stuck at the border with Belarus, Poland's border guard said yesterday as activists accused the officers of not letting migrants plead for asylum.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Erdogan confronts polarised Turkey after historic win

AFP, Istanbul

Turkish President Recep Tayip Erdogan yesterday confronted the tough task of uniting his deeply divided country after winning a historic run-off election to extend his two decade rule to 2028.

Turkey's longest serving leader brushed aside a powerful opposition coalition, a biting economic crisis and widespread anger following a devastating February earthquake to beat secular challenger Kemal Kilicdaroglu in Sunday's vote.

But the four-point victory margin was Erdogan's narrowest of any past election, highlighting the sharp polarisation the Islamic-rooted conservative will contend with during his third and final term as president.

Erdogan attempted to sound conciliatory in a victory speech to thousands of jubilant supporters gathered outside Ankara's presidential palace, calling on Turks to "come together in



unity and solidarity".

Kilicdaroglu remained defiant by vowing to "continue the struggle" against Erdogan and his AKP party, which has dominated Turkish politics since 2002.

Having harnessed a coalition of nationalist, conservative and religious voters, Erdogan "will double down on his brand of populist policies... political polarisation is here to stay", said Emre Peker of the Eurasia Group consultancy.

Relieving Turks of the country's worst economic crisis since the 1990s is one of Erdogan's urgent priorities.

Years of development fuelled by infrastructure projects and a construction sector boom earned him huge popularity and a loyal voter base that has never abandoned him.

But inflation is now running at more than 40 percent, partly exacerbated by Erdogan's unorthodox policy of cutting interest rates to try and cool spiralling prices.

Analysts say Erdogan's lavish campaign spending pledges and unwavering attachment to lower interest rates will further strain banks' currency reserves.

"The current set-up is just not sustainable," noted Timothy Ash of BlueBay Asset Management, pointing to the tens of billions of dollars the central bank has blown to prop up the lira.



Activists of Socialist Unity Centre of India (SUCI) shout slogans as they demonstrate to support the Indian wrestlers' atrocities whilst they protest against Brij Bhushan Singh, the wrestling federation chief over allegations of sexual harassment and intimidation, in Kolkata, India yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

JUNTA CRITICISM Myanmar rapper arrested

AFP, Yangon

A popular rapper in Myanmar who criticised the junta over massive power blackouts has been arrested for "spreading propaganda", the military said, the latest arrest in a sweeping crackdown on dissent.

Byu Har posted a Facebook video to his hundreds of thousands of followers last Tuesday slamming junta for rolling power outages that have hit Myanmar in recent weeks.

He mocked junta leader Min Aung Hlaing and said power supply had been better managed during the government of Suu Kyi.

Byu Har was arrested for "inciting with aim of disrupting peace and stability of nation, and the act of spreading propaganda", military said.

Russian 'spy' whale surfaces in Sweden

AFP, Stockholm

A harness-wearing Beluga whale that turned up in Norway in 2019, sparking speculation it was a spy trained by the Russian navy, has appeared off Sweden's coast, an organisation following him said yesterday.

First discovered in Norway's far northern region of Finnmark, the whale spent more than three years slowly moving down the top half of the Norwegian coastline, before suddenly speeding up in recent months to cover the second half and on to Sweden.

On Sunday, he was observed in Hunnebostrand, off



could be that he's searching for other Beluga whales."

Believed to be 13-14 years old, Strand said the whale is "at an age where his hormones are very high".

The closest population of Belugas is however located in the Svalbard archipelago, in Norway's far north.

The whale is not believed to have seen a single Beluga since arriving in Norway in April 2019.

Norwegians nicknamed it "Hvaldimir" -- a pun on the word "whale" in Norwegian, hval, and a nod to its alleged association to Russia.

When he first appeared in Norway's Arctic, marine biologists from the Norwegian Directorate of Fisheries removed an attached man-made harness. The harness had a mount suited for an action camera and the words "Equipment St. Petersburg" printed on the plastic clasps.

Directorate officials said Hvaldimir may have escaped an enclosure, and may have been trained by the Russian navy as it appeared to be accustomed to humans.

Shanghai records hottest May day in 100 years

AFP, Shanghai

Shanghai recorded its hottest May day in 100 years yesterday, the city's meteorological service announced, shattering the previous high by a full degree. Scientists say global warming is exacerbating adverse weather, with many countries experiencing deadly heatwaves and temperatures hitting records across Southeast and South Asia in recent weeks. "At 13:09, the temperature at Xujiahui station

hit 36.1 degrees Celsius, breaking a 100-year-old record for the highest temperature in May," a post on the service's official Weibo account read, referring to a metro station in the centre of China's largest city. The temperature at the bustling station climbed even higher to 36.7C (98F) later in the afternoon,

Shanghai's meteorological service said. That put it a full degree above the old record, 35.7C, which has been recorded four times previously, in 1876, 1903, 1915 and 2018, according to the weather service. Shanghai residents sweltered under the early-afternoon sun, with some apps showing a "feels like" temperature estimate of more than 40C (104F).

Nigeria's Tinubu sworn in as president

REUTERS, Abuja

Bola Tinubu was sworn in as Nigeria's president yesterday following a disputed election and facing pressure to quickly improve economic and security conditions, which many complain worsened under his predecessor Muhammadu Buhari. Tinubu was sworn in at a ceremony at Eagles Square, in the capital Abuja, attended by local and foreign dignitaries. Two of Tinubu's main opponents in the February election are challenging his victory on the basis of fraud claims. A tribunal will start today to hear their main arguments, with a ruling not expected before September. Buhari, a taciturn former military ruler, leaves Africa's biggest economy and most populous nation deeply divided. The election had galvanised young voters hoping for a break from the two parties that have dominated Nigerian politics since military rule ended in 1999.

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NOTICE OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the TWENTY-FOURTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) of the Members (Shareholders) of Export Import Bank of Bangladesh Limited (the "Company") will be held on Monday, 19 June 2023 at 11:00 a.m. (Dhaka time) by using digital platform through the link <https://eximbank.bdvirtualagm.com> to transact the following business:

AGENDA

- To receive, consider and adopt the audited financial statements including balance sheet, profit & loss account for the year ended December 31, 2022 together with report of the Directors and Auditors thereon.
- To declare Dividend for the year ended December 31, 2022.
- To appoint Statutory Auditors for the term until the next Annual General Meeting and fix their remuneration.
- To appoint Certified Professionals (Compliance Auditor) for the year 2023 for certification on corporate governance status and fix their remuneration.
- To elect/re-elect Directors.
- Approval for investment (overdrawn) facility equivalent to GBP 5.00 (five) lac to EXIM Exchange Company (UK) Ltd., a subsidiary company of the Bank.
- To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By order of the Board of Directors

Sd/-

Md. Monirul Islam
 Company Secretary

Notes:

- The Record Date of the Company was Tuesday 16 May 2023. Members' (Shareholders') names appearing in the Member/ Depository Register of the Company on the Record Date, will be entitled to Dividend, attend the Annual General Meeting and vote thereat. The Board of Directors recommended 10% Cash Dividend for the year 2022.
- Pursuant to the Bangladesh Securities Exchange Commission's Order No. SEC/ SRMIC/94-231/91 dated 31 March 2021 the AGM of the Company will be conducted through digital platform.
- Any Member/Members of the Company entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint any person, as his/her/their Proxy or Attorney to attend and vote on his/her/their behalf. A Member, being a corporation or company, may appoint its representative, duly appointed and authorized, to attend and vote on its behalf. The proxy form or power of attorney or letter of authority, as the case may be, duly signed and stamped must be send through e-mail to the Share Division of the Company at share@eximbankbd.com at least 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- Detail login procedures to participate in the virtual meeting will be available in the Company's website at www.eximbankbd.com
- Election /re-election of Directors, if any, shall be held in accordance with the provisions of existing Laws, Rules & Regulations.
- As per BSEC Notification No. BSEC/CMRRC/2006-158/208/Admin/81 dated 20 June 2018, Annual Report-2022 will be sent in the form of soft copy to the Shareholders' e-mail address available in their Beneficiary Owner (BO) accounts maintained with the Depository Participants (DP). The soft copy of Annual Report-2022 will also be available in the Bank's Website at: www.eximbankbd.com. Shareholders may also collect the printed copy of the Annual Report-2022 from the Registered Office of the Company.
- The Members will be able to submit questions/comments and also vote electronically at least 24 (twenty four) hours before commencement of the AGM and during the AGM.