

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 Sazej 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 Tayyip 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.

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.



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

Sadar, Gachha voters

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state minister for youths and sports, MP of Gazipur-2; and Meher Afroze Chumki, chairman of parliamentary standing committee on ministry of women and children affairs, MP of Gazipur-5.

Gazipur Sadar and Gachha thanas are under Gazipur-2. Tongi also falls under Russel's constituency. Azmat, also Gazipur city AL president, won in almost all polling centres in Tongi.

Azmat, who is from Tongi, won in 110 out of 163 polling centres under 15 wards there. He was elected Tongi municipality mayor several times.

Wards no. 24, 25 and 26 under the Sadar thana are always considered BNP strongholds. In the 2018 city election, then AL mayor candidate Zahangir won the election, but lost to BNP mayor candidate in those wards.

Besides, according to locals, polling agents of sacked BNP leaders who contested for councillor posts sought votes for Zaida.

Azmat with boat (electoral symbol of the ruling AL) polled 22,783 votes from the centres that fall under Gazipur-2, while Zaida with clock symbol bagged 38,455, meaning that the latter got 15,672 votes more than Azmat.

Azmat secured first position in only one polling centre and became

second in 41 centres under Bason thana. Azmat won 40 out of 42 centres in Konabari thana. He was on top in 32 out of 47 polling centres in Kashimpur thana.

The three thanas are in Gazipur-1, and Mozammel is the lawmaker of the constituency. Azmat secured 64,686 votes in the thanas, while Zaida got 58,613 votes.

In Pubail thana, Azmat was defeated in 21 out of 32 polling centres.

Pubail and a part of Kaliganj thana are under the constituency of lawmaker Meher Afroze Chumki. In the areas, Azmat bagged 15,504 votes while Zaida secured 20,143 votes.

At Sunday's meeting, Hasina asked Azmat to visit each ward of the city and talk to local leaders to reorganise the party, said sources.

Following the directive, the Gazipur city AL will organise evaluation meetings in every ward under nine thanas that fall under the Gazipur city. The first meetings will be held in Kashimpur and Konabari tomorrow.

Respective MPs, leaders of AL and its associated bodies, and councillor candidates loyal to AL were asked to be present at the meetings, Azmat told The Daily Star.

After the meetings, the ruling party will try to identify the party activists who worked against the party and it

will go for a "correction" drive.

"I have no allegation against anyone, but I want to reorganise the organisation as per the party president's directives."

According to AL sources, the party will go for organisational action against the AL leaders who acted against the party candidate in the Gazipur city election, and those leaders will not be considered for any posts when different units of Gazipur will be reorganised.

Official drains

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He also said that he had asked others at the reservoir to try to retrieve the phone, but they had been unable to reach it as there was too much water.

His version of events is at odds with that of his employer, who suspended him on the grounds of misusing his position – noting he had wasted millions of liters of water at a time of severe heat.

His suspension order, seen by CNN, also claims that Vishwas did not receive permission to drain the water.

In his video statement, however, Vishwas insists the water he drained was from the overflow section of the dam and "not in usable condition" anyway.

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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
1) 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.
2) To declare Dividend for the year ended December 31, 2022.
3) To appoint Statutory Auditors for the term until the next Annual General Meeting and fix their remuneration.
4) To appoint Certified Professionals (Compliance Auditor) for the year 2023 for certification on corporate governance status and fix their remuneration.
5) To elect/re-elect Directors.
6) Approval for investment (overdrawn) facility equivalent to GBP 5.00 (five) lac to EXIM Exchange Company (UK) Ltd., a subsidiary company of the Bank.
7) To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair.

Dated, Dhaka
29 May 2023

By order of the Board of Directors
Sd/-
Md. Monirul Islam
Company Secretary

Notes:

1) 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.
2) 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**.
3) 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.
4) Detail login procedures to participate in the virtual meeting will be available in the Company's website at www.eximbankbd.com
5) Election /re-election of Directors, if any, shall be held in accordance with the provisions of existing Laws, Rules & Regulations.
6) As per BSEC Notification No. BSEC/CMRRCD/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.
7) 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.