

## INTERNATIONAL

STATE GIFTS CASE  
Pakistan  
SC accepts  
Imran's plea  
for bail

REUTERS, Islamabad

Pakistan's Supreme Court yesterday accepted a bail application from detained former prime minister Imran Khan, his lawyer said, a day after another court declared illegal his trial on charges of leaking state secrets.

The former cricket star is fighting various legal battles in the hope of securing release from jail and leading his party in a campaign for a February 8 general election, which his arch rival, another former prime minister, is hoping to win.

The 71-year-old was jailed on August 5 for three years jail for unlawfully selling state gifts during his tenure as prime minister from 2018 to 2022. His lawyer said the Supreme Court had accepted the bid for bail.

"A decision will come in the next hearing after



Palestinians recover items from the rubble of a building following Israeli strikes in Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. More than 70 percent of Gaza's population of 2.3 million have been displaced since the start of the war.

PHOTO: AFP



arguments from both sides," lawyer Naem Panjwana said in a post of the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

No date had been set for the hearing, he said, adding that the Supreme Court would seek input from the government on the application.

Khan has been at the centre of protracted political turmoil in nuclear-armed Pakistan that has shone a spotlight on the powerful military's influence over civilian politics.

He was forced from office in 2022 after losing a no-confidence vote in parliament, saying at the time the military was trying to sideline him after he fell out with the generals over top security appointments.

CNN ONLINE

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu grabbed Brett McGurk's arm as he walked out of a tense meeting of the Israeli Cabinet over securing the release of hostages Hamas was holding in Gaza.

"We need this deal," Netanyahu told the White House Middle East coordinator a week ago in Tel Aviv, according to sources familiar with the exchange.

Earlier that day, Netanyahu and President Joe Biden had agreed over the phone that they were ready to accept the broad contours of a deal for Hamas to release 50 women and children who were being held hostage.

A major breakthrough had come two days earlier on November 12. Hamas had relented in offering identifying information about several dozen hostages, such as their age, gender and nationalities. The information confirmed that numerous children and toddlers had been taken captive on October 7.

Even though Israel and the US believed there were more than 50 women and children hostages, both sides agreed that they needed to



move ahead with securing the release of those 50 – and hope that the deal might incentivize Hamas to release more after the initial group.

But hours after McGurk's meeting with Netanyahu, everything went dark. The Qataris couldn't get a hold of Hamas. When the group finally resurfaced, Hamas threatened to derail the talks.

Once the talks resumed, Biden – who was in San Francisco having just finished a summit with Chinese President Xi Jinping – placed one more call to the emir of Qatar. His

message: Time was up. The emir gave Biden his assurances that he would do everything possible to close the deal.

The next day, McGurk met in person with the emir in Doha to examine the text of the final deal that by this point was around half a dozen pages long. It laid out how women and children would leave in the first phase, as well as incentives for Hamas to release more hostages beyond that. CIA Director Bill Burns was dialled in to the meeting by phone.

Israel's war cabinet approved the deal after making minor changes on Sunday, and the text of the agreement was passed on to Hamas for the last time by the emir of Qatar. The emir made clear: This is the final offer.

On Tuesday, Hamas responded to their Qatari interlocutors: They approved the deal. While efforts to negotiate a deal began in the immediate days after war began on October 7, the groundwork for the deal started coming together weeks later, after the Biden administration had confidence that communication with Hamas via the Qataris was effective.

US thwarts plot to kill Sikh separatist  
Issues warning to India, says FT report

REUTERS, New Delhi

US authorities thwarted a plot to kill a Sikh separatist in the United States and issued a warning to India over concerns the government in New Delhi was involved, the Financial Times reported yesterday, citing unnamed sources. There was no immediate response from India's foreign ministry, or from the US embassy in New Delhi, to requests for comment on the report. The Financial Times said that the sources did not say if the protest to India resulted in the plot being abandoned by the plotters, or if it was foiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). The protest to New Delhi was registered after Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was welcomed on a state visit by President Joe Biden in June, the report said. The report comes two months after Canada said there were "credible" allegations linking Indian agents to the June murder of a Sikh separatist leader, Hardeep Singh Nijjar, in a Vancouver suburb. India has rejected Canada's accusations. Apart from the diplomatic warning to India, US federal prosecutors have also filed a sealed indictment against at least one suspect in a New York district court, the FT report said. The paper identified Gurpatwant Singh Pannu as the target of the foiled plot.

ROHINGYA REFUGEES  
More than 200 come ashore in Indonesia

REUTERS, Jakarta

More than 200 Rohingyas came ashore in Indonesia's Aceh province late on Tuesday, taking total arrivals of members of the Myanmar minority to more than 1,000 for the week, a leader of the province's fishing community said.

During November to April, when the seas are calmer, many members of the persecuted minority leave Myanmar on rickety boats for Thailand, Bangladesh, Malaysia and Indonesia.

Achinese fishing community chief Miftach Cut Adek told Reuters that the latest arrivals, 216 mostly of them women and children, "weak and lacking nutrition", had arrived near Sabang, off the northern tip of Sumatra island, late on Tuesday.

Local authorities agreed to their relocation by ferry later yesterday to a temporary shelter in one of Aceh's biggest cities, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) said.

Mitra Salima Suryono, a spokesperson for the UNHCR in Indonesia, said there did not appear to be any particular reason for the big number of Rohingya arriving. "The reason why they migrated is to find a safer life," she said.

Mitra said Aceh villagers had tried to prevent hundreds of Rohingyas arriving in the Bireuen area last week although they eventually came ashore on Sunday.

For years, Rohingyas have left Buddhist majority Myanmar where they are generally regarded as foreign interlopers from South Asia, denied citizenship and subjected to abuse.

## Fakhrul denied bail again

FROM PAGE 1

Prosecutor Abdullah Abu told the court that BNP men attacked the chief justice's residence and committed other crimes at the order of Fakhrul and other top BNP leaders.

Moreover, the investigation is at the primary stage, and as per the sections of law under which the case has been filed, the individual accused cannot be granted bail, he said, adding that the bail petition should be rejected.

Metropolitan Sessions Judge (in-charge) Faisal Atiq Bin Kader then turned down the bail prayer.

Pro-BNP lawyers marched across the court premises in protest.

Police on October 29 showed on papers that Fakhrul was arrested in a case filed with Ramma Police Station.

Inspector Mofizur Rahman filed the case the previous day accusing Fakhrul, BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas, and 70 others, of vandalising the residence of chief justice around 1:00pm on 28 October.

Police have so far arrested 60 people, including BNP leaders Altaf Hossain Chidhury and Shamsuzzaman Dudu.

**VERDICT IN CASE AGAINST ABBAS NOV 30**  
The Anti Corruption Commission in

2007 filed a case accusing Abbas and his wife Afroza Abbas of amassing wealth worth over Tk 5.67 crore.

The High Court later quashed the trial proceedings against Afroza.

At a hearing of the case yesterday, Judge Monjurul Imam of the Special Judge's Court 6 set the date to deliver the verdict.

Prosecutor Mahmud Hossain Jahangir told the court that the charges against Abbas were proved and sought the highest punishment for him.

Abbas's lawyer Aminul Islam said the prosecutors failed to prove the charges and sought acquittal for his client.

## Rohingya genocide going on amid armed conflicts

FROM PAGE 2

Rohingya women, children and men are struggling to survive, he said, adding that further curbs on aid access, coupled with conflict related violations, have only made this situation more alarming.

The renewed armed conflict in Rakhine state has put Rohingya civilians at greater risk of harm. On November 13, a fragile ceasefire between the Arakan Army and the Myanmar military collapsed, sparking armed clashes in Rakhine State.

The Myanmar military has also arbitrarily arrested and tortured Rohingya men on accusations of ties to the AA or ARSA, in an act of collective punishment, the report said.

Under such circumstances, time is running out for the more than 600,000 Rohingyas still living inside Rakhine state, according to the report, which was published on November 21.

## No transfer of official, cop without valid ground

FROM PAGE 1

According to the Representation of the People Order-1972, officials like divisional commissioners, commissioners of metropolitan police and all their subordinate officials cannot be transferred without permission from the EC, he said. "The government cannot transfer them even if it wants to."

Alamgir said transferring thousands of officials of the field-level administration and police might create a chaos.

"Who will take the responsibility for the big chaos that would be caused in the administration or in maintaining law and order, running the country, and conducting elections?" he asked.

About the allegations of the

violation of the electoral code of conduct by Awami League and Jatiya Party nomination seekers, the election commissioner said overcrowding in front of the party offices is "not a violation" of the code of conduct.

"But such activities of the lawmaker hopefuls and their supporters are clear violations of the code which is applicable to all political parties and candidates," he told The Daily Star on Tuesday.

However, overcrowding before the offices of the returning offices is a violation of the code, he added.

Alamgir said some people may celebrate the buying of a nomination paper by a candidate, but they are not seeking votes for a particular candidate, rather they are seeking votes for the party.

He said taking out any processions of motorcycles or cars is a violation of the code of conduct.

Many Jatiya Party leaders also flouted the code while collecting nomination forms from the party chairman's Banani office.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh



Regional Controller of Food, Sylhet

Alampur, Sylhet

<http://food.sylhetdiv.gov.bd>[www.dgfood.gov.bd](http://www.dgfood.gov.bd)

## e-Tender Notice

Memo No. 13.01.0000.250.55.001.23-3048

Dated: 20.11.2023

e-Tender is invited in the National e-GP System Portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) for the procurement of following works, details are given below:

SI	Tender ID & Package No.	Description of work	Tender last selling (date & time)	Tender closing & opening (date & time)
1.	905221 2023-24/05	Repair of food godown with ancillary facilities at Shantiganj LSD, Sunamganj.	06-Dec-2023 16:00	07-Dec-2023 15:00
2.	905218 2023-24/04	Repair of boundary wall with ancillary facilities at Barolekha LSD, Moulavibazar.	06-Dec-2023 16:00	07-Dec-2023 15:00
3.	905217 2023-24/03	Repair of OCLSD office building with ancillary facilities at Shayestaganj LSD, Hobiganj.	06-Dec-2023 16:00	07-Dec-2023 15:00
4.	905215 2023-24/02	Repair of OCLSD and Twin darwan quarter with ancillary facilities at Shamsher Nagar LSD, Moulavibazar	06-Dec-2023 16:00	07-Dec-2023 15:00
5.	905212 2023-24/01	Repair of OCLSD quarter with ancillary facilities at Mollikpur LSD, Sunamganj.	06-Dec-2023 16:00	07-Dec-2023 15:00

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.

Only enlisted contractor of Directorate General Food & those who are renewed in 2022-2023 fiscal year can participate in the tender.

The fees for last selling/downloading the e-Tender documents from the National e-GP System Portal have to be deposited online through any registered bank's branches.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System Portal and from e-GP help desk ([helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd](mailto:helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)).

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GD-1806