



STATE SECRET CASE

Imran denied court-ordered public trial

Says his lawyer

REUTERS, Islamabad

Jailed former Pakistani prime minister Imran Khan was denied an open court trial yesterday, as ordered by a High Court, after the government submitted reports citing threats to his life, his lawyer said.

The special court hearing the case later said Khan's trial on the charge of leaking state secrets will be held in jail premises but will be open to media and the public, the lawyer, Naeem Panjwana, said in a court order seen by Reuters said.

The trial in jail will begin afresh on Friday, the order said, adding, "Threat assessments, particularly in the present case, where one of the accused is a former prime minister can not be disregarded lightly by this court."

It has been conducting the trial in prison since Khan was indicted on the charges last month.

The Islamabad High Court had ruled last week that holding Khan's trial inside jail premises on security concerns was illegal, and ordered it restarted in an open court.

Khan has denied the charges against him. Legal experts questioned the government's move, saying a jail trial cannot be termed an open court.



Palestinian prisoners (wearing grey jumpers) gesture among supporters and relatives after being released from an Israeli jail in exchange for Israeli hostages released by Hamas from the Gaza Strip, in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Extended Gaza truce not enough to meet aid needs: UN

REUTERS, United Nations

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described an extended truce between Israel and Palestinian militants Hamas on Monday as "a glimpse of hope and humanity," but warned it was not enough time to meet the aid needs of the Gaza Strip.

Mediator Qatar said on Monday that the initial four day truce had been extended by two days, continuing a pause in seven weeks of warfare that has killed thousands and laid waste to the Palestinian enclave.

"I strongly hope that this will enable us to increase even more the humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza that (are) suffering so much - knowing that even with that additional amount of time, it will be impossible to satisfy all the dramatic needs of the population,"

Guterres told reporters.

The United Nations has been delivering some humanitarian aid to Gaza via the Rafah border crossing from Egypt. The United Nations also wants to be able to use the Kerem Shalom border crossing, controlled by Israel.

"I am sincerely hopeful that it will be possible to have other crossings because they will facilitate the distribution and it will also facilitate the control by the Israeli side. So I'm very hopeful that this will happen," Guterres said.

More than two-thirds of Gaza's 2.3 million people have lost their homes, trapped inside the enclave with supplies running out, with thousands of families sleeping rough in makeshift shelters with only the belongings they can carry.

Earlier on Monday, Guterres' spokesman

Stephane Dujarric said negotiations must continue with the aim of turning the temporary truce in Gaza into a full humanitarian ceasefire.

"The United Nations will continue to support these efforts in every possible way," Dujarric said in a statement.

Guterres again called for the hostages held by Hamas to be released immediately and unconditionally, Dujarric said.

The United Nations has scaled up the delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza over the past four days during the truce and sent aid to some northern areas that had been largely cut off for weeks, Dujarric said.

The United States is sending three military aircraft to Egypt to bring vital humanitarian aid for Gaza during the truce, senior US officials said.



Afghan refugees climb a ladder onto a vehicle after arriving from Pakistan at a registration centre near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border in Spin Boldak district of Kandahar province yesterday. Border officials say at least 210,000 Afghans, including many who have lived decades outside their country, have passed through the Torkham border point since Pakistan ordered those without documents to leave.

PHOTO: AFP

Break 'deadly cycle' of global warming

UN chief urges COP28

AFP, United Nations

The United Nations chief on Monday urged world leaders to take decisive action to tackle ever-worsening climate change when they gather at the COP28 summit in Dubai starting this week.

"We are trapped in a deadly cycle," UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said. "The solutions are well known. Leaders must act to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, protect people from climate chaos, and end the fossil fuel age."

Guterres spoke ahead of the summit where 70,000 people are expected to attend the largest United Nations climate summit ever.

National negotiators at COP28 will grapple with flashpoint issues, including the future of fossil fuels -- oil, gas and coal -- and financial aid from rich polluters for the poorer nations most vulnerable to accelerating climate disruption.

But the summit's central focus will be

Indian envoy to US heckled in NY gurdwara

TNN, Washington

India's ambassador to the US Tarun Singh Sandhu was heckled by pro-Khalistan protesters during a visit to a New York gurdwara on Sunday before the malingers were escorted out by mainstream Sikhs.

Pro-Khalistan elements falsely claimed that an "embarrassed" Sandhu "aborted" his visit and "fled the Hicksville Gurdwara in a haste," but footage and photographs of the visit clearly showed the ambassador going on to complete his engagement after being welcomed by moderate Sikhs.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Program on Agricultural and Rural Transformation for Nutrition, Entrepreneurship, and Resilience in Bangladesh (PARTNER-DAM Part)
Department of Agricultural Marketing
Khamarbari, Farmgate, Dhaka-1215.

Corrigendum of Request for Expression of Interest (EOI)

6.	Expression of Interest Selection For	: Selection of Individual Consultant-Value Chain (Time Based)".
7.	Invitation Reference	: 12.02.0000.549.35.001.23-160
		Date: 28/11/2023

Corrigendum Section

Following clauses of EOI issued on 24/11/2023 for Package no: SD/PARTNER/DAM-2 (Ref: 12.02.0000.549.35.001.23-152) are hereby amended as following table. All other clauses will remain unchanged

KEY INFORMATION			
S L	Item	Previous	Amended
8.	Procurement Method	: Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS)	Selection of Individual Consultant (SIC)
12	EOI Closing Date and Time	: Expressions of interest (EOIs) must be submitted by 2:00 PM on December 07, 2023 in a sealed envelope to the address provided below. The envelope must be clearly labelled with "Request for Expression of Interest Individual Consultant-Value Chain (Time Based)".	Expressions of interest (EOIs) must be submitted by 2:00 PM on December 14, 2023 in a sealed envelope to the address provided below. The envelope must be clearly labelled with "Request for Expression of Interest Individual Consultant-Value Chain (Time Based)".
17	Details Information of EOI and Proposal	: Individuals are requested to submit 01 (One) copy of EOI with necessary documents at the Program office between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. within the deadline. The procurement shall be regulated as per PPA-2006 and PPR-2008. For submitting proposal details Terms of Reference (TOR) can be obtained from notice board at www.dam.gov.bd .	Individuals are requested to submit 01 (One) hard copy of EOI and also a soft copy in CD/flash drive (MS word format with necessary documents at the Program office between 9.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m. within the deadline. The procurement shall be regulated as per PPA-2006 and PPR-2008. For submitting proposal details Terms of Reference (TOR), Standard Request for Application (SRFA) can be obtained from Notice board and Tender Dashboard at www.dam.gov.bd .

28/11/2023
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Nato allies vow to stay firm on arming Ukraine

AFP, Brussels

Nato members yesterday pledged to stay the course on helping Ukraine fight Russia, despite doubts over US support and a bloody stalemate on the front line. There are fears that a lack of adequate support from the West could end up forcing Ukraine to seek a compromise with Russian President Vladimir Putin from a position of weakness. "We will be strongly reaffirming our support for Ukraine as it continues to face Russia's war of aggression," US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said at a meeting of Nato foreign ministers in Brussels. The United States has provided over \$40 billion in security aid to Ukraine since Russia's invasion and pledged to back Kyiv for as long as necessary. But opposition from hardline Republicans has thrown into question the future of US assistance. Nato Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said he was "confident" the United States would keep on arming Ukraine. "It is in the security interest of the United States to do so and it's also in line with what we have agreed," Stoltenberg said.

JOINT SECURITY DRILLS

China navy ships arrive in Myanmar

AFP, Yangon

Three Chinese navy ships have arrived in Myanmar for joint drills with its navy, the country's junta said, as a border conflict strains ties between the Southeast Asian nation and its most important ally. A destroyer, frigate and a supply vessel carrying hundreds of sailors arrived at Thilawa port on Monday ahead of "naval security exercises between Myanmar and China", the junta's information team said. It did not give details about the drills or when they would begin but state media reported the Chinese "naval task force" was 700 sailors strong. Beijing is a major ally and arms supplier of Myanmar's junta and has refused to label its 2021 power grab a coup. Relations have been tested recently as the junta battles an alliance of ethnic minority groups across a swathe of territory near the China border.