

ATTACK ANNIV

Smoke attack disrupts India parliament

Four arrested

AFP, New Delhi

India's parliament was halted yesterday after a major security breach that saw two people disrupt proceedings by setting off a smoke canister inside the legislature.

The pair were arrested by security, along with two others detained outside the building, after one man jumped onto the floor of the lower house of parliament from an overhead visitors' gallery.

The disruption came on the 22nd anniversary of an attack on the parliament's previous home in New Delhi. Five gunmen shot dead at least eight security personnel and a gardener in that assault, which also took place on the day of a parliamentary session.



Official footage from the yesterday's session showed one man shouting slogans and vaulting over tables between stunned lawmakers before a device was set off that caused yellow smoke to billow into the chamber.

The motives of the pair and how they managed to evade security checks were unclear, with police in New Delhi yet to release any details on the incident.

Parliament resumed after a brief adjournment, with speaker Om Birla telling lawmakers that four people had been arrested for the disruption. "Both persons have been arrested and two others outside have also been arrested," he said.

Birla said that the parliament was "carrying out a thorough probe and the Delhi police too had been given necessary directions".

He added that "there was nothing to worry about" and assured lawmakers the smoke was not hazardous to human health. Lawmaker Hanuman Beniwal said the "very serious episode" raised questions about security of new parliament, inaugurated by PM Narendra Modi earlier this year.



Palestinians inspect the damage at the site of Israeli strikes on houses, amid the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, in Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gaza rain worsens misery of displaced families

Drenched and cold, Palestinians struggle to cope with flooded tents amid war

REUTERS, Rafah

Strong wind and heavy rain in Gaza overnight yesterday brought even worse misery to displaced families, tearing and flooding flimsy tents, drenching clothes and blankets and making everyone cold.

At a tent camp in Rafah, located on sandy terrain strewn with rubbish, people were trying to recover from a horrible night, carrying buckets of sand to cover puddles inside or just outside their tents, and hanging up soggy clothes.

Some families have proper tents, but others are making do with tarpaulins or thin, see-through plastic made to protect goods, not provide shelter for people. Many tents have no ground sheets, so people spent the night huddling on wet sand.

"It is torn and water poured on us. We were drenched," said Ramadan Mohadad, a middle-aged man who was trying to fix his family's shelter fashioned from strips of plywood and a thin plastic sheet.

Mohadad's white t-shirt with



stripes had large wet patches around the collar and on both shoulders.

"We tried as much as we could to protect ourselves so water would not get through but rain got in ... This plastic does not protect people sleeping under it," he said.

Rips were visible in other families' plastic shelters, and some showed puddles inside. One family had placed a cement block at the entrance to act as a sort of dam, as well as smaller bricks inside that looked like stepping stones.

Yasmin Mhani said she had

woken up in the night to find her youngest child, who is seven-months old, soaking wet. Her family of five are sharing a single blanket after their home was destroyed by an Israeli air strike and they lost one of the children, as well as all their possessions.

"Our house was destroyed, our child was martyred and I remain facing it all. This is the fifth place we have had to move to, fleeing from one place to another, with nothing but a t-shirt on," she said, hanging wet clothes outside her tent.

Russian missile strikes on Kyiv injure dozens

Children's hospital damaged; Zelensky urges European, US allies to unblock aid

AFP, Kyiv

A volley of Russian missiles wounded dozens of people and damaged a children's hospital yesterday in the worst attack on Kyiv in months, officials said, as Ukraine pleads for Western military aid.

AFP journalists in the capital heard several explosions before dawn and air raid sirens sounded soon after that.

Ukraine's air force said it had downed all 10 missiles targeting the city and the health ministry said 53 people were wounded, including two children.

Most injuries were caused by "glass shards, household items and the shock wave" as missile debris fell mostly in eastern parts of the city, the ministry said.

Interior Minister Igor Klymenko said a kindergarten building was also damaged. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky hailed the work of the military and pledged to bolster the country's air defences.

"It is important for people, it is important for cities and it is important for Ukraine," he said on social media.

"Russia has once again confirmed its title as a shameful country that releases rockets at night, hitting residential areas, kindergartens and energy facilities in winter," he said.

The strikes came as Zelensky arrived in Norway to meet with leaders of the five Nordic nations, who are key donors.

Ukraine "can't win without help," Zelensky told reporters following talks with Norwegian Prime Minister Jonas Gahr Store. "But you can't lose, because (all) you have (is) your country," he

continued.

Zelensky earlier this week left Washington without managing to convince a divided Congress to approve a new \$60 billion aid package, saying only that he had received "positive" signals.

Speaking alongside Zelensky at the White House on Tuesday, US President Joe Biden said that the United States would "continue to supply Ukraine with critical weapons and equipment as long as we can."



"I will not walk away from Ukraine," Biden said, warning that a Ukrainian defeat would mean "would be aggressors everywhere will be emboldened".

The Ukrainian leader dismissed suggestions he could concede territory taken by Russia since its February 2022 invasion to move any ceasefire closer.

The conflict is expected to be a key topic for a European Union summit this week. Speaking in the European Parliament yesterday, EU chief Ursula von der Leyen urged the bloc's 27 leaders to back massive financial aid for Ukraine and Kyiv's ambitions for membership talks.

Fighting to 'end dictatorship'

Says Myanmar ethnic minorities alliance

AFP, Bangkok

An alliance of Myanmar ethnic minority groups said yesterday it would fight to end the country's "dictatorship", days after the junta said it had held talks with the alliance facilitated by China.

Clashes have raged across Myanmar's northern Shan state after the Arakan Army, the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army launched an offensive in late October.

The groups have seized military positions and border hubs vital for trade with China in what analysts say is the biggest military challenge to the junta since it seized power in 2021.

The alliance said yesterday it reaffirmed its "commitment to end dictatorship", following the reports of peace talks between Myanmar junta and the groups.

"Achieving our complete goal needs more time and ongoing efforts. Our dedication remains strong with the entire Myanmar population," said the statement posted on X.

Junta spokesman Zaw Min Tun said Monday the military had held talks with the three groups aimed at finding a "political" solution to the conflict.

Those talks had been held "with the help of China", he said, without saying when or where they were held.

China's foreign ministry said it had facilitated talks between the military and the alliance that had yielded "positive results", without giving details. The offensive has galvanised other opponents of the junta.

Clashes have spread to the east and west of the country and forced more than half a million people to flee their homes, according to the United Nations.

Meanwhile, Myanmar junta authorities have arrested two journalists in night raids, their outlet said yesterday, as the military cracks down on independent media.

Since toppling Aung San Suu Kyi's government in 2021, the military has waged a sweeping and bloody campaign against dissent, and at least 170 journalists have since been arrested, according to the UN.

Key points of COP28 climate deal

AFP, Paris

After nearly three decades of dancing around the chief driver of global warming, UN climate negotiations in oil-rich United Arab Emirates yesterday called for the first time for the world to "transition away" from polluting fossil fuels.

The landmark first for the UN process was laid out in a text designed to respond to the failure so far to meet the Paris deal's more ambitious -- and safer -- goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius from preindustrial levels.

The UN's IPCC climate science panel and the International Energy Agency have stressed that no new fossil fuel infrastructure is compatible with that target -- yet major coal, oil and gas countries and firms currently plan to keep increasing production. Agreed by almost 200 countries, the COP28 decision "marks the beginning of the end of the fossil fuel era", said analyst Dave Jones of energy thinktank Ember. But the text contains some significant loopholes, analysts say. Here are some key points:

FOSSIL FUELS

The key paragraph calls for a "transitioning away from fossil fuels in energy systems, in a just, orderly and equitable manner, accelerating action in this critical decade, so as to achieve net zero by 2050 in keeping with the science".

While UN climate negotiations have mentioned fossil fuels before, this was to call for a phasing out of "inefficient" subsidies. Tackling all fossil fuels, which account for some three quarters of all human-caused emissions, is "unprecedented in this process" said David Waskow, Director at the World Resources Institute.

Observers said another positive was the call for acceleration "this decade" -- a crucial timeframe given that the IPCC says emissions must be slashed almost in half by 2030 to keep 1.5C in sight.

But they raised concerns that the call to move away from fossil fuels was only within the energy sector, leaving out reference to polluting plastics and fertilisers.

RENEWABLES

The Dubai text calls for: "Tripling renewable energy capacity globally and doubling the global average annual rate of energy efficiency improvements by 2030".

At the start of the Dubai meeting, more than 130 countries signed on to a voluntary pledge to do just this, but observers say inclusion in the main COP28 decision text was key. Momentum has been building for this target, not least because of the dramatic increase in renewable capacity over recent years.

The IEA has forecast that world demand for oil, gas and coal would peak this decade thanks to the "spectacular" growth of cleaner energy technologies and electric cars. In September, the G20 -- accounting for some 80 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions -- broke new ground in endorsing the goal of tripling renewable energy capacity by the end of the decade.

"For the first time, the world has recognised the scale of ambition required this decade to build the new clean energy system: a tripling of renewables and doubling of efficiency improvements," said Jones.



Pak court indicts Imran for leaking state secrets

REUTERS, Islamabad

A Pakistani court yesterday indicted former prime minister Imran Khan on charges of leaking state secrets, several media channels reported, delivering a fresh blow to the jailed leader's chances of contesting next year's federal elections.

The lawyer for Khan's deputy, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, who was also reported to be indicted in the case, in a social media post contested media reports that the two political leaders had been charged. Khan's main lawyers were not immediately available for comment.

The charge is related to a classified cable sent to Islamabad by Pakistan's ambassador in Washington last year, which Khan is accused of making public.

He has pleaded not guilty to the charges, media organisations in the country reported. Khan has previously said contents of the cable appeared in the media from other sources.

ALIF INDUSTRIES LIMITED

COMPOSITE KNITTING DYEING & GARMENTS
Biquis Tower (9th Floor), House # 08, Road # 46, Gulshan-2, Dhaka-1212.
Tel : +88-02-58815226, 58815227, 58815229, 58815230, 9857660
Fax : +88-02-58815228, E-mail: alifindustries95@gmail.com

Notice of the 31st Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the 31st Annual General Meeting of the Shareholders of **ALIF INDUSTRIES LTD.** will be held on Thursday, the 28th December 2023 at 5:00 PM under virtual platform through the link <http://al2023.digitalagmbd.net> to transact the following business:

Agenda:

1. To receive, consider and adopt the directors' report, auditor's report and audited financial statements of the company for the year ended June 30, 2023;
2. To approve 17% (Seventeen Percent) cash dividend i.e. Taka 1.70 for every ordinary share only for the general shareholders other than Sponsors/Directors as recommended by the board of directors;
3. To elect Directors in terms of the relevant provision of Articles of Association;
4. To appoint statutory auditors for the year 2023-2024 and fix their remuneration;
5. To appoint corporate governance compliance auditor for the year 2023-24 (till holding of next AGM) and fix their remuneration; and
6. **Ordinary Resolution:** To approve sales/deemed export through the associate companies (an entirely owned and directed by common directors) M/s. Shadhin Garments Limited.

To consider and if deem fit, to pass with or without any modifications, the following resolution as an "Ordinary Resolution":

"Resolved that pursuant to the notification no. BSEC/CMRRCO/2009-193/10/Admin/118; Dated 22 March 2021 issued by Bangladesh Securities and Exchange Commission (BSEC), the proposal to approve sales/deemed export through the associate companies (an entirely owned and directed by common directors) M/s. Shadhin Garments Limited be and is hereby approved".

7. Any other business with the permission of the chair.

By Order of the Board

Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka
December 13, 2023

Notes:

- a. The Record Date for 31st AGM is fixed on November 30, 2023.
- b. The shareholders whose name appeared in the Register of Members of the Company or in the depository (CDBL) on the record date 30 November 2023 shall be entitled to attend the meeting as well as qualify for dividend to be approved at the AGM.
- c. A shareholder entitled to attend and vote at the AGM may appoint a proxy to attend and vote in his/her behalf. The Proxy Form, duly filled, signed and stamped of Tk. 20.00 must be sent through email to the Company at alifindustries95@gmail.com not later than 48 hours before the time fixed for the meeting.
- d. The concern stock broker, merchant banker and portfolio manager are requested to submit hard copy or through mail to the Company at alifindustries95@gmail.com on or before December 25, 2023; the statement along with detail of their margin client or customer who has debit balance or margin loan, who are entitled to receive cash dividend of the Company for the year ended June 30, 2023. The statement should include shareholder's name, BO ID number, client-wise shareholding position, gross dividend receivable, applicable tax rate, net dividend receivable etc. along with the Consolidated Customers' Bank Account number, routing number and contact person.
- e. The shareholders will be able to submit their questions/comments and vote electronically 24 hours before commencement of the AGM and during the AGM. For logging in to the system, the shareholders need to put their 16 digit Beneficial Owner (BO) ID number and other credential as proof of their identity by visiting the link <http://al2023.digitalagmbd.net>
- f. Shareholders are requested to log-in to the system prior to the meeting start time of 5:00 p.m. on December 28, 2023.