

SPYING FOR PAK ISI

Indian embassy staffer arrested

NDTV ONLINE

The Uttar Pradesh Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) has arrested an employee of the Indian embassy in Moscow for allegedly spying for Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI. He was arrested in Meerut.

The arrested individual, identified as Satendra Siwal, was working as a Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) in the Ministry of External Affairs. The operation unfolded as ATS received intelligence from confidential sources suggesting that ISI handlers were luring Indian Ministry of External Affairs employees, offering financial incentives in exchange for sensitive information related to the Indian Army.

The information being exchanged posed a grave threat to India's internal and external security, the agency said.

Satendra Siwal, a resident of Shahmahiuddinpur village in Hapur, was identified as a key player in this espionage network. He was allegedly extracting confidential documents by exploiting his position within the embassy in Moscow.

During questioning, he reportedly failed to provide satisfactory answers, eventually confessing to his involvement in spy activities.



A relative mourns next to the bodies of two Palestinian children killed in Israeli strikes in Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. PHOTO: REUTERS

PAKISTAN ELECTION

PTI navigates blackouts to keep campaign alive

AFP, Rawalpindi

Former prime minister Imran Khan's party has redefined election campaigning in Pakistan with its social media rallies and use of AI technology in a bid to sidestep a nationwide crackdown that has followed it online.

Khan was jailed in the build-up to the campaign, while his Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (PTI) has been heavily restricted from campaigning for Thursday's vote and banned from the television airwaves. Censorship then followed as the party pushed its election campaign online.

"They can ban what they want, they can ban YouTube and TikTok, whatever they want but our vote is for Imran Khan," 18-year-old Imran Aziz, a first-time voter, told AFP at a bustling electronics market in the garrison city of Rawalpindi.

Pakistani internet freedom watchdog Bytes 4 All recorded four hours-long social media shutdowns in January — cutting off access to TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube while Khan's PTI live-streamed to its supporters.

The blackouts were blamed by the government on "technical difficulties".

Despite the restrictions, PTI remains far ahead of its rivals when it comes to connecting online with Pakistan's youthful population and tens of millions tune in to their live-streams.

They've also become the first party to use AI voice-cloning technology, releasing a fresh speech by Khan from behind bars.

"They have apps, they have online speeches, they've done a TikTok jalsa (gathering) which is unprecedented, at least in Pakistan, so they have a way of innovating and it's always been the case," said Ramsha Jahangir, a technology journalist.

She said censorship efforts by the government have little impact on PTI's popularity because the party is nimble enough to keep reaching its voters.

Israel forges buffer zone inside Gaza at risk to civilians

Say experts, rights groups

AFP, Nahal Oz

Israeli forces in Gaza have systematically destroyed buildings in an attempt to create a buffer zone inside the Palestinian territory, experts and rights groups told AFP, raising fears over the civilian cost.

The plan, not publicly confirmed by Israel, appears to entail taking a significant chunk of territory out of the already tiny Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, something experts as well as Israel's foreign allies have warned against.

Since the October 7 offensive, Israeli forces have targeted structures in Gaza within a

Displacement of Palestinians including from border area could breach laws of war, say experts

kilometre (0.6 miles) of the border, said Adi Ben Nun, a professor at Hebrew University of Jerusalem who has carried out an analysis of satellite imagery.

More than 30 percent of all buildings in that area have been damaged or destroyed during the war, he said.

Last month, the Israeli army's deadliest day since the ground invasion began in late October offered a glimpse of the tactics being used to clear the border area.

Israeli army chief Herzl Halevi said at the time that 21 reservists were killed "during a defensive operation in the area separating the Israeli communities from Gaza" to allow for residents' "safe return".

The troops had laid out explosives to blow up buildings when they were fired upon by Hamas fighters, the army said.

Displacement of Gazans including from the border area could breach the laws of war, experts said.

"We are seeing mounting evidence that Israel appears to be rendering large parts of Gaza unliveable," said Nadia Hardman, a refugee rights expert at Human Rights Watch.



"One very clear example of that may be the buffer zone — this may amount to a war crime." When contacted by AFP, the military declined to comment on the buffer zone.

Cecilie Hellevest, of the Norwegian Academy of International Law, warned of "the prospect of ethnic cleansing, transfer, or lack of rebuilding, so that the Palestinians will eventually be forced out of the area entirely".

Scrutiny of Israel's actions in Gaza is likely to be heightened by last month's International Court of Justice ruling asking Israel to prevent any acts of genocide.

The United States, Israel's top ally and provider of military aid, has repeatedly said Gaza's territory should not change and that a buffer zone would breach that principle.

"When it comes to the permanent status of Gaza... we remain clear about not encroaching on its territory," said US Secretary of State Antony Blinken.

Rights experts said Israel could use parts of its own territory to create a security zone.

"If the Israeli government wants a buffer zone, it has every right to create one in far larger Israel, but it has no right to seize land in Gaza," human rights expert Ken Roth, a professor at Princeton University, said on social media.

Border security has become a priority for many Israelis, experts said, and the return to communities near the Gaza border would be seen as a sign that Hamas no longer posed a threat.

28 killed in Ukraine strike on Russia-occupied city

REUTERS, Moscow

Russia said yesterday that Ukraine killed at least 28 people, including nine women and a child, when its armed forces struck a bakery and restaurant in Russian-controlled eastern Ukraine with Western-supplied rockets.

Russian-backed officials said that Ukraine struck the bakery in the city of Lysychansk at about 1230 GMT on Saturday with US-supplied High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (HIMARS).

Emergency workers worked through the night searching for survivors in the rubble of what remained of the shattered Adriatic Restaurant on Moskovska Street, where Russian officials said a bakery had been set up for civilians.

"The armed forces of Ukraine opened fire on a bakery in Lysychansk," said Leonid Pasechnik, the Russian-installed head of the Luhansk region which is now controlled by Russian forces.

Pasechnik said the bakery was crowded with civilians when it was struck. Russia's emergency ministry said 10 people had been pulled from the rubble alive.

But the ministry said four more people were in an "extremely grave condition" and that it was still searching for people. Ukraine has not yet commented on the attack. Reuters was unable to immediately verify what weapons had been used in the attack.

Forest fires kill 51 in Chile

Menace urban areas

REUTERS

Forest fires raging in central Chile have killed at least 51 people and the death toll is likely to keep climbing, authorities said on Saturday, as emergency services battled to snuff out flames threatening urban areas. Black smoke billowed into the sky over many parts of the Valparaiso region, home to nearly one million inhabitants in central Chile, while firefighters using helicopters and trucks struggled to quell the fires. Areas around the coastal tourist city of Vina del Mar have been some of the hardest hit and rescue teams were struggling to reach all the affected areas, Chilean authorities said. The death toll rose when five bodies were found on public roads, and information indicates "we are going to reach much higher figures" in coming hours, said Interior Minister Carolina Toha. "The condition of Valparaiso is the most delicate," Toha said, saying the country was facing its worst disaster since a 2010 earthquake that killed about 500. Wildfires are not uncommon in Chile over summer months. Last year, on the back of a record heat wave, some 27 people died and more than 400,000 hectares were affected. "The area with fires today is much smaller than last year, (but) at this time the number of hectares affected is multiplying very rapidly," Toha said.

Panamanians lost at sea count their lucky coconuts

AFP, Bogota

Three Panamanians who drifted in the Pacific for 11 days, surviving on rainwater and coconuts that floated by, have been rescued, the Colombian navy said Friday. The trio travelled about 600 kilometres (370 miles) on what was supposed to be a routine run from Veracruz, about 25 kilometres outside Panama City, to refuel a fishing boat. "We gave it gas around 5, 6 in the afternoon. And then when everyone took off, after a certain distance, our engine stalled," said Blas Olivardia, 30, in a video released to the media. "From then on, our journey started with the north wind. It took 11 days," he added. Without supplies, they survived on rainwater and coconuts. The coconuts "came in the current, we grabbed them, broke them and ate them," said Rey Arturo Torres, 27, who was also stranded on the boat alongside Jose Olivardia, 21. A Colombian navy patrol spotted the drifting boat with the castaways on board about 180 nautical miles from the country's port of Buenaventura. The three men "were fine, despite the time" lost at sea, Colombian Navy Lieutenant Commander Juan David Rendon told AFP. In images released by the navy, the three men are seen standing next to a boat.

Remembering Khandakar Rais Ahmed



Today marks the first death anniversary of Khandakar Rais Ahmed, affectionately known as "Juno" by his loved ones. He was the eldest son of the Late Former IGP A.R. Khandakar and Late Begum Roushan Ara Khandakar.

Rais, an eminent banker, graduated from Dhaka University before joining the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) where he distinguished himself and assumed a regional role in Hong Kong. He continued his successful career in corporate banking in Bangladesh, holding senior positions at renowned global financial institutions such as American Express and Standard Chartered Bank.

A true gentleman, Rais was cherished by all who knew him. He was a devoted husband, loving father, dutiful son, and a kind-hearted individual who embodied humility and integrity. An aesthete, he had a passion for music, particularly jazz, and was an avid photographer. In his youth and during his early career, he excelled in sports, notably as a tearaway fast bowler for the ShurjoTorn Cricket Club, and enjoyed basketball and squash. Additionally, Rais was an active Rotarian, leading various social initiatives to support underserved communities. At the age of 65, he passed away last year at United Hospital in Dhaka. Rais is survived by his two children, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, and five siblings. His legacy of kindness and humility will forever be cherished by those who knew him. May he rest in eternal peace.

— Loving tribute from Raima Khandakar & Rabeeb Khandakar (his daughter & son)

Now in 2024, the people of South Carolina have spoken again.. you have set us on the path to winning the Presidency again – and making Donald Trump a loser – again.

Says US President Joe Biden after winning big in South Carolina



রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি

সংস্থাপন ও কল্যাণ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।

"কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান তালিকাভুক্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর প্রধান কার্যালয়ের সেন্ট্রাল ডেসপাচ ডেস্কমেনের মাধ্যমে সম্পাদিত আন্তর্জাতিক ডাক সমগ্র ঢাকা শহর ও বাংলাদেশের অন্যান্য জেলায় অবস্থিত শাখা, জোনাল অফিস ও বিভাগীয় কার্যালয় সমূহে পৌঁছানো এবং আন্তর্জাতিক ডাকসমূহ বহিঃ বাংলাদেশ তথা সমগ্র বিশ্বে পৌঁছানোর নিমিত্ত অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন স্বাম্যমহা/স্বাভাষ্য আন্তর্জাতিক কুরিয়ার সার্ভিস প্রতিষ্ঠান ২(দুই) বছরের জন্য (২০২৪-২০২৫) অর্থাৎ ০১-০১-২০২৪ তারিখ হতে ৩১-১২-২০২৫ তারিখ পর্যন্ত মেয়াদে তালিকাভুক্তির জন্য প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিজস্ব প্যাডে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে। আগামী ০৫-০২-২০২৪ তারিখ হতে ২৭-০২-২০২৪ তারিখ পর্যন্ত অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে (সেহকাদী মহাবারছাপক), রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি, সংস্থাপন ও কল্যাণ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা হতে ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র) টাকার পে-অর্ডার (অফেরথযোগ্য) জমা দিয়ে সিডিউল সজ্ঞহ করা যাবে। তালিকাভুক্তির বিশদ শর্তাবলী ও নিয়মাদার সিডিউলে পাওয়া যাবে।

- ক) দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রয়কারী ও গ্রহণকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নাম ও ঠিকানা
- খ) তালিকাভুক্তির সিডিউল বিক্রয় করার তারিখ ও সময়
- গ) তালিকাভুক্তির সিডিউল বিক্রির শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
- ঘ) তালিকাভুক্তির সিডিউল দাখিলের শেষ তারিখ ও সময়
- ঙ) দরপত্র বাজ খোলার তারিখ ও সময়

তালিকাভুক্তির শর্তাবলী নিম্নরূপঃ

- ক) সংশ্লিষ্ট কাজের ৫ বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা, ট্রেড লাইসেন্স, ভ্যাট নিবন্ধন, টিন সার্টিফিকেট, ব্যাংক সলভেন্সি, ডাক ও টেলি যোগাযোগ মন্ত্রণালয়ের ইস্যুকৃত অনুমোদন, নিজস্ব পরিবহন, ২৪ ঘণ্টার ভিতরে ডাক ও পার্সেল ডেলিভারীর সক্ষমতা।
- খ) সিডিউলের মূল কপি ছাড়া কোন ফটোকপি দিয়ে দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাবে না। বিস্তারিত শর্তাবলী দরপত্র সিডিউলে উল্লেখ থাকবে।
- গ) দরপত্র আহ্বান কমিটি কর্তৃক কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন সিডিউল গ্রহণ বা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।
- ঘ) রূপালী ব্যাংকের যে কোন শাখা হতে রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি এর নামে ১০০০/- (এক হাজার মাত্র) টাকার (অফেরথযোগ্য) পে-অর্ডার জমা দিয়ে সিডিউল ক্রয় করা যাবে।

(মোঃ শরিফুল হক)
উপ-মহাপ্রবন্ধক
রূপালী ব্যাংক পিএলসি
সংস্থাপন ও কল্যাণ বিভাগ, প্রধান কার্যালয়, ঢাকা।



Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Ltd.

(A Company of Petrobangla)
(Gas Bhaban, Mendibag, Sylhet-3100)



গ্যাস ব্যবহারের সশ্রেষ্ঠি হোন এবং সমুদয়ত গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করুন

স্বচ্ছচার চর্চা করি সমুদয় সোনার বাংলা গড়ি

বিনা কারণে গ্যাসের চুল্লা জ্বালাইয়ে রাখা আর বিন্দসক ডাকা একই বিষয়

Ref.No: 28.16.9100.096.16.001.24.02

Date: 30-01-2024

e-Tender Notice

This is to notify all concern that the following tender have been published through National e-GP portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>).

SL. No.	Tender ID, Package No & Date of Publishing	Name of the Goods	Tender Last Selling and Closing Date & Time
01.	Tender ID : 940024 Package No : 28.16.9100.096.16.001.24.02 Date of Publishing : 29th January 2024	Supply, Installation, Testing & Commission of IP Camera System & Related Service at JGTDSL Head Office along with 12 RDO (Regional Distribution Office)	Tender Document Last Selling Date & Time : 13 February 2024 16.00 Tender Closing Date & Time: 14 February 2024 12.00

The interested persons/firms may visit the web site <http://www.eprocure.gov.bd> to get the details of the tender.

This is an OTM 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 portal (<http://www.eprocure.gov.bd>) is required.

Further information and guidelines are available in the National e-GP System portal/e-GP help desk (helpdesk@eprocure.gov.bd)

Engr. SarwarJahan Mahmud
General Manager (Planning Division)
Tel:+88022996632641
E-mail: gmpianing17@gmail.com
gm.pl@jalalabadgas.org.bd