

US envoy visits Navalny shrine amid police curbs

AFP, Moscow

The US ambassador to Moscow visited a makeshift shrine to Alexei Navalny yesterday, as Russian authorities suppressed memorials and tributes to the late opposition leader.

Rights groups say police have detained over 400 people at gatherings for Navalny, a leading critic of President Putin who died in an Arctic prison Friday.

Ambassador Lynne Tracy was pictured yesterday at the Solovetsky Stone, a monument to political repression that has become a major site of tributes for Navalny.

"Today at Solovetsky Stone we mourn the death of Alexei Navalny and other victims of political repression in Russia," the US embassy in Moscow said.

At a separate makeshift memorial known as the "Wall of Grief", police had set up fences in a bid to ward off mourners.



Families walk on a bulldozed road as they evacuate their children from school after an Israeli raid on the Tulkarm camp for Palestinian refugees in the occupied West Bank yesterday. At least three Palestinians were killed during the raid, officials said.

PHOTO: AFP

DEADLY BOAT INCIDENT China to step up patrols in waters near Taiwan

AFP, Beijing

China yesterday said it would step up law enforcement patrols in waters near Taiwan, after two Chinese nationals died in a boat incident involving Taiwan's coast guard.

A Chinese boat was carrying four people when it capsized on Wednesday near the Kinmen islands while pursued by the Taiwanese coast guard.

All four on board were thrown into water and two of the crew later died. Chinese coast guard said it would "carry out regular law enforcement patrol operations" in the area.

The patrols are intended to "further maintain the order of operations in relevant waters and protect the safety of fishermen's lives," Gan Yu, a spokesperson for the Chinese coast guard, said in a statement.

China has condemned democratic Taiwan for the incident and urged the island to release the two surviving members of the boat crew, who were detained.

Taipei in turn blamed Beijing, saying the boat was "within prohibited waters" around the Kinmen islands - a territory administered by Taiwan but located just five kilometres (three miles) from China's city of Xiamen.

Wednesday's incident comes against a backdrop of heightened tensions across the Taiwan Strait.

Beijing claims Taiwan as part of its territory and has vowed to one day bring it under its control.

Egypt preparing safe areas for Gaza refugees

Says FM as ceasefire talks make no progress

AGENCIES

Egypt is preparing safe areas for Palestinian refugees, Cairo said, as the key Qatar negotiator in the ceasefire talks between Israel and Hamas admitted they have made no progress in recent days.

Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry said at a security conference in Munich later on Saturday that while his country would deal with civilians humanely, the displacement of Palestinians remained unacceptable.

"It is not our intention to provide any safe areas or facilities, but if this is necessary we will deal with the humanity that is necessary," he told the annual gathering.

Egypt is caught between making contingency plans and not being seen to encourage those in Israel who believe the tens of thousands of refugees trapped on the border with Egypt can be pressed into

leaving Gaza, reports The Guardian online.

Reuters reported on Friday that Egypt was preparing an area at the Gaza border which could accommodate

Palestinians in case an Israeli military offensive into Rafah prompts an exodus across the frontier. Sources described this as a contingency move.

Egypt has repeatedly denied making such preparations.

"This is very hypothetical. We have constantly been dealing with maintenance on our border so I think it is jumping to conclusions to what those activities constitute," Shoukry said of construction

activity seen around the border.

Separately, the governor of North Sinai said on Saturday that the armed forces are establishing a logistics zone to receive aid for Gaza.



The area being established includes parking areas for trucks, warehouses, administrative offices, and accommodation for drivers, the governor said.

Egypt has repeatedly raised the alarm over the possibility that Israel's devastating Gaza offensive could displace Palestinians into Sinai - something Cairo says would be completely unacceptable - echoing warnings from Arab states such as Jordan.

Thai ex-PM Thaksin released on parole

AFP, Bangkok

Former Thai prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra was released on parole yesterday, just six months after he was arrested following a dramatic return to the kingdom from 15 years of self-imposed exile. The controversial billionaire, twice elected premier and ousted in a 2006 military coup, was jailed for eight years on graft and abuse-of-power charges upon his return in August. But his sentence was cut to one year by King Maha



Vajiralongkorn within days of his return and the government said last week the 74-year-old was eligible for early release because of his age and health. Thaksin - wearing a neck brace and sitting next to his daughters Paeotngam and Pintongta - was driven away Sunday

from the police hospital in central Bangkok where he had spent the past six months. A handful of people protesting against his release had gathered in front of hospital. The car then drove to Thaksin's home, where a welcome banner was tied across gates. One woman wearing a T-shirt with a picture of Thaksin emblazoned across the front said she had stood outside his house for two days. "I want to tell him to fight," she told media. The department of corrections confirmed his release on parole yesterday but exact details of his freedom are unclear.

Don't photograph living things

Afghan province orders officials

AFP, Kabul

Authorities in the southern Afghan province of Kandahar, the birthplace of the Taliban, yesterday ordered its officials not to take pictures or videos of "living things". In a letter addressed to civil and military officials, the provincial department of interior directed them "to refrain from taking pictures of living things in your formal and informal gatherings, because it causes more harm than good". It said text or audio content on officials' activities was allowed. Images of humans and animals are generally avoided in Islamic art, extending for some Muslims to an aversion to any images of living things. A spokesperson for Kandahar's governor told AFP the letter was authentic. To what extent the order would be applied and how it would be enforced were unclear. Taliban government spokesperson did not reply to requests for comment. Television and pictures of living things were banned under the previous Taliban rule from 1996 to 2001. Several media outlets have refrained from using images of people and animals since Taliban returned to power over two years ago. However, government departments frequently distribute and share pictures of senior officials meeting foreign dignitaries.

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Congress, AAP 'agreed' to go solo in Punjab

Says Delhi CM ahead of India's Lok Sabha polls

NDTV ONLINE

The Congress and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) had "mutually agreed" to contest Lok Sabha seats in the Indian state of Punjab separately and there is no bad blood between the two parties over this issue, Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal has said.

Kejriwal yesterday visited Congress leader and renowned lawyer Abhishek Singhvi's home for lunch. Speaking to reporters on the decision by AAP and Congress to go solo in Punjab, he said, "In Punjab, Congress and AAP have mutually agreed to contest the polls separately. There is no hostility over this."

The tussle between Congress and AAP, rivals in Punjab but allies in the INDIA Opposition bloc, has made headlines for weeks now. Kejriwal said the AAP is in talks with the Congress to finalise seat-sharing in Delhi.

"We are in talks with the Congress over an alliance in Delhi. We are discussing seat-sharing arrangements. The BJP will have it easy if there is no alliance (between Congress and AAP)," he said.

The BJP won all seven parliamentary seats in the national capital in the 2019 Lok Sabha polls. They had achieved the same feat in 2014.

Kejriwal's remark suggests that the INDIA allies have decided to balance their national objective of taking on the BJP and their regional goal of holding on to their strongholds.

Earlier, Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had announced that AAP had decided to contest all 13 seats in Punjab alone. Partap Singh Bajwa, one of Congress's top leaders in Punjab and Leader of Opposition in the Assembly, had "thanked" the chief minister and said this is exactly what Congress wants.

"There is a difference between Punjab and other states. Here, they (AAP) are in the government and we are the principal opposition. How can both of us get together," Bajwa had told NDTV.



Ukrainian police officers and rescuers carry the body of a local resident killed in a Russian rocket attack in Kramatorsk, Donetsk region early yesterday. Events on the battlefield in Ukraine are a matter of "life and death" for Russia that could determine its fate, President Vladimir Putin said in an interview with state TV.

PHOTO: AFP

বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা-২০২৪

সূত্র নং- বিসিবি / এজিএম-২০২৪ / ১৫৪ তারিখ : ১৮ই ফেব্রুয়ারী, ২০২৪

বাংলাদেশ ক্রিকেট বোর্ডের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা-২০২৪ নিম্নে উল্লেখিত তারিখ, সময় ও স্থানে অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে :

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