

No cash for campaigning

Says India's opposition as govt freezes its bank accounts ahead of polls

AFP, New Delhi

India's opposition said yesterday that the government's freezing of its bank accounts has left it with no money to fight the heavily funded ruling party in marathon general elections that begin next month.

"Our entire financial identity has been erased," said Congress Party leader Rahul Gandhi, 53.

"We have no money to campaign, we cannot support our candidates. Our ability to fight elections has been damaged."

Several of the party's bank accounts were frozen in February because of the alleged late filing of tax returns.

Congress claim the tax department's sanctions are politically motivated, to hobble it from mounting a challenge to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling BJP.

"Last week, we received another notice from the tax authorities that dates back to our filings from 1995-96," Gandhi told reporters in New Delhi.



This picture taken from Rafah shows smoke billowing after Israeli bombardment on Khan Yunis in the southern Gaza Strip yesterday. Five months of Israeli offensive have created critical food shortages among Gaza's 2.3 million Palestinians that in some areas now exceed famine levels, according to the UN.

PHOTO: AFP

Pakistan ex-PM Imran predicts govt's fall in 4 to 5 months

AGENCIES

Former Pakistan prime minister Imran Khan does not see the incumbent government lasting more than four to five months, and believes that its fall will pave the way for his release from Adiala Jail.

Talking to reporters after the hearing of a £190 million corruption reference at Adiala Jail, Khan said this was the reason why the PPP did not join the cabinet. He claimed that a decision in his case had already been made and termed the proceedings a mere formality, reports Dawn online.

Khan said the case against him was baseless, claiming that the exchequer did not suffer any loss as the amount transferred from UK was held by government, and there was no element of criminality.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's government yesterday dismissed a warning from the US that relations between two countries would suffer if it did not probe irregularities in last month's election, reports AFP.

Mumtaz Zahra Baloch, spokeswoman for Pakistan's Foreign Ministry, said the warning from Donald Lu, the top US diplomat for South Asia, "reflects a misunderstanding of Pakistan's political situation and electoral laws".

35pc of Gaza's buildings destroyed or damaged

Says UN citing high-resolution satellite images

REUTERS, Geneva

Satellite images analysed by the United Nations Satellite Centre show that 35 percent of the Gaza Strip's buildings have been destroyed or damaged in the Israel offensive in the Palestinian enclave.

In its assessment, the United Nations Satellite Centre, UNOSAT, used high-resolution satellite images collected on February 29 and compared them with images taken before and after the start of the latest conflict.

It found that 35 percent of all buildings in the Gaza Strip - 88,868 structures - had been damaged or destroyed.

Among these, it identified 31,198 structures as destroyed, 16,908 as severely damaged, and 40,762 as moderately damaged.

This represents an increase of nearly 20,000 damaged structures compared to the previous assessment it did based on images taken in January that showed 30 percent of all buildings had been damaged or destroyed, UNOSAT said.

"The governorates of Khan Younis and Gaza have experienced the most significant rise in damage, with Khan Younis seeing 12,279 additional damaged structures and Gaza experiencing 2,010," UNOSAT said.

"Khan Younis City has been hit particularly hard, with 6,663 newly destroyed structures."

Meanwhile, Canada will halt all arms shipments to Israel, Foreign Minister Melanie Joly's office confirmed Wednesday, a decision that has drawn the ire of Israeli leaders facing growing international scrutiny over the offensive in the Gaza Strip.

The besieged Palestinian territory is facing a mounting humanitarian crisis, and months of offensive have pushed hundreds of thousands of Gazans to the brink of famine.

"The Election Commission of Pakistan, should it find that these irregularities are substantiated, should re-run elections (in constituencies) where there has been interference... We have never used the term 'free and fair' in the characterization of this election."

Donald Lu,

the US State Department's top official for South and Central Asia, tells a US congressional panel on Pakistan election

Russia targets Kyiv with missiles 17 hurt; schools, residential buildings damaged

REUTERS, Kyiv

Russia staged its largest missile attack in weeks on Kyiv and the surrounding region yesterday, injuring at least 17 people and damaging schools, residential buildings and industrial facilities, officials said.

The air force said its defences shot down all the inbound missiles that were fired after a 44-day pause in such attacks on the Ukrainian capital. The damage appeared to have been caused by falling debris.



"Every day and every night there is such terror. The world's unity can stop it when it helps us with air defence systems. Now we need this defence here in Ukraine," President Volodymyr Zelensky said on the Telegram messaging app.

City and regional officials said at least 13 people were injured in different parts of Kyiv and four more in the surrounding region. An 11-year-old girl was among four people taken to hospital, city officials said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Kyiv last week of launching attacks to disrupt the Russian presidential election that handed him six more years in power. The Kremlin leader said Ukraine would be punished for that.

Russia, which denies targeting civilians, invaded Ukraine on February 24, 2022, and has launched thousands of missiles and drones on Ukrainian cities and villages in attacks that have killed hundreds of civilians.

The Ukrainian military has said Russia launched over 8,000 missiles on Ukraine in the first two years of the war.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Police Central Police Hospital Rajarbag, Dhaka Invitation for Tender

Sealed tender are hereby inviting from the Suppliers Local Agents in their official pad for the purchase of the following items for Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka for the financial year 2023-2024.

Table with 2 columns: Item No. and Description. Items include Ministry/Division, Agency, Procuring entity name, Invitation for, Invitation Ref No., and Date.

KEY INFORMATION: Procurement method: Open Tendering Method (OTM)

FUNDING INFORMATION: Budget and source of funds: Revenue Budget (GOB)

PARTICULAR INFORMATION: Tender publication date, Tender last selling date, Tender closing date and time, Tender opening date and time.

Table with 2 columns: Name and address of the office(s). Rows include Selling tender document, Receiving tender document, and Opening tender document.

INFORMATION FOR TENDERER: Eligibility of tenderer: 1. Photocopy of up-to-date trade license. 2. Up-to-date bank solvency certificate. 3. Photocopy of up-to-date income tax certificate. 4. Photocopy of VAT certificate. 5. Original money receipt paid for purchasing tender document. 6. Photocopy of up-to-date bank statement certificate. 7. Work order certificate. 8. Other documents (as per schedule).

Table with 4 columns: Brief description of goods, Name, Price of tender document, Tender security in Taka, Completion time in days. Rows include Medical Equipment and Web based & Mobile apps based Hospital Data Management System.

Name of official inviting tender: Dr. Md. Emadul Haque. Designation of official inviting tender: Addl DIG (A & F). Address of official inviting tender: Addl DIG (A & F), Central Police Hospital, Rajarbag, Dhaka.

Contact details of official inviting tender: Tel: 88-02-8312075 Fax: 88-02-9342297. Special instructions: a) No tender will be received after the deadline for submission. b) The procuring entity reserves the rights to reject all tenders or annul the tender proceeding. c) Bangladesh Police will establish framework agreement with the successful tenderer for supply of goods. d) All Medical Equipment will be purses after allocation of budget.

Signature of Dr. Md. Emadul Haque, Addl DIG (A&F) For-Director (DIG) Bangladesh Police Central Police Hospital, Dhaka

GD-475

Official notice from the Bangladesh government regarding the tender for medical equipment and hospital data management systems. Includes details on eligibility, funding, and submission procedures.